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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece 7-10 July 2009

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT

ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

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Part A COORDINATING UNIT

1. Legal component

1.1 *Ratification and entry into force of MAP legal instruments*

Main goal : *Making the legal framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan effective by further developing it and establishing appropriate procedures and mechanisms to promote and facilitate its efficient implementation by the Contracting Parties in full compliance with the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols*

Objective 1	<i>To achieve widespread ratification and entry into force of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Ratification-related difficulties identified and analysed</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>Bureau of the Contracting Parties</i> <i>Secretariat</i> <i>MED POL, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Draft initiative with actions to speed up ratification prepared under the guidance of the Bureau is submitted to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for endorsement</i> <i>Relevant actions are taken by the Contracting Parties</i>
Final results	<i>The Hazardous waste Protocol entered into force in January 2008</i> <i>The 1996 amendments to the LBS Protocol entered into force in May 2009</i> <i>One additional acceptance to the 1995 amendments to the Barcelona Convention</i> <i>One additional acceptance to the 1996 amendments to the LBS Protocol</i> <i>One additional signature of the ICZM Protocol</i>
Budget allocated: 12,000 euro/year	<i>Spent/committed: 100%</i>

Main achievements

1.1.1 Status of ratification and entry into force

1. Following the last update by the Depositary country received in February 2009, the status of ratification and entry into force is as follows:

- 20 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the 1995 Convention¹; in force since July 2004;*
- 14 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the 1995 Dumping Protocol; 1995 amendments are not yet in force;*
- 12 Contracting Parties have ratified the new 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol; in force since March 2004;*
- 16 Contracting Parties have accepted the 1996 amendments to the LBS Protocol; 1996 amendments have been in force since May 2008;*
- 16 Contracting Parties have ratified the 1995 SPA and Biodiversity Protocol²; in force since 1999;*
- 6 Contracting Parties have ratified the 1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol; in force since January 2008;*

¹ Pending notification by the Depositary on ratification by Lebanon

² Pending notification by the Depositary on ratification by Algeria

- *4 Contracting Parties have ratified the 1994 Offshore Protocol; not yet in force*
- *15 Contracting Parties have signed the ICZM Protocol, including the European Community.*

2. The status of ratification and entry into force of MAP legal instruments is presented as Annex I to this report.

3. It can be seen that clear progress has been made in the entry into force of some legal instruments in comparison with the situation last biennium, most significantly with the entry into force of the amendments to the LBS Protocol on 11 May 2008 once Syria had deposited the most recent instrument of ratification, and the entry into force of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol on 18 December 2007 following ratification by Montenegro.

4. Almost 12 years after the adoption of the amendments to the LBS Protocol, their entry into force represents a major achievement for MAP, thus opening the path for the Contracting Parties to adopt legally binding measures and programmes to combat and eliminate pollution from land-based sources and activities within fixed/differentiated timeframes.

5. With a view to promoting ratification and entry into force of MAP legal instruments for as many Contracting Parties as possible, the Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) have carried out informal consultations and undertaken a number of activities.

6. France, in its capacity as President of the European Union for the second half of 2008 and Co-President of the Union for the Mediterranean, organized a regional conference entitled: "Integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean: from local to regional, how to stop the loss of biodiversity?" The objective of this conference, which was attended by many representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and also other regional institutions and experts, was to promote the new ICZM Protocol and its entry into force. The conference was organized in cooperation with the MAP Secretariat and with the full involvement of three MAP Regional Activity Centres, the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) and the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). The conference reached a number of interesting conclusions and made several recommendations regarding the four main topics addressed: (a) sustainable tourism, (b) ICZM and coping with climate change, (c) players, networks and governance, and (d) coastal zone, protected areas and ecological continuity in ICZM.

Constraints and lessons learned

7. The old MAP legal instruments adopted in 1976, 1982 and 1986 are in force for all Contracting Parties with the exception of Montenegro, for which the amended 1995 Convention, the 1996 amended LBS Protocol, the 1995 SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the 1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol are in force.

8. It is imperative that the new and revised MAP legal instruments enter into force for all Contracting Parties (22) with a view to:

- making more effective and strengthening regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation among Contracting Parties;
- increasing the credibility of MAP and the Barcelona Convention at the national and regional level and within other regional initiatives and programmes operating in the Mediterranean as a process of cooperation for sustainable development that is based on legal instruments in force.

9. Entry into force for all Contracting Parties would also render the work of the Compliance Committee effective and meaningful since the Committee is in a position to address any non-compliance with obligations under the Convention and its Protocols for those Contracting Parties for which such legal instruments are in force.

10. The entry into force of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol is also an important achievement, which needs to be enhanced through further ratification by other Contracting Parties. It also merits

more focused action by the Secretariat and MED POL. In this respect, particular attention should be paid to cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention through the signing of an enhanced memorandum of understanding (MoU) covering not only technical implementation aspects but also horizontal issues related to harmonized reporting and synergy for the implementation of compliance mechanisms and procedures.

11. It is crucial that the ICZM Protocol enters into force as soon as possible in order to issue a strong signal to the region that the Mediterranean governments are genuinely and firmly committed to achieving the sustainable development of coastal zones and halting their degradation.

12. In this respect, it would also be useful if the Contracting Parties take the initiative at the national and local levels by bringing together all stakeholders in order to explore the prospects and/or opportunities afforded by the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the promotion of sustainable development in the region. Such initiatives would promote prompt ratification and entry into force of the Protocol. PAP/RAC, the other MAP components and the Secretariat could, if requested, provide technical advice and financial assistance for this purpose.

1.2 Other legal issues (promoting implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and compliance with their obligations; facilitating the implementation of liability and compensation guidelines)

Objective 2	<i>To promote implementation and compliance with the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to assess the effectiveness of measures taken for their implementation.</i>
Objective 3	<i>To enhance the capacity of the Contracting Parties with regard to the legal, administrative and enforcement aspects of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as the newly adopted Guidelines on Liability and Compensation.</i>
Expected outputs	<u>Compliance</u> • Programme of work of the Compliance Committee adopted • Draft rules of procedure for the Compliance Committee prepared • Non-compliance situation assessed and facilitated <u>Reporting system</u> • Reporting formats on effectiveness, Liability and Compensation Guidelines and ICZM Protocol implementation drafted • Legal/technical/financial assistance provided to Contracting Parties to prepare their reports on implementation • Reporting databases completed and enriched • National reports analysed by the Secretariat and concerned RACs • Regional assessment report on implementation drafted and communicated <u>Liability and Compensation Guidelines (L&C Guidelines)</u> • Priority actions to facilitate the implementation of the L&C Guidelines identified • Working plan of the working group on liability and compensation developed, first assessment and proposal reviewed and guidance provided to the Secretariat • Preparation by the Contracting Parties of legislation and regulations in the field of liability and compensation • A first draft of assessment and proposals prepared
MAP components and/or other partners involved	• Compliance Committee • Secretariat • MED POL, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, • Blue Plan, INFO/RAC • Contracting Parties and members of the working groups on reporting and liability and compensation

Indicators/ achievements	<u>Compliance</u> • Compliance Committee fully operational • Functions of Compliance Committee fully implemented • Report of Compliance Committee submitted to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties <u>Reporting system</u> • Additional elements of MAP reporting format submitted to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties • All Contracting Parties submit their report on implementation to its 16th Meeting • Reporting burden facilitated and decreased for the Contracting Parties • Access to reporting database increased • Regional assessment report on implementation submitted to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties • Main implementation-related achievements communicated to the public • MAP visibility increased <u>Implementation of Liability and Compensation Guidelines</u> • Elements of the domestic systems on liability and compensation established by almost all Contracting Parties. • Proposals by the working group with regard to the further development of the Guidelines are submitted to the meeting of the Contracting Parties and finalized during the next biennium 2010-2011
Final results	<u>Compliance</u> • Compliance Committee fully operational since July 2008; Draft decision on Rules of procedure for the Compliance Committee prepared • Two meetings of the Compliance Committee successfully held • No Contracting Party submitted any case concerning its own non-compliance situation to the Committee • Submission of general con-compliance situations to the Compliance Committee pending the preparation of assessment reports by the Secretariat and MAP components on measures taken by the Contracting Parties during the 2006-2007 biennium <u>Reporting</u> • Assistance to countries for the preparation of 2006-2007 reports provided to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Syria • Reports on measures taken during 2006-2007 for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols submitted by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, European Community, Greece, France, Libya, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Turkey • MAP reporting system available on line since February 2009 for testing purposes. • Draft of effectiveness indicators developed and submitted to all Focal Points and working group on reporting for comments. Draft decision prepared for submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting • First draft of the reporting format on implementation of the ICZM prepared and consulted with PAP/RAC Focal Points <u>Liability and compensation</u> • Working group established and its meeting successfully organized and held • Mid term programme of action to implement the Liability and Compensation Guidelines drafted and agreed by the working group

	• <i>Draft of the reporting format on implementation of the Liability and Compensation Guidelines prepared. The respective draft decision prepared by the Working Group</i>
Planned allocated budget: 178,000 euro	<i>Spent/committed: 80%</i>
Main achievements	
<u>1.2.1 Compliance mechanisms and procedures</u>	
13. Following the adoption of decision IG 15/2 on compliance procedures and mechanisms, the Compliance Committee was constituted on 3 July 2008. It has held two meetings, one each year, with a third meeting scheduled to take place in October 2009 before the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.	
14. The first Compliance Committee meeting was held on 3-4 July 2008, and the second on 26-27 March 2009. Both meetings were held in Athens at the premises of the Coordinating Unit and were highly successful. The meetings also demonstrated the willingness of all Committee members to work together in a constructive and cooperative spirit. The reports of the meetings are submitted as documents UNEP (DEPI) MED/Compliance Committee 1/5 and UNEP (DEPI) MED/Compliance Committee 2/5. All members and alternate members were invited to attend and most of them attended both meetings	
15. Following the decision of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria with regard to Committee members from Lebanon and Algeria, both Contracting Parties were contacted by the Secretariat with the request that they nominate their candidates to sit as alternate members on the Compliance Committee for endorsement by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties. Algeria has nominated Mr. Abdelaâli Beghoura, while no nomination has been forthcoming from Lebanon to date.	
16. At its first meeting, the Compliance Committee agreed on a more detailed programme of work with specific tasks for 2008-2009, in line with the Committee's functions. These included: (a) consideration of submissions from individual Parties; (b) review of general issues of compliance by Parties with the reporting requirements of the Convention and its Protocols, (c) development of rules of procedure for the Compliance Committee and of its <i>modus operandi</i>; (d) creation of a special page on the MAP website on compliance mechanisms and procedures; (e) preparation of a leaflet on compliance mechanisms and procedures under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.	
17. The draft rules of procedure for Compliance Committee meetings were agreed upon by the Committee. The purpose of the Committee's rules of procedure is to provide a set of rules to govern its meetings and work. In developing these rules, the Committee took a number of considerations into account in order to accommodate its size, specific nature and functions as well as the existence of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention and of some rules for the proceedings of the meetings of the Committee that are provided for by the procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Convention and its Protocols. The draft decision on the Rules of procedure for the Compliance Committee is presented as document UNEP(DEPI) MED WG 337/4 for the consideration of and possible approval by the meeting of the MAP Focal Points.	
18. The report of the Compliance Committee on its activities, decisions and recommendations for submission to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties is expected to be adopted at its third meeting in October 2009. The meeting will also address issues related to non-compliance with reporting obligations of the Contracting Parties.	
<u>1.2.2 Strengthening the MAP/Barcelona Convention reporting system</u>	
19. In order to prepare the ground for the implementation of decision IG 17/3 on reporting, in close cooperation with INFO/RAC, REMPEC, Blue Plan, PAP RAC, CP/RAC, SPA/RAC and MED POL, the Secretariat organized a joint planning and coordination meeting at expert level on 5-6 May 2008 at INFO/RAC's premises in Rome. The conclusions and recommendations of the above meeting were endorsed by the second meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) (UNEP/DEPI/MED ECP.2/4). The following actions were agreed upon:	

(a) Roadmap for developing the online Barcelona Convention/MAP reporting system and making it operational by the end of 2008;

(b) Roadmap for the joint development of effectiveness indicators using an integrated approach and various elements of the IMAGINE method with the technical assistance of Blue Plan;

(c) Ways and means of promoting the assessment reports on implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, through the publication of the 2002-2003 and 2004-2005 reports on the MAP website under a section entitled "Implementation reporting", to be established as soon as possible;

(d) Modalities of contribution of MAP components to the work of the Compliance Committee.

20. With a view to implementing decision IG 17/3 on reporting and the respective Bureau decision taken at its meeting in September 2008, INFO/RAC finalized the prototype of the online MAP reporting system in January 2009. The system was operational on line in February 2009 for testing purposes. During this period a number of comments were received from the Contracting Parties with a view to making the on-line reporting system more user friendly.

21. Thirteen Contracting Parties, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, EC, France, Greece, Libya, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Turkey, have submitted their 2006-2007 reports on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties. Morocco has informed the Secretariat that its 2006-2007 report is in its final phase and will be submitted soon.

22. The Secretariat provided financial and technical assistance to eligible Contracting Parties for the preparation of their 2006-2007 reports on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols and the decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties. These were Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Libya, Morocco and Syria.

23. First drafts of the reporting formats on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and on the implementation of the Liability and Compensation Guidelines were prepared respectively by the Secretariat and jointly by PAP/RAC and the Secretariat.

24. The Secretariat coordinated the work of the other components to develop jointly, with substantial technical support from Blue Plan, a first set of effectiveness indicators for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. It was decided that the proposed draft should be communicated to MAP and RAC Focal Points for comments and feedback. The draft set of proposed effectiveness indicators were also presented to the meetings of REMPEC, MED POL and SPA/RAC Focal Points.

25. Since little feedback was received from the consultation process and some reservations were also expressed at the meetings of the Focal Points of the components highlighting in particular the need for testing the proposed set of indicators before taking any commitment for their adoption, the Secretariat has prepared a draft decision accordingly. The draft decision is presented in document UNEP (DEPI) MED WG337/6. The background information on the proposed effectiveness indicators is presented in document UNEP (DEPI) MED WG337/Inf.17.

1.2.3 Implementation of MAP /Barcelona Convention Liability and Compensation Guidelines (MAP/BC L&C Guidelines) adopted by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Almeria, Spain, 2008 (Decision IG 17/4)

26. Pursuant to decision IG 17/4 of the Contracting Parties adopted at their 15th Meeting in Almeria in January 2008, the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Guidelines for the Determination of Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Pollution of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area was convened in Athens on 22 and 23 January 2009 to facilitate and assess the implementation of the Guidelines and make proposals regarding the advisability of additional action.

27. The Secretariat prepared and distributed a questionnaire on the state of the art of liability and compensation regimes in the Mediterranean and the steps to be taken for the effective implementation of the Guidelines in their national legislation. Fourteen Contracting Parties provided valuable information. The meeting of the Working Group reached the following conclusions:

- The replies provided by Contracting Parties to the questionnaire distributed by the Secretariat have provided valuable information on the situation at the national level.
- The information available on the national situation with regard to the implementation of the Guidelines shows the wide gap between countries in terms of the provisions adopted and institutional and other capacities;
- In view of this situation, a gradual and step-by-step approach is needed in the implementation of the Guidelines, affording the necessary transition period to build the required capacities, where necessary. In accordance with the step-by-step approach, concerted action should now be taken to commence the implementation of the Guidelines.

28. The meeting agreed on a draft of programme of action with regard to activities to be undertaken to facilitate the implementation of the Guidelines during the next biennium. The Programme of Action is aiming at building the capacity of all the relevant stakeholders, including the competent authorities and personnel at all levels (local, regional and national), scientific institutions and non-governmental organizations.

29. The Working Group has fulfilled the tasks assigned to it by the Contracting Parties under decision IG17/4 and has agreed that in the circumstances there was no need for another meeting during the current biennium, while work should continue on preparing the ground and undertaking the necessary research studies for assisting countries in implementing the Guidelines. The draft decision on the programme of action for the medium term implementation of the liability and Compensation Guidelines as well as the reporting format on their implementation is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 337/5.

Constraints and lessons learned

Compliance

30. During the meetings of the Compliance Committee and discussion on its draft rules of procedure, some issues required further clarification:

(a) The question of Committee membership and the status of other participants in Committee meetings. In this respect there is a need to make it clearer that the members and alternate members of the Compliance Committee are nominally elected by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties on the basis of their own capacities. For that reason, nomination of persons other than the elected members or alternate members of the Committee to attend Compliance Committee meetings should be avoided.

(b) The required quorum of seven members, which might give rise to difficulties for convening Committee meetings in the future. One solution might be to invite all alternate members to attend Committee meetings in order to avoid any last-minute absence that would affect the quorum. In addition, alternate members should be counted on a group basis and not individually for each member. Otherwise, if both the member and his or her alternate member were to be absent, the meeting of the Committee could not take place because of the absence of a quorum. In this context, it is very important for all Contracting Parties agreeing to nominate a candidate to sit on the Compliance Committee to do so, failing which a replacement procedure is required.

(c) The relationship between the MAP Focal Points' meeting and the Compliance Committee with regard to Committee decisions and recommendations on a non-compliance situation of individual Contracting Parties. It was agreed that the Compliance Committee's general report addressing general non-compliance issues, rules of procedure, guidelines etc., would be submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties through the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points. The Compliance Committee's report on specific situations of non-compliance of individual Contracting Parties would be submitted directly to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties; The Chairperson of the Compliance Committee would present these reports to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points and the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

31. The above issues are regulated in the Committee's draft rules of procedure and they were also discussed with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties. Noting that the Compliance Committee had proposed to add Arabic as its third working language, and following explanations by the Secretariat, the Bureau concluded that a precedent should not be set, nor costs added, by providing for three working languages in a technical body such as the Committee, unless otherwise decided by the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Submission of national reports on implementation

32. Difficulties have arisen with regard to the deadline for submission of the 2006-2007 reports on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols and the decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties ("implementation reports"). On account of some delay in the disbursement of the respective funds by the Italian Government to INFO/RAC and consequently also by the Secretariat, it was impossible to have the online MAP reporting system operational well in advance so that the Contracting Parties could meet the online submission deadline in November 2008. Since February 2009 the reporting system has been available on line and fully operational. However, not all Contracting Parties have made use of this tool. Assistance for this purpose should be provided to the Contracting Parties in order to overcome any difficulty.

33. Eight Contracting Parties have not yet submitted, either on line or through formal submission on paper, their 2006-2007 reports on the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, thus making it difficult for the Secretariat, MED POL and the Regional Activity Centres to prepare a regional analysis of the status of implementation of the Convention and its Protocols during the 2006-2007 biennium and submit any potential general non-compliance situation for the consideration of the third meeting of the Compliance Committee which is scheduled for October 2009.

2. Institutional arrangements and coordination

Goal: *To implement the biennial programme of work as adopted by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in an efficient and cost-effective manner, through the effective coordination and integration of the activities of the Secretariat, MED POL and the RACs.*

Objectives	<i>To ensure the efficient and effective functioning of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties</i> <i>To improve coordination between the RACs</i> <i>To ensure the smooth, efficient and cost-effective implementation of the programme of work by the Secretariat and RACs</i> <i>To ensure the long-term planning and preparation of a realistic and sustainable programme of work for the 2010-2011 biennium.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Draft decisions and programme of work prepared and reviewed</i> <i>Guidance to the Secretariat and RACs provided</i> <i>Joint planning of activities achieved</i> <i>Status of implementation of the programme of work and decisions of the Contracting Parties monitored and moved forward</i> <i>Active attendance of MAP components at CAMP Final Conferences</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>Secretariat</i> <i>RACs including MED POL</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Meetings are efficiently prepared</i> <i>All agenda items are effectively considered</i> <i>Integration between MAP components improved</i> <i>Reports of ECP meetings submitted to the Bureau meetings</i> <i>CAMP final conferences are successfully concluded and the participation of the concerned MAP components ensured</i>
Final results	<i>Three Bureau meetings (BUR 67, 68, 69) held in September 2008, February 2009 and June 2009</i> <i>Seven ECP meetings held, the reports submitted to the Bureau and the MAP Focal Points</i> <i>CAMP Cyprus Final Conference was a success</i> <i>Integrated approach was taken into account in developing the biennial programme of work of MAP</i> <i>Draft mandates for each MAP component prepared by the Components in consultation with the Secretariat. Draft decision prepared</i> <i>Draft HCA template prepared and consulted at ECP and UNEP levels</i> <i>The MAP Focal Points meeting and the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties under preparation</i>
Planned allocated budget: 80,000 euro	<i>Spent/committed: 80%</i>

Main achievements

2.1 Implementation of the Governance Paper

34. Pursuant to decision IG17/5 on the Governance Paper, particularly its institutional aspects, and to decision IG 17/22 on the programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium requesting the Secretariat to take the Governance Paper into account in the implementation of the 2008-2009 programme of work and budget, the Secretariat has undertaken a number of actions:

Constitution and functioning of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP)

35. The ECP was institutionalized by holding its first meeting and agreeing on its terms of reference (ToRs), which defined its mandate, composition, tasks and modus operandi. The ECP's ToRs, being based on the basic legal documents of MAP, various decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties and Governance Paper requirements, were endorsed by the Bureau at its first meeting held in September 2008 in Madrid, Spain.

36. The ECP has held a total of seven meetings in 2008 and 2009, one of which was an extraordinary meeting called by the Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) of UNEP, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition on account of the early retirement of the MAP Coordinator at the end of April 2009. Much of the ECP's business has been conducted through electronic tools of communication. In accordance with the requirements of the Governance Paper, the ECP meeting reports have been submitted to the Bureau and the MAP Focal Points for information. The reports of the ECP meetings are presented as reference documents UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.5/8 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECPextraordinary/2..

37. A range of institutional and coordination-related activities were conducted by the Coordinating Unit and the MAP components, including MED POL, such as:

- Preparation of a template Host Country Agreement for the Regional Activity Centres (RACs)
- Preparation of draft mandates for the RACs, including MED POL
- Discussions on a five-year strategic programme of work on climate change
- Organization of work for the preparation of the State of Environment and Development Report
- Organization of work for the preparation of the Mediterranean information system on the environment and development
- Organization of work for the preparation of the MAP online reporting system
- Monitoring the implementation of the programme of work and of the decisions adopted by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties
- Preparation of the biennial programme of work for the 2010-2011 biennium
- Preparation of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, in particular the identification of the ministerial session topic and its organization.

Draft template for the Host Country Agreements for the RACs

38. The draft Host Country Agreement (HCA) template for the RACs was prepared with the assistance of the MAP Legal Adviser. Due consideration was given to the content of the current agreements in force and to the requirements of the Governance Paper, with a view to creating a better and to the extent possible equal working environment for all the RACs and improving the effectiveness of the MAP system as a whole. This exercise did not involve the MED POL programme, which is administered by the Coordinating Unit, and REMPEC, which as a United Nations (IMO/UNEP) international centre operates on the basis of an existing HCA signed with the Maltese Government. The draft HCA template, after being cleared by the ECP, was sent to UNEP for feedback and legal analysis. The consultation process with UNEP is ongoing in order to identify the most appropriate modalities ensuring that the proposed template satisfies the rationale and the requirements of the Governance Paper with a view to harmonizing the status of RACs. The Bureau was also involved in the discussions. The Secretariat will proceed forthwith to send the draft to the host countries for their views and initiate negotiations with them.

Draft mandates of the MAP components

39. The initial draft mandates of the MAP components were prepared by each of the components on the basis of the model provided for in the Governance Paper. In order to ensure a harmonized and integrated approach, the Secretariat revised the draft mandates submitted by the components in full consultation with them, incorporating also a common introductory chapter making it clear that the RACs or MAP components are parts of a whole and contribute to achieving the common objectives of MAP and the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as of the MSSD. The respective draft decision is presented as document UNEP (DEPI) MED 337/7 for the consideration of and possible approval by the meeting of the MAP Focal Points.

2.2 *Organization of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties*

40. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be held on 3-5 November 2009 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

41. In the course of preparations for the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the MAP Coordinator paid a visit to Morocco in November 2008 to discuss the details of the Host Country Agreement and other arrangements. H.E Mr. Abdelkbir Zahoud, Minister for the Environment and Water, expressed his wholehearted support for the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. Following the advice of the second Bureau meeting held in Athens in February 2009, another bilateral meeting was organized with the Moroccan authorities in May 2009 for the purpose of concluding and signing the Host Country Agreement and exchanging views on the ministerial theme and the organization of the ministerial session of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

42. Drawing on the experience gained and lessons learned from the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (January 2008, Almeria, Spain), the Secretariat proposed for consideration by the Bureau meeting a number of suggestions with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties and making it more attractive to policy makers and ministers.

43. After discussion at its meetings, the Bureau suggested, in view of the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and the main topic on the agenda of the 13th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), and in close consultation with Morocco, the host country, that the ministerial theme for the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties should be: "Climate change in the Mediterranean: challenges and experiences".

2.3 *Main MAP institutional meetings during the biennium*

44. The Bureau of the Contracting Parties elected by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties and headed by Spain held three meetings during the current biennium (Madrid, Spain, in September 2008, Athens, Greece, in February 2009, and Istanbul, Turkey, in June 2009). It addressed all the issues delegated to it by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Almeria, Spain, in 2008 as well as tasks assigned to the Bureau under its terms of reference approved by the 10th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1995. The Bureau, through its meetings, discussions and decisions, provided useful guidance to the Secretariat and the RACs, including MED POL, on various complex issues.

45. The decisions of the meetings of the Bureau and its reports have been disseminated to the MAP Focal Points and published on the MAP website.

46. The 13th MCSD meeting will be held on 28-30 September 2009 in Cairo, Egypt. More information on this meeting and MCSD-related activities are presented in chapter V of this progress report.

47. The meetings of the Focal Points for each of the MAP components were held according to the following calendar:

- REMPEC Focal Points meeting: 21-24 April 2009, Malta
- Joint Focal Points meeting PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and INFO/RAC: 25-27 May 2009, Zagreb, Croatia
- MED POL Focal Points meeting: 2-4 June 2009 Kalamata, Greece
- SPA/RAC Focal Points meeting: 3-6 June 2009, Floriana, Malta
- CP/RAC Focal Points meeting: 17-19 June 2009, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

48. The outcomes of the meetings of the components' Focal Points are presented in Part II of the present report, which addresses MAP components' activities and achievements.

49. The list of the meetings held by the Secretariat and MAP during the current biennium is presented as annex III to this report.

2.4 Auditing and financial management

50. Following the implementation of decision IG 17/22 on the programme of work for 2008-2009 requesting the Secretariat to undertake a financial and management audit of MAP, the Secretariat drafted the terms of reference for the financial and management auditing exercise in close consultation with the RACs.

51. The main outputs expected from this exercise were to propose the efficient and cost-effective use of available human and financial resources and to strengthen the effectiveness of overall programme implementation, and to determine whether it would be justified for a request to be made at the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties for an increase in the contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund. The ToRs were submitted to the Bureau at its first meeting in September 2009 for information and discussion.

52. The process was carried out by OIOS, a specialized body of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) on auditing, financial management and evaluation/monitoring. All RAC Directors and Secretariat officials were interviewed by the team of auditors that visited the Secretariat in May 2008.

53. The Financial and Management Audit Report was originally expected to be submitted to the Secretariat by the end of 2008.

54. The recommendations of the report and the response of the Executive Director of UNEP were officially sent to the Secretariat and Bureau members in May 2009. The Secretariat has prepared a plan of action for their effective and prompt implementation.

55. The findings and the recommendations of the Audit Report as well as the measures taken for their implementation were reported to the Bureau for its consideration at its third meeting held in Istanbul in June 2009. The Secretariat has shared the report with the MAP Focal Points.

Constraints and lessons learnt

5-year rolling programme of work of MAP

56. Formulation of a five-year programme of work using an integrated approach has been a priority task for the ECP during the current biennium. In carrying out this task, the Secretariat and the ECP drew on:

- a) The requirements of the Convention and its Protocols;
- b) The main components of MAP as adopted in 1995, the strategies adopted by the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Protocols such as SAP/MED, SAP BIO, MED POL Phase VI, Strategy for the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships, and the MSSD;
- c) Emerging global issues of particular relevance to the Mediterranean region
- d) The need for synergy and cooperation with other initiative in the region of MAP relevance
- e) Strategic directions of UNEP medium-term strategy.

57. Fully aware of the difficulties to which a strategic exercise of this kind may give rise, the ECP did its best to deliver and finalise the five-year programme of work in time for the MAP Focal Points meeting. However, on account of some objective difficulties as well as real time constraints, the Secretariat is not in a position to finalise and present them for the consideration of the MAP Focal Points meeting. More time is still needed for further reflection and work so that the ECP can present the programme of work to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

58. Under these circumstances, the Secretariat brought this matter to the attention of the Bureau. The Bureau agreed that more time is needed for the Secretariat to work on and deliver the 5-year MAP programme of work for direct submission to and consideration by the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. However, the Bureau requested the Secretariat during the preparation of this programme of work to engage in a proactive consultation process with a view to ensuring the full involvement of the Members of the Bureau and the MAP Focal Points in the process.

Organisation of the meetings of the MAP Components Focal Points

59. The Secretariat has been considering the question of the organization of the meetings of the components' Focal Points. This issue was raised at the joint Focal Points' meeting BP/RAC – PAP/RAC – INFO/RAC. The meeting had various reactions about the current meeting set-up and whether the holding of such joint meetings of RAC Focal Points should be continued or other institutional arrangements might better suit MAP's needs.

60. The Secretariat brought the matter to the attention of the Bureau at its third meeting held in Istanbul for its consideration. The Bureau acknowledged the need to enhance coordination and integration among the MAP components with regard to the preparation of their Focal Point meetings and in particular in the preparation of their programmes of activities.

61. The Bureau, after having discussed different options presented by the Secretariat, recommended the option of organization of a common meeting of the Focal Points of the various MAP components with joint and separate sessions. This would allow joint discussion of progress achieved during the current biennium and the preparation in an integrated manner of the programme of activities for the forthcoming biennium for all MAP components, as well as separate sessions on technical issues specific to each Component. The effectiveness of this practice would be reviewed as appropriate.

3. Application of the ecosystem approach

Goal: *The definition of the ecological status of the Mediterranean*

Objective	<i>To implement the roadmap for the application of the ecosystem approach by the MAP system as a whole</i>
Expected outputs	• <i>Definition of areas and pilot projects</i> • <i>Derivation of ecological and operational objectives with indicators and target levels</i> • <i>Reports on each area</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	• <i>Secretariat</i> • <i>With the assistance of experts</i>
Indicators/ achievements	• <i>Objectives, indicators and target levels</i> • <i>Reports produced</i>
Final results	• <i>4 areas defined</i> • <i>Main activities identified by all MAP components for the implementation of the roadmap for the application of the ecosystem approach</i> • <i>Brainstorming exercise on the case study for the application of the ECAP roadmap organized.</i> • <i>Assesment of the defined areas started by MED POL and SPARAC</i>
Planned allocated budget: 145,000 euro	
Main achievements 62. With a view to implementing decision IG 17/6 on the application by MAP of the ecosystem approach, the second meeting of government-designated experts on the ecosystem approach was held in Athens on 9-10 July 2008. The meeting agreed that, for the purpose of implementing step 3 of the roadmap for the application of the ecosystem approach on assessing ecological status, four areas should be identified in the Mediterranean, as follows: Area 1: Western Mediterranean Sea; Area 2: Adriatic Sea; Area 3: Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean; Area 4: Aegean-Levantine Sea. The identification was based on bio-geographic and oceanographic considerations and is provisional, liable to modification on the basis of the results of the assessment studies and further consideration. 63. The meeting also agreed that activities related to the implementation of the ecosystem approach roadmap should be conducted in all four areas and that there was no need at this stage to have a pilot project on a geographical basis. Pilot projects could be identified on specific issues to prepare the ground for the implementation of some steps of the roadmap, taking into account all relevant information. 64. With a view to coordinating the work among MAP components, a meeting of experts was organized by the Secretariat in Split, Croatia, in September 2008 back to back with the third ECP meeting. The conclusions of the expert meeting were transmitted to and endorsed by the third ECP meeting. A number of activities were agreed upon that would be implemented in 2009 and 2010 with European Commission (EC) funding. The agreement for the financing of these activities between MAP and the EC was signed in December 2008. 65. A number of tasks have been identified which involve most MAP components bearing in mind the need for more integration, interaction and coherence required among all the components. An international call will be launched for the recruitment of the international consultant to assist the implementation by MAP of the road map on the application of the ecosystem approach as well as of the activities to be carried out under the respective EC/MAP project.	

66. The Secretariat, assisted by experts, initiated a brainstorming exercise to apply the approved roadmap to a selected number of ecological objectives, as far as possible common to all four areas, and falling within the competence of MED POL and SPA/RAC.

67. MEDPOL and SPA RAC have started working on the preparation of the assessment documents for the four identified Mediterranean sea areas, assisted by national experts/Focal Points. Subregional experts are being recruited to assist MED POL and SPA/RAC in the preparation of the assessment document.

68. Blue Plan has started work on a socio-economic analysis of the goods and services provided by the ecosystem and the cost of degradation of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean.

69. The results of this work will be forwarded to the third meeting of government-designated experts on the application of the ecosystem approach by MAP, which is expected to take place in 2010. The decisions with regard to the MAP/ECP project on the ecosystem approach are presented in the report of the third ECP meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.3/4).

4. Cooperation and partnership

Main goal: *Sound, broad-ranging cooperation and synergy with relevant international and regional organizations as well as civil society, for the effective implementation of the programme of work.*

Objectives	• <i>To maintain and improve cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies and the Convention Secretariats (Biodiversity, Basel, Ramsar, Stockholm, etc.) in fields of common interest</i> • <i>To consolidate cooperation with the EC and EEA with a view to implementing the joint programme of work and in particular the activities within the Euro MED Horizon 2020 initiative</i> • <i>To ensure NGO/civil society participation in MAP activities and enhance their contribution to the achievement of MAP objectives, with particular focus on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as of the MSSD</i> • <i>To further cooperate with GEF, WB, EIB, FFEM and other funding agencies and the private sector in order to mobilize the necessary financial resources for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols</i> • <i>To promote regional and subregional cooperation</i>
Expected outputs	• <i>Project funded and implemented by NGOs</i> • <i>MAP partners attend meetings and present position papers</i> • <i>MAP/civil society cooperation assessed</i> • <i>Joint activities with regional initiatives planned and implemented</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	• <i>Secretariat</i> • <i>RACs</i> • <i>MED POL</i>
Indicators/ achievements	• <i>NGO contributions to MAP objective achievement increased</i> • <i>Position papers submitted</i> • <i>List of MAP partners updated</i> • <i>Stronger partnership criteria developed</i> • <i>MAP visibility increased</i> • <i>Synergy and cooperation with regional initiatives ensured</i>
Final results	• <i>MAP/civil society cooperation assessment process launched</i> • <i>Questionnaire for the assessment prepared and disseminated to RACs, MAP Focal Points and Bureau members and MAP partners</i> • <i>51 answers received out of which 29 by NGOs, 15 by the RACs and the Secretariat, 7 by the Bureau members and Focal Points</i> • <i>Proposal note, after discussion at the Bureau meeting was sent to MAP Focal Points for feedback</i> • <i>Related decision prepared by the Secretariat for submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting</i> • <i>Funds granted to 4 NGOs :RAED, MEDSOS, MEDCOAST, MIO-ECSDE, and to Morocco (assistance to CAMP Morocco to implement sustainability analysis)</i>
Allocated funds: 72,000 euro	<i>Spent/committed: 70%</i>

Main achievements**4.1 Cooperation with United Nations agencies, the European Union(EU), regional initiatives**

70. Relations continued to be developed with United Nations agencies and conventions in areas of mutual interest. Both the Secretariat and the different MAP components embarked on various initiatives together with United Nations bodies and organizations relevant to the implementation of their programme of work. The Secretariat maintained continuous dialogue with UNEP/DEPI in Nairobi within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme.

71. This cooperation was further strengthened following the 10th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans which was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador in December, 2008 at the kind invitation of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific. The agenda included six different sessions during which participants discussed the issues of climate change, ecosystem management, cooperation with MEAs, sustainable financing and legal instruments to further the implementation of Regional Seas (RS) work programmes, operational considerations for the Regional Seas Programme, strategic directions (2008-2012), upcoming events and other matters.

72. Although climate change was not high on the international agenda when most RS conventions were initially negotiated, it was agreed that through the management of ecosystems in an integrated manner all RS have a mandate to address the issue of climate change and that therefore no new instrument is needed in this regard. RS should specifically address climate change when revising their strategies or developing action plans. The new ICZM Protocol with its provisions dealing with climate change was mentioned as example of a new initiative to address this important issue. A copy of the ICZM Protocol was distributed to all participants.

73. The Secretariat participated in the 16th session of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development and in the UNEP Governing Council Meetings/Global Environment Forums in Monaco and Nairobi.

74. Great progress has been made with respect to the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Marine Large Ecosystem. Negotiations with the Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination (DGEF) in Nairobi have been finalized and the budget has been approved. The Project Management Unit has been in place and operational since 1 May 2009.

75. Relations between UNEP/MAP and the EC were strengthened in different areas. Both the Secretariat and all MAP components continued to develop their working relationship with the EC within the framework of a number of programmes and projects, in particular in the framework of the joint programme of work MAP/EC signed in 2005. MAP components continued to take an active part in the EC Horizon 2020 initiative. The European Investment Bank has now identified a number of bankable projects on the basis of the national action plans (NAPs) developed in the framework of MED POL and the LBS Protocol. With a view to improving synergy between Horizon 2020 initiative and MAP, the EC recruited for a 6-month period a consultancy company. The expected outputs of this initiative will be to recommend to MAP on how best to use its potential for achieving synergy with Horizon 2020 initiative.

76. Two institutional meetings of all MAP components were held in 2008 and 2009 on policy matters of common interest with the International Affairs and Life Unit of DG Environment of the European Commission. These bilateral meetings were held on an annual basis to review the progress of work in priority areas of cooperation and to discuss issues related to furthering the objectives of the MAP-EC joint work programme.

77. Topics discussed at the last meeting included the Marseille Declaration, which gave details about the projects that will be embarked upon within the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean and the new institutional structure of the Union.

78. Following the plenary session, the RACs and MED POL held bilateral meetings with their EC counterparts.

79. Talks were also held recently between MAP and the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations, in particular with respect to the application of the ecosystem approach. Experience was also exchanged with regard to the implications for both OSPAR and MAP of the implementation of the EC's Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In view of the decision of the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties with respect to carbon sequestration in geological formations, on which OSPAR has already made considerable progress, it was agreed to exchange experience and documents of mutual interest.

80. Following participation at the 13 July 2008 Paris Summit of Heads of State and Government from the EU and Mediterranean countries which established the Barcelona Process - Union for the Mediterranean, the Secretariat recommended that UNEP and UNEP/MAP should play a more active role in this new and important initiative for the Mediterranean. As a result, UNEP/DEPI organized a one-day strategic meeting for Directors of UNEP's Divisions in Europe, West Asia and the Mediterranean, and the Directors of MAP's Regional Activity Centres to discuss UNEP's future role in the Union for the Mediterranean. This meeting was held at the French Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Physical Planning with the full support of the French authorities. MAP prepared a background paper for this meeting with the contribution of other regional Directors and the Directors of the RACs.

81. The meeting took the form of a brainstorming session. There was general agreement among participants that the Union for the Mediterranean initiative offers an opportunity for the region towards sustainable development. The meeting also agreed on the need to set up a smaller group to lead and keep others informed; establish a good relationship with the interim secretariat of the Union, once established, and to develop detailed proposals including the identification of sources of funding as well as translating meeting's outputs into concepts.

82. MAP Secretariat was also invited and attended the ministerial meeting on Sustainable Development Projects held in Paris in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean, on 25 June 2009.

83. In November 2008 MAP participated in the third session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), representing also the Executive Director of UNEP. The opening meeting was chaired by H.R.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

84. The WB has submitted a programme on sustainable development to GEF for inclusion in the June 2009 Council, and GEF is provisionally allocating 50M US\$ from International Waters to fund the initial phase of this project. This Mediterranean Sustainable Development Programme, ("Sustainable MED"), led by the WB, with UNEP as a partner, aims to "enhance and accelerate the implementation of transboundary pollution reduction, improved water resources management, and biodiversity conservation measures in priority hotspots and sensitive areas of selected countries of the Mediterranean basin that would help achieve the Strategic Action Plans' (SAP MED and SAP BIO) targets".

85. The Secretariat has welcomed this initiative that can further the objectives of UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), strengthen the coordination amongst agencies and donors working in the Mediterranean and bring the additional investments needed to assist countries in addressing their priority environmental issues. The basis of this partnership is the past work undertaken by UNEP/MAP and countries with the support of GEF to formulate regional agreements for the reduction of pollution and conservation of biodiversity. Also this programme expands on the GEF, UNEP and WB "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem" which is now under implementation with the objective of leveraging reforms and catalysing investments that address transboundary pollution reduction and marine and coastal biodiversity conservation priorities for the Mediterranean basin.

86. Additional information on cooperation of MAP components with other agencies and partners are presented in the respective chapters of the present progress report concerning each component.

Constraints and lessons learned

87. Although progress has been made in the relationship between MAP and other international agencies and initiatives of relevance to it, as reported above, there is a need to continue moving from a piecemeal approach to a more strategic and integrated approach with a view to ensuring synergy and enhancing MAP impact on regional policies and actions for sustainable development.

4.2 Cooperation with MAP/civil society partners

Main achievements

4.2.1 MAP/civil society cooperation assessment

88. In view of the entry into force of the amended Barcelona Convention and the adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Almeria, Spain, in January 2008 advised the Secretariat to review the list of MAP's civil society partners and criteria for admission and to make relevant proposals to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to enhance MAP/civil society cooperation and partnership and its effectiveness.

89. To this end, the Secretariat undertook an assessment study that is submitted as information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG337/Inf.16.

90. The assessment report is in two parts, containing an assessment of the current situation regarding MAP/civil society cooperation and a note proposing future directions for cooperation and partnership. As suggested by the Bureau, this evaluation/assessment report is forward-looking, with a focus on future actions required with a view to making the system more effective, proactive and productive.

91. The state-of-play part of the report examines the current situation of MAP/civil society cooperation, as follows:

- (a) Legal bases for civil society participation in MAP;
- (b) MAP programmes and policies on its partnership with civil society;
- (c) Overview of the MCSD and civil society;
- (d) Inventory and categorization of the list of MAP partners;
- (e) State of the budget granted for MAP/civil society cooperation (not in depth).

92. The proposal note on directions for MAP/civil society cooperation has taken into consideration, principally:

- (a) Best practices and lessons learned from MAP experiences;
- (b) The international legal and political context governing relations between civil society and international organizations, which for some years now has been undergoing radical change;
- (c) The most innovative examples of how the relations between NGOs and international bodies have been institutionalized and furthered;
- (d) Replies to questionnaires by the MAP Focal Points system, MCSD members, Bureau members and MAP partners.

93. The main conclusion of the proposal note is that new relations between MAP and the NGOs could be forged by adopting a new policy paper/decision on MAP/civil society cooperation, adding to and partly replacing the recommendations of the 9th, 11th and 12th Meetings of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona, 1995, Malta, 1999 and Monaco, 2001 respectively), adopting revised criteria for admission to and retention on the list of MAP partners and a code of conduct for MAP civil society partners.

94. In this respect, the Secretariat has prepared the relevant draft decision for consideration by the MAP Focal Points. The draft decision is presented as document UNEP (DEPI) MED WG 337/8.

4.2.2 Assistance to MAP partners' activities

95. A number of MAP activities were organized with the participation of NGOs. MED POL and Clean Up Greece carried out an awareness campaign about marine litter. MIO-ECSDE, together with MAP and the Greek Ministry for the Environment, organized a side event on Climate Change in the Mediterranean during the 16th session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN CSD-16).

96. The Secretariat has provided financial assistance to the following MAP partners: RAED, MEDSOS, and MEDCOAST on the following activities:

RAED:	Publication of 12 issues of Newsletter "Montada Al Biah" during 2008
MEDSOS:	Symposium "The Water in the Climate Change Era" held on 28 March 2008 in Athens, Greece
MEDSOS:	Campaign Clean Up the Med 2008
MEDCOAST:	Second International Conference/Workshop on the State-of-the-Art of ICM in the Mediterranean & Black Sea, Akyaka, Mugla, Turkey, 14-18 October 2008.

5. Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development

Main goal: *To support implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) through complementary and coordinated initiatives at the regional, subregional and national levels.*

Objective 1	<i>Develop or update national strategies for sustainable development in Mediterranean countries with broad participation of civil society and other stakeholders while giving due consideration to the MSSD vision, orientations and objectives.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Four national strategies for sustainable development (NSSDs) developed; working session on NSSD organized; regional workshop on NSSD organized.</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>MEDU, RACs active in the countries concerned, UNEP Regional Office Geneva, UNDP and bilateral agencies' country representatives</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>NSSDs successfully developed in the four countries by the end of 2008</i>
Final results	<i>Tunisia almost completed the process, while in the other three countries the process is ongoing</i>
Allocated Budget: 162,000 euros	<i>spent or committed: 26% Negotiation to commit funds to assist the other countries' ongoing process</i>
Main achievements 97. During the reporting period the following preparatory work has been accomplished: informing and briefing the countries concerned on the NSSD formulation process; preparing memorandum of understanding (MoU) technical contents; establishing contacts with potential partners; initiating the third Review of Progress on National Strategies and Initiatives for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region. An MoU with Tunisia, accommodating the long-standing, substantial experience of Tunisia in terms of sustainable development, has been signed. 98. Tunisia has almost completed the process of incorporating MSSD priorities in its NSSD. 99. In order to support NSSD implementation and in view of the climate change theme chosen for the next meeting of the MCSD, studies have been initiated on adaptation to climate change in three countries that have already prepared their NSSDs (Egypt, Montenegro and either Italy or Syria). The studies consist of an assessment of vulnerabilities to climate change variability and to extreme events, and the identification of key adaptation measures (policy reforms, improved legal and institutional frameworks, mobilization of appropriate economic instruments, capacity-building, etc.). 100. In the same vein, questionnaires have been sent to the MAP Focal Points and MCSD members on adaptation to climate change with a view to documenting the stocktaking exercise that will be carried out during the next MCSD meeting. 101. In order to assess progress achieved since 2005 with regard to sustainable development initiatives in the Mediterranean, the Secretariat launched an overall assessment of the actions and initiatives carried out by the Mediterranean countries for the mainstreaming of sustainable development in national policies. In addition, the review would also consider to what extent climate change adaptation and mitigation are integrated into national and sector development processes in the countries. This exercise would enable MAP and its regional partners to understand the state of play with respect to the development of NSSDs in the region and to identify the needs for assistance and capacity-building with a particular focus on adaptation to climate change. 102. The initial findings of this assessment have confirmed how uneven the situation is as far as the availability of relevant information is concerned, indicative perhaps of national difficulties in terms of capacities, coordination and consultation.	

Constraints and lessons learned

103. The process of elaboration of the NSSD is complex on account of the need for coordination among all stakeholders at the national level, including the respective international agencies. The work for the respective countries needed more time to be finalized.

104. Concerning the overall assessment process and update of sustainable development policies and actions in the Mediterranean, there is a need for stronger support from the Contracting Parties with a view to contributing to and providing feedback for its successful finalization.

Objective 2	<i>To create awareness about the MCSD and increase understanding of the need to implement the MSSD at the regional and national levels through the use of information and communication tools and the mass media.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Targeted information and communication (I&C) activities designed and implemented, addressing at least two specific target groups during the biennium.</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>MEDU, MAP Information Officer, INFO/RAC, APAT</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Greater awareness and visibility of MCSD and MSSD, participation of and interaction with target groups/stakeholders.</i>
Final results	<i>Leaflets for the public in process of preparation</i>
Allocated budget: 35,000 euros	<i>spent or committed: 90%</i>
Main achievements 105. The work is ongoing for the preparation of two leaflets with a view to their dissemination at the MCSD meeting to be held at the end of September in Cairo, Egypt.	

Objective 3	<i>Monitor the implementation of the MSSD and the MCSD programme of work</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Meetings of the MCSD successfully organized, leading to conclusions and recommendations to the Contracting Parties; meetings of the Steering Committee of the MCSD successfully organized, leading to conclusions and preparation for the MCSD meeting</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>MEDU, MCSD Steering Committee, UNEP Climate Change Adaptation Unit, relevant MAP components</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Progress achieved in the implementation of the MSSD and the MCSD programme of work</i>
Final results	<i>Ongoing</i>
Allocated budget: 85,000 euros	<i>Spent or committed: 100%</i>

New MCSD members

106. The Contracting Parties at their 15th Meeting in Almeria, Spain, in January 2008 decided to review the composition, mandate and terms of reference of the MCSD in order to ensure that it achieves greater representation and fosters a sense of ownership by the entire Mediterranean community.

107. They accordingly amended the composition and number of the MCSD membership and added 3 new categories: eminent experts; representatives of the scientific community; regional international intergovernmental organizations

108. The Contracting Parties mandated the Bureau to approve the criteria and the procedures for the nomination of new MCSD members from the above-mentioned categories with a view to their participation in the 2009 meeting of the MCSD. The Bureau approved the criteria and procedures at its second meeting. In line with the agreed procedure, letters were sent out to the MAP components, MAP Focal Points and MAP NGO/IGO partners.

109. At its second meeting, the Bureau approved three members of the MCSD from the category of international intergovernmental organizations, namely UN-WTO – World Tourism Organization, CEDARE – Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe, World Bank, while for the other categories the Bureau requested the Secretariat to extend the deadline with a view to receiving a larger number of expressions of interest, in particular from experts offering a high level of expertise in the field of climate change.

110. Nominations were received for the categories "eminent experts", and "scientific community". The process is still ongoing.

MCSD Steering Committee

111. Two Steering Committee meetings have been organized successfully. The MCSD Secretariat has developed closer and more continuous interactions with the Steering Committee, by engaging the Committee more proactively in the preparation of the biannual MCSD meeting. The preparation of the next MCSD meeting that will focus on adaptation to climate change is proceeding as scheduled: the agenda has been finalized, national case studies are being prepared, speakers have been identified and break-out sessions have been conceptualized.

112. At the last meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee that took place in Athens, Greece, on 19 and 20 June 2008, the members decided to establish a task force, composed of a limited number (5-8) of MCSD members, on a voluntary basis and in close coordination with the Secretariat, in order to steer the preparatory process for the next MCSD meeting. Terms of reference were adopted by the Steering Committee.

113. The Steering Committee also thought it useful to determine the theme around which the next meeting would be structured. The theme chosen is "Climate change adaptation and mitigation – Experiences and strategies in the Mediterranean". Links will also be made with other aspects of climate change that have already been addressed by thematic working groups and related horizontal issues.

Constraints and lessons learned

114. The MCSD is a unique consultation forum where stakeholders meet to discuss sustainable development issues and share their different perspectives. By doing so they contribute to increasing the consensus level and therefore give the relevant national policy decisions a better chance of being accepted and effectively implemented. As a consequence, MCSD recommendations made to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties are of a different nature and weight from those issuing from technical groups facilitated by MAP components or other entities. Although the MSSD has the unique advantage of being nested in a well-established international legislative set-up (the Barcelona Convention), it has not much enjoyed momentum: effective implementation is lagging behind. Countries that are also pressed to respond to other demanding processes call for coherence, harmonization and guidance on how to implement the MSSD nationally. The MSSD is but one of the strategic frameworks and initiatives in the Mediterranean region, and hence the relevant institutions at the regional and national levels are confronted with significant challenges. In this context, on the basis of the MAP Governance Paper, there is a need to reconsider how individual components (MEDU, RACs) and the MCSD interact in order to better contribute to MSSD implementation. Enhanced coordination and vision would help in the development of strategies and synergies within the MAP system and with other sustainable development-related initiatives , institutions and programmes.

6. Information and communication

Main goal/s: *The general public and partners to be more aware and better informed of MAP activities and achievements within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols for the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.*

Objective 1	<i>To enhance environmental awareness among the general public;</i> <i>To increase the visibility of MAP and the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols with a view to promoting their implementation;</i> <i>To launch and implement coordinated information and educational campaigns and special activities to underline the importance of public participation in the conservation and management of the environment.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Develop and produce a portable exhibition on MAP to be made available to RACs and the Secretariat for conferences and exhibition</i> <i>Develop and produce a school kit on MAP activities and the Mediterranean</i> <i>MAP website regularly upgraded in English, French, Arabic and Spanish</i> <i>Promotion of MAP activities through the media</i> <i>Review of MAP information strategy</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>Secretariat</i> <i>Danube Convention</i> <i>NGOs</i> <i>MAP Focal Pointss</i> <i>INFO/RAC</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Exhibition used by RACs and relevant MAP components at public events</i> <i>The MAP school kit is available in 2009</i> <i>Frequency of exposure in the media and publications of activities by MAP and its components</i> <i>MAP Information Strategy is submitted for approval by the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties</i>
Final results	<i>The exhibition has been in use now for over one year and is used regularly by MAP components.</i> <i>On the occasion of the World Water Forum in Istanbul (March 2009), specific MAP materials were produced and distributed at the joint Mediterranean stand (posters; mouse-pads; brochures; video-exhibition on water resources). The MEDU Information Unit worked closely with BP/RAC and PAP/RAC to coordinate the event and the circulation of promotional tools.</i> <i>UN DAY 2008 events were organized in Athens in cooperation with other UN agencies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These included an information stand on Syntagma Square; a concert (Lamia Bedioui); thematic exhibitions (UNHCR "refugees"; MAP "water resources"); street-theatre activities for children (water resources and recycling); a dedicated UN in Greece website and related materials (posters, brochures, mouse pads) were also developed and launched.</i> <i>A photo catalogue with text on water resources was also developed and published in conjunction with the water resources photo exhibition.</i>

	• <i>World Environment Day 2008 activities were organized in Greece on behalf of UNEP, as the Europe regional winner of the UNEP painting competition was a Greek student. MAP organized the prize ceremony and media contacts in conjunction to a public awareness event organized in Zappeion.</i> • <i>Following their request, MAP provided DEPI input on the overall DEPI strategy and UNEP strategy for communication and Information that are currently being developed by UNEP in Nairobi. Following these developments, MEDU Information Strategy presented the ECP with an outlined proposal of how to proceed with the revision of the MAP communication strategy.</i> • <i>In the course of 2008, following the decision on the new ICZM protocol, the COP15, and the launch of the GEF project, over 150 clippings and media hits were collected, including Financial Times (22nd April 2008) and ERT-NET (6th June 2008).</i> • <i>The MAP website is on line, regularly updated and linked to all RACs' individual sites. A dedicated section on compliance is currently being developed.</i>
Budget allocated for 2009: 15.000 euros	<i>spent 90%.</i>

Main achievements

115. The Energy school kit will be presented to the public at the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. It is the result of cooperation with the Yann Arthus Bertrand foundation, ensuring high quality of the materials presented and wide circulation. This is the first of a series of thematic school kits to be developed in the course of the coming biennium.

116. Joint information stand on the Mediterranean set up at the Istanbul World Water Forum with specific promotion material produced and distributed in cooperation with RACs.

117. The proposed outline for a general brochure on the Compliance Committee and mechanism was submitted by the Secretariat to the Committee and approved. The text is currently being drafted.

118. In view of implementing the requirements of the Governance Paper to regularly update the Information and Communication Strategy of MAP, an outline of the proposal was presented, discussed and agreed at the ECP meeting in Tunis (January 2009). Input to DEPI and UNEP communication strategies were provided by the Secretariat.

119. However, in order to proceed with such revision, the Secretariat has launched an independent evaluation of the current status of MAP communication outreach and needs. On the basis of such an analysis, it will be possible to develop, in cooperation with all MAP components, a coherent and effective communication and information strategy that takes into account real needs and corrects any shortcomings.

120. Following its request, MAP provided DEPI with input for the overall DEPI strategy and UNEP strategy for communication and information that are currently being developed by UNEP in Nairobi. Following these developments, the MEDU Information Unit presented the ECP with an outline proposal of how to proceed with the revision of the MAP communication strategy.

Constraints and lessons learned

121. It should be recalled that the delays in the implementation of the work programme of INFO/RAC for the biennium had an impact on the overall implementation of communication activities of the Secretariat.

122. In the light of the ongoing process with regard to the mandate of INFO/RAC to be discussed and approved at the MAP Focal Points' meeting, the Secretariat is in favour during the next biennium on the preparation of the updated information communication strategy in close coordination and cooperation with the respective information centre.

Objective 2	<i>To continue and expand publication and distribution of brochures, leaflets, posters, reports, newsletters and other information material and to strengthen the use of the media in all its forms;</i> <i>To enhance and strengthen the exchange of information and experience on the environmental problems of the region and to develop cooperation and networking in this field.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>In cooperation with RACs, write, develop and produce thematic brochures on key issues for the region (water resources; climate change; energy; biodiversity; pollution) in 4 languages</i> <i>Within the framework of the MSSD, develop a series of illustrated leaflets for grassroots education with targeted audiences</i> <i>Set up an online photo database of images on environmental issues in the Mediterranean for MAP components' use and exchange</i> <i>Produce MedWaves magazine and MedWaves monthly newsletter</i> <i>Publication of MTS publications</i> <i>MAP Library upgrading</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	- Secretariat - RACs - INFO/RAC - MED POL - EEA - MSSD - UNEP - UNICEF - NGOs - International Network of Libraries
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Brochures available and regularly used at public events throughout the region</i> <i>Educational leaflets produced and distributed through various networks</i> <i>MAP components use the online photo database</i> <i>MedWaves magazine and e-newsletter regularly published and distributed in 3 languages, electronically and/or in printed form</i> <i>MTS produced on CD ROM and distributed</i> <i>More frequent use made of the library and reference documents</i>
Final results	<i>Publication of e-newsletters is ongoing with the new electronic format (html) of the newsletter in use since January 2009</i> <i>A photo catalogue with text on water resources was distributed at the World Water Forum in Istanbul in conjunction with the water resources photo exhibition</i>

	• <i>Medwaves thematic publication on Ecosystem currently being translated into French and Arabic and in production</i> • <i>MTS produced on sustainable tourism (173) and rural development (172)</i> • <i>Library upgrade planning is finalized and materials ordered. The new premises will be ready during the summer 2009.</i> • <i>MAP Library also organized a meeting of the Mediterranean libraries in October 2008, to launch the network and increase cooperation and resource-sharing.</i>
Budget allocated for 2009: 51.000 euros	<i>spent 85%</i>
Main achievements 123. The photo database for the MAP website was finalized and is currently being tested for compatibility with the MAP website. Once this is cleared, pictures will start to be posted and made available. 124. The MAP Library is being upgraded in the current weeks to allow for easier access to publications and documents. 125. The photo database format is ready and being tested. 126. The following activities are in the process of finalization: • <i>MCSD leaflet currently under production.</i> • <i>Exhibition on climate change currently under development for the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties and possibly the MCSD meeting</i> • <i>MAP general materials being reviewed and updated</i>	
Constraints and lessons learned 127. The unclear and financially unstable situation of the RAC covering information issues for the past biennium, and the lack of clarity in terms of the roles and the interaction with the Information Unit within MEDU slowed down the finalization of the photo database. 128. Some of the materials planned for development within the framework of the MSSD are currently under development. 129. It would be very useful if MAP components made provision for some funds to be set aside for information activities within their programme of work.	

7. Financial, personnel and administrative matters

7.1 Financial matters

7.1.1 Remittance of contributions

130. The status of the Mediterranean Trust Fund as at 31 My 2009 stood as follows:

- Total pledges of ordinary contributions for 2009: € 5,540,569
- Total collections during 2009 for 2009: € 4,201,337 (75.8% of 2009 pledges)
- Total of unpaid pledges for 2008 & prior years: € 727,749
- Total of collections during 2009 for prior years: € 114,986 (15.80 % of 2008 & prior years outstanding pledges)
- Total unpaid contributions to date are 1,951,995 (31% of all outstanding pledges). This figure includes total unpaid pledges for 2008 and prior years plus outstanding payments for 2009.

131. Details of payments and outstanding contributions are given in **Annex II**.

7.1.2 Programme Budget of MAP

132. MAP 2009 projects are ongoing for MEDU, MED POL and all the RACs and are being implemented in line with the budgets as approved by the Contracting Parties. Internal revisions are being carried out to ensure closure of 2008 accounts and the rephasing of unspent funds into 2009.

7.2 Personnel matters

Deputy Coordinator (Post No: MEL-2322-2904-2664-1102-00): the selection process has been completed. The selected candidate, Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias (Spanish national), reported for duty on 1 June, 2009.

Coordinator (Post No: MEL-2322-2532-2664-1101-00): following the departure of Mr. Paul Mifsud, the post is to be advertised in Galaxy for 60 days. The vacancy announcement is issued in Galaxy. MAP Focal Points were officially informed of this vacancy announcement.

Setting up of a Project Management Unit for the execution of the Regional Component of the GEF project "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem" which includes:

- **GEF Project Manager** (Post No: GFL-2328-4727-2731-1101-00): the selection process has been completed and Mr. Ivica Trumbic (Croatian national) will report for duty on 1 August 2009.

- **GEF Mediterranean Marine & Coastal Expert**: the selection process has been completed and the selected candidate, Ms Virginie Hart (British/French national), was transferred to the post as of 1 May 2009.

- **GEF Administrative Assistant** (Post No: GF-6030-0609-1321): the post was advertised on UNON, UNEP and MAP websites and in the local press for three weeks. The deadline for applications was 29 December 2008. 97 applications were received and 8 candidates were short-listed and interviewed for the position in March 2009. The selection process has been completed recently and Mr. Georgos Petridis was selected for the post.

Meeting Services Assistant (Post No: OTO-27800-EL-L002): Ms. Joy Moreno, Budget assistant at MAP was eligible for a lateral move and was selected for and transferred to the post effective 1 February 2009.

Budget Assistant (Post No: OTO-27800-EL-L005): the post was advertised in Galaxy on 3 May 2009 for 30 days. It was also posted on the MAP website and advertised in the local press and within other United Nations offices in Athens. Two internal applications from the United Nations have been received and the applications for external candidates are to be released shortly.

MEDU Secretary (Post No: CAL-2321-2533-2664-1306-00): the post was reclassified at G-5 level with the functional title "Programme Assistant" effective 1 April 2009. The post is to be advertised and as such the vacancy announcement is being built in Galaxy.

MED POL Secretary (Post No: MEL-2322-2534-2664-1103): the first selection process was inconclusive and none of the short-listed candidates have been selected for the post. The post was therefore re-advertised internally, in the local press, and within other United Nations offices in Athens on 11 March 2009. The closing date for application was 1 April 2009; 42 applications were received. The selection process is ongoing.

Consultants working at UNEP/MAP premises:

Mr. Philippe Alirol was hired to follow up on MCSD issues from 1 April until 31 May 2009.

Part B COMPONENTS

1. Land-based pollution (MED POL)

Sub-programme 1: Implementation of the LBS, DUMPING AND HAZARDOUS WASTES Protocols

GOAL: To facilitate the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP, the dumping guidelines according to Art. 6.2 and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol as well as their entry into force.

Objective	1- To facilitate the financing of National Action Plans (NAPs) 2- To develop a methodology for the quantification of inputs from diffuse sources 3- To elaborate a proposal for a mechanism for a differentiation approach to be applied in the revision of the NAPs 4- To launch demonstration projects in the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership related to tanneries, lubricating oils, batteries and fertilizers 5- To provide technical assistance to countries to facilitate the implementation of the Dumping Protocol and its guidelines 6- To complete the project on management of lubricating oils in Bosnia and Herzegovina 7- To contribute to the development of an action plan to combat the illegal traffic of hazardous wastes in Arabic countries 8- To implement demonstration projects for the management and disposal of PCBs
Expected outputs	1- NAPs' pollution reduction interventions financed 2- Estimation of the inputs from diffuse sources 3- Development of a differentiation mechanism for pollution reduction which to be used for the formulation of action plans and programmes containing measures and timetables. Identification of measures for priority substances and sectors 4- Launching of pilot projects in demonstration sites in Turkey, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria 5- New updated map on dumping of ammunitions Six national stakeholders meetings Guidelines for NTLVs developed 6- Pilot Project in Bosnia –Herzegovina completed 7- Comprehensive and harmonized action plan for Arabic countries prepared 8- Demonstration projects in Albania, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Lebanon
MAP components and/or other partners involved	Horizon 2020, GEF SP, IPPC, London Convention-London Protocol Basel Convention and BCRCs.
Indicators/achievements	1- MEDPOL worked closely with the EIB in the framework of EU Horizon 2020 .In this context, MEDPOL provided all the basic information included in the NAPs for the development of the Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP) which includes a list of 44 bankable projects in 6 Mediterranean countries. 2- This activity was not initiated due to the delays in the launching the GEF SP project 3- A draft differentiated mechanism is reviewed by MEDPOL FPs meeting that requested that MEDPOL to continue working on the development of new draft according to their comments.

	4- <i>This activity was not initiated due to the delays in the launching the GEF SP project</i> 5- <i>A draft regional guidance on the development of NTLVs and updated report on dumping of ammunitions is reviewed and approved by the MEDPOL FP's meeting. Their publication will be launched in the next half of 2009. Three national stakeholders meeting are organized in three countries. Three other countries did not showed any interest.</i> 6- <i>The final report on the management of Lub oil in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been published in MAP web site.</i> 7- <i>A draft frame strategy to combat the illegal transboundary movement of hazardous waste is reviewed by MEDPOL FPs. MEDPOL will contribute to its implementation.</i> 8- <i>This activity was not initiated due to the delays in the launching the GEF SP project</i>
Final results	1- <i>The EIB launched the project prepration investment facility (PPIF) to provide technical assistance for the preparation of investment portfolio</i> 2- <i>A differentiation mechanism has been used for the preparation of regional plans. A document describing the process of application is being prepared</i> 3- <i>Coordination between national stakeholders for dumping activities in three countries is strengthened</i> 4- <i>Implementation of framework strategy to combat illegal transboundary movement of hazardous waste in the arabic region is launched.</i>

Sub-programme 2: Assessment of the implementation of LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols

GOAL: *To monitor the effectiveness of national measures taken to implement the Protocols*

Objective	1- <i>To assist countries to formulate and establish national monitoring programmes in compliance with Article 12 of the Convention and Article 8 of the LBS protocol</i> 2- <i>To assess the state of marine pollution in the Mediterranean and determine its trends</i> 3- <i>To update the NBB methodology and content</i> 4- <i>To develop a comprehensive set of Marine Pollution indicators</i>
Expected outputs	1- <i>Assistance provided to countries for the formulation/ implementation of national monitoring programmes including health-related monitoring. National and regional databases established</i> 2- <i>Pollution Hot Spot trends monitored</i> 3- <i>Updated methodology and content of NBBs</i> 4- <i>Development of Marine Pollution Indicators (MPIs). Strengthened capacity and capability of the Contracting Parties to assess MPIs</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	

Indicators/achievements	1- 5 countries have been assisted (Egypt, Montenegro and Tunisia) and contracts are being prepared for assistance of 3 more countries during 2009. The programme will be implemented without delays). 7 countries have been or will be assisted within 2009, for their participation in baseline surveys (MYTIAD and MYTIOR). Data from 2006, 2007 and 2008 have been received and uploaded to the MED POL database. Data from the national monitoring programmes have been received from the following countries: Albania (2006, 2007), Croatia (2006), Cyprus (2006), Egypt (2006), France (2006), Israel (2006, 2007), Italy (2006), Morocco (2006, 2007), Slovenia (2006), Spain (2006, 2007), Syria (2006), Tunisia (2006, 2007, 2008), Turkey (2006, 2007, 2008). Intercalibration exercises have been implemented for improving Data Quality Assurance for hazardous substances (2008, 2009), nutrients (2009) and biological effect monitoring (2009). 2- Data on pollution hot spots trends have been received from countries and a Report on the results is under preparation. The Pollution hot spots trends will be presented in the Review Meeting on Monitoring to be organized 23-24 November 2009 3- A tailored software is developed and disseminated to national expert to estimate NBB for the year 2008. 4- MED POL participated in the EU meetings relative to the development of indicators to assess the quality of the marine environment, including: "EIONET Workshop on improving EEA marine indicators" (EEA, May 2008), "EMMA Task Group 1 on indicator comparison" (EEA, November 2008), "Drafting group for the sediment-biota Guidance Document for the WFD" (JRC, January 2009), "MSFD Descriptor 8 Task Group kick-off meeting" (JRC, April 2009). Studies are underway to propose MPI for the Mediterranean.
Final results	1- Countries are being assisted for the implementation of their national monitoring programmes and their participation in baseline surveys. Data are uploaded to the MED POL database and Data Quality Assurance activities (intercalibration exercises) have been implemented for hazardous substances, nutrients and biological effects monitoring.. 2- Report on the pollution hot spots trend is under development and will be presented within 2009 3- 3-16 countries provided sofar updated reports on releases from points sources (NBB2008) 4- Mediterranean MPIs have been discussed in EU fora and fact sheets for MPIs are under development within 2009.

Sub-programme 3: Use of implementation tools

GOAL: *To build the capacity of national authorities for reporting, information gathering, transfer of technology, inspectorate systems and monitoring.*

Objective	1- <i>To make Phase I of MED POL Information system operational</i> 2- <i>To promote the transfer of technology</i> 3- <i>To implement PRTRs</i> 4- <i>To ensure proper implementation of monitoring</i> 5- <i>To assist countries to strengthen their inspectorate systems including development of indicators</i>
Expected outputs	1- <i>Finalization of MED POL Information System. Development of DBs and of plotting and GIS modules</i> 2- <i>Promotion of transfer of technology. Trained personnel on waste water treatment plants operation and maintenance</i> 3- <i>Finalize phase II of PRTR Egypt. Launch Phase II of PRTR Turkey. Launch PRTR Morocco in Tangiers</i> 4- <i>Training courses on the analysis of chemical contaminants</i> 5- <i>Strengthening of Inspectorate systems in all countries; capacity building programme. Meeting of network on compliance and enforcement. Assistance to countries upon request for strengthening the inspectorate systems including development of indicators</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>EC PRTR/EPER CP/RAC, INFO/RAC, IAEA</i>
Indicators/achievements	1- <i>MED POL Info System operational</i> 2- <i>Two back to back workshops is organized, jointly with CP/RAC, in Syria on Eco-labeling and Cleaner Production concepts for University professors.</i> 3- <i>Phase II of PRTR Egypt is finalized, PRTR pilot project in Turkey finalized, PRTR pilot project in Syria is launched, PRTR pilot project in Morocco is finalized and launching of full size project in Turkey is scheduled for end of June 2009.</i> 4- <i>2 training courses have been organized successfully. Two more will be organized by IAEA within 2009</i> 5- <i>Development of compliance and enforcement indicators</i> 6- <i>Assistance provided to three countries</i>
Final results	1- <i>MEDPOL information system is operational. The plotting and GIS modules are not finalized due to institutional constrains.</i> 2- <i>One training course was organized in Turkey (thirty participants). Transfer of Cleaner production know how and knowledge is effective. One national training course was held in Tunisia (thirty participants), assistance was provided to Montenegro through international expert</i> 3- <i>PRTR system is operational in severals countries.</i> 4- <i>Improved quality of data submitted to the MED POL database by the laboratories participating in the national monitoring programme of the countries in the framework of the MED POL Programme</i>

Sub-programme 4: Physical alteration and destruction of habitat

GOAL: To reduce the impact on the marine environment of litter and sea water desalination plants

Objective	1- To prepare a targeted awareness campaign on impacts of desalination plants 2- To develop a regional action plan for litter management
Expected outputs	1- Preparation of targeted awareness campaign on impacts of desalination 2- Development of a regional strategic action plan for litter management
MAP components and/or other partners involved	- European Desalination Society (EDS) - SPA/RAC - NGOs - CP/RAC - PAP/RAC
Indicators/achievements	1-MEDPOL participated to workshop in Oman and a regional symposium organized by EDS. The guidelines for the sound management of sea water desalination plant is widely disseminated. MEDPOL provided as well consultancy service to Algeria on the national plan for sea water desalination.
Final results	1- Awareness of impacts of sea water desalination plant on the marine environment is improved. 2- The marine litter assessment was updated and a draft action plan prepared

Sub-programme 5: Public health

GOAL: To assess and reduce sewage pollution reaching the Mediterranean and to improve the quality of bathing and shellfish-growing waters and reduce health risks from tourist establishments

Objective	1- To assist countries in the better management and operation of municipal wastewater treatment plants and use of treated water. 2- To assist countries in the implementation of monitoring of bathing waters and shellfish-growing areas.
Expected outputs	1- Organization and implementation of capacity building programmes. Training courses on implementation of guidelines on wastewater reuse. 2- Finalization and approval of Guidelines on bathing waters. Preparation of beach profiles. Consultation meeting on guidelines including beach profiles and shellfish growing waters activities combined with intercalibration exercise. Preparation of an Action plan related to environmental health risks in tourist establishments

MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>WHO</i>
Indicators/achievements	1- <i>Experts trained in five countries</i> 2- <i>Guidelines on bathing waters agreed and preparation of beach profiles in five countries</i> - <i>Action plan on environmental health risks in tourist areas prepared</i> - <i>Document on sanitation to be prepared</i> - <i>List of cities discharging to at least ten major rivers</i> - <i>Assistance provided at least to two countries</i>
Final results	1- <i>National training courses were organized in Albania, Greece, Malta. (Eighty experts trained)</i> 2- <i>The guidelines were approved during a consultation meeting and Albania, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Slovenia prepared beach profiles,</i> - <i>The action plan on environmental health risks was prepared</i> - <i>A document indicating the status of water supply and sanitation in the Mediterranean region was produced</i> - <i>An assessment of treatment plants discharging in rivers was prepared</i> - <i>Assistance was provided to Albania</i>

Sub-programme 6: Institutional arrangements and cooperation including Stakeholder involvement and public outreach

- GOALS:**
1. *To better coordinate the MED POL activities with national authorities.*
 2. *To achieve a wide and solid cooperation with all relevant international, regional and national actors to further improve the results of the MED POL Programme for the benefit of the countries*
 3. *To facilitate the implementation of NAPs at national and local levels through stakeholder participation*
 4. *To improve and widen the knowledge on MED POL activities and achievements*

Objective	1- <i>To maintain and strengthen cooperation with the scientific community</i> 2- <i>To maintain and improve cooperation with the relevant UN bodies and Convention Secretariats</i> 3- <i>To further cooperation and launch joint activities with RACs</i> 4- <i>To consolidate cooperation with EU and EEA</i> 5- <i>To ensure participation of NGOs in MED POL activities</i> 6- <i>To further cooperation with GEF, the World Bank, the EIB, FFEM and other relevant international and regional stakeholders</i> 7- <i>To maintain close cooperation with national authorities through meetings and contacts</i> 8- <i>To facilitate the involvement of national and regional stakeholders including the private sector in the implementation of NAPs</i> 9- <i>To establish a MED POL information system and implement the MAP strategy in relation to the MED POL activities</i>
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Expected outputs	1- To cooperate with the scientific community and NGOs and promote their participation at MED POL activities. To cooperate with EU and EEA on related initiatives (H2020 and indicators). To continue cooperation with WHO, IAEA and the related UN bodies. To implement joint activities with related RACs, in particular, CP/RAC, Blue Plan, SPA/RAC and INFO/RAC. 2- To continue cooperation with World Bank and EIB for the financing of NAPs 3- To organize Technical and Institutional Meetings with national Authorities 4- To finalize the information system and implement activities based on MAP information strategy
MAP components and/or other partners involved	EIB, GEF, WB, regional donors,
Indicators/achievements	3- The Review MED POL meeting on Monitoring will be organized in 23-24 November 2009. The joint meeting with ICES/OSPAR on biological effects methods harmonization will be organized during the next biennium. (7) Mediterranean scientists have been assisted to participate in international scientific meetings and present their work in the frame of the MED POL Programme. 2- This activity was not initiated due to the delays in the launching the GEF SP project 3- MEDPOL organized an government designated experts meeting to develop regional plans/programmes containing measures and time tables under the provisions of Art. 15 of the LBS Protocol.
Final results	Cooperation was enhanced with EC in the framework of H2020 with the full participation of MED POL in the pollution reduction, monitoring and capacity building components All foreseen meetings were held and the expected results met. Closer cooperation was achieved with RACs, in particular INFO/RAC (info System), Blue Plan (indicators), CP/RAC (LBS Protocol). In particular, an MoU was signed with CP/RAC to streamline terms of cooperation

Main achievements

1. Cooperation with partner agencies

133. In addition to the long-standing cooperation with WHO in relation to activities related to the health aspects of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and the LBS Protocol, compliance and enforcement, work has continued to be carried out in close cooperation with IAEA-MEL in relation to data quality assurance of chemical analyses through training, intercalibration, scientific visits, purchase of instruments and advice on monitoring issues.

134. The long-standing cooperation with the ICS-UNIDO office in Trieste on the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) was unfortunately interrupted on account of a policy change in the new management of ICS-UNIDO. MED POL is currently in contact with the Italian Government and the EC to seek new partnerships and support.

135. Cooperation and exchanges of information were intensified with the Basel Convention and the London Convention/London Protocol Secretariats. A cooperation agreement was signed with the Basel Convention and joint activities were initiated with the regional centres of the Convention in Bratislava and Cairo in the field of hazardous wastes. Exchanges were also held regarding the respective reporting systems with a view to harmonizing and simplifying the corresponding national obligations. Data and information were exchanged with the London Convention/London Protocol Secretariat on dumping permits and practices. In addition, a joint session was organized in Rome from 20 to 23 May 2009 to promote the implementation of the London and Barcelona Dumping Protocols in the Mediterranean.

136. MED POL became a formal member of the Mediterranean Operational Oceanography Network (MOON) through a cooperation agreement that facilitates the exchange of data and information and synergy in selected projects.

137. The agreement with the University of Alessandria, (Italy), to promote the use of biomarkers and to ensure good quality data related to biological effects monitoring, was successfully continued through the organization of training and intercalibration exercises. On the same subject, MED POL is following the work of the ICES Working Group on Biological Effects of Contaminants and plans to initiate common activities with ICES (OSPAR) and HELCOM aiming at harmonization of techniques.

138. With the adoption of the European Union's new Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (2008/56/EC, 17 June 2008), MED POL is participating in the process of developing descriptors for Good Environmental Status (GES) to be used by all EU Member States in the framework of the MSFD, under the coordination of the Joint Research Centre (JRC). MED POL also participated in the Task Group to develop methods for monitoring contaminant concentrations in biota and sediments under the EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD), and in the chemical monitoring activity of the EU to develop harmonized monitoring methods for assessing the state of the marine environment in the European seas.

139. In the same context, MED POL has participated in all the European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA) meetings together with all the European marine conventions, and in Task Group 1 on Indicators comparison coordinated by EEA.

2. Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

National Action Plans (NAPs)

140. Following the entry into force of the amendments to the LBS Protocol on 8 June 2008 and as a result of the Durres and Barcelona meetings on the long-term implementation of NAPs to address land-based sources of pollution in the region, a meeting on the Implementation of NAPs and the preparation of legally binding regional plans/programmes containing measures and timetables as required by article 15 of the LBS Protocol was held in Aix-en-Provence, France, on 27-28 November 2008. The main objective of the meeting was to follow up and implement decision IG 17/8 adopted by the Contracting Parties at their meeting held in Almeria in 2008 on the long-term implementation of NAPs. The Secretariat considers the deliberations of this meeting to be a milestone in the effective long-term implementation of pollution reduction measures.

141. As a follow up to the Aix-en-Provence meeting, MED POL elaborated legally binding measures in three regional plans/programmes based on Emission Limit Values (ELVs) and including time differentiation, on the following issues:

- Reduction of BOD₅ from municipal wastewater;
- Elimination of substances contained in Annex I of the LBS Protocol and Annex A of the Stockholm Convention, namely, Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Haptachlore, Mirex and Toxaphene;
- Phasing out of DDT.

142. Sustainable financing is obviously the most critical issue in the process of implementation of the NAPs. With that in mind, MEDPOL has been working actively with the EC in the framework of the EU's Horizon 2020 initiative for de-polluting the Mediterranean and the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem.

143. MED POL considers the Horizon 2020 initiative a dynamic platform for the implementation of NAPs. In this regard MED POL cooperated closely with the European Investment Bank (EIB) in the framework of the subgroup on pollution reduction established to finance the priority actions described in the NAPs of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Israel. Other Mediterranean countries could receive support for the implementation of their NAPs through different European financial instruments. The subgroup selected 44 bankable projects as those to be considered for implementation. EIB recently established a Technical Assistance Programme for the preparation of the portfolio to finance potential projects out of the long list. The Programme leader has already contacted the MED POL staff for full coordination of the work.

144. The work on setting the basis for a mechanism of transfer of technology and know-how to facilitate the implementation of NAPs continued during the 2008-2009 biennium in cooperation with CP/RAC. In this context, the two partners organized two workshops in Syria in February 2008 to introduce cleaner production concepts in university courses and to promote ecolabelling in the textile industry.

145. Finally, MED POL established a database to follow up the implementation of the projects listed in the NAPs. This will enable the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties to better assess and monitor the expected reduction of pollution and better plan for further activities. The Secretariat will be able to inform the Contracting Parties on the trends in pollution reduction by the end of 2009.

Municipal sewage

146. The preparation of the surveys of the wastewater treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities in 2003 and 2006 covering cities with a population more than 2,000 inhabitants was the first step towards the assessment of the treatment plants and the pollution load entering the Mediterranean Sea. However, the pollution load that contributes to the degradation of the marine waters as a result of the input of major rivers had not so far been taken into consideration. Therefore an assessment of the treatment facilities in cities discharging their effluents into rivers that ultimately flow into the sea was prepared. In particular, the cities discharging into major rivers in Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Turkey with a population of more than 2,000 inhabitants were assessed and a document was prepared.

147. Following requests by a number of countries for the organization of national training courses on the safe use of wastewater, the first of these courses was held in Malta from 27 to 29 April, and another was held in Albania from 25 to 27 May. It is expected that by November 2009 several countries, including Lebanon, Syria and Montenegro, will organize national training courses with support consisting of training material and financial assistance.

148. A consultation meeting of country-designated experts on bathing waters was also held in Athens on 1-2 April 2009, at which Albania, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Slovenia and Spain presented pilot studies on the proposed methodology for bathing water quality profiles following the agreed guidelines for criteria and standards for bathing water quality. A request was received from Montenegro to update its legislation regarding bathing waters and, following a preliminary study, currently ongoing, a short training course on the subject will be held in October 2009. A similar

request was made by Algeria and the training course will be held during September. The intercalibration exercise on the capacity of laboratories to perform microbial analyses will be conducted in late September.

149. As a follow-up to the regional training course on municipal wastewater treatment plants operation and management, held in the past, one national training course on the same subject, in Turkish, will take place in Ankara, Turkey from 29 June-2 July 2009. The course will be co-organized by WHO/MED POL and the Turkish Ministry of Environment along with the Middle East Technical University. The course will also include a part on adaptation to the EC Directive on municipal wastewater following a request from the Turkish authorities.

Coastal solid wastes and litter

150. An update of the "Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean region" was performed during the first half of 2008, with the assistance of three NGOs, namely HELMEPA, Clean Up Greece and MIO-ECSDE. The document prepared on the subject includes an assessment of the scale of the problem, the main sources of marine litter in the Mediterranean, and information on the existing legal regimes, national and regional institutional and programmatic systems, policies and identification of gaps and needs. The Mediterranean assessment was also included in a major editorial effort that UNEP produced in 2009 which comprises all the Regional Seas of the world.

151. The findings of the above-mentioned assessment were used to prepare a draft "Regional Strategy on Integrated Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean" that takes into consideration institutional and technical aspects highlighted in the assessment. The draft strategy was further considered during an experts' meeting held in Athens on 18-19 September 2008. During the meeting, the strategy report was thoroughly reviewed and amendments were made in order to ensure the sustainability of the activities proposed at the regional and national levels. The issue of the implementation of the strategy will be examined in the next biennium along with an analysis of the financial implications of the proposed activities. It is proposed to submit the strategy to the Contracting Parties for consideration in 2011.

Industrial pollution

152. Concerning industrial pollution, in 2008-2009 MED POL finalized the database with the data and information from the national baseline budgets of emissions and releases for the year 2003 and launched a region-wide exercise to track the changes that occurred between 2003 and 2008 in the levels of releases from industrial activities. The exercise was accompanied by a regional soft forum to facilitate interactions and share information between national experience and the Secretariat. By May 2009 MED POL had received reports from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Slovenia and Syria. Reports were still to be received from Albania, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. A preliminary assessment based on the reports received indicates that releases have been considerably reduced during the period 2003-2008.

Destruction of habitats

153. As a follow-up to the work carried out by the Secretariat in previous years on the management of sea water desalination that led to the preparation of an assessment, Guidelines and the decision by the Contracting Parties to consider such activities as industrial activities falling under the provisions of the LBS Protocol, MED POL has attempted to disseminate to the extent possible the information available on the environmental risks associated with desalination and on good management practices. As a result, the documents prepared by MED POL were widely distributed and a MED POL staff member participated in the international symposium on sea water desalination organized by the European Association for Desalination (EDS). In addition, and at the request of the Government of Algeria, MED POL sent a regional expert to assist the Algerian national and local authorities in updating the EIA studies of planned sea water desalination plants and identify their needs in terms of human resources.

Reporting

154. MED POL continued to provide assistance to Contracting Parties' experts in preparing their national reports on the implementation of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols in the framework of the MAP reporting exercise. An internal MED POL assessment of status of implementation with reporting obligations of the Contracting Parties to the technical provisions of the three Protocols on the basis of the 2004-2005 reports showed that between 47% and 63 % of the countries are not as yet able to generate the necessary data on the technical aspects of the implementation of the Protocols.

155. Considering the importance of the establishment of national Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) systems, MED POL continued to provide technical and financial assistance to the countries to facilitate the implementation of pilot projects. In this context, MED POL in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO finalized a pilot project in Izmir, Turkey. In view of the successful results of the pilot project, the national authorities requested the implementation of a full-scale project that is expected to be launched by June 2009.

156. In addition, MED POL revitalized the pilot project in Syria and in February 2009 organized a national workshop for new industrial partners and the national team in Damascus. The follow-up to the implementation plan of the project shows that the process is on schedule. The pilot project will be finalized by the end of 2009, thus preparing for the launch of a full-size project if resources are available.

157. During the biennium, the ICS-UNIDO office in Trieste, the main partner of MED POL in the implementation of PRTR, informed the Secretariat of an internal change of priorities and programmes and, accordingly, of the decision to interrupt its long-standing cooperation with MED POL. As MED POL considers PRTR an essential tool for industrial pollution management, efforts are being made to identify new partners and find support. Preliminary but promising contacts were made with the Italian Government and the EC-ENV.

Other activities related to the LBS Protocol and the SAP

158. Regarding environmental inspections and in particular systems of inspection in the Mediterranean countries, as a follow-up to the meeting of the Network on Compliance and Enforcement of Legislation that was held on 24-25 October 2007 in Athens (it was held late in the previous biennium and therefore not referred to in previous progress reports) another meeting of the above Network is scheduled to take place in late November 2009 in Athens.

159. In line with the regional training course to "train the trainers" on environmental inspection systems, held in the past, a national training course on water and wastewater treatment plants inspection was held on 2-6 March 2009 in Tunis, with thirty inspectors attending the course under the guidance of an international expert. It is also planned to enhance capacity-building for sanitary inspections in Montenegro and Algeria during September and October 2009.

160. Given the increasing importance of indicators in all aspects of environmental compliance monitoring and their proposed use, a set of pilot indicators for environmental inspections was prepared and was tested for the preparation of the national reports of the following countries: Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The results showed that particular arrangements should be made to adapt the indicators to the specific inspection system of the country concerned in terms of the scope of the inspections, the size of the inspected facility and the definition and determination of non-compliance. During the next meeting to be held in late November 2009, the national reports to be presented will take into consideration the above-mentioned issues for the preparation of the agreed indicators.

161. It is expected that the capacity-building programme that was formulated under the GEF project will commence by mid-2009 and will involve two countries for the identification of gaps in the inspection system, a workshop for practical guidance and a national final meeting for assessment and feedback.

162. The new MED POL Phase IV includes the issue of health risks in tourist establishments among those to be examined in the region, with tourism being pinpointed by the MCSD as being of the utmost importance for development. Considering the existing link between the human health aspects of tourism and the provisions of the LBS Protocol, and the assessment document on health risks associated with tourist establishments in the Mediterranean region that was prepared following a meeting in the last biennium, a draft guidance document has been prepared. Its contents provide information on measures and actions to minimize environmental health risks in tourist establishments and it will be further developed in order to provide practical guidelines for use by both the tourist establishment owners and the tourists themselves.

3. Assessment of pollution

163. Agreements for the definition of national monitoring programmes and financial assistance agreements have been signed with Egypt (2008), Montenegro (2008) (a new national monitoring programme was established), Morocco (2009) and Tunisia (2008).

164. Agreements for national monitoring programmes without financial assistance have been signed with Slovenia (2008 and 2009).

165. Agreements for national monitoring programmes and financial assistance by MED POL are still under negotiation with Croatia, Lebanon, Libya, Syria and Turkey. Agreements will be finalized and signed in the course of 2009.

166. During the 2008-2009 biennium, MED POL has received data from the national monitoring programmes of the following countries: Albania (2006, 2007), Croatia (2006), Cyprus (2006), Egypt (2006), France (2006), Israel (2006, 2007), Italy (2006), Morocco (2006, 2007), Slovenia (2006), Spain (2006, 2007), Syria (2006), Tunisia (2006, 2007, 2008) and Turkey (2006, 2007, 2008). Efforts are still needed to extend the coverage in time and space and to ensure good quality data.

167. A eutrophication pilot study was implemented in the Lagoon of Nador, Morocco (2008).

168. Pursuant to the recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the conclusions of the Fourth Review Meeting of Monitoring Activities (December 2007), the countries that had no agreements with MED POL or had gaps in the provision of data were contacted with a request to provide the data and results of their monitoring activities according to MED POL specifications. As a consequence, Italy provided contaminant data for coastal waters, sediments and biota (2006), France provided data on hazardous substances in biota (2006) and Spain provided data on hazardous substances in biota (2006, 2007). Greece provided data from MED POL-supported studies on biological effects of contaminants on biota (2007, 2008).

169. As a follow-up to approval by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the MED POL Phase IV programme, work started on the organization of subregional surveys for a better understanding of the contamination levels of Mediterranean coastal waters. As an initiative was already in progress, it was decided to link up with the ongoing activities and to provide assistance for the participation of other Mediterranean laboratories. In the framework of the projects MYTIMED, MYTIAD and MYTIOR (covering respectively the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, the Adriatic Sea and the South-Eastern Mediterranean Sea), cages with mussels were placed in selected stations and the mussels were later analysed for chemical contaminants (heavy metals and organics). MED POL assisted in the participation of Lebanon and Syria in MYTIMED (2007-08) and the participation of Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Slovenia in MYTIAD (2008-09), and is negotiating its assistance for the participation of Cyprus, Egypt and Libya in MYTIOR (2009). All these programmes are basically a continuation of the MYTILOS programme (Western Mediterranean Sea) and when completed they will provide a "snapshot" of the pollution impact on the marine biota in the entire Mediterranean coastal area, using caged mussels. It is planned to finalize the overall programme by 2010-2011.

170. For biological effects monitoring, MED POL National Coordinators had recognized the need for harmonization of the assessment criteria with those of the northern European organizations and conventions. To that end, MED POL participated in the ICES working group meeting on the biological effects of contaminants (WGBEC) in Sète, France (March 2008). At the workshop it was

agreed that harmonization should include biomarker selection, standard operating protocols and data management as well as common intercalibration exercises, training courses and databases.

171. Data quality assurance (DQA) is a vital component of the monitoring work. The Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory (MESL) of IAEA-MEL continued to cooperate with the MED POL programme in the implementation of a comprehensive data quality assurance programme for chemical contaminants in the framework of national monitoring programmes.

172. As outlined below and described in more detail, the work of IAEA-MEL during the 2008-2009 period focused on training courses in marine analytical chemistry of pollutants, inter-laboratory studies and the provision of expert technical advice through country missions and attendance at meetings.

173. Two training courses were held in Monaco during the latter part of 2008, and complete reports of the individual courses have been submitted to MED POL. A training course for the measurement of chlorinated pesticides and PCBs in marine samples was organized from 3 to 18 November, with the participation of six trainees from six countries (Albania, Croatia, Israel, Malta, Morocco and Slovenia). Similarly, a training course on determination of heavy metals in marine samples was organized from November 24 to December 5, with the participation of six trainees from six countries (Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria and Tunisia). Two more training courses are scheduled for November-December 2009.

174. Two reports were completed for the proficiency tests of samples IAEA-436 (tuna fish homogenate) and IAEA-432 (mussel tissue). In the MED POL proficiency test for the determination of selected trace elements in biota (tuna fish homogenate IAEA-436), IAEA, 2008) 22 laboratories participated, and in the analytical performance study for MED POL: determination of organochlorine compounds and petroleum hydrocarbons in biota sample (mussel tissue) IAEA-432 (IAEA, March 2008) 19 laboratories participated.

175. Two analytical performance studies for MED POL were under way in 2009, for the determination of (a) trace elements and (b) chlorinated compounds and petroleum hydrocarbons, in sediments. A statistical evaluation will be made after all results are received and reports will be available in the course of 2009.

176. Two samples of marine biota were prepared for the inter-laboratory study of organic contaminants (IAEA-451) and metals (IAEA-452). One of the new emerging pollutants, PBDEs (flame retardant), has newly been included in the organic contaminants samples. IAEA-451 and 452 samples were distributed in December 2008. IAEA-451 samples were sent to 64 laboratories from 19 Mediterranean countries and IAEA-452 samples to 55 laboratories from 13 countries. The deadline for reporting was set for the end of December 2009.

177. For eutrophication parameters an intercalibration exercise was completed in 2008 using the services of QUASIMEME. MED POL supported the participation of 15 Mediterranean laboratories in the exercise for the determination of nutrients and chlorophyll-a.

178. To improve DQA for biological effects monitoring, a new agreement has been signed between MED POL and DiSAV (February 2009) for the organization of an intercalibration exercise with the participation of Mediterranean and non-Mediterranean laboratories (from OSPAR and HELCOM). The intercalibration exercise will be finalized in the course of 2009 and a workshop to discuss its results will be organized in 2010.

179. MED POL is collaborating with IAEA, in the framework of the project TC RAF/7/008 – Enhancing Regional Capability for the Assessment of Contamination in the Marine Environment, of IAEA, by supporting capacity-building in eligible southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia). The objective of the project is to improve regional capabilities for using nuclear techniques to assess contamination of the marine environment around the African continent, with a view to promoting its sustainable development.

180. MED POL is participating in the development of the process of application of the ecosystem approach, according to the decisions of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, 2008). The initiative is under development and an assessment document in four Mediterranean sub-regions is under preparation, to be finalized in the course of 2009.

181. As a follow-up to the agreed MED POL work programme, an updated Eutrophication Assessment Report was prepared by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, based on information provided by country experts and National Coordinators through questionnaires circulated by the Secretariat. The final draft was presented at the monitoring meeting of MED POL (Athens, December 2007), at which the Focal Points decided to ask for more information from the countries before accepting it. The questionnaire was sent again to countries that had not responded initially and replies are still awaited in order to amend the eutrophication report.

182. A method for sediment sampling and analysis was presented at the Review Meeting of MED POL Monitoring Activities (December 2007) and was accepted with a request to edit the chapter on sedimentation rate calculation. The necessary amendments are under preparation with the assistance of the marine environment laboratories of IAEA.

183. MED POL participated in two meetings organized by MOON and MED GOOS to establish further cooperation with MAP and MED POL for the use of the existing products related to operational oceanography (Athens, Greece, March 2008 and Nicosia, Cyprus, March 2009). The available products and data are expected to be utilized by all MAP components.

184. MED POL participated in the Advisory Committee of the EU- funded scientific project SESAME (November 2008), which aims to assess past and current status in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The data generated under the project (mainly nutrients and chl-a concentrations on a large Mediterranean scale) and the models to be developed will be used by MED POL in its effort to assess the quality of the Mediterranean marine environment.

4. Information system

185. During the biennium MED POL developed an information system in cooperation with INFO/RAC. At present, the **MED POL Information System** includes the following modules:

- Intranet facilitating contacts and the dissemination of documents and information between the Secretariat and the National Coordinators;
- Online reporting that includes reporting on status, trends and compliance monitoring programmes;
- Data acquisition and drawing; and
- GIS.

186. The development of the first two modules has been finalized, as an Alpha test for MED POL staff was completed already in 2006; the Beta test, which covers Focal Points and stakeholders, is expected to be initiated by mid-2009. MED POL is working actively with INFO/RAC to ensure the switching over to the online reporting system by the end of 2009. The development of the GIS module is scheduled to start in 2009 and to be completed during the next biennium.

187. MED POL has started working on the preparation of a dedicated website that is expected to be finalized by the end of 2009.

5. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

188. Under the provisions of article 5 of the 1976 Dumping Protocol, national authorities are requested to keep records of the dumping activities by issuing permits and informing the Secretariat accordingly. However, as has been reported on several occasions since the entry into force of the Protocol, only a few countries have regularly reported to the Secretariat on the permits issued.

189. The MEDPOL collected the necessary information related to the development of threshold limit values (TLVs) for dredging materials to be used for the preparation of guidelines for the development of TLVs by national authorities. On the basis of the information collected and with the assistance of regional experts, MED POL prepared comprehensive Guidelines for the Establishment of National Threshold Limit Values (NTLVs) for dredged materials (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 334/Inf. 8). The guidelines describe the up-to-date methodology for the establishment of NTLVs for dredged materials with additional information about the origin of the materials, their potential uses and the order of magnitude of dumping of dredged materials in the region.

190. The Secretariat updated the report on dumping of ammunitions in the Mediterranean region on the basis of data and information provided by the Contracting Parties (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 334/Inf. 9). The document is expected to be of assistance to port authorities, fishing communities, national authorities, etc. MED POL organized in cooperation with the IMO-London Convention/London Protocol Secretariat a regional workshop hosted by the Government of Italy on 20-23 May 2009 to promote the implementation of the two respective dumping protocols. National experts have been invited to review a number of documents proposed by IMO and MED POL and to present the state of the art in their countries in the management of dumping materials.

191. As requested by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Almeria in 2008, MED POL, with the financial and technical assistance of the Government of Spain, launched the preparation of a risk assessment for CO₂ sequestration in submarine geological structure in the Mediterranean. The assessment is expected to be finalized by August 2009. The results of the assessment may be used to suggest possible amendments to the text of the 1996 Dumping Protocol.

6. Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

192. In cooperation with the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Egypt, MED POL developed a regional strategy and action plan for combating illegal traffic and disposal of hazardous waste in the Arab region (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 334/Inf.10). In the framework of the project, MED POL provided financial and technical assistance to the Mediterranean Arab countries. The project rationale is based on the information from civil society and NGOs that illegal traffic and disposals are occurring in the region and that a strategy and an action plan to combat them are largely missing.

193. The strategy consists of a series of actions under a programme of capacity-building, including institutional and legal aspects, networking, awareness and community participation. The strategy targets port authorities, inspectors, customs and environmental authorities and the public.

194. In addition, in cooperation with Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCs) in Egypt and Slovakia, an assessment of the state-of-the-art management of electronic and electrical equipment waste (EEEA) is under way. The work was organized in three sub-regions, i.e. European countries, Arab countries and Adriatic countries plus Turkey and Israel. The assessment aims at the development of a regional action plan for the management and disposal of e-waste to be developed in the 2010-2011 biennium. The assessment is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

7. Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points

195. The meeting of the MED POL Focal Points was held in Kalamata, Greece from 2-4 July 2009. The report of the meeting is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/Inf.6. Three draft decisions on legally binding measures and programme with a view to implementing Article 15 of the LBS Protocol as amended in 1996, with regard to BOD₅, DDT and the POPs are presented in documents UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/9, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/10 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/11 respectively.

2. **Sustainable Production and Consumption (Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC))**

2.1 **Sustainable Production and Consumption**

196. Since the adoption of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in 2002, moving away from unsustainable patterns of consumption and production has been a major objective of any sustainable development agenda. In the Mediterranean region, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2005, recognizes this need and includes it as one of its four major objectives.

197. The work carried out by MAP through CP/RAC in support of the MSSD has focused on promoting a shift to more environmentally-sound production patterns within Mediterranean companies, based on the cleaner production approach and related mechanisms (i.e. Best Available Techniques (BATs), Best Environmental Practices (BEPs)) in industrial processes.

198. Although production-oriented strategies can certainly reduce the environmental impacts associated with the design and manufacture of products, they do not address the increasingly significant environmental and social impacts associated with the selection, use and disposal of products by consumers. Therefore, an integrated approach to address consumption and production patterns is critical if current trends towards environmental degradation are to be reversed.

199. For that reason, the CP/RAC has embraced the approach adopted also by UNEP that production can no longer be tackled without taking consumption into account. Accordingly, CP/RAC's current mission is to promote mechanisms leading to sustainable patterns of production and consumption in the Mediterranean.

200. As established by the many international environmental agencies and forums and the Centre's wide-ranging experience in the production field, economies cannot be sustainable if efforts to make production processes more environmentally friendly are not accompanied by a shift to sustainable consumption patterns in society.

201. For that reason, CP/RAC has established a work programme with activities that apply an integrated approach to addressing consumption and production patterns. This work programme aims at better contributing to MAP, lending support to the MSSD and bringing Mediterranean countries closer to the global initiatives that are already being developed through the so-called Marrakesh Process launched by UNEP to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Likewise, through this integrated approach to sustainable consumption and production (SCP), CP/RAC contributes to an effective implementation of the work programme between the European Commission (EC) and MAP identifying SCP as one of the key priority challenges of the renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

202. At the regional level CP/RAC is reinforcing its actions fostering the application of BAT in Mediterranean industries and the implementation of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) system in the legal and institutional frameworks of Mediterranean countries on the basis of the joint work programme between the EC and MAP. Other actions included in the role of CP/RAC within the same Joint Work Programme relate to the introduction of EU systems for the environmental management of companies, such as EU flower certification and European Eco-management and Audit System (EMAS).

203. At the same time the Centre is aware that, in the global context of sustainable development, new needs and priorities arise for addressing the environmental impacts associated with industrial development and that there is accordingly a need for new partnerships to address these needs and priorities at the regional and the global level. Effective partnerships between government organizations, civil society and private sector businesses will be the only way to achieve this wide range of goals and activities. For that reason, CP/RAC plans to consolidate existing partnerships with other MAP Regional Activity Centres, international development agencies and government organizations. Furthermore, CP/RAC is creating new partnerships with relevant stakeholders, namely non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and private sector businesses adding value to its work at the local, national and regional level.

204. In this regard, the Contracting Parties are invited to support the implementation of sustainable production and consumption, in accordance with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. They are also invited to support the integration of the Marrakesh Process in the MAP system by CP/RAC.

Main goal: *Foster the application of mechanisms leading to sustainable patterns of production and consumption in the Mediterranean countries.*

Objective 1	<i>To review the trends in Mediterranean countries on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the industrial sector.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>To prepare and publish a report on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the industrial sector</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>MEDU, ECODES, UMCE - Businessmed and ASCAME</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Identification of trends, main challenges and assets to SCP in Med industries</i>
Final results	<i>Preparation of the study and its translation into three languages (English, French and Spanish)</i>
Main achievements 205. In 2008 a new edition of the Study on the State of the Art in Sustainable Production and Consumption in the Mediterranean Region was prepared. This principally deals with sustainable production in the industrial sectors of each of the Mediterranean countries. The aim was also to introduce matters concerning sustainable consumption into these sectors. 206. During the first months of 2009, the study has been finalized and reviewed. It includes country profiles for the 21 Mediterranean countries and a regional report assessment. The report constitutes an essential source of information for the analysis of the general trends in the Mediterranean Region in this context. It distinguishes between three different Mediterranean zones: Balkans, European and Southern Mediterranean countries. 207. The study on the State of the Art in Sustainable Production in the Mediterranean Region will be published on the CP/RAC web page in English, Spanish and French, and will be distributed among all Mediterranean institutions interested in this issue.	
Constraints and lessons learned 208. This study could provide new added value if, apart from reporting on progress, needs and challenges to drive the industry sector to SCP, it also provided information on the consumption and production hot spots having the greatest impact on the environment. The minimum time frame to develop this kind of study must not be less than one year.	

Objective 2	<i>Mediterranean Meeting on SCP</i>
Expected outputs	<i>To hold a workshop on sustainable consumption and production</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>All MAP countries.</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Identification of needs and priorities of SCP in Mediterranean countries</i> <i>Setting up of associations with relevant stakeholders for implementing pilot projects in SCP.</i> <i>Monitoring of activity in the pilot project and the results of the workshop.</i> <i>Participation of the Mediterranean Region in the Marrakesh Process.</i>

Final results	<i>Report from the round-table</i> <i>Conclusions from the working groups</i> <i>Partnerships strengthened</i> <i>Awareness raised on sustainable consumption and production among Mediterranean stakeholders.</i>
Main achievements	209. The First Mediterranean Round-table on SCP was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 5 to 7 November 2008. The event was organized with the support of UNEP/DTIE, which is leading the "Marrakesh Process". The main objectives were to: - Create awareness of and discussion on the need to shift to SCP in the Mediterranean region. - Report on the main SCP initiatives relevant to the region. - Facilitate discussion on the links between climate change and consumption and production within the value chains. - Identify the main challenges for implementing SCP and the related mechanisms in the Mediterranean. 210. The round-table combined keynote presentations and thematic panels, with highly renowned speakers, along with 8 working group sessions. 211. The groups reached conclusions and drew up recommendations which they shared during the plenary session. These groups provided the principle output of the round-table, representing a valuable contribution on the part of experts and representatives of diverse institutions in both the Mediterranean public and private sectors in the identification of the chief priorities, challenges and opportunities for introducing SCP in the region. These conclusions have contributed to drafting the main lines of the new work programme for the biennium 2010-2011. 212. As an outcome of contacts established at the round-table, the cooperation framework between CP/RAC and UNEP has been strengthened. As a result of the exchange of information and experienceduring the event, in the first months of 2009 CP/RAC supported the launching of the project YouthXChange in Turkey, the Maghreb countries and Croatia.
Constraints and lessons learned	213. The round-table has been useful to joint MAP components' work on SCP. A positive development would be to organize a Mediterranean round-table on SCP every two years in different countries from the region. This action would help enhance SCP knowledge and application and to evaluate the evolution of the adoption of this concept in the Mediterranean.

Objective 3	<i>Creating associations with key stakeholders in SCP</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Identify and contact key actors, joint activities with the private sector, universities and civil society representatives</i> <i>Establish parameters for working together</i> <i>Establish indicators of success</i> <i>Monitor the project's outputs</i> <i>Evaluate by indicators of success</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>MAP countries</i> <i>International community</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>10 key actors contacted</i> <i>3 key actors worked in joint cooperation with CP/RAC</i> <i>3 agreements with key actors signed</i> <i>10 indicators of success established</i> <i>1 successful midterm evaluation.</i>

Main achievements
214. CP/RAC has contacted important actors such as the Red Cross and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to cooperate in promoting SCP. In order to make these relationships official, the Centre has signed with them two general Memoranda of Understanding, demonstrating their willingness.
Constraints and lessons learned
215. Associations of this kind (Red Cross, WWF) can become a dynamic motor to promote sustainable lifestyles and disseminate information on SCP and sound chemicals management. A lasting relationship should be developed with these actors and collaboration in other activities undertaken.

Objective 4	<i>Promoting dialogue and debate with stakeholders</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Involve stakeholders in CP/RAC activities Inform stakeholders on the identification of needs and priorities for the application of SCP.</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>MAP countries International community</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>3 stakeholders involved in CP/RAC activities. 2 workshops organized to identify needs and priorities for the application of SCP.</i>
Final results	<i>A workshop held in Egypt with success</i>
Main achievements 216. CP/RAC is aware of the need to take action in higher education to provide students, professors, university community, future entrepreneurs, industrialists and experts with a deeper insight into sustainable production and consumption and sound chemical management. 217. The Mediterranean University Network for Sustainable Development is a CP/RAC project based on cooperation and networking. The creation of partnerships with key actors and the promotion of dialogue and discussion are activities that have been carried out by the Centre in recent years, and they have built up a wide stakeholder network, giving support in a transversal way to the Centre's actions. In 2009, CP/RAC is working on the next step, a Mediterranean Network, starting with a pilot project in 3 Mediterranean countries (for facilitating monitoring and evaluation). 218. The Mediterranean Network project focuses on: - Promoting courses on sustainable production and consumption and sound chemical management - Establishing partnerships with universities, and fostering partnerships between Mediterranean universities. - Building a database of Mediterranean professors and researchers.	

219. CP/RAC is contacting universities and NGOs to put this project into effect, its purpose being to build capacity within Mediterranean universities. The project consists in organizing different seminars for university teachers and presenting them in three e-courses: - E-Course in Pollution Prevention in Enterprises, available on the CP/RAC web page - Environmental Policy Course - Course on Consumption and Climate Change. 220. CP/RAC conducted a pilot in Egypt in May and it will be replicated during the second half of 2009 in Algeria and Israel.
Constraints and lessons learned 221. It would be of interest to replicate this project in all Mediterranean countries in the coming years.

Objective 5	<i>Promotion of IPPC in the Mediterranean countries</i>
Expected outputs	To hold a seminar on IPPC in Mediterranean countries.
MAP components and or other partners involved	All MAP countries
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Increased awareness of Mediterranean countries of the principles and application of the IPPC approach in the industrial sector Mediterranean countries showing interest in developing initiatives for the application of IPPC</i>
Final results	A workshop held with active participation
Main achievements 222. This activity was carried out within the framework of the cooperation programme between MAP and the EC and the Horizon 2020 initiative, which aims to provide support to and join forces with initiatives already existing in the Mediterranean region, providing them with an additional boost to assist them in attaining their objective of depolluting the region. CP/RAC organized the meeting with the collaboration of the IPPC Bureau itself, the EC, MED POL and VITO. 223. The meeting was held in June 2008 at the IPPC Bureau in Seville, which is the nerve centre for the application of IPPC in Europe, and which supported and participated in the meeting. After the workshops, a list of conclusions was drawn up, which included the importance of prevention and control in order to render industrial development sustainable, stressing the notion that profit is not at odds with environmental improvements. 224. With regard to BREF documents, in spite of having been drawn up in line with European requirements, it was considered that these could also be useful for non-European countries, which consequently asked to be included as observers in forthcoming reviews. Latest actions: - In recent months the contacts made at the workshop have been maintained - CP/RAC has taken on the recommendations of the workshop and is introducing capacity-building on IPPC as a key issue in the Horizon 2020 process. - The CP/RAC studies on BAPs and BEPs in the main Mediterranean industrial sectors are been updated, including energy efficiency. - IPPC is being included as the most suitable legal framework to integrate green competitiveness in Mediterranean countries.	

Objective 6	<i>To promote implementation and compliance with the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to assess the effectiveness of measures taken for their implementation.</i>
Expected outputs	1) BREF translation → Reference Document on Best Available Techniques in the Ceramic Manufacturing Industry, Reference Document on Best Available Techniques for the Manufacture of Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals - Solids and Others industry, and Reference Document on Best Available Techniques for the Production of Speciality Inorganic Chemicals 2) Petrochemical sector study → Publishing a technical study on pollution prevention in the petrochemical sector in the Mediterranean region and dissemination 3) ALAMIM project → Diagnostic of Maryut Lake industrial activities, searching synergies in the industrial system, new vision for the industrial system, strategic lines and objectives to achieve sustainable development for industrial sector within Maryut Lake (Alexandria) 4) Sustainable fishing → Publication of a technical study on fish consumption and production in the Mediterranean (results to be integrated in the REDD (Blue Plan report) and to be the basis of a project with SPA/RAC) 5) GEDZI → Publication of a leaflet with GEDZI case studies 6) Capacity-building activity (TBC) → Organize a workshop on good housekeeping practices in hotels (back to back with the seminar on eco-labelling for site camps and tourist accommodation services) in the framework of CAMP Almeria.
MAP components and or other partners involved	1) BREF translation → Spain 2) PC study → Mediterranean countries 3) ALAMIM project → Egypt 4) Sustainable fishing → Mediterranean countries 5) GEDZI → Mediterranean countries, Tunisia 6) Capacity-building activity → Spain
Indicators/ achievements	1) BREF translation → BREFs translated into Spanish and sent to MIMAM 2) PC study → PC study published, translated in French and Spanish and disseminated among Mediterranean actors and companies 3) ALAMIM project → Maryut Lake integrated action plan completed 4) Sustainable fishing → study published, translated in French and Spanish and disseminated among Mediterranean actors and companies 5) GEDZI → Leaflet published and disseminated 6) Capacity-building activities → Number of participants in the seminar, follow-up activities defined after the seminar

Main achievements

225. Concerning BREFs (Reference Documents on Best Available Techniques (BAT)), at the request of the Spanish Ministry of Environment, CP/RAC translated the following documents:

- "Reference Document on Best Available Techniques in the Ceramic Manufacturing Industry".
- "Reference Document on Best Available Techniques for the Manufacture of Large Volume Inorganic Chemicals – Solids and Others industry"
- "Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control. Reference Document on Best Available Techniques for the Production of Speciality Inorganic Chemicals".

226. The Centre worked on a study entitled "Pollution prevention in the petrochemical sector" during 2008. In 2009, the study was reviewed and published in English. This manual will be particularly useful for petrochemical enterprises and public administrations, as it is related to the ALAMIM Maryut Lake project, , with many industries of this kind.

227. CP/RAC worked on the ALAMIM project, focused on the sustainable management of Maryut Lake, in Egypt, surrounded by industrial (mainly petrochemical) and agricultural activities. In the last months of 2008 and during 2009, the Centre participated in this SMAP project with the preparation of a study on Maryut Lake industrial activities and the definition of an integrated action plan. The study "Alexandria Lake Maryut integrated Management (ALAMIM) project – Integrated Action Plan" will be completed in June 2009.

228. CP/RAC participated in one coastal area management programme (CAMP) in collaboration with SPA/RAC in Morocco. The participation of CP/RAC consisted in the presentation of good housekeeping practices in hotels, during a seminar on sustainable tourism, held in October 2008. The Centre also distributed its guidelines on good housekeeping practices in hotels as working material for a CAMP workshop in Tunisia.

229. CP/RAC is reviewing the study "Sustainable Fisheries in the Mediterranean", that tackles issues related to sustainable fishing consumption and production in the Mediterranean. Drafted in English, this study will be translated into French and Spanish and will be published on the CP/RAC web page.

230. CP/RAC led a Sustainable Management of Industrial Areas (SMIA) Project in Tunis. This project, which began at the end of 2007, aims to strengthen Tunisia's capacities for the sustainable development of industrial estates. The project is co-financed by the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) and has the support of CITET (Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis), Tunisia. In January 2009 the project in Tunisia was finalized with the presentation of the final results and a delivery of diplomas.

Constraints and lessons learned

223 The following analysis could be made:

- *It is very difficult to access to information on industrial processes used in the Mediterranean petrochemical sector;*
- *There are few case studies available on pollution prevention in the petrochemical sector;*
- *There are difficulties in receiving feedback from national Mediterranean experts on sustainable fisheries;*
- *The sustainable and efficient management of industrial areas is essential to ensure that companies situated within these areas adopt green competitiveness and cleaner production tools.*

231. Issues related to sustainable consumption and production of fish need to be addressed to a greater extent within MAP.

Objective 7	Activity on eco-labelling for the textile sector in the Syria's Arab Republic
Expected outputs	1) Organize an activity on eco-labelling for camp site and tourist accommodation services in Croatia 2) Implement a pilot project in a non-EU Mediterranean country → Syria (if technically and financially possible) - Select Syrian textile companies that could apply for the EU eco-label for textile products - Support these companies and train national experts and the NCPC on EU eco-labelling procedures
MAP components and or other partners involved	Relevant policy frameworks of the project: - EC-MAP cooperation programme, point 7. "Cooperation on cleaner technology": promotion of eco-labelling in non-EU Mediterranean countries - EU action plan on SCP - UNEP/DTIE project on "Enabling developing countries to seize eco-label opportunities". - MSSD, Marrakesh process This activity is to be carried out in collaboration with UNEP/DTIE and PAP/RAC in the case of Croatia
Indicators/ achievements	- Number of Croatian managers of camp sites and tourist installations trained - Number of Syrian experts trained in eco-labelling procedures, - Selected Syrian textile companies awarded
Main achievements 232. CP/RAC is preparing a tourist eco-labelling workshop in Croatia that will be held in October. This event will receive participants from the tourist sector, such as hotel directors, public administrations and NGOs. CP/RAC will present the Eco-flower (a European label) and a specific Croatian eco-label, in the process of definition, all in a very practical way, and will also introduce the Good Housekeeping Practices in Hotels Guide. 233. The workshop on the "promotion of eco-labels and standards for Syrian textile industries" was held in Damascus, Syria in November 2008. It was organized in collaboration with MED POL and with the support of the sustainable consumption and production branch of UNEP/DTIE, the European Commission and the Syrian National Cleaner production Centre. 234. The objectives were: - Creating awareness among relevant stakeholders of the opportunities related to eco-labelling and to increases sustainability of the Syrian textile sector, - Increasing textile industry stakeholders' knowledge of different eco-labels and standards for the textile sector: the EU eco-label and the GOTS, its procedures, criteria and related market opportunities. 235. In 2009 CP/RAC is evaluating the possibility of helping two selected enterprises to introduce the GOTS eco-label.	

Objective 8	<i>Tools promoting consumers' awareness in regard to products and services</i>
Expected outputs	• <i>To raise public awareness of the manner in which their consumption practices affect the environment (specifically, climate change) in order to activate more sustainable consumption criteria and lifestyles.</i> • <i>Preparation and dissemination of awareness-raising material and campaigns on sustainable consumption (SC) and lifestyles based on the SC Action Plan and the dissemination plan for SC journals prepared for CP/RAC by ECODES.</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>All MAP countries and the international community.</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Creation of material on SC</i> • <i>Dissemination of material among target groups (representatives of civil society, consumers, young people, etc.)</i> • <i>Comments from agents and institutions taking part in the public awareness campaign</i> • <i>Increased profile of CP/RAC as a promoter of SC in the Mediterranean Region</i> • <i>Dissemination to target public</i> • <i>Increased awareness on the part of the public regarding the manner in which their consumption practices affect the environment</i>
Main achievements 236. With the aim of reducing personal energy consumption, the generation of waste resulting from the lifestyles of individuals, water consumption and other actions in everyday life that have an impact on the environment as well as the social and economic development of societies, CP/RAC is to implement a number of actions aimed at promoting more sustainable lifestyles. These include various publications and dissemination material that promote more sustainable practices in everyday consumer habits. 237. To date, representatives of various organizations and programmes involved in encouraging sustainable consumption in the Mediterranean Region have been contacted (UNEP/DTIE, YouthXchange, LOLA Project, ECODES, CEE network) in order to learn about their main initiatives with a view to establishing possible paths of cooperation, either to reinforce the dissemination of existing initiatives in the Mediterranean Region, or to support new initiatives implemented by the Centre to increase awareness among the Mediterranean population. 238. At the beginning of 2009, CP/RAC started work with European Environmental Agency (EEA) experts on producing a leaflet including information based on articles and research already conducted about input-output studies, related to consumption patterns. This product must be really communicative, containing designs, graphics, drawings and many visual elements helping to explain technical information to the general public. 239. This leaflet should be addressed to households but CP/RAC also wants to use it to create awareness among its Focal Points and MAP components. 240. The project will be completed in the second half of 2009.	
Constraints and lessons learned 241. Collaboration with other organizations creates synergies, disseminates good results and avoids duplication of efforts. The material created is a good dissemination tool to be used by INFO/RAC.	

Objective 9	Promotion of sustainable lifestyles
Expected outputs	• Increase citizen awareness on how their consumption practices affect the environment (climate change specifically), to trigger more sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles • Preparation and dissemination of awareness materials and campaign on sustainable consumption (SC) and lifestyles based on the Action Plan for SC and the dissemination plan of SC magazines prepared by ECODES for CP/RAC • Self-training of CP/RAC staff on Mediterranean lifestyles
MAP components and or other partners involved	• All MAP countries (+ the international community, Spain) • Potential partnerships with UNEP/DTIE, MIO-ESCDE and the Marrakesh task forces on SC and lifestyles
Indicators/ achievements	• Creation of CP/RAC's materials on SC. • Dissemination of the awareness material and the video among target groups (civil society representatives, consumers, youth, etc) • Feedback from agents and institutions involved in the awareness campaign • Increase of CP/RAC visibility as Mediterranean centre promoting SC in the region • Dissemination to the recipient audience • Citizens with increased awareness on how their consumption practices affect the environment (climate change specifically)
Main achievements 242. CP/RAC has carried out different activities to promote sustainable lifestyles: - Resource Kit: CP/RAC translated and printed UNEP's Resource Kit on Sustainable Consumption and Production into Catalan, Spanish and Arabic. - In your hands: In 2008, CP/RAC adapted some contents from the magazine "Opcions", to be published on the CP/RAC web page in English, Spanish and French, under the header "In your hands", with the subtitle "Knowing what you consume to decide how to consume". The centre chose the subjects sustainable fish consumption and sustainable tourism. - YouthXChange: CP/RAC contacted UNEP/DTIE to conduct the project application in Turkey, Croatia and the Maghreb countries during December 2008 and January and February 2009. - Consumpedia: in 2009 CP/RAC has worked in a web page about sustainable consumption. This page takes its contents from the magazine "Opcions" that has already been used as an information source by the Centre. This web page includes information about concrete products, constraints and alternatives and might be a very useful tool for consumers. The web page will be available in English, French, Catalan and Spanish in June. - Sustainable Consumption video: CP/RAC worked at the beginning of 2009 on the production of a video about sustainable consumption. This audiovisual material provides a comprehensive vision about the ways in which and the reasons why citizens consume. The video shows the case of a developed country. - Global Survey on Sustainable Lifestyles: The CP/RAC is collaborating with UNEP/DTIE in the diffusion of a Global Survey on Sustainable Lifestyles, an online survey for young people aged between 25 and 35 from the entire world. The centre is promoting among university teachers the inclusion of this survey as part of their classes, so that students are able to reply to. This is the system that has been used in the presentation of the "E-course on pollution prevention at source in enterprises", held in Egypt on 26 May. The objective is to obtain around 250 answered surveys before the end of June.	

Constraints and lessons learned	
243. CP/RAC has recently recruited an Arabic-speaking technician. INFO/RAC should support the dissemination of these materials.	

Objective 10	<i>Cooperation with NGOs, consumer associations and other civil society stakeholders</i>
Expected outputs	• <i>Identify cooperation with stakeholders</i> • <i>Establish MoUs or other instruments for cooperation</i> • <i>Establish indicators of success</i> • <i>Monitor the project's outputs</i> • <i>Evaluate by indicators of success</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Red Cross, WWF</i>
Indicators/ achievements	• <i>MoUs or other instruments of cooperation established</i> • <i>10 indicators of success established</i> • <i>1 successful mid-term evaluation</i>
Main achievements 244. CP/RAC is working on a youth camp in cooperation with the Red Cross and WWF with the objective of raising awareness among Mediterranean youth. This summer camp will be held in Morocco in summer 2009, and the CP/RAC contribution will consist of information about Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). For this reason, the centre is working on a dissemination pamphlet about POPs.	
Constraints and lessons learned - Difficulties in transmitting the technical information to non-specialized students - Participants with very different background, making it difficult to homogenize interests. 245. It would be also helpful to make the sessions participative, involving discussions, examples, practices and activities, and to be provided with prior information about the participants so that the centre can adapt the contents to their interests.	

Objective 11	<i>GRECO report on green competitiveness: "Finding business opportunities through cleaner production"</i>
Expected outputs	- Contribute to the environment by highlighting to decision-makers, government authorities, Mediterranean and international fora, and the private sector, the economic benefits resulting in new green competitiveness opportunities. - Facilitate the process of developing private-public partnerships around green competitiveness - Ensure national commitment for the GRECO implementation on SMEs.
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>All Contracting Parties</i>
Indicators/ achievements	- <i>Number of SMEs incorporating CP mechanisms</i> - <i>Number of country institutions receiving technical or/and institutional support</i> - <i>Increased awareness by the public and private sectors of the business opportunity eco-management could bring to SMEs</i>

Main achievements

246. In order to attain the general objective of the initiative, a series of activities are envisaged, the most noteworthy of which is the publication of a report on green competitiveness: "Green competitiveness in the Mediterranean – Finding business opportunities through cleaner production". This report analyses the results of one hundred case studies of Mediterranean companies that have applied cleaner production methods and eco-efficiency. These case studies have been gathered by CP/RAC over the years it has been operating in the Mediterranean region. A study on green competitiveness in the Mediterranean Region has been carried out, seeking to draw lessons from 100 successful cases of cleaner production. This study analyses the 100 Med Clean case studies. The analysis focuses on the technical, economic and environmental data related to the implementation of cleaner production, and shows the huge environmental benefits and potential available for Mediterranean companies, regardless of their size.

247. CP/RAC also published also a shorter version of the report for the SMEs in a 5-page extension.

248. In 2009, the report has been presented at two conferences, one in Morocco in April 2009, with more than 70 enterprises participating, and the other in the last week of May in Cairo (Egypt), with the participation of nearly 100 Mediterranean SMEs.

Constraints and lessons learned

249. The report demonstrates that the most profitable sectors for implementing green competitiveness are the transport, food and beverage, textile and chemical sectors. All of them have a less-than-one-year refund period. It also shows the usefulness of origin energy reduction techniques, less expensive and with a bigger return on investment (RoI).

250. Maximum diffusion among Mediterranean countries to increase the number of MedCleans.

251. With more MedCleans, produce a re-edition of the report, seeking to provide different sector experiences.

Objective 12	GRECO Strategy
Expected outputs	– Complete the brand registration "GRECO Initiative" among MAP countries and the EU – Review the GRECO Business Plan according to the new budget – Induce the private sector companies (SMEs) and financial institutions to participate actively in the GRECO FORUM – GRECO FORUM: dissemination of Med Clean files results and establishment of partnerships (decision-makers, multilateral organizations, private sector). The first FORUM will be carried out in Morocco in mid- April, followed by Egypt and Turkey – Design a web page linked to the CP/RAC web page, which will include all the information and resources related to the GRECO Initiative. Provide access to relevant information and receive feedback from the Mediterranean countries – Design a Financial Instrument for GRECO: IFC, AECID, CIUDAD
MAP components and or other partners involved	Contracting Parties
Indicators/ achievements	– One GRECO Business Plan elaborated. – Successfully complete brand registration in all countries. – Implement 3 GRECO FORUMs in Morocco, Egypt and Turkey – Web page finalized during April, and some information available for the first GRECO FORUM in the second week of March

Main achievements - The GRECO Initiative Brand has been successfully registered in most of the 21 Mediterranean countries, including the GRECO Initiative logotype - The GRECO Business Plan has been reviewed according to the 2009 budget adaptation - Two GRECO Forums have been held, one in Morocco in April 2009, with the presence of the Morocco Industry and Environment Ministers, BusinessMed and 70 enterprises, and the other in Egypt in May 2009, with the participation of nearly 100 Mediterranean SMEs. The Turkey Forum is been prepared. - The GRECO Initiative web page was completed in May and was available in June.
Constraints and lessons learned 252. Difficulties with the GRECO Initiative Brand Registration in some countries. - INFO/RAC could help with the dissemination of the GRECO Initiative. 253. Organize GRECO Initiative congresses and workshops in all Mediterranean developing countries.

Objective 13	<i>GRECO UMCE - BusinessMed project</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Carry out the FORUM project with BusinessMed and give them technical assistance, training courses, capacity-building and necessary tools to achieve expected good results on GRECO in Mediterranean countries</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Contracting Parties</i>
Indicators/ achievements	- Project carried out - UMCE members trained in green competitiveness - Materials disseminated (GRECO Report, Annual Report, CP/RAC Technique Magazine)
Main achievements 254. After signing the collaboration agreement with UMCE BusinessMed, CP/RAC carried out a number of activities, participating in and co-organising meetings to publicize the application of cleaner techniques in the industrial and economic sector of the Mediterranean region. 255. On 5 November CP/RAC celebrated the workshop "GRECO Initiative, finding business opportunities through cleaner production" in Barcelona. Nearly 20 participants from France, Slovenia, Malta, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Cyprus, Egypt, Croatia, Algeria, Tunisia and Spain shared views on the GRECO Initiative project. 256. BusinessMed has been involved in the GRECO Initiative in all Mediterranean countries with constant information and provision of material. 257. CP/RAC will organize two GRECO Initiative congresses in Tunisia and Turkey with the support of BusinessMed members.	
Constraints and lessons learned There are many institutions interested in collaborating with the GRECO Initiative. For this reason it is important to create synergies so as not to duplicate efforts and organize properly the collaborator network in each country. In this regard, strengthening collaboration with BusinessMed in all Mediterranean countries is important.	

Objective 14	<i>GRECO: dissemination of the report within MAP</i>
Expected outputs	• <i>Present the report and first results at the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Morocco, November 2009.</i> • <i>Presentation in relevant forain the Mediterranean countries</i> • <i>Disseminate within MAP countries all activities that took place during the previous year . The winner of the Award will have visibility in the Annual Report.</i> • <i>Dissemination through activities related to experts</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Contracting Parties</i>
Indicators/ achievements	- <i>Number of persons attending the presentations.</i> - <i>Number of fora at which the results in the report have been presented.</i>
Main achievements 258. One of the main goals of the GRECO Initiative is to publicize and to raise maximum awareness of the economic benefits that applying environmental techniques can bring to Mediterranean businesses, reducing the mistaken, and still deep-rooted perception that incorporating environmental aspects into business is an outlay and a burden. In order for companies to perceive the environment as a source of opportunity, and also governments (with the aim of their designing public policies and steps to foster the application of cleaner production), it is essential to publicize the results of the aforementioned studies. 259. Dissemination was accordingly undertaken in the setting of the most important fora for the Initiative. More specifically, the presentation fora in 2009 were: - Morocco, GRECO Initiative Congress, April 2009 - Egypt, Global Forum in Green Industry Initiative, May 2009 - COP IV of the Stockholm Convention, Geneva, April 2009.	
Constraints and lessons learned 260. CP/RAC has reached the conclusion that the most effective way of disseminating GRECO is the organization of national seminars with a high technical level. INFO/RAC could help with the dissemination of the report within MAP	

2.2 *Sound chemicals management*

261. One of the primary initiatives that CP/RAC has undertaken within the framework of MAP has been the promotion of CP and pollution prevention within the framework of the LBS Protocol. The centre has been involved in the main programme addressing land-based pollution, especially under the Strategic Action Programme.

262. Chemicals and their main industrial sources are identified by Annex I of the LBS Protocol and the SAP as priorities that must be studied and included in the implementation by countries of action plans, programmes and measures by countries to combat pollution from land-based sources.

263. Likewise, in the global context of sustainable development, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management are recent international agreements through which countries are joining efforts to ensure that chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

264. In the international context, countries are more and more committed to concerted efforts and agreement on clear targets for reducing and eliminating, where possible, the use of hazardous chemicals. In this respect one of the main objectives set by the Johannesburg Action Plan is to ensure that chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health. In order to achieve this goal, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) held on 6 February 2006 in Dubai launched the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a policy framework for international action on chemical hazards.

265. CP/RAC is aware that in order to better contribute to the reduction and sound management of chemicals in Mediterranean countries it must avoid duplication of efforts with those international agreements and take advantage of the synergies existing between them and the LBS Protocol. For this reason, the Centre is developing a strategy to adapt its activities for the reduction and sound management of chemicals to the priorities and needs that are common to the LBS Protocol, the Stockholm Convention and SAICM.

266. CP/RAC is developing its actions in line with these international agreements as they set priorities agreed at the worldwide level for fighting against land-based pollution. On the other hand, these agreements can benefit from the centre's experience in Mediterranean countries. Accordingly CP/RAC is devising ways of cooperating closely with SAICM and the Stockholm and Basel Conventions and will work to become a regional centre for the application of those agreements in the Mediterranean.

267. In this regard, it is recommended that the Contracting Parties agree to the broadening of the scope of the activities of CP/RAC to include sound chemicals management and to support its application to become a Mediterranean regional centre for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

Objective 1	<i>To assist Mediterranean countries in the implementation of priority actions under NAPs</i>
Expected outputs	<i>To present a publication on the topic "Used mineral oils management in the Mediterranean countries".</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Contracting Parties</i>
Indicators/ achievements	– <i>identification of experts</i> – <i>preparation of a questionnaire to Focal Points</i> – <i>preparation of the document</i>
Main achievements 268. CP/RAC is working on the preparation of the document "State of the art of used mineral oils in the Mediterranean". To gather all the necessary information, the centre is preparing a survey that will be sent to all the National Focal Points so that they can provide information about the state of used mineral oil recycling. Once the centre has compiled all the information, the document will be drafted. 269. By the end of 2009, this document will be published in English, Spanish and French on the CP/RAC web page and it will be distributed to the MAP Focal Points and public administrations.	

Objective 2	GEF Project: To assist Mediterranean countries in environmentally sound management of PCB in national electricity companies
Expected outputs	<i>Signature PCA UNEP-CP/RAC</i> <i>Contract of CTA + ACTA</i> <i>Signature of MoU with BCRC-Egypt</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya and Syria</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>MoU</i> <i>PCA</i> <i>Experts contracted</i>
Main achievements 270. The project "Environmentally Sound Management of Equipment, Stocks and Wastes Containing or Contaminated by PCBs in National Electricity Companies of Mediterranean Countries" is part of the project launched by UNEP/MAP-MEDU, MED POL and several other international organizations, the "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem Regional Component: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas". 271. CP/RAC is involved in subsections 2.3.3, "Raising awareness of the importance of environmentally sound management of equipment containing PCBs" and 2.3.4 "Technical capacity for the environmentally sound management of equipment containing PCBs". 272. The activities are to be implemented in Lebanon, Albania, Egypt, Libya and Syria, and the proposed calendar for activities in the project extends to 2011.	

Objective 3	<i>To advise Mediterranean countries on the carrying out of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention based on analysis</i>
Expected outputs	– Approval of the GEF profile for Syria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia from countries – Send profile and official letters to GEF – MoA with UNITAR: preparation of NIP for Libya • UNITAR contacts to GEF • MOA signed – MoA with Libya
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Syria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Implementation of the actions</i> <i>Preparatory mission</i> <i>Approval from GEF</i>
Main achievements 273. A proposal for GEF to design the profile in Syria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia about their NIP priorities about POPs has been drafted, but the centre is still waiting for information from the countries. This proposal includes activities about POPs needs reflected in the NIPs. 274. CP/RAC made a proposal to GEF for drawing up the NIP for Libya during 2009.	
Constraints and lessons learned 275. There are some difficulties in obtaining information from the countries. It would be desirable to have access to updated NIPs and NAPs so as not to duplicate efforts and to know the real priorities.	

Objective 4	<i>Regional workshop on successful experiences in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and its synergies with the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions</i>
Expected outputs	• Identification of the workshops' objectives and scope of the activity (POPs, SAP...) • Identification and contact with stakeholders to be involved • Venue (Sala conferencias del department) • Agenda • Logistical management (flight tickets, visas, hotel, translations, transport, conference room, etc) • Documents to be distributed • Workshop • Report
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Contracting Parties</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Number of participants</i> <i>Diversity of stakeholders</i>

Main achievements 276. On 7 and 8 April 2009, CP/RAC organized a regional workshop on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Mediterranean countries. This meeting helped to share the experiences of the different countries when implementing the guidelines established by the Convention and in developing the National Implementation Plans. 277. Nearly 50 participants attended the seminar which introduced and debated topics such as the status of the implementation of the Convention in the Mediterranean basin, the different experiences in eliminating POPs, existing collaboration and synergies with the Rotterdam and Basel Conventions and, finally, guidelines to follow in the future.
Constraints and lessons learned • On account of different country policies, there have been problems in organizing the workshop in other countries • Difficulties in communicating with possible participants • For those kinds of presentation it is a good idea to allow for more time for participation and questions on the agenda, as technical meetings arouse great interest among participants.

Objective 5	<i>Preparing a strategy document on resource mobilization and financial instruments, including private, national and international resources for the Stockholm Convention</i>
Expected outputs	– <i>Adaptation of Spanish “Document on resource mobilization and financial instruments “ to Mediterranean countries</i> – <i>Publication</i> – <i>Dissemination</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	All MAP countries
Indicators/ achievements	Publishing the document
Main achievements 278. In 2009, CP/RAC contacted SIRSA to draft the document in order to provide useful information to countries about financial resources to implement the Stockholm Convention, because the previous information provided in the “Study on the implementation and synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) within the Barcelona Convention Signatories” was too generic, even though it may provide useful examples and ideas. 279. The document has already been finalized in English and Spanish, and it will be translated into French and designed and published on the CP/RAC web page in a few months. It will be disseminated among all the professionals and institutions related to the Stockholm Convention. 280. The document was presented at the “Regional workshop on positive experiences implementing the Stockholm Convention and its synergies with the Basel and Rotterdam Convention” in its preliminary version.	

Constraints and lessons learned

281. This study represents initial support to countries in looking for the necessary economic resources, but it is necessary to create a more specific document for each action per country. It would be helpful if the countries review and update the report.

Objective 6	<i>Preparing a survey on existing data and gaps on brominating flame retardants in the Mediterranean</i>
Expected outputs	– <i>Selection of experts</i> – <i>Coordination and follow-up of the study</i> – <i>Presentation of the study</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>All MAP countries</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Quality of the report</i> <i>Diffusion of the results of the survey</i>
Main achievements 282. The survey was sent to the National Focal Points in November, but there is still little information. Its objective was to obtain knowledge about the actual uses and production of brominating flame retardants in order to take measures. Some of these new compounds have been recently included in the Stockholm Convention. 283. CP/RAC worked during the first months of 2009 on the collected information and is preparing a report in English to be published on the web page and to be disseminated among MAP Focal Points, Stockholm Convention Focal Points and Stockholm Convention Centres.	
Constraints and lessons learned 284. Taking into account the information contained in the document, its dissemination has become imperative as it can be a very useful tool for all countries looking for financial instruments.	

Objective 7	<i>Preparation of MAP's contribution to the Second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-II) based on the work already carried out by the Contracting Parties</i> <i>Geneva, 11-15 May 2009</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Submission of questionnaires to CPs</i> <i>Preparation of the report</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>All MAP countries</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Publication of the report</i>

Main achievements 285. In order to prepare for the participation of CP/RAC in the Conference (2009) with the dissemination of activities implemented by MAP countries for the implementation of the SAICM, CP/RAC prepared the report "Study on the implementation and synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Strategic Approach to international Chemicals Management (SAICM) within the Barcelona Convention signatories". This study was presented in plenary session in the ICCM-II and also in the regional workshop on positive experiences in implementing the Stockholm Convention and its synergies with the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, held in Barcelona in April 2009.
Constraints and lessons learned 286. It is necessary to involve each country individually in order to gather sufficient information. 287. Ensuring synergy by accepting information in different formats if it is already compiled in the countries. 288. There is a different level of information from the countries.

Objective 8	<i>At the request of the countries, support the preparation of national profiles for SAICM subject to the availability of funds</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Sign MoA with UNITAR Signature MoA UNITAR-Malta Standard Authority (MSA)</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Malta</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Agreements signed Profiles quality</i>
Main achievements 289. CP/RAC has signed a MoA with UNITAR to provide technical support to MSA. In July, a National Profile Planning Meeting will be held in Malta, with the participation of CP/RAC and UNITAR. The centre has prepared this meeting during the first six months of 2009.	

Objective 9	<i>Advice and support to Contracting Parties on how to implement the UNEP programme on mercury and other heavy metals and the EU Mercury Strategy as appropriate</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Monitoring of Mercury and other heavy metals Diagnosis of Mercury at Mediterranean countries</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Diagnosis of the sustainable management of Mercury in the Mediterranean countries</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Contract of the experts Follow-up of the study Quality of the report</i>

Main achievements

290. In 2009, CP/RAC completed the study "Surveillance and monitoring of heavy metals in Spain and its geographical reference", which gathers data on the environmental monitoring and surveillance of these metals throughout Spain from the different regional governments and organizations. After obtaining this document, the Centre started to work on a draft to prepare the new Spanish Plan for Heavy Metals.

291. CP/RAC also wishes to prepare a Mercury Strategy at the Mediterranean level, and therefore wishes to cooperate with MED POL to work together on that issue.

Constraints and lessons learned

292. There have been difficulties with the involvement of MED POL.

Objective 10	<i>Regional workshop on the presentation and implementation of "REACH"</i>
Expected outputs	1- Contact MAP Focal Points 2- Selection of the lecturers (consultants, chemical companies and laboratories) 3- Workshop programme 4- Contact MIO-ESCO 5- Logistics of the workshop 6- Documents to be distributed
MAP components and or other partners involved	MAP Focal Points
Indicators/ achievements	- Seminar organized - Number of participants

Main achievements

293. REACH is the new EU regulation on chemicals and their safe use. It is important for companies within the EU involved in exports to be aware of this regulation in order for them to increase their competitiveness and maintain their market share.

294. This activity aims to involve the presentation of the REACH system to those MAP countries that are not EU Member States. Initial contact was made in 2009 with Tunisia, Turkey and Egypt through the MAP Focal Points and the networks of Mediterranean industrial associations UMCE-BusinessMed and ASCAME, with the NGO MIO-ESDE, which has expressed an interest in taking part.

295. The aim is to organize a seminar in each of these interested countries about the REACH regulation, and they will be held in September in Tunisia, 20 October in Egypt and 11 November in Turkey. Businessmed will collaborate in the Tunisia seminar and the GRECO Initiative will also be presented.

296. The seminars will bring together public administration, the private sector, chambers of commerce and consultants from each country.

Objective 11	<i>Preparation of working plans and reports for the Stockholm Convention</i>
Expected outputs	- <i>Prepare a working plan and reports for the activities to be implemented in 2008 and 2009.</i> - <i>Prepare the working plan for the biennium 2010/2011</i> - <i>Presentation of business plan at COP IV (May 2009)</i> - <i>Prepare CP/RAC presentation for COP IV</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Stockholm Convention Centres, GEF, all MAP Parties.</i>
Indicators/ achievements	- <i>Approval of the working programme</i> - <i>Presentation of working program and reports to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention</i>
Main achievements 297. On account of the CP/RAC candidature to become a Stockholm Convention Centre, the Secretariat established 3 deadlines that were met by the centre. It was necessary to provide the Work Plan 2008-2009 by September 2008, the Report on Activities 2008 by December 2008 and the work plan 2010-2011 by February 2009. This documentation was compulsory for endorsement by COP IV of the Stockholm Convention. Having met this and other requirements, CP/RAC was officially recognized as a Regional Stockholm Convention Centre on 9 May 2009. 298. Since COP IV has decided to let the Centres update their work plans 2010-2011, CP/RAC is working on its new working plan to be presented in September 2009.	
Constraints and lessons learned - It is difficult to get information from the countries, to enable the centre to programme its activities - NIPs and NAPs not updated. 299. Need to received views and support from the countries and establish a strong partnership between the centre and the stakeholders.	

2.3 *Strategy and communication*

Main goal: *With regard to 2009, CP/RAC is considering implementing its communication strategy not only among the MAP activity centres , but also among institutions and the public in general. To this end, the lines of action and the media considered in advance have been reinforced, and new milestones to be reached have been included.*

Objective 1	<i>CP News bulletin</i>
Expected outputs	<i>To disseminate CP/RAC activities among the MAP Focal Points, the Mediterranean community and other relevant contacts. 4 issues of CP News per year.</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>Contracting Parties, INFO/RAC</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Number of people visiting CP News on the web page, those requesting CP News by e-mail, and those requesting to be included in the CP News mailing list.</i>

Main achievements 300. The CP news bulletin is CP/RAC's oldest communication tool, and has been shown to be one of the most effective for disseminating the most important activities of the centre and of MAP. CP News was redesigned in 2006 to give it a much more attractive, dynamic and readable format. 301. From January to June, editions 30, 31 and 32 of CP News have been prepared, translated and typeset.
Constraints and lessons learned 302. CP News is a useful tool and should therefore be disseminated to the maximum number of people. INFO/RAC could take the most relevant information from the bulletin to include it in the general web page and disseminate it among its contacts.

Objective 2	Med Clean (GRECO)
Expected outputs	<i>Gather information about 10 new MedClean cases to be published in English, French and Spanish on CP/RAC's web page.</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>All MAP countries, MAP Focal Points.</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Publication of 10 new MedCleans at the end of 2009.</i>
Main achievements 303. CP/RAC is exploring new sources of information to obtain new Med Cleans.	
Constraints and lessons learned 304. It is very difficult to obtain information from southern Mediterranean countries. National Focal Points help would be very useful to obtain information and create new MedClean cases.	

Objective 3	Annual Report
Expected outputs	- <i>Gather all necessary information, homogenize the drafting style and format. Translation into English and French, publication of the result in digital format and on paper.</i> - <i>Preparation of the Progress Report every 6 months, required by UNEP.</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>All the institutions related to CP/RAC.</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Report of good quality, easy to read, published before the end of February 2010.</i>
Main achievements 305. In January 2009, the 2008 CP/RAC Annual Report was completed and approved by the Director of the Centre. In February, March and April it was translated from Spanish into English and French and formatted, being finally published in May 2009. 306. The current January – June 2009 Progress Report has also been prepared, approved and translated from English into Spanish and French. It will be the basis for finalizing the Annual Report 2009 in December.	

Objective 4	<i>CP/RAC magazine: Annual Technical Publication</i>
Expected outputs	<i>To publish technical and scientific articles on SCP, sustainable development and related issues.</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	<i>All MAP components, regional experts in different areas.</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Feedback from readers Number of publications distributed</i>
Final results	<i>Technical magazine published</i>
Main achievements 307. All the articles for the Annual Technical Publication 08 have been compiled. They will be translated and published before the end of 2009. This magazine, about initiatives to foster sustainable consumption, highlights existing projects in the Mediterranean including those initiated by civil society as well public institutions. 308. The Annual Technical Publication 09 will emphasize the importance of the Stockholm Convention accomplishment. The centre has begun contacting experts on POPs in order to obtain good quality articles.	

Objective 5	<i>Corporate image</i>
Expected outputs	- <i>Publication of the new web page, more user-friendly, with new colours and a new image: more modern, institutional and useful.</i> - <i>Publication of a style book with the key image guidelines to be implemented in the day-to-day life of the centre.</i> - <i>Harmonization of all publications.</i>
MAP components and or other partners involved	
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Achieving the activities.</i>
Main achievements 309. CP/RAC is aware of the importance of having a good corporate image, and for this reason is working on the creation of a new and modern web page that will be available in October 2009. 310. The Centre has also published a Style Book that will help with all the image work. 311. Some corporate materials, such as USB memory sticks, have been created with CP/RAC's image.	
Constraints and lessons learned 312. Making the entire new web page operational must be one of the priorities of the work programme and not become sidelined by other urgent matters.	

2.4 Meeting of the Focal Points of CP/RAC

313. The meeting of the Focal Points of CP/RAC was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 17-19 June 2009. The report of the meeting is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/Inf.10. The meeting agreed to submit to the MAP Focal Points meeting a draft decision presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/18.

3. **Sea-based pollution (Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC))**

Objective 1	<i>To assist the Mediterranean coastal States in ratifying, transposing, implementing and enforcing international regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from ships.</i>
Expected outputs	• <i>relevant international conventions ratified</i> • <i>to set up a network of judicial authorities regarding illicit discharges at sea</i> • <i>to conduct a marine pollution monitoring operation at sea with several States</i> • <i>submission to give effect to the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea under MARPOL Annex V prepared</i> • <i>national capacities developed</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	• <i>REMPEC</i> • <i>IMO</i> • <i>EC</i> •
Indicators/ achievements	• <i>number of Contracting Parties having designated a contact point for the network of judicial authorities</i> • <i>number of replies received to the proposal of a marine pollution monitoring operation at sea</i> • <i>number of countries having committed means for the operation</i> • <i>MARPOL Annex V Special Area status for the Mediterranean Sea enters into effect.</i> • <i>training activities organized</i>
Final results	• <i>Review of the draft new Maltese legislation implementing the Bunkers Convention, 2001, and provision of advice/recommendations to the competent Maltese competent national authorities; Malta acceded to the Bunkers Convention 2001 and promulgated the relative national legislation</i> • <i>Needs assessment missions carried out to assess the level of implementation of MARPOL Annex I</i> • <i>Number of Contracting Parties having designated a contact point for the network of judicial authorities: 3/22</i> • <i>Number of replies received to the proposal of a marine pollution monitoring operation at sea: 7/7</i> • <i>Number of countries having committed means for the operation: 4/7</i> • <i>MARPOL Annex V special area status for the Mediterranean Sea to enter into effect on 1 May 2009</i> • <i>Regional Introductory Course on Ships' Ballast Water Management Issues organized</i> • <i>1st Meeting of the GloBallast Regional Task Force organized and agreed on the development of a regional strategy on ships' ballast water management in the Mediterranean; an Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Regional Task Force was also organized during the 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points</i> • <i>Regional Training Course on Port Biological Baseline Surveys organized</i> • <i>Participation in a subregional pilot project on satellite monitoring which also included the provision of satellite images of possible oil spills to three countries</i> • <i>Feasibility study on aerial surveillance for the monitoring of marine pollution in the maritime area of Cyprus</i> • <i>Various SAFEMED Project activities organized for the project beneficiaries</i>

Budget spent or committed:	75%
Main achievements 314. During the 2008-2009 biennium, the majority of the activities implemented by REMPEC under this objective as well as under the other objectives were tasks assigned to the Centre by the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, approved by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005) aimed at facilitating the effective implementation of the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, 2002 ("Prevention and Emergency Protocol"). Moreover, in addition to its MTF programme of activities for 2008-2009, the Centre also implemented relevant technical assistance activities forming part of and financed by IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) as well as two major regional projects, namely, the EU-funded SAFEMED Project and the GEF/UNDP/IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project. 315. The Prevention and Emergency Protocol has to date been ratified by 12 Contracting Parties whereas 10 Contracting Parties are still Parties to the 1976 Emergency Protocol. 316. During the biennium, the Centre replied to several technical assistance requests from individual Mediterranean countries. In two instances, technical assistance was also provided by another Contracting Party. This is a way of further enhancing co-operation between the Contracting Parties. However, in order to be in a better position to facilitate this type of exchange of knowledge and know-how, it is very important for the Centre to be made aware and kept informed by the Contracting Parties of any specific technical expertise they may wish to make available to other Contracting Parties, and also of any bilateral technical co-operation agreement they may have in place. Implementing this mutual information system will also ensure that the Centre is making the best use of the resources available to carry out activities financed by the MTF. 317. A priority need addressed during the 2008-2009 biennium was to assist the Mediterranean coastal States in ratifying, transposing, implementing and enforcing international regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from ships. During the 2008-2009 biennium, priority was given to the MARPOL Convention Annex I, with particular emphasis on its regulations relating to operational pollution from ships and their implementation and enforcement at national level. 318. To achieve this objective, the Centre embarked on the exercise of assessing the situation with respect to MARPOL Annex I implementation at national level, particularly as far as legislation is concerned. As a result, updated information is now available on the legislative framework of Mediterranean coastal States, gaps have been identified, and recommendations for future actions at regional, subregional and regional level have been put forward. 319. Attention was also given to operational aspects for the enforcement of MARPOL Annex I. The Centre worked towards setting up a sound basis for the development of surveillance and monitoring systems in the region. The objective was to test real-time surveillance and monitoring operations at the subregional level, which was achieved by providing an operational satellite monitoring service to three Maghreb countries (MARCOAST Project) and by preparing for a full-scale surveillance operation in the Western part of the Mediterranean region to be carried out in the second half of 2009. 320. Efforts were also made by the Centre to set up a network of judicial authorities regarding illicit discharges at sea as proposed by the participants of the REMPEC Regional MEDEXPOL 2007 Seminar. However, despite several calls, only three Contracting Parties (Greece, Monaco and Turkey) nominated a focal point for exchanging information on prosecution of offenders related to illicit discharges at sea.	

321. Document REMPEC/WG.30/7 prepared by the Centre for its 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, provides further details related to the activities carried out to date by the Centre in the field of illicit discharges.

322. The Centre also assisted the Mediterranean coastal States in preparing a submission to IMO to give effect to the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea with respect to MARPOL Annex V (Garbage from Ships). As a result, the Special Area status will enter into force on 1 May 2009, restricting release of garbage from ships in the Mediterranean Sea to domestic garbage.

323. Some of the objectives of the Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships were also achieved by implementing activities under the three-year EU-funded MEDA Project on Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED), which the Centre started to implement in 2006. When possible, a number of project tasks have been extended to other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which are not benefiting from the Project. With respect to prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from ships, the activities carried out within the SAFEMED Project encompassed flag State implementation, Vessel Traffic Management Information Systems (VTMIS), and IMO's conventions related to the marine environment. In view of the encouraging results achieved under the SAFEMED Project, the European Commission and the Mediterranean partners agreed on the idea to launch a second EU-financed MEDA regional SAFEMED Project (SAFEMED II). As was the case for SAFEMED I, the SAFEMED II Project, which is a three-year project, will be implemented by REMPEC between 2009 and 2011.

324. More information regarding the implementation of the SAFEMED Project by REMPEC may be found in document REMPEC/WG.30/8 prepared by the Centre for its 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

325. In 2008-2009, a five-year project, entitled *Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water* ("GloBallast Partnerships") addressing five priority regions, including the Mediterranean region, was adopted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council at the end of 2007, with implementation starting in January 2008. The Project's Implementing Agency is the International Maritime Organization (IMO), with REMPEC acting as the Regional Coordination Organization (RCO) for the Mediterranean region, in collaboration with UNEP/MAP's Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).

326. Document REMPEC/WG.30/9 prepared by the Centre for its 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points and summarizing the activities carried out so far by the Centre within the GloBallast Partnerships Project provides details of the above-mentioned activities.

327. The Centre also held various training activities in the field of prevention of pollution from ships which were organized within the framework of its programme of activities for 2008-2009 and within the framework of the above-mentioned regional projects.

Objective 2	<i>To maintain active and/or develop the level of preparedness to respond to marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region.</i>
Expected outputs	• <i>gap analysis on contingency systems in force in the region provided</i> • <i>assessment tool developed/identified</i> • <i>countries prepared to face an accident</i> • <i>subregional cooperation enhanced</i> • <i>strategies of response and contingency plans tested</i> • <i>countries prepared to deal with specific issues</i> • <i>national capacities developed</i>

MAP components and/or other partners involved	• REMPEC • SPA/RAC • MOIG-IPIECA • IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group • MOON • CEFIC • Sea Alarm Foundation • ITOPF
Indicators/ achievements	• organize and deliver a regional workshop on contingency planning systems in the Mediterranean region; • evaluate the capacities in terms of safety of the Mediterranean oil terminals • provide individual countries with expertise for the development, improvement and maintenance of their systems and operational arrangements • support the organization of national/subregional joint activities and meetings • assist in the organization of national/subregional exercises involving deployment of equipment • revise, and develop as appropriate, guidelines in the field of preparedness and response on specific issues (shoreline assessment, waste management, sunken oil) • maintain the level of preparedness of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)
Final results	• Regional Government and Industry Workshop on Cooperation, Preparedness for and Response to Oil Spills in the Mediterranean Sea • Draft Croatian national marine pollution contingency plans viewed and submitted for the approval of the competent national authorities; new contingency plan now adopted • Assistance in the preparatory work in connection with the new national marine pollution contingency plan for Malta • Draft marine pollution contingency plan for Albania prepared by the Spanish authorities under review • SubRegional Training Course on Marine Emergencies organized • National Workshop on Contingency Planning for Hazardous and Noxious Substances organized in Egypt following the accession of Egypt to the OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000 • National Workshop on Sensitivity Mapping organized together with the Moroccan Authorities
	• National Workshop on the Use of Dispersants organized in Algeria • Information on national contingency planning systems updated as part of the preparatory work for the Regional Government and Industry Workshop • Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment developed • Development of a Waste Management Decision Support Tool initiated • An alert and communication exercise involving the chemical industry organized • MAU Agreements with Federchimica and Cedre renewed whilst the agreement with Icrim (now Ispra) is currently under review
Budget spent or committed:	80%

Main achievements

328. A core part of the mandate of REMPEC is to enhance the level of preparedness at national, subregional and regional level to face marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region. In this regard, under this objective, REMPEC implemented a number of activities in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution. As was the case under objective 1, under this objective, in addition to its planned MTF activities for 2008-2009, the Centre also implemented technical assistance activities forming part of and financed by IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP).

329. To enhance preparedness capacities, the Centre implemented a training programme aimed at updating the general and specialized knowledge of the Mediterranean coastal States with respect to contingency planning to properly respond to an accident involving oil or Hazardous Noxious Substances (HNS). REMPEC, in cooperation with the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) and with the participation of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), organized the Regional Government and Industry Workshop on Cooperation, Preparedness for and Response to Oil Spills in the Mediterranean Sea, which was held in Marseille from 11 to 12 May 2009. All Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attended the workshop with the representatives from the Mediterranean oil industry. The workshop, which aimed at strengthening cooperation between governments and the oil industry, concluded with a set of recommendations for the elaboration of a joint REMPEC/MOIG short/medium and long-term programme to enhance regional cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

330. Expertise was also provided to the Mediterranean coastal States to support their efforts aimed at revising, completing or updating national and subregional operational agreements and emergency plans. On the operational side, the Centre, through the organization of alert and communication exercises, also tested the response network's reaction capacity.

331. During the period under review the Centre has been informed by Mediterranean coastal States about some pollution incidents which occurred in the region. In particular, the Centre has been in contact with the competent national authorities of Croatia for the UND ADRIATIK incident, of Greece for the DIAMOND I, INTERCEPTOR and THEOFILOS incidents, of Italy for the MARTI PRIDE incident, of Morocco for the GC TIGER incident, of Malta for the IRAN DENA incident, of Spain for the NEW FLAME incident, and of Turkey for the JOJO-A incident. For a number of incidents, the Centre ran forecasting models and provided relevant technical information through its expert network advices (cf. document REMPEC/WG.30/5 prepared by the Centre for its 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points).

332. REMPEC facilitated the organization of the Third Meeting of the Competent National Authorities in charge of the implementation of the Subregional Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution for the Western Mediterranean, organized by the Tunisian authorities in Tunis on 21-22 April 2008.

333. REMPEC developed guidelines on oiled shoreline assessment which are currently being finalized prior to being integrated in the Centre's Regional Information System (RIS) and disseminated to the Contracting Parties. Moreover, REMPEC also started the development of a Waste Management Decision Support Tool with a view to assist each Mediterranean coastal State to prepare a complete and operational oil spill waste management plan and initiated work regarding the issue of sunken oil.

334. The Centre also directed its efforts towards the development or upgrading of decision support tools, including sensitivity mapping, spill forecasting models, MIDSIS-TROCS and remote sensing techniques.

335. Another objectives of the the biennium 2008 - 2009 in the field of preparedness and response to marine pollution incidents was to establish or strengthen frames of collaboration with relevant competent regional and international organizations that could be involved in response operations to marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region such as the Mediterranean Operational Oceanographic Network (MOON), the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) – ICE Network, the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF), the Sea Alarm Foundation, and SPA/RAC. This objective was achieved by developing cooperation agreements with other specialized institutions or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which could assist the Centre or the Contracting Parties in facing an accident. During the period under review, REMPEC also continued to liaise and co-operate with other regional agreements in order to exchange information on various issues related to its mandate. Moreover, the Centre's long standing close co-operation with the oil industry also continued through *inter alia* its co-operation with the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG). Detailed information on these cooperation agreements is provided in document REMPEC/WG.30/5 prepared by the Centre for its 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

Objective 3	<i>To enhance co-operation and working relations as appropriate with relevant organizations and programmes, as well as with industry and other relevant bodies and institutions.</i>
Expected outputs	• <i>results of research and development activities channelled at international level</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	• <i>REMPEC</i> • <i>IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group</i> • <i>Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG)</i> • <i>Other regional agreements</i>
Indicators/ achievements	• <i>facilitate the participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora on technical issues via the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG)</i> • <i>participation in relevant international and regional technical meetings with a view to informing the Mediterranean regional system of developments</i>
Final results	• <i>Development of guidelines on oiled shoreline assessment and oily waste management included in the programme of work of IMO's OPRC-HNS Technical group; Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment developed</i> • <i>Participation in relevant international and regional technical meetings including Interspill Conference and Exhibition 2009</i>
Budget spent or committed:	75%

Main achievements

336. As it was entrusted to do by the 8th Meeting of the Focal Points, REMPEC acted as the Secretariat for the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) aimed at facilitating the exchange of technical data and other scientific information on preparedness and response issues related to marine pollution emergencies. During the biennium 2008-2009, the MTWG's work focused on the development of a set of tools, namely the Mediterranean Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment, the Decision Support Tool on Waste Management and the Guidelines on Sunken Oil Assessment and Removal Techniques. The work undertaken by the MTWG was relayed by REMPEC at the international level (IMO's OPRC-HNS Technical Group). During the biennium under consideration, the Centre received valuable feedback and input from the Contracting Parties which is a strong encouragement to proceed with the MTWG in this direction. A detailed overview of the work achieved by the Group can be found in document REMPEC/WG.30/6/1 prepared by the Centre for its 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

337. During the period under review, the Centre has been invited to participate in various meetings. The Centre represented the Barcelona Convention in the Regional Agreements Inter-Secretariat Meeting, which, once a year, gathers the representatives of HELCOM, Bonn Agreement, Lisbon Agreement, Black Sea Commission, Barcelona Convention as well as the European Commission and EMSA, to exchange information on activities related to marine pollution preparedness and response. The Centre also participated in the Consultative Technical Group, which is a subsidiary body set up by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), to discuss technical issues related to preparedness and response. As already mentioned above, the Centre also actively participated in the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group and regularly attended the sessions of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). In another field of activity, the Centre also followed the work carried out by the European Group of Experts on Satellite Monitoring of Sea-Based Oil Pollution (EGEMP), although not attending each session of the Group.

338. On a case-by-case basis, the Centre also participated in conferences, meetings and seminars to introduce the outcome of activities carried out within the Barcelona Convention and related to the Centre's activities. During the last biennium, for instance, the Centre participated in the "High-level Mediterranean Conference on the Integrated Maritime Policy and the Mediterranean", organized by Slovenia and the European Commission on 10 June 2008 and in the "Biomarine Forum 2008", a worldwide event organized in France in October 2008. The Centre also participated in the "International Conference on the Sound Management of Ship Generated Wastes" also organized in France, with a view to raising interest in the possibility of building public-private partnerships to address the issue of inadequacy of port reception facilities. Finally, in May 2009, REMPEC participated in the INTERSPILL Conference and Exhibition. The Centre's Stand at the exhibition was visited by a number of entities interested in the activities in the region and provided a good opportunity to share REMPEC's work with the worldwide oil spill community.

Objective 4	<i>To facilitate the dissemination and exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal, administrative and financial matters</i>
Expected outputs	• <i>relevant parts of REMPEC's Regional Information System (RIS) reviewed and updated, RIS reformatted</i> • <i>better visibility achieved, access to information improved</i> • <i>updating of maritime traffic flow study/data</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	• <i>REMPEC</i> • <i>MOON</i>
Indicators/ achievements	• <i>new user-friendly system of information in place</i> • <i>revised version of the REMPEC website defined</i> • <i>updated maritime traffic flows study/data</i> • <i>oil spill forecast models and metro-oceanographic data made available to Contracting Parties when necessary</i>

Final results	• <i>New REMPEC website to go on line by the end of 2009</i> • <i>Study on Maritime Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean Sea produced and updated maritime traffic flows data purchased</i> • <i>Geographic Information System (GIS) on maritime traffic flows and related risks in the Mediterranean developed</i> • <i>REMPEC's database on alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean updated and made available on line</i>
Budget spent or committed:	90%
Main achievements 339. In the field of communication and information tools, the Centre has taken great care to update its database on alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean and make it available on line. The database, which can now be consulted on line or downloaded, includes new features. Although according to the provisions of the 1976 and 2002 Protocols the Contracting Parties shall communicate information regarding pollution incidents to REMPEC, the Centre receives only a few reports on pollution incidents from the Contracting Parties. The vast majority of information on incidents is in fact received via a subscription to the Lloyds Marine Intelligence Unit (LMIU) casualty reporting system. 340. The Centre also started developing a new version of its website to facilitate access to information and to transfer part of the Regional Information System (RIS), which is still mainly based upon paper documentation, to an IT-based documentation system. The Centre expects that this new website will be available by the end of 2009. 341. Under the umbrella of the SAFEMED Project, the Centre has produced a Study on Maritime Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean Sea, which was prepared by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit (LMIU) on 2004/2005 data. The need for such a study, which was disseminated in August 2008, was long felt as it provides reliable information on the main shipping lanes and possible future developments in the region. Within the framework of the same project, REMPEC also developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) on maritime traffic flows and related risks in the Mediterranean which is now available on line with some pre-selected queries. Utilizing SAFEMED Project funds, the Centre also purchased maritime traffic flows data for the years 2006/2007 in order to be able to keep the GIS updated. 342. During the period under review, REMPEC has co-operated closely with the Mediterranean Operational Oceanographic Network (MOON) with regard to oil forecast models and metro-oceanographic data. In particular, during marine pollution incidents, at the request of the Centre, MOON ran some forecast models for onward transmission to the affected Contracting Parties. In case of oil spills possibly related to illicit discharges, MOON ran some hindcast models.	
Administrative/financial issues, constraints and lessons learned 343. The most important development that took place during the period under review has been the move of REMPEC from its former premises in Manoel Island to the new premises situated at "Maritime House" in Lascaris Wharf, Valletta, which were allocated to the Centre after refurbishment by the Maltese authorities in December 2007. This move entailed extensive preparatory work during the second half of 2007, as the Centre had occupied its former premises for more than thirty years. The new premises were officially inaugurated on 2 May 2008 by the Hon. Dr Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta, in the presence of Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and Mr. Paul Mifsud, UNEP/MAP Coordinator.	

344. With regard to human resources, during this reporting period the Centre continued to benefit from the support of the French oil industry which has extended its long-standing support by providing a Junior Programme Officer to the Centre seconded by TOTAL SA under the French Government's mechanism *Volontariat International Scientifique*. The SAFEMED Project also allowed the Centre to benefit from the support of three long-term experts and an administrative assistant. Under the SAFEMED II Project, the Centre will also benefit from the support of two long-term experts and an administrative assistant. Furthermore, the Italian Government continued to fund, through a voluntary contribution, an additional Programme Officer at the Centre who was recruited in March 2007. The funding of this Programme Officer by the Italian Government will least extend at until the end of December 2009.

345. To implement its programme of activities, the Centre has relied heavily on the funds it received from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) funded by the Contracting Parties. Other activities have been funded either through the SAFEMED Project or through the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) of IMO or the GEF/UNDP/IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project.

346. It has to be noted that the basic budget of the Centre funded by MTF is under a strong constraint, as the whole UNEP/MAP budget has been frozen since 2004. In the meantime, the cost of salaries and activities has increased. Since 2004, the cost of salaries and the organization of activities have increased by approximately 20%. Although the Centre will endeavour to maintain some regional activities in its work programme, the organization of more national training events will be actively considered as, in these cases, the support costs are borne by the country hosting the activity with the Centre financing only the cost of lecturers and minor overheads.

347. It has also to be noted that, although the Centre is trying to cut costs and develop synergies with other institutions, the financial situation will result in a reduction in the number of sponsored participants from the Contracting Parties in the events organized by REMPEC in the next biennium.

348. Security of United Nations personnel has recently come to the fore following several attempts against United Nations or United Nations-related agencies in different parts of the world. As a result, the United Nations embarked on a strict enforcement of the security regulations and all United Nations-related offices have been requested to ensure the enforcement of these regulations by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). The enforcement of these regulations has several consequences related to the responsibilities and duties of United Nations staff members (including REMPEC staff members), the office arrangements, the required training of the staff, and the organization of activities.

Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points

349. The meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC was held in Malta from 21-24 April 2009. The report of the meeting is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/Inf.7. The meeting agreed to submit to the MAP Focal Points meeting a draft decision presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/12.

4. Conservation of biodiversity (Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC))

Main goal : *To facilitate the effective implementation of the 1995 Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) taking into account the global and regional orientations and policies, such as the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean region, the 2012 CBD target, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the European Marine Strategy, the mainstreaming of the Ecosystem Approach into the MAP System activities.*

During the biennium, this goal was achieved in conformity with the Programme of Work adopted during the last ordinary meeting of the Contracting parties (Almeria, January 2008) and detailed in the five following objectives.

Objective 1	<i>Inventorying, mapping and monitoring of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean</i>
Expected outputs	- Reference state regarding the distribution of key habitats - Broad use of the Standard Data-entry Form (SDF) and a better availability of technical guides - Strengthening synergy with other regional systems (e.g. Natura 2000 Network, Emerald Network, MedWet)
MAP components and/or other partners involved	- SPA/RAC - RAMOGE - GIS Posidonia, Okianos, Seagrass 2000, University of Corsica
Indicators/ achievements	- Number of compiled SDFs - Technical guidelines edited - Surface area of key habitats identified
Final results	- 15 compiled and updated SDFs (cumulative number since 2000) - 1 technical guideline on the conservation of Posidonia meadows (edition underway) - 39% of coastlines (18 000 km) investigated to identify key habitats (mainly coralligenous and seagrass beds, evaluation based on bibliographic data; the surface area of key habitats is not used because it does not take into account the efforts made to fulfill the objective 1)
Total Budget spent or committed / towards approved budget (in %)	88 % (in terms of commitments, only on the basis of the MTF budget for 2008-2009)

Main achievements

Inventory of available data

350. SPA/RAC undertook an updating and feeding of its Mediterranean Geographical Information System (MedGIS) in order to make it accessible on-line. SPA/RAC FPs participated actively in this process by providing available national georeferenced data on marine and coastal biological diversity features (e.g. protected areas, key habitats distribution). In order to assist SPA/RAC and the Contracting parties, two Mediterranean partner organizations collaborated in the elaboration of bibliographical databases as well as GIS layers to be integrated into the MedGIS, about seagrass meadows (GIS Posidonia; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.5) and coralligenous habitats (ISPRA, former ICRAM; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.6). This extensive task is in progress and in the process of debugging and the updated geographical database will be finalized by end of June 2009.

351. A field survey was carried out in mid-October 2008 in the Kuriates Islands (Tunisia), in collaboration with the Tunisian environmental authorities. This assignment aimed at the identification of main biotopes and the proposal of management actions. A proposal for accurate zoning for the protection of this area has been prepared and is being finalized with the concerned persons.

Improvement of inventory tools and standardization of mapping and monitoring approaches

352. Concerning this issue, SPA/RAC is collaborating with RAMOGE and Okianos in the translation into English and editing of the Guide on the protection and conservation of Posidonia oceanica meadows. This Guide's version will be ready by end of June 2009.

353. In this context also, SPA/RAC will also be supporting the convening of the Mediterranean Seagrass Workshop 2009 to be held in Hvar Island (Croatia) from 6-10 September 2009. It will support the participation of scientists from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries in this regional workshop. SPA/RAC will also take advantage of this gathering by organizing within it a half-day round-table in order to discuss seagrass monitoring approaches in the Mediterranean and to produce guidelines.

Constraints and lessons learned

354. On account of intellectual property and copyright issues, a certain amount of data might not have been provided to SPA/RAC by Mediterranean institutions or scientists.

355. In order to evaluate the status of biodiversity at the regional level, efforts made by all the users (Parties, SPA/RAC, partners, scientific community, etc...) must be reinforced to update the available information concerning the distribution and the monitoring of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Objective 2	Conservation of the habitats, species and significant sites
Expected outputs	- Existing SPAMIs better managed - New SPAs and SPAMIs created - SPA/BD Protocol Annexes II and III amended - Cooperation with partners strengthened - Protection of species and habitats concerned by the Action Plans strengthened in the targeted countries - Characterization and monitoring of seagrass meadows strengthened - Better adoption of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach - Representative SPA network in place and operational - Implementation of priority actions of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO) initiated
MAP components and/or other partners involved	- SPA/RAC - MEDU, Blue Plan, MED POL, REMPEC - SAP BIO Advisory Committee members - High Seas Steering Committee members - GFCM - ACCOBAMS, Bern Convention, CMS - AECID, EC, FFEM - Total Corporate Foundation - IUCN-Med - AEWA, BirdLife, MEDASSET, MedMarAvis, MedPAN, WWF MedPO - CNFE (Algeria) Corsica University (France), ISPRA (Italy), Istanbul University & METU/IMF (Turkey), INSTM (Tunisia)

Indicators/ achievements	- Agreements to propose at least one multiparty SPAMI and one high seas SPAMI in 2009 to the Sixteenth Contracting Parties Meeting, from three initial candidate areas of each category - Number of species proposed for addition to the SPA/BD Protocol Annexes II and III lists - Number of joint activities with partners - Activities listed in the Action Plans for the conservation of species achieved - Marine meadows surface area mapped - Number of Posidonia beds monitored - Biodiversity section finalized in CAMPs reports - Number of joint activities with existing MPA networks - Project proposals timely preparation, approval by supervisors - Number of Donors - Commitments undertaken by the Donors - Total funds committed by the Donors - Planned SAP BIO Advisory Committee and National Correspondents meetings held timely and successfully - Outputs and preparatory activities for subregional projects on the conservation of threatened species and habitats presented in 2009 to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties and approved
Final results	- 4 national SPAMIs proposed for listing to the Sixteenth Contracting Parties Meeting - 34 macrophytes species proposed for addition to the SPA/BD Protocol Annex II - 30 Cartilaginous fish species proposed for either addition to the SPA/BD Protocol Annex II or Annex III or listing upgrade - 10 bird species proposed for addition to the SPA/BD Protocol Annex II - 1 Regional programme on MPA established with ACCOBAMs, IUCN, MedPan, WWF - 2 Framework agreements with partner organizations signed (1 MoC with GFCM, and 1 MoU with Conservatoire de l'Environnement Littoral et des Rivages Lacustres (CELRL)) - 9 co-organized events (1 conference organized with MedPAN & WWF on MPA Network - October 2007; 3 meetings co-organized with IUCN on governance on the high-Seas – December 2007, July 2008, April 2009; 2 meeting co-organized with GFCM on MPAs – May 2007 - and by-catch – September 2008; 1 conference co-organized with Bonn and Bern Convention Secretariats on turtles – October 2008; 1 Experts' meeting organized with IUCN – January 2009; 1 Symposium co-organized with RAMOGE and Okianos on Coralligenous species – January 2009; 1 meeting co-organized with CELRL on Albatros species – April 2009). - 68 % of the expected SPA/RAC activities concerning the implementation of the Action Plans for the biennium achieved (e.g. Bird, Cartilaginous fish) or in progress (Cetacean, Coralligenous, Monk seal, Turtle, Vegetation) - 100 Km² of marine meadows mapped (MedPosidonia project) - 7 Posidonia beds monitored (MedPosidonia project sites) - Biodiversity section finalized in CAMP Cyprus report - 2 Specific events with MedPAN network (Almeria – January 2008, Barcelona –October 2008) - 4 project proposals timely prepared and approved by supervisors (High Seas phases I and II, Ecosystem approach -merged with the previous one-, MedMPANet) - 4 Donors (EC, AECID, FFEM, Total Foundation) - Commitments undertaken by the Donors: Support to four groups of activities: Seagrass meadows inventories, mapping and monitoring, coastal MPAs, MPAs in open seas, ecosystem approach

Final results	- <i>Total funds committed by donors:</i> 198 000 € from <i>Total Foundation</i> (project <i>MedPosidonia</i> 2006-2009); 200 000 € (project <i>High Seas Phase 1</i> -2008 - 2009) + 685 000 € (project <i>High Seas phase II + Ecosystem Approach</i> – 2009 - 2011) + 1 040 000 € (<i>MedMPANet</i> project 2009 - 2013) from EC; 1 750 000 € (<i>MedMPANet</i> project 2009 - 2013) from AECID; 100 000 € (<i>MedMPANet</i> project 2009 - 2013) from FFEM - 2 regional output projects on <i>High seas</i> and <i>Ecosystem Approach</i>, one subregional output for a cartilaginous fish project, 3 regional, 3 subregional and 18 national outputs on impact of climate change on biodiversity, 2 SPA/RAC sections of a MAP medium-term programme concept note on <i>Climate Change (CC)</i> and on <i>Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)</i>, 1 subregional project for the mapping and monitoring of seagrass meadows achieved.
Total budget spent or committed / towards approved budget (in %)	38 % (in terms of commitments, only on the basis of the MTF budget 2008-2009)
Main achievements 1. Assistance to countries to create SPAMIs and SPAs, including on the high seas New SPAMIs 356. In accordance with the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (decision IG 17/13), the Secretary informed all the partners concerned of the inscription of four Italian SPAs on the SPAMI List. In addition, during the biennium, four new proposals for sites have been received for inclusion. These sites are: - The Bouches de Bonifacio Nature Reserve (France) - The Marine Protected Area of Capo Caccia - Isola Piano (Italy) - The Marine Protected Area of Punta Campanella (Italy) - The Al-Hoceima National Park (Morocco) 357. The suitability of the four proposals to qualify as SPAMI was evaluated and endorsed by SPA/RAC in the four cases. Ordinary evaluation of the existing SPAMIs 358. In order to implement the decision of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties (decision IG 17/12), the Focal Points of France, Italy, Monaco, Spain and Tunisia have made an ordinary assessment of their SPAMIs, created in 2001. The results are detailed in Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.3. Even though the situation of the SPAMIs appears to be satisfactory in general these assessments highlight the common difficulties encountered and the need for an increase in resources (human, financial and technical) and cooperation between the SPAMIs. Proposal for a common approach on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas 359. Within the framework of the implementation of the SAP BIO, SPA/RAC developed joint activities with its partners to promote the idea of a common approach to push for a regional network of representative and well-managed SPAs (e.g common side events during the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the World Congress for Conservation). With the same objective, the Secretary organized a meeting with its partners, in Tunis, on 1-2 April 2008, for drafting a common programme of work on marine and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean region. On this basis of the meeting discussions and the partners' inputs, this programme has been finalized and will be submitted for adoption to the Ninth meeting of FPs for SPAs, as a platform of collaboration with the aim of helping countries to reach the 2012 target for a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).	

360. Within this context, SPA/RAC pursued the updating of the database on the SPAs under the umbrella of the Barcelona Convention with 842 SPAs (and a surface area estimated at least at 144 878 km²), and initiated, in close relation with the National Focal Points, an evaluation of the representativity of the MPAs .

361. Three workshops were organized by IUCN, with the support of SPA/RAC, on the governance of the high seas. The goal of these informal meetings was to promote the idea of creating SPAs partly or entirely in areas beyond national jurisdictions through discussions with experts on legal issues. During the last meeting the creation of a permanent working group on this topic was agreed by the participants and considerable involvement of the countries proposed.

Assistance to countries in selecting, establishing and managing SPAs

362. The joint EC-UNEP/MAP plan aiming to promote the establishment of a representative ecological network of protected areas in the Mediterranean, under the implementation of the action entitled: "Identification of possible SPAMI in the Mediterranean Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABJN)" was delineated, two proposals prepared and funding warranted by the EC (see for details Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.7, and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.8). The action envisages a process developed in two phases, with the support of an international Steering Committee. The first phase of the initiative includes a feasibility assessment to identify areas beyond national jurisdiction in the Mediterranean Sea that qualify as SPAMIs, on the basis of sound science. In this phase, which started in 2008, the effort would help the Contracting Parties through the following key elements: i) a general overview and analysis of the existing information on the presence of important elements of marine biodiversity on the Mediterranean High seas - Open seas areas, including deep seas -, ii) the definition of operational criteria for the site selection process, harmonized with SPAMI selection criteria, and the scientific criteria for identifying significant areas to be declared as MPAs beyond national jurisdiction (criteria adopted by the CBD - COP9), iii) the preparation of a shortlist of potential sites on the high seas which could be protected as SPAMIs and iv) the drafting of a roadmap for the elaboration of further proposals to be presented to the Contracting Parties for adoption. This first phase will lead in 2009 to a second one, in which the list of SPAMIs in ABNJ that qualify as prospective SPAMIs will be established, based on ecological, economic, social and political criteria, so as to better integrate an ecosystem approach in the process.

363. In connection with this topic, SPA/RAC participated with REMPEC in a meeting on the risks of maritime traffic to biodiversity. This meeting, organized by IUCN, made it possible to identify the threats and discussed the means available to improve the protection of the biodiversity. The processes to create SPAMIs and PSSAs have been discussed by the participants. The conclusions show that the PSSA process is not the only solution in view of other available possibilities, but it appears that it will be useful to have a view of the biodiversity at the regional level, to better characterise the threats, linked to maritime traffic.

364. Following the elaboration, within the framework of the MedMPA Project (2002-2005), of an outline of the national plan for the development of marine and coastal protected areas along the Syrian coasts, SPA/RAC was requested by the Syrian Ministry of Environment to assist it in organising a presentation and consultation workshop on the National Plan, convening all national stakeholders concerned. The workshop was held on 23-24 April 2008, in the premises of the High Institute of Marine Research of Lattakia. A number of important recommendations at national level resulted from this workshop.

365. According to the implementation of the new Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles (Decision IG/11 of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties), SPA/RAC prepared draft guidelines on creating and managing Marine Protected Areas for marine turtles in the Mediterranean . The main recommendation is to create two types of SPAs, one devoted to the protection of nesting sites and the second for the conservation of foraging marine areas.

Implementation of the SAP BIO Operational Plan

366. The draft outline for the SAP BIO Operational Plan supported by the 8th meeting of SPA Focal Points for adoption by the Contracting Parties Meeting was re-adapted to fit the budget to the amounts and donors' share agreed at that meeting (Palermo, Italy, 6-9 June 2007), but instructions by MAP regarding the reduction of budgets proposed for 2008-2009 did not make it possible to retain the proposal for the adoption of such an activities funding document which included a total budget which is not available. The resources were spent on vis-a-vis exchanges with donors to raise funding (which was successfully granted for the MedMPANet and open seas SPAMIs projects) and on a thorough review, with the Parties' participation in updating SAP BIO on climate change issues in accordance with the Almeria Declaration. Furthermore, SPA/RAC's contribution was to prepare two MAP concept notes for medium term programmes on Climate Change and on Sustainable Consumption/Production.

Support existing MPA networks (e.g. MedPAN)

367. Within the framework of the SAP BIO Programme implementation, SPA/RAC and WWF MedPO have jointly prepared a project for the development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network. It constitutes a part of the project "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem" specifically the component regarding the conservation of the marine and coastal biodiversity and the establishment of a network of MPAs in areas under national jurisdiction in the Mediterranean Sea. The target groups and beneficiaries of the project are MPA managers, practitioners and relevant authorities of the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

368. The project is structured in two components: (i) a component under SPA/RAC's responsibility, aiming at promoting the establishment of new MPAs; and (ii) a component under WWF MedPO's responsibility, aiming at improving the management of existing MPAs.

369. SPA/RAC's component (MedMPANet project) consists of enhancing the effective conservation of regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity features in areas under national jurisdiction through the creation of an ecologically coherent MPA network in the Mediterranean region. This will be achieved through a series of pilot projects in Albania, Croatia, Libya and Montenegro. Further activities and targeted capacity-building exercises (twelve countries) will be also undertaken to enable coastal nations to contribute to the overall conservation and sustainable use of the Mediterranean Sea ecosystem and its resources through a Mediterranean MPA network.

370. In order to achieve its funding, further contacts and meetings took place with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the FFEM. 1.75M Euros were allocated by AECID and 0.1M Euros allowed by FFEM for SPA/RAC's share of the project. Also the EC included within the priorities of its Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (ENRTP), a budget to support the Biodiversity activities in the Mediterranean. The ENRTP Action Programme 2007 (approved on December 2007) allowed a "contribution of 2 million Euros to the Barcelona Convention's Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean". SPA/RAC applied through MAP for that funding. MAP/MEDU finally requested from EC roughly half of the funds for SPA/RAC and the other half for WWF.

371. The project starts in 2009 for a maximum of five years' duration. Some SPA/RAC preparatory activities (planning, terms of reference drafting, personnel call for applications, etc.) are under way. At country level a pilot field activity in Montenegro for a rapid initial evaluation of natural habitats management needs in that country have already started. Furthermore SPA/RAC provided its assistance to the Syrian Environment Ministry in order to prepare a National Workshop for the Presentation of an outline of the National Plan for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas along the Syrian Coast.

372. SPA/RAC co-organized with WWF-France, the MedPAN Network, the Port-Cros National Park, the Network of Natural Protected Areas of Andalusia and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, the First Conference of the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Network. The objective of the conference was to promote the development of a comprehensive, ecologically representative and effectively managed marine protected areas network in the Mediterranean by

bringing together the managers of marine protected areas and the competent institutions and organizations to share their experiences and consolidate the momentum created by the project to re-establish the MedPAN network, extending it to the Mediterranean region as a whole.

373. One hundred and ten experts from eighteen countries adopted a common declaration at the end of the conference to further promote collaboration and action for the creation of a coherent, representative and effectively managed ecological network of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea by 2012, to halt the loss of biodiversity, and to achieve a set of conservation objectives. Marine protected areas are proven to be an effective tool in providing lasting protection, enabling recovery, and encouraging a more careful exploitation of this natural heritage.

374. To increase the efficiency and the sustainability of the MedPAN, the previous association has been disbanded and a new one created. SPA/RAC will be active in this new association as an international observer.

Strengthening of partnerships for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol

375. Two agreements were signed by SPA/RAC with respectively GFCM and Conservatoire de l'Environnement Littoral et des Rivages Lacustres (CELRL – France) in order to formalize the cooperation with both these institutions.

376. A joint meeting between SPA/RAC and IUCN-Med took place in early April 2008 in Malaga (Spain) and a joint programme of work was finalized by both organizations.

377. SPA/RAC also participated in 14 scientific and technical meetings organized by partners (ACCOBAMS, CBD, CMS, CELRL, GFCM, EEA, IUCN-Med) and contributed with inputs and collaboration proposals.

378. SPA/RAC actively contributed to common activities with MEDU to carry out the first phase of the project on the implementation of the ecosystem approach within the MAP system and to create a proposal for a second phase. The work on partnership between SPA/RAC, MED POL and Blue Plan was planned and included in the new proposal, which has now been endorsed by the EC.

Evaluate the status of the species listed in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol, with a view to submitting a new amended version to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties

379. According to the request of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (decision IG 17/14) to SPA/RAC to evaluate the status of the species listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol, the Secretary focused this work on three groups of species : macrophytes, cartilaginous fishes and birds . In this context SPA/RAC:

- Convened an ad hoc expert meeting in collaboration with IUCN (Tunis, 12-14 January 2009) in order to assess the regional status of the endemic marine species and to propose their inclusion in Annex II. Based on their endemism, their role as engineer species, their rule, 34 new threatened macrophytes (out of 250 species studied), have been selected.
- Engaged elasmobranchs experts to verify the status of cartilaginous fish species found in the Mediterranean, warranting analysis to eventually figure in Annexes II or III, and undertook with those experts a consultation with an ad hoc group of experts. Three species already listed were considered worth keeping in their present listing; another four were proposed for listing in Annex II and another 26 were proposed to be added to the annexes.
- Asked MedMarAvis, according to the requests made during the First Mediterranean Symposium for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species, to fulfil the approved format to add a complementary list of ten marine and coastal threatened bird species in Annex II.

Pursue the implementation of the Action Plans concerning threatened species
Monk seals:

380. Following the previous studies (2004-2006), which have provided evidence on the present distribution of monk seals in Cyrenaica and proved that the study area offered suitable habitats for the species, a second mission is scheduled for autumn 2009 and is under preparation by SPA/RAC, EGA and ISPRA in order to:

- Continue the inventorying of monk seal habitats in the North-Eastern coasts of Libya;
- Set up a long-term monitoring of the identified caves;
- Organize awareness and information activities.

381. A workshop on harmonization of monk seal population estimates techniques was organized by SPA/RAC in collaboration with the European Cetacean Society on February 2009. Among other tools, automatic video cameras were considered by the participants a very practical tool to be used.

382. To support field monitoring of monk seal habitats and population, automatic camera/traps were bought and will be used during the campaigns planned for 2009 (Libya). Further similar support is envisaged for other countries concerned.

383. Arrangements are being made to organize a meeting on the monk seal programme involving the Bern Convention, CMS and SPA/RAC, to launch the preparation of subregional recovery plans for the species. In preparation of this joint meeting SPA/RAC initiated a consultation of the NFPs in order to evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of monk seals at the regional level.

Cetaceans:

384. As part of its task as a subregional Secretariat for the Mediterranean region of the ACCOBAMS Agreement, SPA/RAC took part in the third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to ACCOBAMS (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 22-25 October 2007), and presented a report on the activities carried out by the SPA/RAC for the conservation of cetaceans since MoP2 as well as a report on MEDACES database progress. A new biennial work plan was elaborated by common agreement with the Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS.

385. With regard to the scarce amount of information included in the Mediterranean Database on Cetacean Strandings (MEDACES), ACCOBAMS and SPA/RAC asked the Contracting Parties through an official letter to make these inventorying actions an integral part of their obligations by applying the SPA/BD Protocol and the ACCOBAMS Agreement. In this context a progress report of the MEDACES was elaborated and presented during the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS (April 2008). It includes an analysis of the stranding data received and proposes a set of recommendations with the aim to improve the MEDACES functioning and efficiency at management and participation levels. An update of these data is presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.10

386. Within the framework of the Ionian Dolphin Project, a long-term research and conservation programme conducted by the Tethys Research Institute in the coastal waters of Western Greece, SPA/RAC expressed its interest to collaborate in this project and is providing its support to: (i) ensure its continuation and (ii) build upon existing knowledge to turn the available scientific information into management proposals, conservation action and increased appreciation of the natural heritage in this part of Greece.

387. SPA/RAC provided its assistance to Syria and Lebanon for the elaboration of their National Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans, in close collaboration with ACCOBAMS. These action plans have been elaborated on the basis of consultation meetings held with the concerned actors.

388. SPA/RAC offered its financial and technical support to the Istanbul University for the organization of a scientific cruise in the Eastern Mediterranean -Turkey, Syria and Lebanon- focused on the observation and identification of cetaceans.

389. Within the framework of the celebration of the "Year of the Dolphin, 2007" event coordinated by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the two agreements for the conservation of cetaceans: ACCOBAMS; ASCOBANS, SPA/RAC supported the translation into Arabic of the booklet "Our friends the Dolphins", carried out on a volunteer basis for educational purposes, in order to disseminate it among the countries concerned during the awareness campaigns.

Marine turtles:

390. SPA/RAC organized from 20 to 23 October 2008, in Hammamet (Tunisia), the Third Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Bern and Bonn Conventions and the INSTM (Tunisia).

391. A study of the migration routes of marine turtles is under way in Malta. An awareness campaign was also conducted through dedicated press conferences and national mass media.

392. SPA/RAC provided its assistance to Albania, Tunisia and Libya in order to undertake activities related to the collection of data on sites including key habitats for turtles with a view to establishing protected areas.

393. Draft guidelines for developing marine turtles stranding networks and for data collection protocols are being elaborated as provided for by the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Turtles. It was proposed to implement this network in parallel with other stranding networks (cetaceans, elasmobranchs)

Marine vegetation:

394. Within the framework of its assistance to countries in making inventories, carrying out mapping and setting up monitoring networks of Posidonia meadows, SPA/RAC implemented the MedPosidonia Project in four Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey, in partnership with the Total Corporate Foundation.

395. Inventory activities have been carried out in the following sites in Libya,: Tripoli region (the Cliffs and Garaboulli stations) and the Ain Al-Ghazala region (Ain Al-Ghazala Lagoon, Elba Island and Eastern Coasts).

396. Mapping activities have been carried out in the following sites: Sidi Ali El Mekki, Hergla and the coastline from El Kantaoui harbour to Monastir (Tunisia), the Yildizkoy Bay (Gökçeada Island) and the Babadil Bay (Mersin region; Turkey).

397. Monitoring activities of the upper and lower limits of Posidonia meadows concern the following sites: Sidi Ali El Mekki, Kerkennah Archipelago (Tunisia), and Yildizkoy and Babadil bays (Turkey). Preliminary surveys have been made in the El Kala area (Algeria) with a view to the setting-up of a monitoring device of the Posidonia meadow limits. However, the actual marking out of the meadow limits has been left to a post-project phase (June-July 2009).

398. Training activities were undertaken in the form of practical sessions giving priority to field work and data processing on computer. There were two regional sessions with participants from all partner countries and one national session with participants from only one country (Algeria). It should be noted that in addition to these dedicated training sessions, advantage was taken of most of the field surveys in order to train local teams and familiarize them with the intervention methods and techniques used.

399. Awareness actions were conducted mainly through the production of public awareness leaflets, in the partner countries' local languages, about the importance of Posidonia meadows and the services they provide to human beings and their environment. The closure workshop of this project was held in Tunis on 23 April 2009.

Cartilaginous fishes:

400. A regional overview and technical guidelines to improve national legislations and regulations concerning cartilaginous fish conservation and management has been finalized in both English and French original versions, so as to properly match the legal documents translation needs.

401. SPA/RAC promoted the subregional implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fish in the Adriatic. A support document was prepared for the North and Central Adriatic Sea countries, with international and local experts' participation, analysing the degree of implementation to date by those countries and supporting the preparation of programmes of work for the elasmobranchs in their waters.

402. A review took place in spring 2009 to assess the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous fishes in the Mediterranean Sea. An experts meeting to update the calendar took place in May 2009 (Annex 1).

Marine and coastal birds:

403. Within its assistance to the Mediterranean countries SPA/RAC supported:
- The organization of two field missions in Ghara and Elba islands, Libya (1-7 August 2007 and 30 July-9 August 2008) as a second phase to the Lesser Crested Sterns survey in collaboration with Birdlife Malta and INSF (Italy). A census and ringing of Ghara Island colony were made.
 - The water birds winter census carried out in Tunisia and Libyain 2008 and 2009.
 - The preparation of the National Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal birds in Syria.
 - The celebration of the World Migratory Day of Bird in Tunisia by the NGO "Association des Amis des Oiseaux, AAO". The event was coordinated by the AEWA.

404. SPA/RAC elaborated "Guidelines for the creation of legislation and regulations for the conservation and management of bird species and their habitats" in collaboration with CELRL.

405. SPA/RAC is taking part in "The Slender-billed Curlew Initiative" which is coordinated by Birdlife International, AEWA and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Coralligenous and other calcareous bioconcretions:

406. Following the adoption by the Contracting Parties of the Action Plan for the Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions in the Mediterranean (15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties; Decision IG 17/15) an inventory of published literature about coralligenous habitats distribution has been made in collaboration with ISPRA (See Objective 1). The results obtained have been presented during the First Mediterranean Symposium on the Coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions, held in Tabarka (Tunisia), from 14 to 16 January 2009. This meeting, organized in collaboration with the RAMOGE Agreement and Okianos, provided opportunities to establish a directory of taxonomists, scientists and research institutions working on these topics as required in the timetable of the Action Plan.

407. With 122 participants, representing 11 Mediterranean countries, 20 oral presentations and 36 posters, this meeting made it possible to establish a state of the current knowledge concerning this important ecosystem, and to take stock of current research in this area. The conclusions and recommendations stemming from the discussions are summarized in Annex II.

Participation in CAMPs

408. SPA/RAC carried out a second field mission to Cyprus to complete the implementation of the CAMP, together with a multidisciplinary team including officers of the Cyprus Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, the local NGO CWS as well as an international consultant. The biodiversity report, including the proposals for better management and preservation of biodiversity in the area, has been published.

409. SPA/RAC is participating in the implementation of CAMP Morocco through the:
- Elaboration of a detailed diagnosis: (i) the inventory of habitats and species using the tools adopted within the MAP (species lists, habitat lists, SDF); (ii) the assessment of the sensitivity of the area with a focus on two sites: Jebha (site of biological and ecological interest) and Rhomara;
 - Elaboration of management and conservation measures with special guidance for the management plans of the areas of Jebha and Rhomara;
 - Assisting the Moroccan authorities to propose the Al Hoceima National Park for inclusion in the SPAMI List.

Constraints and lessons learned

410. The SAP BIO Operational Plan Outline supported by the Focal Points for SPAs received a Contracting Parties' funding allocation lower than the one needed, so it has been necessary to adapt the actions previously planned to the level of funding available. Support for actions through meetings of Focal Points for SPAs have limited practical repercussion if the necessary funding for those actions is not forthcoming from the Parties.

411. The project to promote the creation of SPAMIs on the open seas and MedMPAnet project need more time than initially planned, due to administrative timing constraints which are slowing down the start of external donor-funded projects. On the other hand, such funding is of extreme added value for the implementation of the Protocol activities and broadly compensates any launching difficulty.

412. With a view to enabling SPA/RAC to fully achieve the objective of conservation of habitats, species and significant sites, there is a need for:

- Parties to pursue the ordinary evaluation of the SPAMIs included on the list in 2003 and 2005;
- Parties to support SPA/RAC in further documenting the elaboration of a draft list of suitable SPAMIs on the high seas - open seas, including deep seas, and in contributing actively to a workshop on governance on the high seas.
- Parties to take into consideration the draft guidelines on creating and managing MPA for marine turtles
- Parties to support SPA/RAC's participation as observer to MedPAN;
- Parties to pursue the implementation of regional Action Plans for threatened species and take note of the draft guidelines proposed to increase their efficiency.

Objective 3	<i>Evaluation and reduction of the impact of the threats to biodiversity</i>
Expected outputs	- <i>Impacts of fisheries and aquaculture on sensitive habitats and threatened species reduced and regulation updated</i> - <i>A more effective intervention for the mitigation of pollution impacts on sensitive habitats and species</i> - <i>Reinforcement of legal instruments for the management of ballast waters</i> - <i>Enhancement of national capacities dealing with ballast water issues</i> - <i>Introduced species better known and introduction vectors better controlled</i> - <i>Potential dangers associated with non-indigenous species taken into consideration</i> - <i>Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in the region</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	- SPA/RAC - BP/RAC, REMPEC, PAP/RAC - UNDP, CBD - GEF - IMO - ACCOBAMS - GFCM - IUCN Med
Indicators/ achievements	- <i>Marine Protected Areas important for cetaceans</i> - <i>Fishing Reserves promoted as conservation tools</i> - <i>Sensitive habitats catalogued in three pilot areas</i> - <i>Number of legal instruments enforced</i> - <i>Number of trainees</i> - <i>Activities listed in the Action Plan on Non-indigenous Species fulfilled</i> - <i>Awareness material on risks associated with invasive species available</i> - <i>Number of awareness material beneficiaries (persons/organizations)</i> - <i>Guidelines on the sustainable use of biodiversity in the Mediterranean region elaborated</i>

<i>Final Results</i>	- 'Guidelines to reduce impacts of by-catch on seabirds in the Mediterranean region' elaborated - Study document on interactions between fisheries and threatened species (monk seals, turtles) and possible mitigation measures through fishing reserves' elaborated - 94 trainees (SPA/RAC convened Alien species training + GBP training) - 2 Technical guidelines on alien species edited - A regional project for the management of ballast waters in place and underway - Two MAP concept notes for medium term programmes to enhance sustainable use of biodiversity through activities on Climate Change and on Sustainable Consumption/Production
<i>Total Budget spent or committed / towards approved budget (in %)</i>	48 % (in terms of commitments)
Main achievements 2. Implementation of appropriate measures for the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture in collaboration with the GFCM and ad hoc institutions 413. Considering the importance of fishery reserves in the management of marine resources, SPA/RAC organized with the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE), a workshop to compile the existing types of MPAs and evaluate their representativeness and the efficiency of their management systems. This meeting was held in May 2007, in Salammbô, Tunis, at the premises of the Tunisian National Institute for Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM). 414. In a second phase, a questionnaire was established in collaboration with GFCM and sent to NFPs for SPAs and GFCM members. Its aim is to identify fishery reserves and fishery restricted zones in the different countries. The preliminary results have been discussed during the GFCM SAC Sub-committee meeting (October 2008). 415. The aforementioned activities to promote the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fish are also along these lines. 416. A Scientific workshop on by-catch and incidental catches of threatened species was held by GFCM with contributions prepared by SPA/RAC and ACCOBAMS (Rome, September 2008). SPA/RAC provided studies on interactions between fisheries and threatened species (monk seals, turtles) and possible mitigation measures. 417. A workshop on the interaction between fisheries and marine turtles was convened during the Third Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles (Tunisia, October 2008). 418. SPA/RAC elaborated 'Guidelines to reduce impacts of by-catch on seabirds in the Mediterranean region'. Evaluation of the risks of incidental pollution on identified MPAs and sensitive habitats 419. For the first phase of the evaluation process, a database on MPAs has been elaborated and will be accessible through the MedGIS tool. In close contact with REMPEC, a selection of a pilot case, and specialists on the impact of incidental pollution on biodiversity are being identified to initiate the second phase.	

Implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project in collaboration with REMPEC and IMO

420. The MAP collaborated with IMO through its Regional Activity Centres REMPEC and SPA/RAC in the consultation process that led to the elaboration of the second phase of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships project (Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ship's Ballast Water). The GEF Council during its meeting from 12 to 15 June 2007 approved the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships (GBP) Project.

421. GBP will be a five-year project (2008-2012). REMPEC has been appointed as the Regional Coordinating Organization for the Mediterranean region. SPA/RAC is technically and financially participating in the project by supporting all regional activities and mainly those of relevance to bio-invasions associated with ballast waters transfer. REMPEC and SPA/RAC collaborated in convening the First Regional Task Force Meeting (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 11-12 September 2008) and the Training Course on Port Biological Baseline Survey (Gebze, Turkey, 21-24 October 2008).

Implementation of the Action Plan on Species Introductions and Invasive Species

422. Within this framework, SPA/RAC convened from 3-6 February 2008 in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt), a Mediterranean Training Course on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species. About thirty participants from fifteen Mediterranean countries participated in this training. The training provided an improved modular course that has been developed by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP).

Raising awareness concerning the risks associated with non-indigenous species

423. SPA/RAC edited two important technical tools that have been elaborated within the Action Plan context: the 'Guidelines for Controlling the Vectors of Introduction into the Mediterranean of Non-indigenous Species and Invasive Marine Species' and the 'Guide for Risk Analysis assessing the Impacts of the Introduction of Non-indigenous Species'.

Setting-up of the working group on the sustainable use of biodiversity and evaluation of direct and indirect threats of climate change

424. In accordance with the outcomes of the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the Almeria Declaration, SPA/RAC presented a state of the knowledge regarding the impact of climate change on marine biodiversity and constituted a working group composed of international experts, complemented by Parties' national experts to develop a detailed insight into vulnerability and impacts of climate change on Mediterranean biodiversity. This activity was developed through a process involving biodiversity concerned ministries of all the riparian countries. For operational reasons, the countries were grouped in three clusters (and sub-groups within them) and activities to be managed by three international consultants as follows: (i) Cluster A: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Italy (Adriatic coastal area); (ii) Cluster B: Cyprus, Israel, Greece and Turkey, France, Italy (except Adriatic coastal area), Malta, Monaco and Spain ; and (iii) Cluster C: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia .

425. Three subregional meetings were organized to present and discuss national overviews and to draw up subregional syntheses on the issue (Split, Croatia; Tunis, Tunisia; and Santa Pola, Spain; in October and November 2008) and a regional meeting (Vibo Valencia, Italy; December 2008). A final meeting aimed at discussing the final recommendations and conclusions at regional level took place in mid-December 2008. The process made it possible to have an update on climate change issues of the SAP BIO Programme.

Constraints and lessons learned

426. Climate change activities have encountered some budgetary constraints, since they did not received a dedicated budget line in the 2008-2009 MTF budgetary allocations.

427. There is a need to make the best use of the available reports on climate change, to develop activities at countries and region levels to confront and to monitor the impacts of climate change on the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity.

Objective 4	Development of research to improve knowledge and fill gaps with respect to biodiversity
<i>Expected outputs</i>	- Online consultation system available - Regional bibliographical databases accessible - Enhanced SPA/RAC website - Taxonomy reference state available for users - Relevant indicators of the state of biodiversity identified and validated
<i>MAP components and/or other partners involved</i>	- SPA/RAC - BP/RAC, MED POL - CBD - EEA
<i>Indicators/ achievements</i>	- Availability of scientific documents and databases - Number of SPA/RAC website users - Directory of taxonomic specialists and collections - Set of indicators of the state of biodiversity available
<i>Final Results</i>	- 5 scientific documents (Climate change, Taxonomy, Coralligenous, Cetacean) published and 1 on going and 3 bibliographic databases available (Climate change, SPAs, Coralligenous and other bioconstructions) - 8400 website users and 2 flashnews sent to a panel of 1000 contacts (NFP, partners, associated institutions and scientists) - 1 Directory of specialists on Coralligenous species and habitats - Draft set of indicators proposed
<i>Total Budget spent or committed / towards approved budget (in %)</i>	12 % (in terms of commitments)

Main achievements

3. Strengthen the scientific watch and improve the accessibility of information

428. Three databases on the scientific publications have been elaborated on a regional level on the following topics :

- Climate change on marine biodiversity
- Coralligenous habitats and species
- Mediterranean MPAs

429. They are accessible through the SPA/RAC website.

430. An expert has been identified in order to prepare the regional Databank on Biology, Ecology and Conservation of Mediterranean Seagrasses. This database will be available on SPA/RAC's website by the end of summer 2009.

431. Several scientific documents have been edited or co-edited with the assistance of SPA/RAC during the biennium :

- Impact of climate change on biodiversity in the Mediterranean (electronic publication)
- Tintinnids of the Lebanese coastal waters – Eastern Mediterranean
- Proceeding of the First Symposium on the Conservation of Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bioconstructions
- Abstract of the third Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles Conservation
- Abstract of the 23rd annual conference of the European Cetacean Society

432. Within the framework of its participation in the project on the identification of possible SPAMIs in ABJN, SPA/RAC and IUCN will be editing an overview of the knowledge on pelagic ecosystems . This publication is planned to be available for September 2009

Strengthening of the Mediterranean Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, including taxonomy

433. SPA/RAC set up a prototype of a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) on Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity (<http://medbiodivchm.rac-spa.org>) by adapting the EC CHM Portal Toolkit. Various databases and directories could be consulted from a common web portal.

434. Due to lack of resources (human and financial), it was decided to develop the functionalities of the regional Clearing House Mechanism by developing SPA/RAC's website. To this end an expert has been contracted to propose ways and means of adding those functionalities to the website.

435. The MedGIS is also being developed in this context, in order to enhance data management and exchange at a regional level. After the elaboration and testing of the MedGIS prototype, SPA/RAC has launched the elaboration of a fully functional MedGIS (a webmapping application) to be part of the Mediterranean CHM.

436. Within the context of enhancing communication, the Centre started more regular updating of its website, drafting an information letter (flash news).

Identification and testing of indicators on the state of biodiversity

437. A draft set of indicators has been proposed by SPA/RAC within the framework of the ecosystem approach project that will be managed by MEDU in collaboration with SPA/RAC, Blue Plan and MEDPOL. The indicators search compatibility with existing ones at CBD and EC levels. They are derived from the CBD indicators and their respective focal areas, as in the case of the EC for its member countries, taking into account the EEB Malahide discussions (2004) and the EC focal areas adaptations, to provide a comparative idea of current trends in relevant institutions and on the reasoning behind the SPA/RAC draft.

438. Several other indicators have been identified to assess the impact of the actions supported by the SPA/RAC to increase the conservation of biodiversity. Some of them have been used to describe the situation of the ecosystem at the regional level.

Constraints and lessons learned

439. The indicators activity has not been thoroughly addressed and will need further elaboration and discussions at MAP level, notably regarding the topic climate change and biodiversity.

440. There is a need:

- To boost research activities on links between climate change and marine and coastal biodiversity, as described in the climate change updating of SAP BIO;
- To update the present database and develop one specifically for each action plan;
- For Parties to volunteer to reinforce SPA/RAC with available oceanographic means to implement its oceanographic survey campaigns in suitable candidate SPAMIs on the high seas - open seas, including deep seas- during the action phase 2010-2011.

Objective 5	Capacity-building to improve coordination and technical assistance
Expected outputs	<i>Strengthened capacity of Parties to integrate biodiversity features</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	- RAC/ SPA - CMCS - CWS, Naples Zoological Station - Okianos - Seagrass 2000
Indicators/ achievements	- Number of training sessions - Number of trainees
Final Results	- 18 training sessions (+ 1 planned in June 2009) - 181 trainees
Total Budget spent or committed/towards approved budget (in %)	52 % (in terms of commitments)
Main achievements <i>Implementation of training in techniques for the conservation, monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity</i> 441. SPA/RAC organized and convened the following events: - A Mediterranean Training on Seagrass Meadow Mapping (Tabarka, Tunisia, 15-21 June 2007), with the participation of 17 participants from 14 Mediterranean countries; - A training session on Posidonia meadows monitoring (Rafraf, Tunisia, 29 October-2 November 2007) part of the MedPosidonia Project; - A national training session on Posidonia meadows mapping (Algiers, Algeria, 16-19 February 2009) part of the MedPosidonia Project ; - An on-the-field national training session on the mapping and monitoring of Posidonia meadows (Gökçeada, Turkey, June 2008) part of the MedPosidonia Project; - A taxonomy course on Mediterranean marine and coastal fauna and reference collections (CIMAR, 17-24 February 2008) in collaboration with the University of Alicante. - A training session on the establishment of national CHM and the use of Medbiodiv PTK 28/01/2008 to 1/02/2008 in Rabat (Morocco); - A Regional training session on Alien Species Control and Management (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, February 2008); - Training sessions on marine turtles nesting beaches conservation techniques and tagging activities (July and August 2007; and July and August 2008) in collaboration with the Cyprus Wildlife Society (CWS) at the Lara Reserve (Cyprus); - A training session for the identification and census of water bird species (Benghazi, Libya, 27 November - 2 December 2008), in collaboration with EGA and the <i>Conservatoire du Littoral</i>. 442. SPA/RAC has contributed to the organization of: - The national training session on the "Standard Data-entry Form for National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest" (SDF) in Wadi Kandil (Latakiah, Syria, 14-16 August 2007), in collaboration with the Syrian Ministry of the Environment; - A training session on the techniques for rehabilitating marine turtles in collaboration with the Naples Zoological Station (10-14 December 2007); - The Seventh European Seminar on Marine Mammals: Biology and Conservation (Valencia, Spain, 15-19 September 2008), convened by the International University Menendez Pelayo, which is aiming to improve capacities on cetacean conservation issues in the Mediterranean region;	

- The 23rd annual conference of the European Cetacean Society, 1-4 March 2009, convened with TUDAV;
- The workshop "Who are our seals? Moving towards a standardized monk seal population estimate approach" (28 February 2009) in collaboration with TUDAV;
- The training on taxonomy in collaboration with Okianos
- The "Albatros" workshop (Marseilles, 20-22 April 2009) by the Conservatoire du Littoral.

443. Following a request from the Tunisian authorities, SPA/RAC helped with the running of training and research projects dealing with the study of marine meadows and algal flora along the Tunisian coasts, using scuba diving and non-destructive techniques.

444. SPA/RAC provided its assistance to the Syrian environmental authorities in setting up a training programme on marine protected areas management plan preparation and implementation. This training programme has been designed to be delivered in three intensive training phases. Two training courses took place already in February and April 2009. The third and final course is planned for late June 2009.

Meeting of the Focal Points of SPA/RAC

445. The meeting of the Focal Points of SPA/RAC was held in Floriana, Malta, from 3-6 June 2009. The report of the meeting is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/Inf.8. The meeting agreed to submit to the MAP Focal Points meeting four draft decisions presented in documents UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/13, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/14, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/15 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/16.

5. Sustainable management of coastal zones (Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC))

Main goal: *The overall goal of the Priority Actions Programme is to support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which aims at protecting the environment and contributing to the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea area. PAP/RAC is specifically concerned with sustainable development of coastal areas and coastal regions of the Mediterranean Basin by promoting integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) as a major tool to achieve the Convention's goals. More specifically, the goal in the present biennium has been to carry out the preparatory activities for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol which was signed on 21 January 2008. These activities were to be carried out in the interim period before the Protocol enters into force.*

The implementation of the Priority Actions Programme in the 2008-2009 biennium was carried out through activities organized in two major groups:

- *Sustainable management of coastal zones; and*
- *Integrating development and environment.*

Objective 1	Legal framework
Expected outputs	<i>Decision IG 17/18 on ICZM Protocol A major expected output will be the Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>MAP Co-ordinating Unit: support in the development of the Action Plan PAP/RAC: activities within its mandate</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Action Plan prepared, discussed and endorsed by the countries, the formal adoption of the Action Plan taking place only after the Protocol has entered into force. In the interim preparatory period, before the Protocol enters into force, PAP/RAC carried out the following activities:</i> • <i>Report of the Expert Meeting in Split (17-18 June 2008), English and French</i> • <i>Comparative analysis and plan of action for ICZM Protocol implementation in Montenegro; report on technical assistance to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Montenegro</i> • <i>Assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Croatia in preparation for ICZM Protocol implementation, in co-operation with the German international cooperation agency (GTZ)</i> • <i>Assistance in the preparation and holding of the conference "Integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean, from local to regional: How to stop biodiversity loss?" (Nice, 18-19 December 2008)</i> • <i>Co-organization of the "Second International Conference on the State of the Art of ICM in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea" with MEDCOAST (Akyaka, Turkey, 14-18 October 2008)</i> • <i>Draft reporting format and effectiveness indicators for the ICZM Protocol</i> • <i>Presentation of the Protocol (conferences, meetings, workshops, seminars, publications)</i> • <i>Review, by countries, of the status of the signing and ratification of the Protocol</i> • <i>Active participation in the development and implementation of two major project proposals for external financing related to Protocol implementation</i>
Final results	• <i>1 expert meeting</i> • <i>4 reports</i> • <i>2 conferences co-organized</i>

	• 30 presentations (conference, workshop and seminar communications, scientific and technical articles in publications) • 1 review • 2 major project proposals • 1 leaflet • 1 publication with ICZM Protocol in 4 languages
Total Budget: 34,000 euro	2008: 170% (budget approved €20,000; expenditures incurred €34,300) 2009: 0% (budget approved €25,000; expenditures incurred €0)
Main achievements 446. The Expert Meeting on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol was held in Split, Croatia, on 17-18 June 2008. The objective of the meeting was to exchange opinions among the relevant experts with a view to exploring possible activities to be undertaken in this interim period while the signing and ratification of the ICZM Protocol is still in progress. The meeting proposed various activities to be implemented in the interim period: the preparation of a stocktaking report on ICZM in the Mediterranean, including information on existing setback practices and various toolkits; the preparation of an explanatory guide to the text of the Protocol; and awareness-raising and training activities. The Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol will be prepared once the Protocol enters into force. 447. At the request of the Contracting Parties, PAP/RAC provides direct assistance to them in their efforts towards adoption, ratification and, subsequently, implementation of the Protocol. The focus of the assistance is on the assessment of the impact the Protocol may have on the sustainable development of coastal areas, as well as on the legal, institutional and financial framework for ICZM. Technical assistance in drafting the comparative analysis and plan of action for ICZM Protocol implementation at the national level was provided to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Montenegro. Technical assistance in interpreting the Protocol and assessing impacts of its implementation was provided to the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Construction of Croatia. 448. Although the ICZM Protocol has not entered into force it was suggested that a reporting format and related effectiveness indicators should be prepared for this legal instrument. PAP/RAC participated in a meeting held on 5 December 2008 at MEDU at which it was decided to work on both documents in parallel, in coordination with MEDU. PAP/RAC has proposed to the European Environment Agency (EEA), at its request, a tentative list of activities aimed at the implementation of the Protocol in which EEA could participate. EEA's response is still awaited. 449. PAP/RAC has been actively involved in the preparation and implementation of two major Mediterranean conferences: "Integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean, from local to regional: How to stop biodiversity loss?", held in Nice on 18-19 December 2008, in the context of the French European Union (EU) Presidency, and the "Second International Conference on the State of the Art of ICM in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea", which took place in Akyaka, Turkey, on 14-18 October 2008. In addition, the PAP/RAC Director and other staff of the Centre presented the Protocol at numerous events held in the Mediterranean, Europe and elsewhere, and published a large number of articles in a variety of scientific and technical publications and publications intended for a wider readership. As a result, the Protocol is today widely known to a large number of stakeholders and the general public, which is considered to be critically important for its successful implementation. 450. A special leaflet on the Protocol has been published in English and French and widely distributed across the region and around the world. A publication with the text of the Protocol in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic) was prepared and edited and will soon be published. The publication of this document is a response to the increasing demand for the dissemination of knowledge and for awareness-raising on the Protocol.	

451. Together with a number of partners PAP/RAC has been involved in the preparation of two major project proposals for the implementation of the Protocol. As a member of the consortium of 24 partners, PAP/RAC was the pivotal organization, together with the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Blue Plan, in the preparation of the proposal for a PEGASO project, which was submitted to the EU for financing within its FP7 scientific programme. The central component of the project, for which PAP/RAC will be responsible, is the preparation of the ICZM Governance Platform. PAP/RAC will assist IDDRI (France) in implementing the ProtoGIZC project, which was submitted to the French Government for financing.

Constraints and lessons learned

452. The ICZM Protocol has not yet entered into force. Fifteen Contracting Parties have signed the Protocol, and some have started the ratification process. Implementation of the Protocol is therefore pending ratification by at least six countries. Although it is known that several countries have initiated the ratification procedure, major efforts will be needed to prompt the remaining countries to start the process, as well as to complete it, so that the Protocol can enter into force in the foreseeable future.

453. Financial resources available for assistance to countries in the implementation of the Protocol in this biennium were grossly inadequate. Since the programme of work and budget had been approved before the Protocol was adopted, it was not possible to earmark adequate financial resources for the implementation of the above activities. This fact constrained discussion and decision-making on the activities to be carried out.

454. The 2008-2009 work programme provided for the preparation of, discussion on, and adoption of the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. However, in legal terms, the Action Plan could only be prepared and adopted once the Protocol entered into force. Therefore, the activities undertaken by PAP/RAC as described above were related to what was legally possible in this intermediate period and focused only on general preparatory activities (stocktaking, explanatory guide, awareness) with no legal obligations for the countries.

455. The discussion on the Action Plan has shown an enormous interest in planning and implementing the activities of the Protocol. The lesson learned is that great momentum for the Protocol exists and should not be left to subside.

5.1 Sustainable management of coastal zones

Objective 2	<i>To assist the Mediterranean coastal States in implementing integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) through the development and implementation of appropriate ICZM tools, improved exchange of information, increased capacity-building, and implementation of concrete projects (Coastal Area Management Programme – CAMP).</i>
Expected outputs	• CAMP Implementation of activities provided for in the Action Plan; feasibility study (FS) for CAMP Italy and CAMP agreements for Montenegro and Italy; inception reports and related workshops in Montenegro and Italy; individual CAMP activity reports (water resources, tourism, plans, strategies, environmental impact studies); regular progress reports by national coordinators; final integrated reports; Final Presentation Conference for CAMP Cyprus; follow-up programme as proposed in CAMPs; MAP Technical Report Series for CAMPs Slovenia and Cyprus; training courses, workshops, capacity-building initiatives and participatory programmes for stakeholders in CAMPs • ICZM methodologies/tools Report on the current state of planning systems; methodology for the application of the ecosystem approach in coastal areas; methodology for risk vulnerability assessment in coastal areas; guidelines for the implementation of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in coastal

	areas • National ICZM reports National reports on ICZM in Egypt and Albania • Landscape management Thematic studies applying different methodologies for landscape management; synthesis report on all thematic studies implemented • Clearing House Redesigning and restructuring of the Clearing House (CH) website; updating of the existing information and introduction of new components to CH • Financing of sustainable development Report on the state of different methodologies used in the Mediterranean countries to finance sustainable development, including recommendations on how to improve current approaches • ICZM education New run of the MedOpen course in English and French; training documents, case studies, selection of candidates, helpdesk, discussion groups, basic and advanced courses, examinations; update of new Educom@Med Programme • Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) Policy Briefs with related leaflets and a regional ICZM workshop; Coast Day, television publicity spot and regional policy workshop • Regional component of the Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) Project Demonstration projects, assistance in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and preparation of national ICZM strategies • Regional workshop on spatial planning Workshop report and recommendations on the measures for improvement of spatial planning in Mediterranean coastal areas • Regional training course on landscape management Report of the training course
MAP components and/or other partners involved	MAP Co-ordinating Unit: support in the development and adoption of the Action Plan PAP/RAC: activities within its mandate Other MAP components: providing assistance within their fields of expertise Countries: providing information on relevant ICZM topics, projects and issues International organizations: assistance within their scope of activities National NGOs: support and organization of Coast Day
Indicators/ achievements	1. Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) CAMP Cyprus: • Final integrated report for CAMP Cyprus • Final Presentation Conference for CAMP Cyprus (13 June 2008), attended by 80 participants • Report of the Final Presentation Conference for CAMP Cyprus • Report on carrying capacity assessment (CCA) for tourism in the Larnaca District • Final report of the environmental economics activity • Report on ICAM methodology and proposed ICAM strategic framework • Report on the public participation process in Cyprus • Pilot testing of the CAMP Guidelines on SEA for the CAMP pilot study area CAMP Italy: • MoU for the feasibility study for CAMP Italy • Assistance to the Ministry and the CAMP site authorities to develop the CAMP programme; participation in the CAMP committee meetings

	• <i>Draft feasibility study (expected by the end of 2009)</i> • <i>Agreement (including ToRs) for CAMP Italy (expected by the end of 2009)</i> <i>CAMP Montenegro:</i> • <i>Feasibility study completed</i> • <i>Agreement (including ToRs) for CAMP Montenegro (expected by the end of 2009)</i> <i>CAMP Morocco:</i> • <i>Integrated coastal zone management – technical specifications</i> • <i>Activity "Awareness-raising and participation" – technical specifications;</i> • <i>Protection and enhancement of historic and cultural heritage – technical specifications</i> • <i>Sustainable tourism – technical specifications ;</i> • <i>Inception report CAMP Morocco -;</i> • <i>Report of the inception workshop for CAMP Central Rif (Morocco) (Chefchaouen, 29 April 2008));</i> • <i>Diagnostic analysis report on the Chefchaouen region (Morocco) - Draft-;</i> • <i>Report on the training workshop on the methodology for evaluating tourist carrying capacity);</i> • <i>Report of the training workshop on alternative scenarios methodology and environmental management tools for hotel structures ;</i> • <i>Report of the CAMP Vcentral Rif (Morocco) ICZM workshops and participatory programme);</i> • <i>Final diagnostic of the activity "sensitive cultural sites" ;</i> • <i>Potential impacts of the Souani project: proposed guidelines for mitigating the environmental impacts – Preliminary note;</i> • <i>Final diagnostic analysis of the ICZM activity;</i> • <i>Report of the ICZM workshop and sustainability analysis (AP (Al Hoceima, 8-9 April 2009).</i> <i>CAMP Slovenia:</i> • <i>MAP Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) Slovenia: Final Integrated Report. MAP Technical Report Series No. 171 prepared and disseminated</i> <i>CAMP Levante de Almeria (Spain):</i> • <i>CAMP National Coordinator selected</i> • <i>CAMP Office opened in Almeria</i> • <i>Minutes of the meeting on CAMP Spain implementation plan (Madrid, 13 May 2009)</i> • <i>Draft inception report (by October 2009)</i> • <i>Report of the inception workshop (by December 2009).</i>
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	2. ICZM methodologies/tools <i>Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)</i> <i>PlanCoast project:</i> • <i>Six national reports on current policy, procedures, legal basis and practice of marine spatial planning prepared, edited, published and disseminated (namely for the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy - Emilia-Romagna Region, Montenegro, Slovenia),</i> • <i>State of the art of coastal and maritime planning in the Adriatic region: synthesis report prepared and disseminated,</i> • <i>Contribution to the Handbook on Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning; Experience, Tools and Instruments, and Case Studies. Publication disseminated,</i> • <i>Marine Spatial Planning: A Theoretical Overview report prepared</i> • <i>Best Practice in Marine Spatial Planning: Description of Four Case Studies in Europe and Overseas report prepared,</i> • <i>Poster: Spatial planning systems in the Adriatic printed and disseminated,</i> • <i>Leaflet: Spatial Planning Systems in the Adriatic, printed and disseminated,</i> • <i>Final project report prepared.</i> <i>Other tools:</i> • <i>First draft of assessment methodologies for the ecosystem approach</i> • <i>Collaboration in the preparation of the guidelines on hazard awareness and risk mitigation in ICZM (initiated by IOC/UNESCO).</i> • <i>Participation of PAP/RAC in a series of workshops organized by EU/DG MARE on MSP.</i> 3. National ICZM reports • <i>National ICZM report on Croatia published and disseminated (expected by the end of 2009)</i> 4. Landscape management • <i>Contribution to EucaLand project on cultural landscapes (initiated by Cambridge University)</i> • <i>Draft report on a thematic study on valuation of outstanding landscapes (expected by the end 2009)</i> • <i>Draft synthesis report on thematic studies (expected by the end of 2009)</i> 5. Clearing House (CH) • <i>CH website restructured according to the ICZM Protocol structure (expected by the end of 2009)</i> 6. Financing sustainable development in coastal areas • <i>Preparation of the draft report initiated (but owing to sudden death of the responsible officer not yet completed)</i> 7. ICZM education • <i>15 students submitted their thesis for EducomMed (EU Tempus) by end September 2008</i> • <i>Basic MedOpen course constantly available on line on the PAP/RAC website</i>
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	8. SMAP • 84 participants in the Mediterranean Workshop on ICZM Policy (Alghero, Sardinia, 19-20 May 2008). • 512 registered participants in the public event on 21 May 2009 (third day of the Workshop) • Revised Project Implementation Manual • Policy paper (fiche d'orientation): La littoralisation et le développement durable (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Ministry of Land-Use Planning, Environment and Tourism) • ICZM Policy Background: Towards a Strategy for Syria's Coast • ICZM Policy Brief: Towards a Strategy for Syria's Coast • Report on the National Workshop to Promote Syria's ICZM Policy Brief (Damascus, Syria, 8 May 2008) • Policy Brief: Reducing Conflicts in the Jordanian Gulf of Aqaba • Report of the Workshop on Reducing Conflicts in the Jordanian Gulf of Aqaba: An ICZM Policy Brief (Aqaba, 18 March 2009) • Progress Report 2007-2008: Description of the tasks performed during the preparation of an ICZM Policy Brief for Jordan • Report of the first workshop on the preparation of a "National ICZM Strategy for Egypt: A Vision Workshop" (Cairo, 29 January 2009) • Report of the second workshop on the preparation of a "National ICZM Strategy for Egypt: ICZM Priorities and Objectives Workshop" (Cairo, 5 March 2009) • Report of the third workshop on the preparation of a "National ICZM Strategy for Egypt: Strategic Objectives and a Roadmap Workshop" (Cairo, 23 April 2009) • National ICZM Strategy for Egypt • Study on the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee (IMC) for integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) in Syria • Syria's Coastal Zone and its Desired Integrated Management - Proposed Vision and Policy • Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement Du Littoral (SDAL) - Cahier des charges (Master plan for coastal planning – specifications) (Algeria) • Awareness-Raising Strategy questionnaire prepared, disseminated to the countries, results included in the Strategy • ICZM Mediterranean Awareness-Raising Strategy (MARS): A Framework Strategy to Support Policy Development and Implementation (English and French) • Rapport sur la Réunion d'Information sur le Project SMAP III et sur le Protocole GIZC (Report of the information meeting on the SMAP III Project and the ICZM Protocol) (Rabat, 23 June 2008) • Sardinia Charter: Integrated Coastal Zone Management - Mediterranean Dialogue • Report of the Mediterranean Workshop on ICZM Policy (Alghero, 19-21 May 2008) • Updated Coast Day website (English and French) http://coastday.org • Press release: International Coast Day 24 October 2008 • A Call to Celebrate Coast Day in the Mediterranean (Athens, 20 October 2008) • 2007 Coast Day Campaign Report (February, 2008) • 2007 Coast Day Communications Report (February, 2008) • National 2007 Coast Day reports, prepared by national NGO partners (Coast Day Report, Syria; Coast Day Campaign in Turkey - Final Report; Final Report on the celebration of Coast Day in Nador (Morocco); Final Report on Coast Day, Algeria; Coast Day Final Report - Jordan; Coast Day in Palestine, Cyprus Coast Day
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	<i>Report and Coast Day Flyer; Coast Day Action Plan - Sardinia (prepared in 2008)</i> • <i>Report on the celebration of Coast Day 2008 in the Mediterranean (English and French)</i> • <i>Co-organization of the Final Regional Seminar: Achievements and Prospects for the Future (18-19 February 2009, Alexandria)</i> • <i>ICZM Policy Report: Summary of ICZM policy achievements in the eligible countries (expected by the end of June 2009)</i> • <i>Co-organization of and participation in the SMAP/METAP workshop on ICZM Policies in Marseille (18-19 June 2009)</i> • <i>9. Regional component of the LME Project</i> • <i>Project MoU prepared and agreed upon</i> • <i>Contribution to the preparation and collection of the letters of intent related to the ICZM component from the countries</i> • <i>Comments on two project proposals solicited by UNEP/DGEF (ICZM in Lebanon; Adaptation to climate change, ICZM and integrated water resources management (IWRM))</i> <i>10. Regional workshop on spatial planning</i> • <i>Workshop to be organized in 2010</i> <i>11. Regional training on landscape management</i> • <i>Training course to be organized once more thematic studies and the synthesis report are prepared. Expected to be held in 2010.</i> <i>Other</i> • <i>CONSCIENCE project: periodic activity reports submitted to the Lead Partner and End User Advisory Group organized</i> • <i>PEGASO project (FP7): project proposal prepared</i> • <i>Beachmed project: participation in the Final Conference</i> • <i>PAP/RAC website: 85,000 visits in 2008 (68,500 visitors); more than 7,000 visits each month</i> • <i>Mind mapping workshop: all PAP/RAC staff participated in a workshop of two half-days</i> • <i>Coastal alert: 40 alerts sent to around 100 e-mail addresses each time</i>
Final results	• <i>28 CAMP reports</i> • <i>14 workshops/conferences organized/co-organized</i> • <i>2 MoUs</i> • <i>1 Technical Report Series</i> • <i>12 reports/publications (IZCM methodologies/tools)</i> • <i>1 poster</i> • <i>1 leaflet</i> • <i>1 national ICZM report</i> • <i>1 position paper</i> • <i>15 theses submitted (EducomMed)</i> • <i>24 SMAP reports</i> • <i>7 national/local reports on Coast Day</i> • <i>1 ICZM Committee organized</i> • <i>1 National ICZM Strategy</i> • <i>7000 visits a month to the PAP/RAC website</i> • <i>40 coastal alerts</i>

Total Budget: 229,071 euro	<i>2008: 94% (budget approved €228,000; expenditures incurred €215,000)</i> <i>2009: 29% (budget approved €217,926; expenditures incurred €62,365)</i>
Main achievements 1. CAMPs: 456. CAMP is increasingly becoming a tool and a mechanism for the introduction of the ICZM Protocol requirements into practice. This has been proved in this biennium more than ever before. With the political will expressed by the Parties at their last Conference and in particular their signing of the Protocol, it has become evident that CAMP is tailored to meet these new challenges. Already during the negotiation process for the Protocol, activities were incorporated into some CAMPs in response to some of the Protocol challenges. These include, for example, the preparation of an ICZM Strategy and ICZM Law in Lebanon, and the creation and use of a mechanism for better coordination of activities in coastal areas in CAMP Slovenia. Furthermore, under CAMP Spain, although it is still at an early implementation stage, provision is being made for a Coastal Council and Coastal Forum to be established to guarantee effective coordination among stakeholders and administrative levels, as well as to improve public participation and involvement of the public in general in the decision-making process. In Cyprus, the introduction of new policies and methodologies in the planning system and in the management of coastal areas in general is another development along these lines. Finally, CAMP Italy has great potential to change this long-standing MAP programme into an ICZM Protocol implementation tool. Not only will it have many sites that will create additional challenges for the coordination of such a complex project, but also the planned activities will largely correspond to the ICZM Protocol provisions. It can be concluded that CAMP has evolved into a much-needed and practical programme that helped in the drafting and negotiation of the Protocol and has also shown its capacity for giving tangible expression to the provisions of the Protocol. More detailed information on the activities undertaken in the ongoing CAMPs during the reporting period is given below. <i>CAMP Cyprus</i> 457. The Final Presentation Conference of CAMP Cyprus took place in Nicosia on 13 June 2008. The Conference was attended by over 50 high-level participants from almost all government departments, as well as from private sector organizations and NGOs. The participants agreed that CAMP Cyprus was a successful project and that the proposals agreed on and put forward in the Summary Report presented at the Conference would meet an important need in the policy framework of Cyprus with regard to coastal management. <i>CAMP Italy</i> 458. A series of meetings was organized in order to specify details of the Feasibility Study (FS). This is the first report to be prepared showing the relevance of the CAMP and its justification in the Italian context. Several meetings were held at the Italian Ministry of Environment for the purpose of discussing the details of the Feasibility Study and the process of its preparation. This CAMP will be the first to follow the signing of the ICZM Protocol, and the first to test the Protocol provisions on the ground. It will also be specific in terms of its structure, with five sites in five regions involved in the project, and it will be a good tool to demonstrate implementation of the ICZM Protocol. This will therefore be a multi-CAMP area project that will definitely be a challenge for the coordination of the project on the one hand, and a good example of the application of the Protocol at subnational level, on the other. The CAMP Italy Feasibility Study (FS) will be prepared on the basis of regional FSs. <i>CAMP Montenegro</i> 459. The Feasibility Study for CAMP Montenegro was completed in May 2008. The FS reviewed existing laws, policies, plans and strategies; analysed institutional arrangements for coastal area management; elaborated on the ongoing initiatives and projects aiming to contribute to the sustainable development of the Montenegrin coast; sought the opinions of a wide range of stakeholders; identified needs and gaps for integrated coastal zone management in Montenegro; and proposed the CAMP area and CAMP activities, with a view to long-term sustainability of the project.	

460. All MAP components expected to take part in the project were informed about the proposed activities so that they can plan their contribution to this project. Meanwhile, Montenegro has embarked on the process of ratification of the ICZM Protocol and once this progresses to a certain stage the Agreement for the CAMP will be prepared.

CAMP Morocco

461. The project was in full swing during the reporting period, starting with the inception workshop on 29 April 2008, attended by about fifty participants. They discussed different project activities and the usefulness of the project for the Central Rif zone as well as for the entire country. The workshop was preceded by a one-day training course on ICZM. The workshop on ICZM and participatory approaches was held at M'diq from 5 to 7 January 2009. It was attended by about sixty participants. The objectives of the workshop were: (i) to present the methodological approach conducive to a preliminary diagnostic analysis and the qualification of the coastal zone of the Central Rif; (ii) to propose and select pilot actions that will demonstrate the feasibility of the ICZM process and establish the basis necessary for the success of the process launched towards sustainable development; (c) to train local-level actors in "participation and awareness-raising" tools for promoting the participatory approach within the CAMP and provide support to its activities. This workshop represented a decisive phase of CAMP Morocco, because it led to consensual decisions taken on an extremely participatory basis concerning the choice of pilot actions and elaboration of the work programme for the preparation of the management plans. The two pilot sites chosen are: Jebha, in the province of Chefchaouen, and Souani, in the province of Al Hoceima. With this, it can be considered that CAMP Morocco has entered its operational phase. A CAMP workshop to discuss the pilot area of Souani and to introduce the sustainability analysis activity and start work on the identification of sustainability indicators was organized on 8-9 April 2009. The national consultant in charge of this activity proposed an initial list of indicators that was discussed and amended by the workshop participants. The next workshops on pilot actions and on sustainability analysis will be held in October 2009. In order to save money and time, these workshops will be attached to the final workshop of the "Destinations" project. The individual project activities are to be concluded by the end of this year. For each activity a final report will be submitted with its proposal for a sustainable development and integrated management strategy. Only the Final Integrated Report and the Final Conference are scheduled for 2010.

CAMP Slovenia

462. The CAMP Slovenia project was completed in 2007 and is currently in its follow-up stage. In order to better promote and disseminate its results a MAP Technical Report Series publication (CD format) for CAMP Slovenia was finalized and disseminated to relevant project partners during 2008.

CAMP Levante de Almeria, Spain

463. Since the last Contracting Parties Meeting in Almeria (January 2008) there has been little progress in the implementation of the CAMP Levante de Almeria, Spain. The proposed General (Project) Coordinator had been nominated but took up another post following the elections in Spain. In addition, with the changes in government at the national and regional levels the responsible staff was changed and the Spanish counterpart needed much more time than expected to nominate the General (Project) Coordinator. The new Coordinator was only selected in March 2009. It was finally possible to convene a meeting (Madrid, 13 May 2009) with all relevant partners for the implementation of the project. The objective was to determine all the steps necessary to push the project forward into its implementation phase. Details concerning the preparation of the inception report and the related workshop were discussed, as were other organizational and managerial topics. The inception workshop (IW) is scheduled to take place by autumn 2009, and in the meantime the MAP components involved in this project are expected to specify their contributions. Once the IW contracts for individual activities are prepared, project implementation can start. It can therefore be confirmed that, despite some initial delay, the project will meet the requirements of the ICZM Protocol.

2. ICZM methodologies/tools

464. *Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)* PlanCoast was an INTERREG IIIB CADSES project aiming to develop tools and capacities for the effective integrated planning of coastal zones and maritime areas of the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea regions. The PlanCoast objective was to introduce a new spatial planning instrument, i.e. Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the framework of ICZM. PAP/RAC coordinated the activities in the Adriatic. Most of PAP/RAC's activities were concluded in 2007. In 2008 the reports produced were edited,

465. PAP/RAC coordinated the activities in the Adriatic. Most of PAP/RAC's activities were concluded in 2007. In 2008 the reports produced were edited, printed and disseminated. The Centre participated in the final presentation conference in Ravenna, Italy (27-29 March 2008). PAP/RAC is becoming actively involved in the development of the MSP concept as an ICZM tool at the international level. It has been particularly active in the development of MSP in the EU. The PAP/RAC Director was invited to give a presentation on the occasion of the EU Maritime Day in Rome in May 2009. Considering the importance of MSP for the implementation of the EU Maritime Policy and Marine Strategy Directive, PAP/RAC is taking a very active part in a series of workshops organized by the EU on the subject. On every occasion, the importance of the ICZM Protocol for the implementation of MSP has been emphasized.

Other

466. In collaboration with other MAP components, PAP/RAC participated in the EU-funded project on the ecosystem approach. PAP/RAC contributed in particular with the review of assessment methodologies for the ecosystem approach. The first draft was prepared and submitted.

467. The PAP/RAC Director is one of the co-authors of the Guidelines on Hazard Awareness and Risk Mitigation in ICAM that was prepared by IOC/UNESCO. Further activities for the implementation of the Guidelines in the Mediterranean are envisaged through CAMP project activities.

3. National ICZM reports

468. In the reporting period the national ICZM report for Croatia was completed, edited and prepared for publishing. No other national reports were prepared, printed or disseminated. In Egypt, the national ICZM strategy was under preparation, and for Albania a national report on current policy, procedures, legal basis and practice in marine spatial planning was prepared and printed in the framework of the PlanCoast project. This report substantially covered the field of ICZM.

4. Landscape management

469. No thematic studies applying different methodologies for landscape management or the synthesis report have been prepared in this biennium. The synthesis report on all thematic studies will be prepared once some additional landscape methodologies are elaborated.

5. Clearing House

470. The restructured Clearing House (CH) website is not yet operational. Following the adoption of the ICZM Protocol, work began on restructuring the CH, which will be transformed into a portal aimed at facilitating the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. Existing information will be updated and new components introduced to ensure consistency with the ICZM Protocol structure by the end of 2009.

6. Financing sustainable development in coastal areas

471. A position paper on the state of different methodologies used in the Mediterranean countries to finance sustainable development, including recommendations on how to improve the current approaches, has been initiated. Once completed it will present the "state of the art" in this field, as well as opportunities and constraints to be faced in the implementation of this activity. Unfortunately, on account of the sudden death of the responsible officer the report has not yet been completed.

7. ICZM education

472. The MedOpen basic course on ICZM, developed by PAP/RAC in the previous biennium (English, French, and Arabic versions), is permanently available on the Internet. In this biennium no advanced courses were planned.

473. The Educom Med programme (EC TEMPUS) was completed. Fifteen students submitted their theses by the end of September 2008. After assessment by the consortium the students are expected to be awarded their diplomas. Updating and running of the Educom@Med Programme is awaiting external financing and is to become a self-financing programme led by one of the universities involved in the project. PAP/RAC is a partner in this project and is responsible for organizing the field work, i.e. dissemination and exchange of practical experience gained in ICZM projects.

8. SMAP III

474. PAP/RAC and its partners (BP/RAC and World Bank/METAP) implemented the component "Promoting Awareness and Enabling a Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with Focus on ICZM" of this EU project. The main components of the project and its activities were the following:

Preparation and presentation of Policy Briefs for Algeria, Jordan and Syria

475. The Algerian Policy Brief was presented in a series of workshops organized by PAP/RAC and MATET (Ministry of Land-use Planning, Environment and Tourism) from 28 February to 2 March 2009. In Syria, an ICZM Policy Background and ICZM Policy Brief (Towards a Strategy for Syria's Coast) have been prepared. A workshop was organized in Damascus on 8 May 2008 to promote the Syrian ICZM Policy Brief. The Policy Brief for Jordan was also prepared by the end of 2008. The document, entitled "Reducing Conflicts in the Jordanian Gulf of Aqaba", was finalized and presented in Aqaba on 18 March 2009.

New policy measures

- National ICZM Strategy for Egypt: Following a request by the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), PAP/RAC provided assistance in the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy for Egypt. Three workshops were organized: the vision workshop (Cairo, 29 January 2009); the second workshop for National ICZM Strategy elaboration (Cairo, 5 March 2009); and the third workshop with the main objective of discussing the roadmap for strategy implementation and project follow-up (Cairo, 23 April 2009). The Strategy is the result of a consultation process among major national and regional stakeholders, and it is expected to be a tool for improved ICZM in Egypt.
- Establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee in Syria: In September 2008, a Study on the Establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Syria was prepared. In March 2009, a vision and policy for the Syrian coast until 2025 was prepared. The Inter-Ministerial Committee for ICZM will review and adopt the vision statement and take all the necessary steps to outline a new national policy on ICZM in Syria and develop a Syrian coastal strategy and action plan.
- Master plan for coastal areas of Algeria: In response to a direct request by the Minister of the Environment, assistance to the Algerian Government in the preparation of the terms of reference for the development of a master plan for coastal areas of Algeria was provided in April 2008. The activity for the development of the master plan will follow the model of a highly successful MAP CAMP project which Algeria implemented in 2002-2006.

Awareness-raising activities

- Awareness-raising Strategy: This document was prepared in April 2008. The main objective of the Strategy is to serve as a key document to enable policy-makers, the general public and the academic community to consider the benefits of ICZM and causes and costs of coastal degradation, and to present possible options for the way in which the target groups can contribute to its implementation. The Strategy was built upon a survey questionnaire and includes six work packages and a general implementation work programme.
- Presentation of the ICZM Protocol: During the project, a number of national workshops to discuss the implementation of the Mediterranean ICZM Protocol were organized in the project countries, an example being that held on 23 June 2008 in Morocco, attended by a total of 38 participants.

ICZM policy workshop

PAP/RAC, in collaboration with the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy), organized a Mediterranean Workshop on ICZM Policy. The workshop was held in Alghero, Sardinia, on 19-21 May 2008. It was attended by 84 participants, including high-level policy-makers from different Ministries of SMAP-eligible countries. The "Sardinia Charter", aiming to promote the local-level ICZM network, was discussed and adopted. On the third day, a public event took place in which a total of 512 people participated. About 70 posters and other promotional materials were presented, including films, a television spot, live broadcasts and photos. A special website was set up for the workshop.

Coast Day 2008

- The 2008 Coast Day was celebrated in the week of 24 - 31 October. The celebration took place in number of countries, such as Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Jordan, Montenegro, Morocco, Italy, Tunisia and Turkey. For the use of national and regional media a press release was prepared. In 2008, three national Coast Day Ambassadors were nominated in Croatia, jointly by UNDP-Croatia and PAP/RAC. These were the sailing team members of the 49er class that represented Croatia in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. They were chosen as representatives of a sport that stands for environmental awareness, but also for their altruism, fair play and solidarity as demonstrated during the Olympic Games in Beijing.
- Promotional items: A number of promotional items produced in 2007 were also used during the 2008 Coast Day campaign. These included bookmarks, stickers and leaflets in English, French and Arabic, as well as a television advertisement that was broadcast on some national television stations.
- Coast Day website: The campaign's website (www.coastday.org) is being regularly updated.

Project concluding seminars

- *Final Regional Seminar: The Final Regional Seminar: Achievements and Prospects for the Future took place on 18-19 February 2009 in Alexandria, Egypt. More than 160 participants attended the seminar.*
- *Final METAP and PAP/RAC workshop: METAP plans to organize a final workshop on ICZM policies that is expected to take place in Marseille by the end of June 2009. The results of the project partners will be presented and prospects for policy implementation discussed.*

9. Regional component of LME Project

476. The planned activities have not started yet. However, in the preparatory phase of the project, PAP/RAC provided assistance to MEDU in collecting letters of intent relating to the implementation of the ICZM component from eligible countries. PAP/RAC also provided comments on two project proposals in this framework, namely for the ICZM project in Lebanon and the project on adaptation to climate change using ICZM and IWRM.

10. Regional workshop on spatial planning

477. A regional workshop to propose measures to improve spatial planning in Mediterranean coastal areas has been postponed, for two reasons. First, the initiatives for maritime spatial planning in the framework of an EU Directive are still at too premature a stage for any final agreements and solutions. This is very much linked to spatial planning in coastal zones in general, and until it becomes clear that maritime spatial planning and land-use planning in coastal zones are complementary and closely related components irrespective of the responsibilities for their implementation, PAP/RAC feels it is premature to initiate this activity. Second, some financial resources were transferred for the organization of ICZM Protocol activities, in particular the meeting on the Action Plan for Protocol implementation. This activity will be organized once the above reasons are no longer an obstacle, most likely in the next biennium.

11. Regional training on landscape management

478. The training course to introduce various methodologies for landscape management has not yet been organized. As soon as some more thematic studies on landscape management tools and methodologies are prepared and the synthesis report on all thematic studies is ready, the preparation of the training course will commence. The course is expected to be held in 2010.

12. Other

479. In addition to the regular and approved work programme PAP/RAC participated as a partner in a number of projects that were very closely linked to its core activities. In most cases they were complementary, either through additional activities that could otherwise not take place to such an extent, or by providing additional financial resources and bringing experience from other regions/countries to the Mediterranean context. Examples of such projects include:

CONSCIENCE (FP6 Project)

480. PAP/RAC is a partner in the project implemented under the EU FP6, with Delft Hydraulics (now Deltares), Netherlands, as the lead partner. Its strategic objective was to develop and test concepts, guidelines and tools for the sustainable management of erosion along the European coastline. PAP/RAC participated in a number of meetings organized in this framework and is entrusted with the organization and management of the End-User Advisory Group. The task of the Group is to test the project results.

PEGASO (FP7 Project)

481. PAP/RAC is one of the partners in the 24-member consortium led by the Autonomous University of Barcelona that has been involved in the preparation of the project. The project's full title is "People for Ecosystem Based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and Coast", PEGASO for short. The project has been designed to bring the science and end-user communities relevant to the Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins together, to develop collaboratively a robust, relevant and easy-to-use set of sustainability tools. The key outcome of the work will be the building of new, joint ICZM governance mechanisms able to better support the implementation of existing and future policies affecting both the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. PAP/RAC has prepared the Work Package on the Shared ICZM Governance Platform for the Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins. The Governance Platform has the objective, among others, of facilitating the implementation of regional legal instruments, such as the ICZM Protocol. The project has been given very high marks by the evaluators, and it is almost certain that it will be approved for financing in June 2009. Some activities for its implementation have already started. Implementation is expected in the biennium to come.

BEACHMED

482. The Beachmed-e project was concluded with the Final Conference that took place in Rome on 29-31 May 2008. This project was a Regional Framework Operation co-financed by the INTERREG IIIC programme. PAP/RAC participated as a project partner in this initiative owing to its expertise and experience in coastal erosion. PAP/RAC contributed to the conference with the presentation and discussion of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean. Prior to the conference PAP/RAC finalized the summary and extended reports of the Beachmed sub-project 3.2. Concerted actions, tools and criteria for the implementation of ICZM in the Mediterranean. The purpose of these reports was integration of the results of the questionnaire surveys conducted in the four regions of the project by seven sub-project partners.

PAP/RAC website

483. A new design and restructuring of the PAP/RAC website in 2007 yielded an impressive growth in the number of visits that is continuing in this biennium. There were 85,000 visits in 2008 (68,500 individual visitors) which makes more than 7,000 visits each month. The highest number of visits was recorded in June 2008, almost 9,000. In March 2009 the number of visits was 7,400. In 2007 the number of visits was 64,300 (slightly less than 5,400 a month).

Mind mapping workshop

484. A training session on an innovative tool for better planning and organizing projects was organized for the PAP/RAC staff. The aim was to contribute to more effective management of ICZM projects in general, and to have better visibility, transparency and exchange of information on and among projects in the Centre.

Coastal Alert

485. Every fortnight the Coastal Alert is sent to more than 100 addresses in the Mediterranean. Summaries of relevant ICZM articles (four at a time) from various scientific resources are compiled. Links to complete papers are also provided. The French version of the service is expected to be available soon.

Constraints and lessons learned

486. Common constraints and lessons learned can be summarized as follows:

- Unexpected delays are experienced, usually at the start of CAMP project implementation, due to administrative procedures in the countries concerned. These may be related to the nomination of coordinators, national experts and the like, and result in the redistribution and re-planning of the use of MAP resources. Sometimes delays occur as a consequence of natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes. In both instances there is little PAP/RAC can do but encourage responsible counterparts to 'speed up' the process. There was also a certain lack of commitment to harmonized actions with respect to the implementation of some of the CAMP activities where other RACs were involved. This is due to different priorities among the RACs that result in less concerted effort and involvement in the project. An example of this is the different timing of contracts for joint activities, thus causing delays.
- Several activities had to be postponed to the next biennium. This was due to the lack of adequate funds earmarked for activities related to the ICZM Protocol. Since it was adopted only after the approval of the 2008-2009 budget, only modest resources could be allocated for that purpose at the time. However, the need was felt to start activities towards the implementation of the Protocol as soon as possible, with the result that some rearrangement of the budget was necessary.

PAP/RAC has received constant invitations to be a partner in a number of projects proposed for financing, generally to various EU funding sources. This is a positive trend, and the rate of success in seeking additional resources is comparatively good. Every effort is being made to ensure that these project proposals conform to the activities of the core PAP/RAC programme, in particular the implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

487. With the adoption of the ICZM Protocol and given global developments in environmental science theory there is a constant need expressed by a majority of Mediterranean countries for continued assistance in promoting and introducing new tools, methodologies, mechanisms and instruments for practical implementation of the ICZM. Countries regularly send requests for assistance from PAP/RAC in all these fields, and this mandate has been upgraded by the Protocol itself. Countries should therefore be encouraged to promote ICZM tools and methodologies and to use the opportunities and resources that are at their disposal in MAP and PAP/RAC in particular.

5.2 Integrating environment and development

Objective 3	To assist the Mediterranean States in the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), in particular Chapter 2.7 related to coastal zones, and to help them develop tools for the integration of priority sectoral objectives into development policies.
Expected outputs	1. MSSD SEA and EIA studies; local management in coastal areas; and development of methodology for island coastal management plans as assistance to countries in implementing MSSD 2. "Destinations" (LIFE) project Strategies for tourism development in the three pilot areas, and creation of three demonstration centres (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) in the framework of "Destinations" 3. CCA for tourism Regional training course (TC) on implementation of the Guidelines for CCA for sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean; Report of the TC 4. National Focal Points meeting Report of the meeting; final proposal for the work programme for the next biennium
MAP components and/or other partners involved	MAP components within their fields of expertise PAP/RAC activities within its mandate National counterparts, as appropriate Other United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNEP)
Indicators/ achievements	1. MSSD: Water resources • Guidelines on "Integrated Coastal Urban Water System Planning in Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean" Volume 1 and Volume 2 in English and French, edited, printed and disseminated • Contribution to the Mediterranean session at 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul 2. "Destinations" (LIFE) project • Analysis of the Moroccan project area; • Report of the meeting of the Tunisian Steering Committee of the "Destinations" project (Korba, 29 January 2008); • CCA for the development of tourism in Mediterranean coastal zones – guideline document; • Diagnostic report on the Algerian pilot zone; • Report on the pilot tourist venue selected for eco-labelling; • Report on the initial CCA of the two pilot venues selected: Hôtel "Mohamed V" and "Chaffarinas Beach" tourist complex; • Report of the training workshop on tourism CCA methodology (Korba, 23 - 24 April 2008); • Report of the second meeting of the Steering Committee (Rabat, 2 June 2008); • Report of the training workshop on tourism CCA methodology (Al Hoceima, 3-4 June 2008); • Environmental management in the tourism sector: selected texts; • Report of the training workshops on the methodology of alternative scenarios and environmental management tools for hotel structures (M'Diq, 21-23 octobre 2008); • Report of the training workshops on the methodology of alternative scenarios and environmental management tools for hotel structures (Korba, 11-12 November 2008); • Guidelines for sustainable investments in tourism: working document (January 2009);

	• <i>Report of the training workshops on the methodology of alternative scenarios and environmental management tools for hotel structures (Sidi Fredj, 28 February – 2 March 2009);</i> • <i>Environmental assessment of the Corne d'Or pilot structure in Tipasa;</i> • <i>Report of the third meeting of the Steering Committee (Tunis, 13 March 2009).</i> 3. CCA for tourism • <i>Publication "Handbook on Sustainable Tourism in Coastal Zones: The ICZM Approach" (in co-operation with UNEP)</i> • <i>Report of the seminar "Coastal Tourism in the Mediterranean: Adapting to Climate Change" (Cagliari, 8-10 June 2009)</i> 4. National Focal Points meeting • <i>Organization of the joint meeting of National Focal Points (NFPs)</i> • <i>Progress report and final proposal for the work programme prepared and disseminated</i> • <i>Report of the NFPs meeting</i>
Final results	• <i>7 workshops/conferences</i> • <i>16 reports</i> • <i>3 publications</i>
Total Budget:	2008: 55% (budget approved €33,000; expenditures incurred €18,000) 2009: 8% (budget approved €39,000; expenditures incurred €3,000)
Main achievements 1. MSSD <i>Water resources</i> • PAP/RAC has published the Guidelines on "Integrated Coastal Urban Water System Planning in Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean" in English and French, and distributed them to the interested parties. While there is much information and guidance about separate urban water management tasks, the issue of integration was the main gap these guidelines sought to bridge. The coastal urban water system is addressed as a whole, and explicit guidance is provided for its integrated management and planning, taking into account the particular features of Mediterranean coastal urban settlements. The Guidelines are divided into two volumes: Volume I presents the principles and planning for urban water system management, while Volume II presents the most important instruments and tools. • 5th World Water Forum: PAP/RAC played a very active role, together with IME and Blue Plan, in the preparation of the Mediterranean session during the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009. The PAP/RAC Director chaired the sub-session on Coastal Development and Water Resources Management. He was also invited to moderate the Ministerial Session on Coastal Zones, which was chaired by the Spanish Minister of the Environment, H.E. Ms. Elena Espinoza.	

2. Destinations (LIFE) project:

488. Following the initial phase of the establishment of the diagnostic analysis, the "Destinations" project entered the phase related to the carrying capacity assessment (CCA) for tourism. This phase of the project includes the reinforcement of national capacities to apply the CCA method through the organization of training courses in the project area. To that end, two training courses were held in 2008, preceded by field work to demonstrate in practice the participatory approach adopted under the project. The first was held at Korba (Tunisia) on 23 April 2008, and the second at Al Hoceima (Morocco) on 3-4 June 2008. The second series of workshops started with the workshops on alternative scenarios for tourism development and environmental management tools in the tourism sector. Three workshops were held: in Morocco (M'Diq, 21-23 October 2008), Tunisia (Korba, 11-12 November 2008) and Algeria (Sidi Fredj, 28 February - 2 March 2009). During these workshops, participants became familiar with local and national actors' views on tourism development in their areas. Tunisia and Morocco, which have advanced well with the work on tourism development strategies for their project areas, organized the third and last workshop provided for under the project to discuss the strategies proposed with national and local stakeholders.

489. In parallel with the work on tourism development strategies, an activity is being conducted to prepare files for obtaining the EC eco-label for selected hotels in all three countries. Guidelines are also being developed for tourism investors in order to help assess the sustainability of their investments in coastal zones in terms of environmental risks.

490. The International Jury of the "Energy Globe Award 2007" judged the "Destinations" project the national award-winner for Algeria. The project was chosen from among a total of 853 projects from 109 nations. The award ceremony was held at the European Parliament in Brussels, on 26 May 2008. The national awards were presented by high-ranking representatives of the European Parliament.

491. All project activities have to be completed by 1 December 2009. These are:

- detailed elaboration of alternative scenarios and choice of the optimum scenario in Algeria (mid-May 2009);
- proposal for a tourism development strategy for the Algerian project area and organization of a workshop to discuss this strategy (June 2009);
- preparation of the final version of the integrated tourism development strategies in three project countries (June - September 2009);
- organization of final presentation meetings in three countries (October - November 2009);
- organization of the final conference in Morocco (end November 2009).

3. CCA for tourism

Handbook on Sustainable Tourism in Coastal Zones: The ICZM Approach

492. At the invitation of UNEP/DTIE, Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, PAP/RAC prepared a Handbook on Sustainable Tourism in Coastal Areas: The ICZM Approach. The main objective of the Handbook is to promote sustainable use of resources in coastal areas by focusing on sustainable tourism planning and management. More specifically, it aims to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas; to promote the participatory management approach among operational stakeholders in the tourism sector; to enrich the operational capacity of institutions and people dealing with tourism development and/or coastal area management, in the private tourism sector and at the local authority/government level; and to raise awareness about the importance of sustainability and integrated management in the planning and management of tourism activities in coastal areas. The Handbook is one of the first attempts to use the ICZM framework for a specific sector and to produce a practical manual to be used by planners and managers. Efficient implementation of the Mediterranean ICZM Protocol will require the availability of this kind of document. The draft guide was widely distributed to the participants of the "Destinations" project workshops in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Once published it will be disseminated throughout the Mediterranean basin and worldwide.

Seminar: "Coastal Tourism in the Mediterranean: Adapting to Climate Change"

493. PAP/RAC, UNEP (Division of Technology, Industry and Economy) and WTO are jointly organizing a seminar entitled "Coastal Tourism in the Mediterranean: Adapting to Climate Change" that will take place in Cagliari, Italy on 8-10 June 2009. It is designed for decision makers and tourism experts with the aim of assisting them in pro-actively addressing the issue of climate change and tourism. The three-day seminar will address these issues under the umbrella of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), the purpose being to provide information about the issues at stake and about principles and tools for dealing with them. More specifically, it will include an overview of how climate change has already affected tourism in the Mediterranean and will affect it in the future. Scenarios of changing tourist flows in the context of climate change and climate policy will be presented. New and innovative planning tools for decision makers and tourism experts will be discussed and utilized by the participants. The strategic planning procedure will incorporate the CCA methodology. The training seminar will show how a specific methodology/tool like CCA could be used to solve a strategic issue such as adaptation to climate change. This activity is a substitute for a CCA training course planned in 2008 and postponed to 2009. The event will facilitate synergies and collaboration between participants and promote networking to support sustainable tourism initiatives in the Mediterranean.

Constraints and lessons learned

494. The funding situation greatly restricted the level of activity in the field of integrating environment and development and implementation of MSSD. However, since this is considered an important part of the PAP programme of work, additional, external sources were sought, with some measure of success. Work on these projects is progressing well. Under the "Destinations" project, implementation progressed very well in Morocco and Tunisia. Overall, far less progress was made in Algeria in 2008, but after the intervention by the Algerian Minister the situation was resolved satisfactorily. Some organizational difficulties were also caused by the unresolved status of INFO/RAC which is a project partner.

495. Countries should be encouraged to continue with the implementation of MSSD and with specific aspects for which PAP/RAC could provide technical assistance, such as water resources management in coastal areas and sustainable tourism development planning utilizing the carrying capacity assessment methodology.

Joint Meeting of the Focal Points of PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and INFO/RAC

496. The joint meeting of the Focal Points of PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and INFO/RAC was held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 25-27 May 2009. The report of the meeting is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.337/Inf.9.

6. Environment and development (Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre– (BP/RAC))

6.1 Mediterranean Information System on Environment and Sustainable Development (MISESD)

Main goal: *To improve knowledge of the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean through the establishment of an interactive information system, in cooperation with INFO/RAC and the other MAP components*

Objective	<i>To consolidate the Mediterranean Information System on Environment and Sustainable Development (MISESD) so as to make it easily accessible to all interested individuals or entities through a web interface.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Consolidated information system (statistical database and geographical information system) Web interface for data and indicators</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>Blue Plan, Coordinating Unit, INFO/RAC, MED POL and the other RACs for the system as a whole Blue Plan, INFO/RAC for the development, including the web interface</i>
Indicators/achievements	<i>Date of updating Volume of data Geographical coverage Temporal coverage Number of inquiries Number of links with other websites</i>
Final results	<i>It will only be possible to specify indicators following the current development phase</i>
Total budget: 100,000 euro	<i>Spent/committed: 47%</i>
Main achievements 497. In accordance with the Contracting Parties' decisions taken in Almeria in January 2008, Blue Plan has continued to build up its information system, launching the development phases of the Mediterranean Information System on the Environment and Sustainable Development (MISESD). 498. The MISESD has been designed as a flexible multi-source system, which is constantly fed with three types of information: 1) <i>geographical information;</i> 2) <i>statistical data;</i> 3) <i>metadata (information about the data).</i> 499. Following up on the conclusions of the inaugural meeting of the MAP Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) in February, BP/RAC and INFO/RAC drew up a joint proposal in March for a MISESD development project, in accordance with the requirement laid down in the MAP Governance Paper. 500. This development project was presented at the second meeting of the ECP in Malta in late May, 2008. In conjunction with INFO/RAC, the Blue Plan established: • A static model of the web interface, presented in PowerPoint form (September 2008); • A dynamic model of the web interface, showing the interactive queries in the graphs and maps library and preparing for the development of the V.O.2 version of the system prototype including, according to the terms of reference, the graphic chart of the site, the server application, the data base management system and the navigation system (October 2008); • A system design document (December 2008).	

501. The MISESD was presented to a workshop for members of ICAN (International Coastal Atlas Network) within a broader event- the international EEA Conference on Coastal Atlas Development- organized by EEA in Copenhagen in July.

502. Its effective implementation was contingent on the release of INFO/RAC funds.. Following the launching of the prototype phase on 18 June 2008, INFO/RAC has developed:

- A system design paper;
- A static model of the web interface in the form of a PowerPoint presentation;
- A dynamic model of the web interface presenting interactive inquiries in libraries of images and maps and preparing the development of version V.0.2 (including, in accordance with the terms of reference, the graphic plan of the site, the server application, the database management system and the navigation system).

503. The test phase is based on data on water in the Mediterranean basin, which have been updated.

504. The system has been developed using Plone (described as a powerful and ergonomic system for the management of content) so that it is compatible with all the developments of the MAP information system (INFO/MAP, combining the MAP reporting system and the information systems of the various components).

Constraints and lessons learned

505. INFO/RAC's work schedule and financial difficulties prevented the development of MISESD according to the envisaged timetable.

506. In collaboration with INFO/RAC, implement the existing elements and accelerate the development of the system in 2009.

507. Strengthen coordination of the various systems that are currently been developed for MAP and its components.

6.2 Report on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region (RESO), communication and dissemination

Objective 1	<i>To publish every two years before the Meeting of the Contracting Parties a Report on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region (RESO) in response to the need of the Contracting Parties for regular information</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Regional report containing:</i> - <i>an analysis of the most salient facts and the progress achieved in Mediterranean countries, including the state of the environment</i> - <i>a thematic section assessing the situation with regard to a major issue in the Mediterranean, with an analysis of the challenges to be met</i> - <i>statistics and indicators</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>Blue Plan, Coordinating Unit, MED POL and other RACs</i>
Indicators/achievements	<i>Report published and submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties</i>
Final results	<i>The next report will be published in 2009</i>

Total budget:	<i>Spent/committed: NA</i>
Main achievements 508. In conformity with the conclusions of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Almeria, in 2008, the steering of the State of the Environment report was entrusted to Blue Plan in coordination with all the RACs. The first summary draft report was submitted, discussed and validated by the 3rd Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) in 2008. The chapters of the report were entrusted to the various RACs according to their own fields of competence. In order to ensure the homogeneity of contributions, Blue Plan has prepared a guide for the use of authors detailing the rules on the structure and the expected length of each contribution, as well as the organizational elements concerning access to the data of reference and the preparation of illustrations. 509. Authors were asked to articulate their contributions around 6 key questions worded in simple language (for the layman rather than the expert). The answers to those questions aim at describing the current situation and the developments in the last 10 years and should be based, as much as possible, on the documented indicators of the MSSD. The tables containing the annual values for the indicators and of the data used for the calculations, by country or area, will constitute the bulk of the Annex on "statistics" of the report. 510. The summary draft report, as validated by the ECP, is organized around 6 parts (introduction, climate change and its impacts, natural resources and habitats, environmental protection and quality of life, economic activities and sustainability of development, civil society and a statistics Annex). One main author responsible for each chapter was identified with additional specialized contributions on specific sectors (based on good practices). 511. Most of the contributions expected (14 out of 22) have been transmitted to Blue Plan. 512. Work on the prototype of the report has also been launched with the preparation of the outline of the document and the desktop publishing of a test chapter. It is a report in A4 format, with the text in two columns. As to the visual aspect, it was decided to use one colour per chapter and sober graphics in the illustrations. Photographs in the beginning of each section will also be used.	
Constraints and lessons learned 513. The preparation of this report involves significant coordination in order to ensure the coherence of its content and presentation.	

Objective 2	<i>To report on the progress achieved by documenting the MSSD indicators through regional studies indicating the situation of the Mediterranean region as a whole and of the different Mediterranean States</i>
Expected outputs	- Documentation of priority indicators for the MSSD - Development of additional indicators to evaluate better the practical implementation of the commitments of the Parties - Attempt to classify the performance of countries in the implementation of the MSSD provisions.
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>Blue Plan, Coordinating Unit, MED POL and other RACs</i>
Indicators/achievements	
Total budget:	<i>Spent/committed:</i>

Main achievements

Evaluating progress towards sustainable development

514. Blue Plan activities related to the sustainable development indicators in the Mediterranean 2007 had a dual thrust:

- Using the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) indicators as tools to monitor sustainable development;
- Creating and implementing methods to measure States' overall performance on sustainable development.

515. Thus, in the first half of 2007, data sheets were drawn up for 20 of the MSSD's 34 priority indicators which could be filled in using international sources. They were presented at the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development's (MCSD) meeting in May 2007 and subsequently uploaded onto Blue Plan's website. Moreover, the information provided by five volunteer states (Morocco, Italy, Malta, Israel and Lebanon) made it possible to estimate the level of accessibility of data required to complete the priority indicators when such data is not available from international sources.

516. Blue Plan also continued its selection and definition of complementary indicators for four of the MSSD's seven priority areas of action; water, coastal areas, tourism and rural development:

- The « Water » indicators were filled in within the framework of specific national studies and cooperation with the SEMIDE covering Morocco, Cyprus, Tunisia and France made it possible to get a better grasp of the means for producing priority indicators;
- As far as the coasts are concerned, the 33 indicators selected in December 2006 were tested on several critical areas in the Mediterranean. Blue Plan furthered its cooperation on this theme with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its Barcelona-based European thematic centre (ETC-LUSI).
- An experts meeting was held in June 2007 on the « tourism » indicators, following which 21 complementary indicators were chosen. They will be tested and completed in 2008;
- finally, 22 « rural » indicators were chosen and defined, which will be filled out and analysed within national and regional studies conducted in cooperation with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

517. Picking up on the post2007 discussions about measuring the overall performance of Mediterranean countries towards sustainable development, in conjunction with the CEFI the Blue Plan worked out an econometric method to facilitate the evaluation of indicator weightings and subsequently raised the initial results for discussion. By lack of robustness, there has been no specific publication of this work, which was presented to the steering committee at its meeting in Sophia-Antipolis in June 2008.

518. Blue Plan took part in the meetings of the Horizon 2020 initiative's « Monitoring » sub-group and, in conjunction with MEDPOL and the other RACs, it drew up a set of specific indicators, which was presented in October in Athens. These indicators are currently awaiting approval before the European bodies.

519. Blue Plan was also invited to assist in drawing up projects relating to indicators, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and the Imagine method. Following the Contracting Parties' decision IG 17/3, Blue Plan also further pursued its cooperation with MEDU and the RACs on the MAP Reporting Format, particularly as concerns the selection of indicators to measure how effectively the countries are implementing the Barcelona Convention protocols.

Sustainable development performance monitoring for Mediterranean States

520. With the aim of producing and regularly circulating a classification of the Mediterranean States according to the progress they have made towards sustainable development objectives, Blue Plan has begun research and multi-criteria analysis work.

521. This work is based on the MSSD's 34 follow-up indicators, completed directly when the data is available (20 of them), and otherwise replaced by equivalent or substitute data. 522. It requires « profiles » to be defined, which are intended to act as a reference for the comparative analysis process and endeavours to provide the indicators with a weighting coefficient related to the extent of their impact on the quality of life and the environment (work conducted in conjunction with the CEFI-University of the Mediterranean). 523. On the strength of the first results, a first countries classification may be proposed regarding their performance in terms of sustainable development. But the robustness of these results remains inadequate and complementary work is considered necessary before planning a publication.
Constraints and lessons learned 524. The main constraint concerning the documentation of indicators is still the lack of solidity of the data collected and the gaps often encountered. This would advocate for continuing the efforts to reinforce the national information systems. 525. Concerning the classification of the overall performance of countries in terms of sustainable development, the main concern is still the methodological difficulty to develop a synthesis indicator which is both simple and recognized and accepted by all actors involved.

Objective 3	<i>To integrate climate change in MAP's programme of work and to identify the sectors to be focused upon.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>To characterize the Mediterranean region on the basis of climate change and to identify the main impacts on the region.</i> <i>To put the accent on Mediterranean consultation with regard to climate change</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>The Parties: data, national experts, case studies; Blue Plan: set of indicators, regional experts, organization of workshops, dissemination of findings</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Number of indicators and countries covered, number of individuals and institutions interested in the report, number of surveys launched at the national level to remedy data gaps</i>
Final results	<i>Preparatory phase: an assessment has been undertaken of international and intercity transport in the Mediterranean region</i>
Total budget: 100,000 euro	<i>Spent/committed: NA</i>

Main achievements

526. Following the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria whose ministerial segment, introduced by Blue Plan, was dedicated to climate change, Blue Plan has selected three types of cross-cutting activities during the period:

- The drafting of a background note summing up the current scientific state of play- « The Mediterranean- a hot spot for climate change » - and the preparation of several presentations used at various events to illustrate its most salient points: Climate Change Simulations in Athens in May, the PARMENIDES seminar in Paris in June, the AZAD University seminar in Valetta in July, and the Sustainable Consumption seminar in Barcelona in November.
- Participation in various expert groups on indicators of the impact of climate change at French level (MISE / ONERC group) and at European level (European Environment Agency group, Copenhagen and Szentendre meetings) and the shaping of research programmes (PREDIT in particular).
- The preparation and holding of the Marseilles seminar on climate change in the Mediterranean on 22 and 23 October.

527. In parallel, Blue Plan has piloted the elaboration of a 5-year programme common to all MAP centres in the climate change field. Adoption of this programme will be proposed to Parties during their November 2009 meeting.

528. At the sectoral level, Blue Plan has initiated a study on the theme of "Water and Climate Change in the Mediterranean". Programmed over three years, this study is intended to enhance knowledge about the foreseeable impact of climate change on resources and the Mediterranean countries' water demand for 2050 and 2100, to update the Blue Plan's prospective scenarios in order to inform players and decision-makers, and to promote measures for adapting to climate change, including water demand management measures. In 2008 a state-of-the-art study and a summary of the knowledge available and work conducted at national and regional level on the « water and climate change » issue were initiated. Work was also carried out on the theme of "water, energy and climate change": a regional study on desalination in the Mediterranean, the launch of two national studies in Egypt and Morocco and the holding of a "Mediterranean" session within the framework of the international symposium on "Resolving the water energy nexus" (UNESCO, Paris, November 2008).

529. In parallel, Blue Plan conducted a regional study on « Energy and climate change in the Mediterranean » with financial backing from the European Investment Bank. Through reviewing the literature, existing studies by Blue Plan and other multilateral financial institutions and some specific new analyses, the study:

- updates information on the climate change scenarios for the region;
- evaluates specific measures and estimates the economic cost of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, especially CO₂ from the production and consumption of energy;
- evaluates the needs, scope, cost and benefits of alternative adaptation scenarios, insofar as climate change is already inevitable.

530. This study, as well as the Blue Plan work which preceded it and subsequently progressed alongside it on these themes, succeeded in evidencing possible climate change in the Mediterranean and its effects, characterizing the region's energy systems and identifying and quantifying low CO₂ emission scenarios likely to put the region in a position to contribute to the mitigation of climate change. It has shown that energy efficiency has to be at the very heart of adaptation strategies.

531. The work was also presented at a "Climate Change" seminar held by Blue Plan in Marseille on 22 and 23 October.

532. Blue Plan presented its work at several World Bank events, at the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum in Brussels in October, at the Tunis Energy Efficiency Seminar organized by the World Bank in November, and during the "Energia 2008" Fair, which took place in Montpellier from 9 to 12 December 2008. A presentation to MEDITEP and an experts' workshop are also planned for spring 2009.

533. These activities are being furthered in 2009 through the detailed analysis of five key issues relating both to adaptation to climate change and to energy, which were identified in the 2008 study

Constraints and lessons learned

534. Climate change, even though it lies at the heart of challenges for sustainable development in the region, was not highlighted in the Barcelona Convention or its Protocols, with the exception of the ICZM Protocol recently signed by the Parties. It was the position of MAP on this theme and the relevant actions by the various Centres which were one of the main questions discussed by the ECP Meeting.

6.3 Thematic activities

Main goal: *To produce information which facilitates the implementation and follow-up of the MSSD in thematic fields and encourages the establishment of proactive sustainable development strategies and the implementation of the respective policies by demonstrating the economic, environmental and social benefits related to sustainable development.*

Objective 1	<i>Sustainable agriculture and rural development:</i> <i>(a) to report on the progress achieved by documenting the MSSD indicators through regional studies indicating the situation of the Mediterranean region as a whole in relation, on the one hand, to the objectives of the MSSD and, on the other, to the rest of the world, based on an analysis of the establishment and implementation of sustainable development policies and programmes in certain countries, supported by tangible examples of good practices (case studies), and of the background for international cooperation for sustainable rural development (regional cooperation, development aid);</i> <i>(b) to promote the exchange of experience at the regional level through the organization of workshops to discuss and finalize a regional report covering local sustainable rural development policies, programmes and activities;</i> <i>(c) to prepare regional studies/analyses, national reports, case studies, and to make recommendations on the progress to be made to achieve the strategic objectives at both the national and regional levels.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Indicators, regional analyses, national reports, case studies, a regional report, recommendations</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>The Parties: data, national experts, case studies; Blue Plan and the CIHEAM: sets of indicators, regional experts, organization of workshops, dissemination of findings</i>
Indicators/achievements	<i>Number of institutional partners associated; Number of countries participating in the analysis of indicators; Number of national reports, regional analyses and case studies carried out; Number of participants in workshops and seminars</i>
Final results	<i>Over 25 institutional partners: CIHEAM, MAI Montpellier, MAI Bari, INRA, French, Moroccan and Serbian Ministries of Agriculture, Universities of Cordoba (Spain), Tirana (Albania) and Thessalonica (Greece), Turkish Seed Industry Association, INAT Tunisia, National Institute of Agrarian Economy (Italy), Sahara and Sahel Observatory, IHEID (Switzerland), EEA, UNEP, World Bank, FAO, FIPA through CIA Italy, AFD, Friends of the Earth Europe, Mednet (Belgium), Agenda 21 Italy, League for the Environment (Italy), AIFM.</i>

	<i>11 countries participated in the study of indicators and 11 national reports: Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Greece, France, Italy, Morocco, Serbia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.</i> <i>4 regional studies:</i> <i>Taking land use into account in rural development policies in the Mediterranean</i> <i>Agriculture and climate change in the Maghreb</i> <i>Management of common land in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean</i> <i>Economic aspects of desertification</i>
Total budget :	<i>Spent/committed: 90%</i>
Main achievements 535. In 2008, Blue Plan has taken a more in-depth look at the MSSD priority area of "Agriculture and sustainable rural development". 536. Picking up on the work begun in 2007 both as part of the follow-up to agricultural and rural development activities under the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and in connection with CIHEAM, in 2008 the Blue Plan's main work was in preparing for and holding an international workshop as well as assisting with the drafting and preparation of the Mediterra 2009 publication. 537. Based on all of the 11 national studies, the 4 regional ones produced in 2007 including the available MSSD indicators, and the analyses and comments from the Steering Committee in charge of the studies, an international experts' workshop was held from 8 to 10 May 2008 in Bari, in partnership with CIHEAM and the IAM-Bari. It had a dual aim: • To draw up recommendations for decision-makers in Mediterranean countries towards greater account being taken of the environment and the concept of sustainability in agricultural and rural development policies and • To prepare material for CIHEAM's next publication- Mediterra 2009. 538. The workshop was attended by some forty participants from around twenty institutions including FAO, the World Bank, UNDP, EEA, AFD, IFAP, IHEID, OSS, the French and Moroccan Ministries of Agriculture, the Universities of Cordoba (Spain), Tirana (Albania) and Thessaly (Greece), the Turkish seed industry association, INAT Tunisia, the Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria, (Italy), etc. Against the backdrop of a food and energy crisis, the discussions confirmed the importance of placing agricultural and rural development issues back at the top of the political agenda, and the relevance of taking a « Mediterranean » tack on matters such as reducing territorial disparities, locally rooting rural development policies, adapting public intervention structures, beefing up agricultural policies and legal provisions on preserving natural resources, adapting to climate change, successfully marrying scientific knowledge and local know-how and community training. The recommendations resulting from this workshop will be presented to the 13th Meeting of the MCSD. 539. In close coordination with CIHEAM, this analysis and work gave rise to the basic outlines of the forthcoming CIHEAM publication- Mediterra 2009- this particular edition of which has been produced in partnership with Blue Plan, and which has been published in 5 languages in April 2009 by Sciences Po Press. It comprises the four regional studies either in-extenso or in condensed form, as well as the analysis and regional summary of the various national studies in terms of the components of sustainable development, an analysis of rural development policies and MSSD implementation in the Mediterranean states. A specific chapter on the MSSD's rural development indicators takes stock of the state of knowledge and the difficulties identified. 540. Thus over the second half of 2008, the Blue Plan drafted chapters 1 « Towards development tailored to natural resources », 2 « Agriculture and water resources in the Mediterranean », 6 « Living in the rural environment », 11 « Assessment of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development in the field of agriculture and sustainable development », and the chapter on indicators (chapter 10).	

541. As a member of CIHEAM's Board, Blue Plan also attended the meeting of the ministers of agriculture and fisheries of the CIHEAM Member States, and in early 2008 spoke in this framework about the sustainable management of water resources and agricultural production in the Mediterranean basin.

542. At the request of the French Federation of Regional Nature Parks, Blue Plan presented a regional approach to issues in the Mediterranean at the meeting to set up the Federation's national "Federation of Mediterranean Protected Areas" working group, which was held at the PACA Regional Council in June.

543. Finally, in relation to the 2009-2010 planning of its agriculture and sustainable rural development activities, in November 2008 the Blue Plan took part in the international conference on « Biodiversity and agriculture », which was held in Montpellier as part of the French Presidency of the European Union.

544. As far as forests are concerned, Blue Plan confirmed its readiness to lead the second phase of the "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" project within the framework of FAO's Silva Mediterranea committee. It took part in the think-tank on the future of this committee, which was organized in Rome by FAO in February 2008.

545. The results obtained under the first phase of the "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" project were presented at the 20th meeting of the committee in Sofia, Bulgaria, in April as well as during the European Forests Week, celebrated in October 2008 in Rome.

546. Alongside FAO and the French Ministry of Agriculture, Blue Plan is continuing to seek the funding required for the implementation of phase 2.

Constraints and lessons learned

547. Each national study contains statistical data and the indicators on which it is based. In overall terms, the national reports show that the much of the data necessary for the calculation of the selected indicators is still lacking, mainly for reasons of availability, geographical or time coverage, or quality.

548. The principal difficulties observed in the calculation of indicators are the incapability of the definitions of the variables used, the obsolescence of data and lack of reliability of certain data, their dispersion and lack of coherence.

Objective 2	Tourism: - <i>accelerate the determination of proactive sustainable tourism strategies and the implementation of the respective policies by demonstrating the associated economic, environmental and social benefits;</i> - <i>identify existing and potential obstacles and levers in national and local policies and in international cooperation so as to make progress in the achievement of the objectives of the MSSD;</i> - <i>follow developments in the region and at the national level in relation to the objectives and orientations of the MSSD;</i> - <i>obtain information at the regional, national and local levels.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Indicators, regional analyses, national reports, case studies, a regional report, recommendations</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>The Parties: data, national experts, case studies;</i> <i>Blue Plan: set of indicators, regional experts, organization of workshops, dissemination of findings</i>

Indicators/ achievements	<i>Number of indicators documented; Participation in regional workshops; Number of studies prepared and publications disseminated</i>
Total budget: 60,000 euro	<i>Spent/committed: 100%</i>
Main achievements 549. Following the meeting of experts (France, Italy, Tunisia and WTO) which Blue Plan organized in 2006 and which led to the setting up of a Mediterranean network on tourism, Blue Plan continued its work, convening the experts again in July 2007 in order to select the complementary indicators for the tourism sector. 550. They chose a first set of 27 complementary indicators. Following some interactive work between the experts and Blue Plan, a final list of 19 complementary indicators was drawn up. 551. Six national studies (Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Croatia, Malta and Turkey) were also begun in late September 2007, aimed at: • providing information on national tourism development policies and strategies and assessing how the MSSD has been taken into account; • showing what progress has been made since the « tourism and sustainable development » recommendations were adopted (1999); • identifying good practices. 552. At the same time Blue Plan also launched four regional studies on: • tourism and climate change in the Mediterranean; • promoting sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean: tourist numbers and biodiversity; • yachting and cruising in the Mediterranean: assessment and prospects; • employment and salaries in the Mediterranean tourism sector: assessment and prospects. 553. This work was pooled and discussed at a regional workshop organized by Blue Plan at Sophia-Antipolis in July 2008, which brought together over sixty participants from 14 riparian States, major international organizations (UN-WTO, UNEP, IUCN), institutions and agencies involved in development aid (EIB, AFD, AECID), the European Commission and MAP's Regional Activity Centres (MED POL PAP/RAC, 100 sites, CP/RAC). Funding for the event was provided by the EIB and the PACA Region. 554. Recommendations following this workshop will be presented to the next meeting of the MCSD and its report is currently being published in English and French as part of the MAP Technical Reports series. 555. Following the workshop, a small meeting of experts was convened at Blue Plan headquarters in November 2008. It built upon the results of the working groups in order to shape the programme of work for 2009-2010. 556. Moreover, Blue Plan has continued to participate in the steering committee for the study on « Island territories and sustainable tourist development », which is led by ODIT France, and has provided a document on the Mediterranean islands by way of input to the final publication. Within this framework, Blue Plan presented the issue of tourism in the Mediterranean islands at a technical meeting organized in June 2008 by ODIT France in Paris.	

557. Blue Plan was invited to join the work of the International Task Force on « Sustainable Tourism » under the Marrakesh process and, as such, took part in an experts' meeting organized by UNEP-DTIE in Paris in October 2008.

558. Blue Plan also assisted in the drafting of the « Sustainable Tourism » policy paper drawn up by the IDDRI, which it presented at the conference on Integrated Coastal Zone Management held in Nice in December 2008.

559. Finally, Blue Plan attended various events, at each of which it presented the issue of sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean- FITS in Marseilles in January, « Mer en fête » in Nice in March, in June within the context of the Green Week organized by the European Commission in Brussels, and the Trans-Mediterranean Festival in Grasse in June.

Constraints and lessons learned

560. To encourage the participation of tourism professionals in this type of Blue Plan regional workshop, it would be useful to be able to undertake very tangible projects with them.

561. As the tourism system is made up of multiple actors of many types, the integration of the MSSD's recommendations into tourism policies is a complex exercise.

562. The analyses carried out show that the arsenal of national laws and regulations is frequently not adequate to protect the environment from the impact of tourism, particularly in relation to installations.

563. To make the transition to tangible operational projects, it would be useful to be able to launch pilot studies in a number of tourist destinations, based on framework agreements concluded by MAP with the countries concerned.

Objective 3	Urban mobility: - <i>to improve information and knowledge of developments relating to urban mobility and their impacts, raise the awareness of decision-makers and other stakeholders, and reinforce assessments with a view to improving urban planning and transport policies, their implementation and follow-up;</i> - <i>to promote the development of local competence, and particularly cross-cutting analyses by experts in transport and urban planning of mobility in urban and semi-urban areas;</i> - <i>to raise the awareness of local decision-makers, professionals and other actors concerning the impact on the environment and sustainable development of mobility in urban and semi-urban areas.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Indicators, regional analyses, national reports, case studies, a regional report, recommendations</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>The Parties: data, national experts, case studies; Blue Plan: set of indicators, regional experts, organization of workshops, dissemination of findings</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Number of urban areas studied, interdisciplinary composition of the local teams mobilized, number of workshops and participants</i>
Final results	<i>Two case studies prepared: Tunis, Istanbul</i>
Total budget: 110,000 euro	<i>Spent/committed: 55%</i>

Main achievements
564. Case studies were initiated in Tunis, Istanbul and Alexandria in order to identify clear development trends in urban and peri-urban travel in relation to city growth. The Istanbul study led to a local handover workshop and the Tunis one gave rise to a report, which was discussed in early 2009. Further studies are in process of finalization on Alep, Algiers and Tangiers.
565. All of these studies will be presented to a regional forum for the exchange of experience on urban mobility and sustainable development in the Mediterranean in 2010, in order to demonstrate in summary fashion the interactions of transport and land use, energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions relating to urban transport. It will also allow lines of action to be identified for submission to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development for future work in the region.
566. Blue Plan also worked on preparing a seminar on urban travel in the Mediterranean, which was held in Morocco in January 2008 in partnership with the World Bank, CODATU, the Médicités and Euromédina networks, the French Development Agency, the Ministry of Ecology, Development and Sustainable Planning (MEDAD) and the Moroccan Government. The focus was on institutional organizational matters, financing and urban transport management.
Constraints and lessons learned
567. The management of urban mobility should be accompanied by financial mechanisms and spatial management. The centralization of decision-making processes as much as the dispersion of competence and responsibilities constitute significant difficulties.
568. The extent to which the recommendations adopted by the CODATU international seminar held in Skhirat (Morocco) in January 2008 on urban transport in the Mediterranean region can be applied in each country needs to be ascertained and the level of their implementation evaluated.

Objective 4	<i>Impact of transport in the Mediterranean</i> - <i>to contribute to the collection of relevant data with a view to the establishment of a real system for the observation of transport in the Mediterranean;</i> - <i>to organize a permanent observatory of the links between transport/environment and sustainable development.</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Indicators, regional analyses, national reports, case studies, a regional report, recommendations</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>The Parties: data, national experts, case studies; Blue Plan: set of indicators, regional experts, organization of workshops, dissemination of findings</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Number of indicators and countries covered, number of individuals and institutions interested in the report, number of surveys launched at the national level to remedy data gaps</i>
Final results	<i>Preparatory phase: an assessment has been undertaken of international and intercity transport in the Mediterranean region</i>
Total budget: 100,000 euro	<i>Spent/committed: 52%</i>

Main achievements
569. As a basis for a prospective exercise on the development of transport up to 2025, a workshop was organized in December 2008 to determine the hypotheses for “expensive energy” scenarios
Constraints and lessons learned
570. The scenarios need to take into account: • measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions (taxes or quotas); • the volatility of the price of a barrel of oil; • the possibility of the progressive elimination of fuel subsidies; • differences between international transport (more subject to market prices) and internal transport (more subject to State control); • the significance of logistical platforms.
571. Prepare an expensive energy simulation and project its impacts.
572. Deduce the constraints and opportunities to be introduced into the construction of more sustainable transport systems.

Objective 5	<i>Follow-up to the implementation of previous recommendations by the Contracting Parties on water demand management</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Indicators, regional analyses, national reports, case studies, a regional report, recommendations</i>
MAP components and/or other partners involved	<i>The Parties: data, national experts, case studies; Blue Plan: set of indicators, regional experts, organization of workshops, dissemination of findings</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Number of indicators and countries covered, number of individuals and institutions interested in the report, number of surveys launched at the national level to remedy data gaps</i>
Total budget: 100,000 euro	<i>Spent/committed: 0%</i>
Main achievements <i>Water</i> 573. The conclusions and recommendations of the 12th meeting of the MCSD endorsed by the Contracting Parties were subsequently presented to and endorsed by various forums and conferences (workshop on the integrated management of water resources in Libya, the working group on « Water scarcity and drought » under the Mediterranean component of the EU's Water Initiative, the Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and South-Eastern European countries). 574. Blue Plan focused on the priority indicator on total and sectoral water use efficiency. Using this indicator, efforts made towards reducing loss and waste during the transport and use of water can be monitored through better demand management. However, countries still have difficulties with its completion. National studies have been drawn up by eight countries, the main results of which were presented by the national experts at a workshop held in Sophia-Antipolis in November 2008. It was an opportunity for a presentation of the ways in which the various countries produce the efficiency indicator and to define the priority actions to be implemented in order to improve data collection and production of the indicator. It also encouraged the exchange of experience and the sharing of good practices applied in various sectors in order to assess and improve water use efficiency. Blue Plan also carried out some benchmarking, illustrating the performances achieved by the Mediterranean countries on the components of the water efficiency index.	

575. 2008 was also marked by preparations for a Mediterranean session at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March, 2009. This initiative, which is backed by a series of regional partners (The Mediterranean Water Institute, Blue Plan, the Global Water Partnership- Mediterranean, the MAP Regional Activity Centre for Priority Action Programmes and the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations) and representatives of Mediterranean countries (France, Spain, Morocco and Greece), focused on preparing a presentation and discussion on the future Mediterranean Water strategy and a panel discussion on the theme of « water and coastal development », a key theme as far as the water issue in the Mediterranean is concerned.

576. These activities have been useful by way of input for the preparation of the future Mediterranean Water Strategy, the principle and major thrust of which were adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean ministerial meeting on water held in Jordan in December 2008. Indeed, taking account of climate change in water resource management and water demand management is one of the priority avenues of work chosen for this Strategy and for the specific projects to be conducted within the Union for the Mediterranean framework.

Energy

577. In the follow-up of this 2008 report on "Energy and climate change in the Mediterranean" Blue Plan launched an in-depth analysis of five key issues relating both to adaptation to climate change and to energy:

- Adapting the water-energy system
- Energy efficiency in the building sector
- Preparing energy efficiency indicators (the first meeting was held with the ADEME in November)
- The impact on employment
- Updating Blue Plan's alternative scenarios.

Constraints and lessons learned

578. The main constraints consist in building relationships with stakeholders not directly in charge of environmental matters.

7. INFO/RAC

Main achievements

579. Since the Centre had not received on time the necessary funds to implement its programme of work for 2008-2009 as approved by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Almeria, Spain, the Bureau, at its meeting in Madrid in September 2008, requested the MAP Coordinator to approach the Italian authorities on the issue of INFO/RAC in order to clarify the situation and their intentions vis à vis the Centre.

580. Following a written communication by the Secretariat dated 22 September 2008, the Italian Ministry for Environment, Territory and the Sea invited the MAP Coordinator to a meeting in Rome on 1 December 2008 to verify the effective compliance of a revised programme of activities submitted by the Regional Department for Industry of the Sicilian Region with the requirements of the Barcelona Convention, for which the Ministry was allocating the amount of 1,3 million euros.

581. The outcome of the Rome meeting was as follows:

1. The Secretariat was informed that INFO/RAC now belonged to the Sicilian Region.
2. An agreement has been reached between the Italian Ministry for Environment, Territory and the Sea and the Regional Department for Industry of the Sicilian Region under which the Ministry will provide the funds for the implementation by the Regional Department for Industry of the Sicilian Region-INFO/RAC of specific activities related to the Barcelona Convention during 2009.
3. The Regional Department for Industry of the Sicilian Region-INFO/RAC had submitted a request for funds for the implementation of activities to be carried out during the 2008-2009 biennium with an overall cost of 2 million euros.
4. At the request of the Italian Ministry and in view of financial constraints, the Regional Department-INFO/RAC submitted a revised programme of activities with related costs to be implemented in 2009 with a budget of 1.3 million euros.
5. The following were the activities that were proposed for implementation in 2009 for which the Ministry was prepared to provide funding:
 - (a) Online reporting system of the Barcelona Convention;
 - (b) Support to the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit;
 - (c) Support for the implementation of the photo database for the UNEP/MAP website and its eventual integration into the INFO/MAP system;
 - (d) Development of the MED POL information system with links to MED POL Focal Points and integration into the InfoMAP system;
 - (e) Management and update of the MCSD website: Implementation of the InfoMAP system.
6. With effect from the 2010-2011 biennium the responsibilities of the Regional Department for Industry of the Sicilian Region-INFO/RAC will be assumed by the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) which is managed by a Commissioner.
7. A Deputy Commissioner of ISPRA has been assigned the task of overseeing the Barcelona Convention and the handing over of responsibilities from the Regional Department for Industry of the Sicilian Region-INFO/RAC to ISPRA in order to ensure a smooth transition.
8. The Head of Unit, Protection of Marine and Coastal Zones from Pollution within the Ministry for Environment, Territory and the Sea has been assigned the task of liaising with the MAP Secretariat with respect to the organization of the meeting of INFO/RAC Focal Points and the preparation of the programme of work for the 2010-2011 biennium.

582. At the request of the Italian Ministry for Environment, Territory and the Sea dated 15 December 2008 and following internal consultations, the Secretariat submitted its detailed comments on the programme of activities suggested by the Regional Department for Industry of the Sicilian Region-INFO/RAC for 2009, proposing also some amendments to the programme of work, in particular with regard to the activity "support to the Coordinating Unit" to ensure that priority is given to those activities that were approved by the Contracting Parties in Almeria and that funds are allocated for their implementation.

583. The Secretariat was informed in December 2008 that the Italian authorities had taken its comments into account and had revised the programme of work and the allocated budget accordingly. Agreement has been reached between the Italian Ministry for Environment, Territory and the Sea and the Regional Department for Industry of the Sicilian Region about the activities to be implemented in 2009 by INFO/RAC. The first instalment for implementing the agreed INFO/RAC programme of work for 2009 was allocated to INFO/RAC in May 2009.

584. The following achievements:

- Development of the prototype of the online MAP reporting system and its continuous upgrade on the basis of feedback received by the Contracting Parties
- Development of the MISED Prototype
- Finalization of the MEDPOL INFO System
- Finalization of the photo data base for the MAP website

585. Work is ongoing with regard to the development of the information system for SPA/RAC and REMPEC data base.

ANNEX I**Signatures and Ratifications of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as at 10 November 2008**

	Barcelona Convention 1/			Dumping Protocol 2/			Emergency Protocol 3/		New Emergency Protocol 4/	
Contracting Parties	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	-	-
Algeria	-	16.02.81/AC	09.06.04	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	25.01.02	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-
Croatia	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	25.01.02	01.10.03
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	15.10.01	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	25.01.02	18.01.08
European Commission	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	25.01.02	25.06.04
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	-	-
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	25.01.02	02.07.03
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	25.01.02	27.11.06
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	29.09.05	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	22.01.03	-
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	25.01.02	-
Lebanon	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	¹ -	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	-
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	25.01.02	-
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	25.01.02	18.02.03
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	25.01.02	03.04.02
Montenegro	-	-	19.11.07	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.11.07
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	07.12.04	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	25.01.02	-
Slovenia	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	25.01.02	16.02.04
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	25.01.02	09.08.07
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	10.10.03	-	26.12.78/AC	11.04.08	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.02	² AC-
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	25.01.02	-
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	-	04.06.03

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

¹ Pending notification from Depository country² Pending notification from Depository country

	Land-Based Sources Protocol 5/			Specially Protected Areas Protocol 6/		SPA & Biodiversity Protocol 7/		Offshore Protocol 8/		Hazardous Wastes Protocol 9/	
Contracting Parties	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	10.06.95	26.07.01	-	26.07.01	-	26.07.01
Algeria	-	02.05.83/AC	-	-	16.05.85/AC	10.06.95	³ AC	-	-	01.10.96	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	12.06.92/SUC	11.10.06	-	12.06.92/SUC	10.06.95	12.04.02	14.10.94	-	-	-
Cyprus	17.05.80	28.06.88	18.07.03	-	28.06.88/AC	10.06.95	15.10.01	14.10.94	15.10.01	-	-
European Commission	17.05.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	10.06.95	12.11.99	-	-	-	-
Egypt	-	18.05.83/AC	-	16.02.83	08.07.83	10.06.95	11.02.00	-	-	01.10.96	-
France	17.05.80	13.07.82/AP	16.04.01	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	10.06.95	16.04.01	-	-	-	-
Greece	17.05.80	26.01.87	10.03.03	03.04.82	26.01.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Israel	17.05.80	21.02.91	⁴	03.04.82	28.10.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	-	-
Italy	17.05.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	03.04.82	04.07.85	10.06.95	07.09.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Lebanon	17.05.80	27.12.94	-	-	27.12.94/AC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	17.05.80	06.06.89/AP	-	-	06.06.89/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Malta	17.05.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.06.95	28.10.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	28.10.99
Monaco	17.05.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	03.04.82	29.05.89	10.06.95	03.06.97	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Montenegro	-	-	19.11.07	-	-	-	19.11.07	-	-	-	19.11.07
Morocco	17.05.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	02.04.83	22.06.90	10.06.95	-	-	01.07.99	20.03.97	01.07.99
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	-	16.09.93/AC	-	08.01.03	10.10.95	-	-	-
Spain	17.05.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	03.04.82	22.12.87	10.06.95	23.12.98	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Syria	-	01.12.93/AC	11.04.08	-	11.09.92/AC	-	10.10.03	20.09.95	-	-	-
Tunisia	17.05.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	03.04.82	26.05.83	10.06.95	01.06.98	14.10.94	01.06.98	01.10.96	01.06.98
Turkey	-	21.02.83/AC	18.09.02	-	06.11.86/AC	10.06.95	18.09.02	-	-	01.10.96	03.04.04

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

³ Pending notification from Depository country⁴ Pending notification from Depository country

	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol 10/	
Contracting Parties	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	
Algeria	21.01.08	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	
Croatia	21.01.08	
Cyprus	-	
European Commission	⁵	
Egypt	-	
France	21.01.08	
Greece	21.01.08	
Israel	21.01.08	
Italy	21.01.08	
Lebanon	-	
Libya	-	
Malta	21.01.08	
Monaco	21.01.08	
Montenegro	21.01.08	
Morocco	21.01.08	
Slovenia	21.01.08	
Spain	21.01.08	
Syria	21.01.08	
Tunisia	21.01.08	
Turkey	-	

⁵ Pending notification from Depository country

STATUS OF ENTRY INTO FORCE

Legal instruments	Place and date of Adoption	Entry into force date	Place and date of adoption of amendment, if any	Entry into force of amendments
Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, amended as Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)	16 February 1976, Barcelona	12 February 1978		
			10 June 1995, Barcelona	9 July 2004
The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol), amended as The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea (Dumping Protocol)	16 February 1976, Barcelona	12 February 1978		
			10 June 1995, Barcelona	Not yet in force
The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol)	16 February 1976, Barcelona	12 February 1978	—	—
The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol)*	25 January 2002, Malta	17 March 2004	—	—

* According to paragraph 2 of Article 25, this Protocol as from the date of its entry into force (17 March 2004) shall replace the Emergency Protocol (of 1976) in the relations between the Parties to both instruments.

Legal instruments	Place and date of Adoption	Entry into force date	Place and date of adoption of amendment, if any	Entry into force of amendments
The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources, amended as The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)	17 May 1980, Athens	17 June 1983		
			7 March 1996, Syracuse	11 May 2008
The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPA Protocol)	3 April 1982, Geneva	23 March 1986	—	—
The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)**	10 June 1995, Barcelona	12 December 1999	—	—
Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol)	14 October 1994, Madrid	Not yet in force	—	—
Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol)	1 October 1996, Izmir	18 January 2008	—	—
Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM Protocol)	21 January 2008, Madrid	Not yet in force	—	—

** According to paragraph 2 of Article 32, this Protocol as from the date of its entry into force (12 December 1999) shall replace the SPA Protocol (of 1982) in the relationship among the Parties to both instruments.

ANNEX II

**TRUST FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
AGAINST POLLUTION (ME)**

**Status of contributions as at 31 May 2009
(Expressed in Euro)**

Country	Unpaid pledges as at December 2008	Deferred Income as at December 2008	Pledges for 2009	Collections in 2009 for prior years	Collections in 2009 for 2009	Deferred Income in 2009	Unpaid Pledges for 2009	Unpaid Pledges for 2009 and Prior years
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR		EUR
Albania	0	0	3.877	0	0	0	3.877	3.877
Algeria	236.610	0	58.163	0	0	0	58.163	294.773
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0	0	16.619	0	0	0	16.619	16.619
Croatia	0	0	53.730	0	53.730	0	0	0
Cyprus	7.755	0	7.755	0	0	0	7.755	15.510
Egypt	132	0	27.143	132	27.143	0	0	-0
European Union	0	0	138.483	0	138.483	0	0	0
France	0	0	2.103.262	0	2.103.262	0	0	0
Greece	0	0	155.653	0	0	0	155.653	155.653
Israel	81.562	0	81.427	81.562	0	0	81.427	81.427
Italy	0	0	1.737.670	0	1.737.670	0	0	0
Lebanon	11.395	0	3.877	3.877	0	0	3.877	11.395
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	339.883	0	109.124	0	0	0	109.124	449.007
Malta	3.877	0	3.877	0	0	0	3.877	7.754
Monaco	0	0	3.877	0	3.877	0	0	0
Montenegro	0	0	1.294	0	0		1.294	1.294
Morocco	31.022	0	15.511	13.904	2/ 0	0	15.511	32.629
Slovenia	0	0	37.113	0	0	0	37.113	37.113
Spain	0	0	830.337	0	0	0	830.337	830.337
Syrian Arab Republic	15.511	0	15.511	15.511	3/ 906	0	14.605	14.605
Tunisia	0	0	11.632	0	11.632	0	0	0
Turkey	0	0	124.634	0	124.634	0	0	0
T O T A L	727.749	0	5.540.569	114.986	4.201.337	0	1.339.232	1.951.995
Additional Contributions								
European Commission	0	0	598.568	0	598.569	0	0	-1
Host Country *	604.701	0	440.000	0	0	0	0	1.044.701
UNEP Env. Fund	0	0	15.000	0	1/ 15.000	0	0	0
Grand Total	1.332.449	0	6.594.137	114.986	4.814.906	0	1.339.232	2.996.694

1/ Interfund transfer

2/ CHF 20,635.13

3/ USD 21,715.40

ANNEX III

LIST OF MAP MEETINGS DURING THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM

JANUARY 2008								
Title	Brief description	Meeting location	Meeting start date	Meeting end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
15 th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols		Almeria, Spain	15	18	MEDU	Contracting Parties, Focal Points	http://www.unep-map.org	UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.1710
Conference of the Plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the ICZM Protocol		Madrid, Spain	20	21	MEDU	Contracting Parties	http://www.unep-map.org	Final Act
Sustainable Management of industrial areas (GEDZI project)	First training to help IAS managers to improve the management of their respective IA and to form local consultants to the methodology used	Tunis, Tunisia	25	31	CP/RAC	Local consultants, managers of industrial areas	www.cprac.org	
Training on the use of Medbiodiv portal kit		Rabat, Morocco	28	01	SPA/RAC	Representatives from countries	http://www.rac-spa.org	
FEBRUARY 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Sustainable Management of industrial areas (GEDZI project)	First training to help IAS managers to improve the management of their respective IA and to form local consultants to the methodology used	Tunis, Tunisia	1	5	CP/RAC	Local consultants, managers of industrial areas	www.cprac.org	
Training course on the management of marine and coastal invasive species		Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt	3	6	SPA/RAC	Country representatives	http://www.rac-spa.org	
Euromed Transport Forum, 4 th Maritime Safety Group Meeting, 2 nd SAFEMED Advisory Committee		Brussels	7		REMPEC		http://www.remp-ec.org	Report issued
Mediterranean training on reference collections of marine and coastal fauna in the Mediterranean	Second training course on taxonomy of the marine and coastal fauna to promote the set up of reference collections	Alicante, Spain	17	24	SPA/RAC	Country representatives	http://www.rac-spa.org	
Workshop on	Workshop on	Istanbul,	20	21	CP/RAC	Administrations,	www.cprac.org	

Sustainable Tourism (in cooperation with SMAP Programme)	alternatives for sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean	Turkey				experts and relevant actors		
Meeting of the Executive Coordinating Panel		Athens, Greece	26	27	MEDU	RAC Directors	http://www.unep-map.org	Report ECP 1/7
Steering Committee, urban mobility and sustainable development in the Mediterranean		Sophia Antipolis, France	29		BP/RAC	Steering Committee Members	http://www.plan-bleu.org	
MARCH 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Field mission, Cetaceans and Bird Action Plans	Field mission related to the implementation of the Action Plans of Cetaceans and Birds	Syria	1	6	SPA/RAC	Country representatives	http://www.rac-spa.org	
Workshop on the implementation of the voluntary international maritime organization member state audit scheme		Malta	4	6	REMPEC		http://www.remp-ec.org	Report issued
Sustainable Management of industrial areas (GEDZI project)	Follow-up meeting of GEDZI Project	Tunis, Tunisia	6	8	CP/RAC	Local consultants, managers of industrial areas	www.cprac.org	
Workshop on reduction of air pollutant emissions in urban production activities	Special emphasis on pollution prevention in the use of used oils and solvents	Tripoli, Lebanon	10	11	CP/RAC	Administrations, experts and relevant actors	www.cprac.org	
Workshop on reduction of air pollutant emissions in urban production activities	Special emphasis on pollution prevention in the use of used oils and solvents	Larnaka, Cyprus	13	14	CP/RAC	Administrations, experts and relevant actors	www.cprac.org	
Introduction of eco-management in the university curricula	Training on pollution prevention addressed to university professors and students	Ankara, Turkey	26	28	CP/RAC		www.cprac.org	
First Globallast Task Force Meeting (GPTF)		London, UK	26	28	IMO/REMPEC	Task force members	http://www.remp-ec.org	

APRIL 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Sustainable Management of industrial areas (GEDZI project)	2nd training to help IAs managers to improve the management of their respective IA and to form local consultants to the methodology used	Tunis, Tunisia	21	25	CP/RAC	Local consultants, managers of industrial areas	www.cprac.org	
Training for local stakeholders on sustainable tourism tools (Destinations project)	Within the training programme on the CCA method, a training session on (a) tourism development in the Mediterranean; (b) basic philosophy of sustainable tourism; (c) tourism indicators; (d) participatory process; (f) integration of CCA into ICZM; (g) case studies.	Korba, Tunisia	23	24	PAP/RAC	Country representatives, experts	http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
CAMP Morocco Inception Workshop		Chefchaouen, Morocco	29		PAP/RAC	Country representatives, experts	http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
MAY 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Workshop to present and discuss ICZM Policy Brief (SMAP III)		Damascus Syria	8		PAP/RAC	Country representatives, experts	http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
Workshop on "Agriculture and sustainable development in the Mediterranean"		Bari, Italy	8	10	BP/RAC	National and international stakeholders, institutions	http://www.planbleu.org	
SMAP III Regional Workshop on ICZM Policy	The main objectives of the Workshop are the following: to provide insight in the latest coastal success stories and to reveal their factors of success; to agree on the necessary preconditions and to propose a set of most	Alghero, Sardinia	19	21	PAP/RAC	Country representatives, experts	http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	

	promising actions and tools for strengthening of the ICZM policy; to agree on the needed actions to assist countries in adoption of the ICZM Protocol; and to adopt the Sardinia Declaration in support of the ICZM in the Mediterranean. The workshop is organized under the auspices of PAP/RAC appointed Ambassadors for the Coast.							
Steering Committee meeting. Energy, Climate Change and the Mediterranean		Sophia Antipolis, France	20		BP/RAC	Experts	http://www.planbleu.org	
Second Executive Coordination Panel Meeting		Malta	29	30	MEDU	ECP members	http://www.unepmap.org	
JUNE 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Training of local stakeholders on sustainable tourism tools (Destinations project)	In the frame of LIFE III EU Destinations project, training of local stakeholders will take place on the use of sustainable tourism tools. Also experts from CAMP Morocco will be participating as tourism is one of the CAMP activities.	Al Hoceima, Morocco	4	5	PAP/RAC	National experts, stakeholders	http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
CAMP Cyprus : Final Presentation Conference	Each CAMP is concluded with the Final Presentation Conference where project results are presented to stakeholders, policy makers, public etc.	Cyprus	13	13	PAP/RAC	National experts, stakeholders, institutions	http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	Draft Final CAMP Report
Steering committee meeting on the assessment of countries' progress toward	Benchmarking of the Mediterranean countries	Sophia Antipolis, France	16	16	BP/RAC	Experts	http://www.planbleu.org	

sustainable development	regarding the MSSD's objectives (methods and results)							
Sustainable management of industrial areas – IA (GEDZI project)	3 rd training to help IAs managers to improve the management of their respective IA and to inform local consultants to the methodology used	Tunis, Tunisia	16	20	CP/RAC	Local consultants, managers of industrial areas	www.cprac.org	
Expert meeting on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol	After the signing of the ICZM Protocol, an expert meeting will discuss and propose an action plan for its implementation. Four topics to be discussed: assessment and evaluation of ICZM,; interpretation of the Protocol text; setback zone; training and awareness raising.	Split, Croatia	17	18	PAP/RAC	Experts	http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
Regional seminar on Human Element Influence in Maritime Accidents	A seminar aimed at senior maritime administration officials responsible for the implementation of the ISM Code and senior officials involved in maritime casualty investigations to appreciate the influence of human element in maritime accidents	Lisbon, Portugal	17	19	REMPEC	Country representatives, experts	http://www.remp-ec.org	
12 th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD	Annual meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee to discuss the progress of activities and programme of work	Athens, Greece	19	20	MEDU	Steering Committee members	http://www.unep-map.org	
MedPosidonia Workshop	The general aim of this Project is	Gökçeada, Turkey	20	27	SPA/RAC, Ministry of	Turkish and international	http://www.rac-spa.org	

	to enable additional information to be gained on the presence and evolution of Posidonia meadows in the Mediterranean.				Envt and Forestry, Istanbul University, Cannakale University	experts		
IPPC Workshop	Workshop on the advantages and opportunities of the application of the IPPC approach in the national systems for controlling industrial pollution.	Seville, Spain	25	26	CP/RAC	Representatives of countries	www.cprac.org	
JULY 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Regional Workshop "Towards Promoting Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean"	To assess environmental impacts of tourism, to discuss the overriding regional stakes in the tourism / sustainable development nexus, to propose work and action options for the near future.	Sophia Antipolis, France	2	3	BP/RAC	National and international experts, stakeholders, institutions	http://www.planbleu.org	
First Meeting of Compliance Committee	The purpose of the first meeting of the Compliance Committee is to develop rules of procedure for the Committee	Athens, Greece	3	4	MEDU	Representatives of countries	http://www.unepmap.org	Compliance Committee. 1/5
Second Meeting of Government designated experts on the ecosystem approach	The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way	Athens, Greece	9	10	MEDU	Government experts	http://www.unepmap.org	
MedPosidonia Libya	The general aim of this Project is to enable additional information to be gained on the presence	Tripoli, Libya	14	19	SPA/RAC, EGA, MBRC	Libyan and international experts	http://www.rac-spa.org	

	and evolution of Posidonia meadows in the Mediterranean.							
First Training in Marine Turtle Conservation	Implementation of future activities related to marine turtle conservation in Lara/Taxeftra Reserve – Lara Station	Lara Station, Cyprus	17	27	SPA/RAC CWS	Countries: France, Israel and Montenegro	http://www.rac-spa.org	
MedPosidonia Algeria	The general aim of this Project is to enable additional information to be gained on the presence and evolution of Posidonia meadows in the Mediterranean.	Algiers, Algeria	19	24	SPA/RAC, Ministry of Env't, ISMAL	Algerian and international experts	http://www.rac-spa.org	
Second training in Marine Turtle Conservation	Implementation of future activities related to marine turtle conservation in Lara/Taxeftra Reserve – Lara Station	Lara Station, Cyprus	27	07 Aug	SPA/RAC CWS	Countries: Italy, Egypt and Libya	http://www.rac-spa.org	
AUGUST 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
MedPosidonia field mission	The general aim of this Project is to enable additional information to be gained on the presence and evolution of Posidonia meadows in the Mediterranean.	Mersin, Turkey	19	27	SPA/RAC	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Mersin University	http://www.rac-spa.org	
MedPosidonia Algeria	The general aim of this Project is to enable additional information to be gained on the presence and evolution of Posidonia meadows in the Mediterranean.	El Kala, Algeria			SPA/RAC	Ministry of Environment, ISMAL	http://www.rac-spa.org	
SEPTEMBER 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	
First Regional Task Force Meeting Globalast Partnership project	The Globalast project aims at assisting developing countries to reduce the transfer of harmful aquatic	Dubrovnik, Croatia	11	12	REMPEC/ MO, SPA/RAC	National experts	http://www.remp-ec.org	

	organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water.							
Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	To review the implementation of Programme of work and provide guidance to the Secretariat	Madrid, Spain	18	19	MEDU	Bureau members	http://www.unepmap.org	
Meeting to review a draft strategy to address the issue of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean	Selected experts will review the first draft of a Marine Litter Strategy to be finalized by the end of the biennium. The Consultation is organized in cooperation with the NGO MIO-ECSDE	Athens, Greece	18	19	MED POL	Experts	http://www.unepmap.org	
ECP Meeting	To review implementation of the Programme of Work and tackle any related operation issue	Split, Croatia	25	26	MEDU	ECT members	http://www.unepmap.org	
OCTOBER 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
National workshop on use of dispersants	The workshop aims at assisting government officials in developing a national dispersant policy for Algeria	Algiers, Algeria	21	22	REMPEC	National experts	http://www.remp ec.org	
"Destinations" – Workshop on the scenario method and environmental management tools	The workshop is a part of the Destinations LIFE project and aims at sensitizing of participants with new methods for the management of the tourist destinations	Tangier, Morocco	21	23	PAP/RAC	National experts	http://www.life-destinations.org	
III International Conference on Marine Turtle		Hammamet, Tunisie	20	23	SPA/RAC INSTM		http://www.rac-spa.org	
Globalast Training Course on Port Baseline Survey	The Globalast project aims at assisting developing countries to reduce the transfer of	Turkey	21	24	REMPEC/ MO	National experts	http://www.remp ec.org	

	harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water							
Seminar on climate change	Seminar to discuss climate change	Marseille, France	22	23	BP/RAC	International experts	http://www.planbleu.org	
National workshop on HNS Contingency Planning	The workshop aims at supporting the Egyptian competent authorities in developing the national contingency plan for hazardous and noxious substance pollution at Sea	Cairo, Egypt	28	30	REMPEC	National experts	http://www.remp ec.org	
1 st Workshop on Coralligenous Action			30	31	SPA/RAC		http://www.rac-spa.org	
Revision of Annex II & III vegetation			31	1 november	SPA/RAC		http://www.rac-spa.org	
NOVEMBER 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Mediterranean Workshop on used lubricant oils: Collection and Treatment		Barcelona (Spain)	3	5	CP/RAC	Professionals from the sector. Countries: Italy, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Eslovenia.	www.cprac.org	
Workshop on consumption and climate change	Working session of international experts about consumption and climate change	Barcelona (Spain)	4	4	CP/RAC	International experts	www.cprac.org	
Workshop on GRECO Initiative, finding business opportunities through Cleaner Production	Working session about Green Competitiveness	Barcelona (Spain)	5	5	CP/RAC	Public and private sector from different Mediterranean countries	www.cprac.org	
Mediterranean Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production	The roundtable will bring together experts from public administrations, civil society, industrial sectors of the Mediterranean countries and MAP components with the objective of identifying concrete challenges to move forward towards SCP in the region	Barcelona (Spain)	5	7	CP/RAC	civil society, public administration, business and industrial sector from Mediterranean countries.	www.cprac.org	

Expert meeting	To present the national studies on water use and to identify priority actions to be introduced in order to improve use of water.	Sophia Antipolis	5	5	BP/RAC	National experts	http://www.planbleu.org	
Impacts on climate change on Biodiversity in the North Mediterranean Coast and Seas Meeting SAP-BIO	Updating on Climate Change issues of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region	Alicante Spain	10	12	RAC/SPA	National experts	http://www.rac-spa.org	
"Destinations" – Workshop on the scenario method and environmental management tools	The workshop is a part of the Destinations LIFE project and aims at sensitizing of participants with new methods for the management of the tourist destinations	Korba, Tunisia	11	12	PAP/RAC	National experts	http://www.life-destinations.org	
Sub-regional Training Course on Marine Emergencies	Training course covering aspects of salvage.	Izola, Slovenia	11	13	REMPEC	National experts of Adriatic countries	http://www.remp-ec.org	
Expert meeting	To present and discuss the programme	Sophia Antipolis	12	12	BP/RAC	National experts	http://www.planbleu.org	
Meeting on the implementation of the NAPs and the preparation of legally binding measures and timetables required by Article 15 of the LBS Protocol	As a follow up to the decisions of the CPs, the meeting is expected to review and approve the process of identification of priority substances, the identification of a differentiation mechanism and the development of programmes and action plans related to Article 15 of the LBS Protocol	Aix en Provence, France	27	28	MED POL	MED POL Focal Points and National Experts	www.unepmap.org	
session de formation sur les méthodes d'identification et de recensement des	Session de formation dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre	Benghazi, Lybie	27	02	RAC-SPA En collaborati on de	National Experts Algeria Lybia Egypt	http://www.rac-spa.org	

oiseaux d'eau et marins	de Plan d'Action pour la conservation des espèces d'oiseaux inscrites en annexe II du Protocole				L'EGA Le Conservatoire de l'Espace Littoral et des rivages lacustres en France	Tunisia Morocco		
DECEMBER 2008								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
ECP Meeting	To review implementation of the Programme of Work and tackle any related operation issue	Athens, Greece	16		MEDU	ECP members	http://www.unep-map.org	
GRECO Initiative Meeting	Meeting with Ministry of Environment of Morocco to implant GRECO Initiative in the county	Morocco	16	18	CP/RAC	CP/RAC + Ministry of Environment of Morocco	www.cprac.org	

"Destinations" – Workshop on the scenario method and environmental management tools	The workshop is a part of the Destinations LIFE project and aims at sensitizing of participants with new methods for the management of the tourist destinations	Algiers			PAP/RAC	National experts	http://www.life-destinations.org	
JANUARY 2009								
Title	Brief description	Meeting location	Meeting start date	Meeting end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Workshops on ICZM and participatory approach within CAMP Morocco	Objectives: (i) to present the methodological approach for a diagnostic analysis and qualification of the coastal zone of the Central Rif. (ii) to propose and chose pilot actions to demonstrate the feasibility of the ICZM process.	M'diq, Morocco	5	7	PAP/RAC	National stakeholders, experts	www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
La réunion du groupe ad-hoc d'experts pour la révision de la liste des espèces végétales		Tunisia	12	14	RAC-SPA en collaboration avec UICN-Med	Mediterranean experts	http://www.rac-spa.org	
Atelier de restitution de l'étude de cas Tunis dans le cadre du		Tunisia	15	15	RAC/BP	National experts	http://www.plan-bleu.org	

programme « Mobilité urbaine et développement durable en Méditerranée »								
1er Symposium sur la Conservation du Coralligène et autres bioconcrétions de Méditerranée		Tunisia	15	16	RAC-SPA	Mediterranean experts	http://www.rac-spa.org	
Public Meeting Close Up of the SMIA Project (GEZDI)	Analysis of the success of the project	Tunisia	21	21	CP/RAC	Participants in the SMIA Project	www.cprac.org	
Meeting of the Working Group on Liability and compensation	To review and facilitate the implementation of Decision IG 17/4 of the 15 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties on liability and compensation guidelines	Athens, Greece	22	23	MEDU	National experts	http://www.unep-map.org	WG 329/4
National ICZM Strategy for Egypt- First Workshop	Within SMAP III project a series of three workshops will take place in order to draft the National ICZM Strategy in a participatory manner.	Cairo	28	30	PAP/RAC	National stakeholders	www.pap-theoastcentre.org	
FEBRUARY 2009								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
GRECO Initiative Congress	Present GRECO Initiative to enterprises and institutions from Morocco	Casablanca, Morocco	6	6	CP/RAC	Ministers of Environment and Industry from Morocco, Moroccan enterprises	www.cprac.org	
Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	To review the implementation of the programme of work and provide guidance to the Secretariat	Athens, Greece	10	11	MEDU	Bureau Members	http://www.unep-map.org	BUR 68/4
Workshop on the PRTR Project in Syria	-To establish a work plan for the implementation of the project. -To train the new industrial partners on the use of PRTR system. -To provide the Syrian Partners with the soft tool developed by	Damascus Syria	16	18	MED POL	Technical Staff of the Syrian Ministry of Environment and National Industries	http://www.unep-map.org	

Final Regional SMAP III Workshop	ICS-UNIDO. This is the final seminar within SMAP III project. Objective is to present results of the projects and to define next steps.	Alexandria	18	19	SMAP TA, PAP/RAC, METAP	SMAP III countries, experts	www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
National ICZM Strategy for Egypt- Second Workshop	Within SMAP III project a series of three workshops will take place in order to draft the National ICZM Strategy in a participatory manner.	Cairo	21	22	PAP/RAC	National stakeholders	www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
5 th ECP Meeting	To review implementation of the Programme of Work and tackle any related operation issue	Tunis, Tunisia	26	27	MEDU	ECP members	http://www.unep-map.org	ECP.5/8
Presentation of the Policy Brief (SMAP III)	The workshop is a part of the Destinations LIFE project and aims at sensitizing of participants with new methods for the management of the tourist destination	Algiers	28		PAP/RAC	National stakeholders/experts	www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
MARCH 2009								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
"Destinations" - CCA, scenaria method and environmental management tools	The workshop is a part of the Destinations LIFE project and aims at sensitizing of participants with new methods for the management of the tourist destinations	Algiers	1	2	PAP/RAC	National stakeholders/experts	www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
National ICZM Strategy for Egypt- Second Workshop	Within SMAP III project a series of three workshops will take place in order to draft the National ICZM Strategy in a participatory manner.	Cairo	5	5	PAP/RAC	National stakeholders	www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
GRECO Congress	To present the GRECO Initiative in	Morocco	9	10	CP/RAC	National Stakeholders, public and	www.cprac.org	

	Morocco					private sectors		
Workshop on Strategy for sustainable tourism (Destinations project)	To present scenarios for tourism development for Cap Bon and to discuss the draft strategy for tourism.	Tunis	12	13	PAP/RAC and APAL	Local and national stakeholders, experts	www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
First Meeting of the Steering Committee on Identification of possible SPAMs in the Mediterranean areas beyond national jurisdiction	To promote the establishment of a representative ecological network of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean high seas	Tunis-Tunisie	17		RAC/SPA	Committee Members	http://www.rac-spa.org	
MedPosidonia Project Closure Meeting	Réunion de clôture du projet MedPosidonia	Tunis	22	23	RAC-SPA	Country representatives + scientists	http://www.rac-spa.org	
Steering committee on Urban mobility and sustainable development		Marseille	24	24	BP/RAC	International stakeholders and experts		
GRECO Award	Awards ceremony to reward an enterprise from the 100 MedClean Cases	Monaco	26	27	CP/RAC	Representatives from CP/RAC, private companies	www.cprac.org	
2 nd Meeting of the Compliance Committee	The purpose of the meeting is to finalize rules of procedure for the Committee, discuss compliance with reporting requirements and other matters	Athens	26	27	MEDU	Representatives of countries	http://www.unep-map.org	CC.2/7
3 rd Meeting on the governance in the Mediterranean area	To follow the activities initiated during the meetings of Tunis (December 2007) and Rabat (July 2008) and to pursue the implementation of an informal "working-group" on this topic	Nice	27	29	RAC-SPA/IUCN Med	Scientist + law experts	http://www.rac-spa.org	
MedMPA Project Closure Meeting	Réunion de clôture du projet Med-MPA	Tunis	31		RAC-SPA		http://www.rac-spa.org	
Meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD	To review progress on programme of	Athens	30-31 March		MEDU	Members of the MCSD Steering Committee	http://www.unep-map.org	

	work of the MCSD and prepare for the MCSD meeting							
APRIL 2009								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Analyzing microbial contaminants in water and wastewater: Consultation Meeting on health related monitoring of coastal waters	To review the bathing waters quality profiles set up so far, to identify problems in their completion and finalize the format for the elaboration of the remaining profiles	Athens	1	2	WHO /MED POL	National experts		
Regional Workshop on Successful Experiences implementing the Stockholm Convention and its Synergies with Basel and Rotterdam	Regional Workshop	Barcelona	7	8	CP/RAC	International experts, Stockholm Convention Focal Points, Stockholm Convention Centers, Secretariats representatives.	www.cprac.org	
Workshop on tourism strategy in the frame of Destinations project and pilot actions in CAMP Morocco	To present scenarios for tourism development, to discuss the draft strategy for tourism and discuss the action plan for the CAMP pilot sites.	Al Hoceima, Morocco	7	10	PAP/RAC	National and local stakeholders	www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
GRECO Congress	To present the GRECO Initiative in Morocco	Morocco	14	15	CP/RAC	National Stakeholders, public and private sectors	www.cprac.org	
National ICZM Strategy for Egypt- Third Workshop	Within SMAP III project a series of three workshops will take place in order to draft the National ICZM Strategy in a participatory manner.	Cairo	23		PAP/RAC	National stakeholders	www.pap-thecoastcentre.org	
Atelier "Albatros" petites îles et oiseaux marins		Marseille, France	20	22	Conservatoire du Littoral+ RAC/SPA	International Expert	www.rac-spa.org	
MedPosidonia Project Closure Meeting	Réunion de clôture du projet MedPosidonia	Tunis	23		RAC-SPA	Country representatives + scientists	http://www.rac-spa.org	
PAC Maroc	Dossier ASPIM El-Hoceima mission principale : Activité	Rabat Maroc	24	30	RAC-SPA	Scientist + Experts	http://www.rac-spa.org	

	protection site sensible naturels							
3 rd Meeting on the governance in the Mediterranean area	To follow the activities initiated during the meetings of Tunis (December 2007) and Rabat (July 2008) and to pursue the implementation of an informal "working-group" on this topic	Nice	27	29	RAC- SPA/IUCN Med	Scientist + law experts	http://www.rac-spa.org	
Training course on Wastewater reuse	To present to national experts guidelines and practices of treated wastewater reuse	Valletta, Malta	27	29	WHO/ME D POL	National experts		
MAY 2009								
Title	Brief description	Event location	Event start date	Event end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Side Event "Challenge of providing technical assistance and technology transfer in implementing the Convention"	Event in the framework of the COP IV of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	Geneva	8	8	Secretariat of the Stockholm Conventio n	CP/RAC and other Stockholm Convention Nominated Centers	www.cprac.org www.pops.int	
Regional Workshop on Preparedness for and Response to Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean.	To exchange information on the status of preparedness and response to marine pollution in the region from a government and industry perspective	Marseille	11	12	REMPEC in conjunctio n with MOIG	CPs Oil industry	http://www.remp-ec.org	
IMO/MED POL Regional Workshop for the Promotion of the London and Barcelona Dumping Protocols	To assess the state-of-the-art of the implementation of the protocols	Rome, Italy	20	22	MED POL in conjunctio n with IMO	MED POL Focal Points, Representatives		
Joint Meeting of BP, INFO and PAP RACs Focal Points	To review the progress in 2008/9, to propose work programme for 2010-11	Zagreb, Croatia	25	27	PAP/RAC, BP and INFO RACs	PAP, BP and INFO RACs Focal points	www.pap-theoastcentre.org	
First workshop Mediterranean University Network	Presentation of the E-Course on Pollution Prevention in Enterprises to Egyptian University teachers.	El Cairo, Egypt	26	26	CP/RAC	University teachers	www.cprac.org	
National Training	To present to	Vlora,	25	27	WHO/ME	National experts		

course on Wastewater treatment plants operation and reuse of effluents	national experts guidelines and practices of treated wastewater reuse	Albania			D POL			
Green Industry Global Forum	Congress about Green Competitiveness. GRECO Initiative presentation	Cairo, Egypt	26	28	CP/RAC	Representatives from CP/RAC, private companies	www.cprac.org	
GRECO Award	Awards ceremony to reward an enterprise from the 100 MedClean Cases	El Cairo, Egypt	28	28	CP/RAC	Representatives from CP/RAC, private companies	www.cprac.org	
JUNE 2009								
Title	Brief description	Meeting location	Meeting start date	Meeting end date	Organizer	Participants	Website	Related docs (if any)
Consultation Meeting to review legally binding programmes and action plans as a part of the implementation of art. 15 of the LBS Protocol	To finalize the text of the programmes and action plans that will be transmitted in November to the Contracting Parties for formal adoption	Kalamata, Greece	1	1	MED POL	MED POL Focal Points	www.unepmap.org	

Meeting of MED POL focal points	To review the work done during the biennium and preparation of the workplan for biennium 2010-2011	Kalamata, Greece	2	4	MED POL	MED POL Focal Points	www.unepmap.org	
SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting	To examine the implementation of the programme of activities of SPA/RAC and to discuss the programme of priority activities of SPA/RAC for the biennium 2010-2011	Floriana, Malta	3	6	SPA/RAC	Focal Points representatives	http://www.rac-spa.org	
Coastal Tourism in the Mediterranean: Adapting to Climate Change	To proactively address the issue of climate change and tourism	Cagliari, Sardinia	8	10	PAP/RAC	Decision makers, tourism experts		
ECP Meeting	To review implementation of the Programme of Work and tackle any related operation issue	Athens, Greece	10		MEDU	ECP Members		
CP/RAC Focal Points Meeting	To examine the implementation of the programme of activities of CP/RAC and to discuss the	Dubrovnik (Croatia)	17	19	CP/RAC	Focal Points representatives, CP/RAC staff	http://www.cprac.org	

	programme of priority activities of CP/RAC for the biennium 2010-2011							
Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	To review the implementation of the programme of work and provide guidance to the Secretariat	Istanbul, Turkey	18	19	MEDU	Bureau Members	http://www.unepmap.org	
National Training course on Wastewater reuse	To present to national experts guidelines and practices of treated wastewater reuse	Athens, Greece	18	19	WHO/MED POL	National experts		