

Draft Decision on the Mandates of the Components of MAP

The 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties:

Recalling Article 17 of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean as amended in Barcelona in 1995, herein after referred to as the Barcelona Convention by which the Contracting Parties designate the United Nations Environment Programme as responsible for carrying out a series of secretariat functions spelt out in the Article;

Recalling the institutional provisions of the Mediterranean Action Plan adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Barcelona, Spain, from 9-10 June 1995, with regard to the role of the Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres as well as the decision IG 15/5 on the Governance Paper taken by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria,

Acknowledging that MEDPOL Programme and six centres based in different Mediterranean countries that have been acting as Regional Activity Centres (RACs), hereinafter referred to as MAP components, to support MAP for the implementation of the Convention, its related Protocols as well as its strategies including the MSSD and that they have provided and continue to provide very valuable services in the form of technical outputs and assistance to the Contracting Parties in their respective areas of expertise;

Acknowledging the important and useful work carried out over the years by the Coordinating Unit, MEDPOL and the RACs, but *noting at the same time* that there is a need to define better the role and functions of the components of MAP in order to ensure synergy, better integration and avoid overlapping;

Decides to approve the common introduction and the Mandates of the MAP components as contained in the Annex to this Decision;

Request the Coordinating Unit to monitor the implementation of this Decision with a view to ensuring that the activities of the MAP components are carried out in a coordinated, integrated and efficient manner as well as in conformity with their mandates.

ANNEX

Draft Mandates of the components of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

The following general objectives and principles are common to the mandates the MAP components:

The general objective of MAP and its components is to ensure, through the further implementation of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean of 1995 (the amended “Barcelona Convention”) and its Protocols as well as of the MSSD, an improved environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

In this context, MAP and its components provide assistance to Mediterranean countries for the implementation of their commitments under the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, programmes and decisions, with particular reference to MAP Phase II and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

In view of developments in the global and regional context, and the conclusions of the external evaluations of MAP and its components, the need has been recognized to update, amend and/or review the mandates, roles and responsibilities of MAP components. The revised and updated mandates are intended to enable the MAP components to adapt more effectively to prevailing circumstances, enhance their synergy and promote the common objectives set out in the MAP “Strategic Vision and Declaration” (2008).

With a view to agreeing upon and pursuing common positions for the achievement of sustainable development in the region and the improved implementation of the Convention, its Protocols and strategies, heightened emphasis will be placed on enhancing cooperation among all the Contracting Parties and establishing targeted partnerships between donor countries, international financial institutions, civil society and private sector stakeholders.

Basic principles:

Within this context, the following basic principles are common to all MAP components:

- the application of the ecosystem approach, involving the management of the marine environment in a holistic manner and as an integral whole consisting of the sea area and the adjacent terrestrial coastal area;
- the application of the participatory approach, the preventive, precautionary and anticipatory principles, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, and the principle of assistance, cooperation and partnership, particularly at the regional level, including bilateral and multilateral initiatives;
- public participation and communication as cornerstones for mobilizing the broadest possible support for MAP policies, principles and action, including the integration of civil society at the regional and national levels, particularly through the involvement of the appropriate non-governmental structures (such as those representing the scientific community, the private sector and local authorities) and other relevant structures of civil society from the outset of all relevant activities, with a view to developing partnerships with the various stakeholders;
- ensuring data collection and processing, and striving for the strengthening of MAP components capacities to make them able to produce scientific-based assessments,
- contribution to enhancing MAP impacts and visibility in the region and at the Contracting party level through:

- a) *enhanced concrete and on the ground actions at the regional and Contracting Party levels*
- b) *increased awareness and dissemination of information on the results achieved in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan/ Barcelona Convention as a regional cooperation process with the principal aim to improve the marine and coastal environment and promote sustainable development;*
- c) *enhanced cooperation based on a corporate and integrated approach with regional and global initiatives and institutions such as GEF Strategic Partnership, Union for the Mediterranean, Horizon 2020, etc, with a view to achieving synergy, harmonization, efficient use of available resources as well as avoiding contradictions and/or overlapping,*
- d) *greater communication to the general public and decision makers on the regional and national level of scientific and technical publications*
- e) *setting up Mediterranean clearing house mechanisms (CHM) by further strengthening the MAP sharing information system and its various databases, directories and a web mapping application based on a harmonized corporate approach*
- f) *maintenance and regular update of MAP components website accessible to all interested parties which clearly establish their linkage with MAP/Barcelona Convention*

Operating principles:

The activities of each MAP component are governed by the following operating principles:

- all activities are carried out under the direct authority of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, within the legal and policy framework defined by the Convention, the relevant Protocols to the Convention and the decisions of the Parties;
- activities are undertaken in accordance with the guidance provided by the MAP Coordinating Unit to facilitate close coordination and transparency of initiatives, the definition of priorities and communication between the MAP components, with particular reference to cross-cutting issues involving several MAP components, such as sustainable consumption, production and resource management, climate change, coastal management, sustainable chemical management, and governance;
- with a view to increasing efficiency, maximizing results and avoiding duplication, activities are implemented as appropriate in consultation and cooperation with other MAP components and relevant international and regional bodies, and the MAP components participate regularly in the Executive Coordinating Panel (ECP), which is convened once every three months and brings together the Coordinating Unit and the various MAP components with a view to exchanging information, enhancing consultation and coordinating current and planned activities and programmes;
- with a view to augmenting the resources available for their activities, the MAP components make every effort to seek additional funding from outside sources, in full cooperation and prior consultation with the MAP Coordinating Unit: to this effect, they implement a joint Resource Mobilization Plan;
- regular meetings of the Focal Points of each component are convened, in principle at least once in every biennium, with regular briefing and consultation of the Focal Points between meetings;
- regular technical and financial reports are submitted to the Coordinating Unit, which is responsible for assessing on a regular basis the activities of MAP components, taking into consideration the cost-efficiency ratio, and for the financial auditing of the activities of MAP components financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

Draft Mandate of the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)

Background

The Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL) was established in 1975 by the very first intergovernmental meeting of the Mediterranean coastal States, convened by UNEP to consider the formulation of a broad and complex programme for the protection of the Mediterranean region. MED POL became the first operational programme of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) as its land-based pollution assessment and control component. The Programme went through three phases (Phase I – 1975-1980; Phase II – 1981-1995; and Phase III – 1996-2005), and is now in Phase IV (2006-2013). After giving emphasis to the assessment of pollution, since Phase III MED POL has focused on pollution reduction and control and the implementation of the pollution-related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention.

Objective and mission statement

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, such as MAP Phase II and the MCSD, the specific objective of MED POL is to contribute to the prevention and elimination of pollution in the Mediterranean, in particular by coordinating and promoting the implementation of the 1995 Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea (the “Dumping Protocol”), the 1996 Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (the amended “LBS Protocol”), and the 1996 Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (the “Hazardous Wastes Protocol”).

In this respect, MED POL's mission is to coordinate action and provide assistance to Mediterranean countries for the implementation of their commitments under the Barcelona Convention and the Dumping Protocol, the LBS Protocol and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, especially with a view to: the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-based Sources (SAP), National Action Plans to address land-based pollution and LBS-related legally binding programmes and action plans; and the assessment of the status and trends of pollution of the Mediterranean eco-regions.

Scope of action and key issues

MED POL's main fields of action for the coordination of the initiatives and activities envisaged in the Dumping, LBS and Hazardous Wastes Protocols, with particular reference to action for the reduction of pollution from land-based sources, include:

- the assessment of all point and diffuse sources and loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean, and the magnitude of the effects of contaminants on living and non-living resources, including human health, as well as on amenities and the uses of the marine and coastal regions;
- the assessment of the status and trends in the quality of the marine and coastal environment as an early warning system for potential environmental problems caused by pollution and other anthropogenic pressures; and
- the provision of assistance to countries, including capacity building, for the implementation of national action plans, including programmes and measures, for the reduction and gradual elimination of pollution, the mitigation of the impacts of pollution and the restoration of systems damaged by pollution, as a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development, including the

monitoring of the implementation of action plans, programmes and measures to control pollution and the assessment of their effectiveness. In this respect, MED POL plays a fundamental role in catalyzing and facilitating the realization by the countries of the pollution reduction actions listed in their NAPs by bridging between countries and international and regional donors and financial institutions and by offering a robust and regular assessment of the problems, the needs and the necessary remedial measures.

MED POL's action in these fields is based on a number of principles and assumptions:

- the entry into force of the Dumping Protocol, following that of the LBS Protocol and Hazardous Wastes Protocol in 2008, so as to provide MED POL activities with the necessary legal basis;
- the full integration of monitoring into the SAP and any other pollution control measure adopted by the Contracting Parties so as to ensure the continuous assessment of the status and trends of the quality of the marine and coastal environment and the effects of pollution and to assess the effectiveness of the pollution reduction measures implemented by countries;
- the gradual application, as appropriate, of common and differentiated responsibilities in the process of reducing pollution, as agreed by the Parties, to facilitate the long-term implementation of the SAP;
- the functional harmonization of monitoring, assessment and pollution control activities, as well as data quality assurance, data collection and processing, reporting and data management policies and procedures, with those adopted by regional, international and global bodies and organizations, such as the European Union and other United Nations agencies and programmes;
- the synchronization of MED POL assessment and reporting schedules, and the harmonization of assessment and reporting procedures, with the schedules and procedures adopted for the evolving global assessment of the state of the marine environment;
- the full cooperation with MAP Regional Activity Centres for the planning and implementation of joint programmes and activities with common or converging goals;
- the promotion of public participation, based on the integration of regional and national civil society from the onset in all relevant activities through the involvement of appropriate non-governmental structures (scientific communities, private sector, local authorities, NGOs and other relevant civil society structures), with a view to ensuring the broadest possible support for and implementation of MED POL objectives; and
- the continued involvement of the MED POL Programme (with particular reference to the NAPs) in the implementation of the pollution reduction, monitoring and capacity building components of the Horizon 2020 Initiative.

Principal activities

MED POL, within the context of its Phase IV, continues to assess the status and trends of marine pollution and to assist countries in controlling and reducing marine and coastal pollution using the approved tools (including monitoring, indicators, capacity building covering technical, scientific, institutional and financial aspects, assessment and the formulation of control measures) which have been used successfully since MED POL Phase I.

However, based on the results of the evaluation of MED POL Phase III, analysis of the MAP legislative framework and contemporary initiatives and trends in environmental protection, as well as recent policy developments at the regional and international levels, the

Contracting Parties, in approving MED POL Phase IV, decided that *a number of important issues had not been, or had not adequately been covered by MED POL Phase III and needed to be included in its Phase IV*. As a result, the key elements of MED POL activities, as defined by the Dumping, LBS and Hazardous Wastes Protocols, the SAP, and other long-term MAP documents, will also include:

- the control of sources of pollution in river basins, watersheds and ground waters, as they relate to inputs into the marine environment: initially it may be reasonable to cover only estuaries, particularly if they are declared hot spots, and to move gradually upstream only when the available data show the existence of pollution hot spots;
- the preparation and implementation of plans and programmes to counter the physical alteration and destruction of habitats, in cooperation with the competent regional bodies;
- the inclusion of analysis of relevant social and economic factors, such as the social and economic roots of environmental degradation, into the assessment of the state of the marine environment;
- tighter control over the ecological and health-related impacts of dumping;
- the monitoring of issues related to wastewater management and treatment, as well as the re-use of wastewater; and
- the wider use of preventive and precautionary action in pollution control, especially through the preparation of environmental impact assessments, BATs and BEPs for planned activities that may be a major source of marine pollution.
- the monitoring and assessment of the environmental effects and the implications for ecosystems of fisheries management, including aquaculture, and of sea water desalination activities;
- the monitoring and assessment of the environmental effects associated with energy production and maritime transport, in cooperation with other competent international and regional bodies;
- the assessment of the health risks associated with the quality of bathing and shellfish-growing waters, tourist establishments and facilities.
- the meaningful involvement of, and collaboration with, the private sector and other stakeholders in designing and implementing pollution control programmes and the evaluation of their results; and
- the promotion of intensified and well structured programmes to facilitate cooperation for the transfer of technology between countries with a view to reducing existing technological gaps in the pollution reduction process.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The principal funding for MED POL's activities and staff is provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). Additional funding to supplement and expand the scope of the approved activities is regularly sought and obtained through contacts, negotiations and the preparation of projects with national and international stakeholders, donors, organizations and banks, such as the European Commission, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM).

Draft Mandate of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

Background

The “Regional Oil Combating Centre” (ROCC) was originally established in 1976 by decision of the Contracting Parties with the mandate to strengthen the capacities of coastal States in contingency planning and to establish a regional information system with a view to dealing with emergencies. The Centre's mandate was extended in 1989, when it was also called upon to consider the risks arising out of the transport of hazardous and noxious substances by sea, and its name was changed to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). In 1993, the Contracting Parties decided to further extend the Centre's mandate to include the prevention of pollution of the marine environment, with specific reference to the implementation of the action plan concerning the provision of adequate port reception facilities in the Mediterranean region. Finally, with a view to the adoption in 2002 of the new Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (the “Prevention and Emergency Protocol”), the Contracting Parties reaffirmed the involvement of the Centre in prevention and in preparedness and response activities.

The Centre is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under a biennial project concluded between UNEP and IMO, and as such is governed by the United Nations rules and regulations as observed by IMO. The relationship between the Centre and IMO Headquarters is regulated by the 2004 Memorandum on the Standing Arrangements for the Management of REMPEC.

Objective and mission

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the specific objective of REMPEC is to assist the Contracting Parties in implementing their obligations under: Articles 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention respecting pollution from ships and cooperation in dealing with pollution emergencies; the 1976 Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency; the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol; and the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2005 and incorporated into the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

In this respect, REMPEC's mission is to assist the Contracting Parties by enhancing national capacities and regional cooperation with a view to preventing and reducing the risk of a maritime incident which could result in damaging pollution, and by providing an efficient cooperation framework to respond to such an event.

Scope of action and key issues

The Mediterranean Sea is the world's third seaborne trade area, with northern Mediterranean countries relying heavily on energy products imported by sea from southern Mediterranean countries or through the Bosphorus Straits or the Suez Canal. The Suez Canal is also a global highway for packaged goods loaded on container ships sailing from Asia to Europe or the East coast of the Americas. The Mediterranean is also a very productive sea which accounts for over 25 per cent of known marine biodiversity. The population of Mediterranean countries depends on a healthy marine environment, and particularly on

productive fisheries. Finally, the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal landscape and heritage attract tourists from the world over, with a large proportion of the Mediterranean population being economically dependent on tourism. For all these reasons, the risk of a maritime incident resulting in major pollution constitutes a common threat that needs to be addressed at the regional level.

In this regard, REMPEC's main fields of action for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships and the development of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and cooperation in case of emergency consist of:

- strengthening the capacities of the coastal States in the region with a view to preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships and ensuring the effective implementation in the region of the rules that are generally recognized at the international level relating to the prevention of pollution from ships, and with a view to abating, combating and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminating pollution of the marine environment irrespective of the source;
- developing regional cooperation in the field of the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships, and facilitating cooperation among Mediterranean coastal States in order to respond to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and which require emergency actions or other immediate response;
- assisting coastal States of the Mediterranean region which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and facilitating the exchange of information, technological cooperation and training; and
- providing a framework for the exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters, and promoting dialogue aimed at conducting coordinated action at the national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

Principal activities

The key elements of REMPEC's activities, as defined in the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and other long-term MAP policy documents, include the following:

Prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships:

- assisting the coastal States of the region to reinforce their national capacities with a view to implementing in an efficient manner the international regulations for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships by: collecting and disseminating information concerning the legal and technical aspects of the prevention of pollution from ships, making use of documents prepared by IMO; promoting the transfer of technology; conducting training activities; executing, at the request of the States and within the limits of the available resources, programmes and pilot projects; and providing technical assistance to coastal States which so request; and
- assisting the coastal States of the region to develop regional cooperation with a view to the effective implementation of international regulations for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships by: promoting, at the request of the States, dialogue aimed at conducting coordinated actions at the national, regional and global levels; assisting in the implementation of regional programmes approved by the Contracting Parties; and conducting studies on subjects of regional interest, at the request of the States.

Preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and cooperation in case of emergency

- collecting and disseminating information on: competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties; inventories of experts, equipment and installations in each coastal State for response to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and which might be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of the State which so requests in case of emergency; general indications, plans, methods and techniques for combating pollution by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances in order to assist as far as necessary the countries of the region in the preparation of their national contingency plans; and Mediterranean coastal zones, with particular attention to the zones that are especially sensitive to pollution by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances, for example for use in the preparation of risk predicting models and environmental sensitivity maps;
- establishing, keeping up to date and operating a partially computerized database on chemicals and their properties, risks for human life and the marine environment, response techniques and combating methods;
- progressively developing and operating a marine pollution emergency decision support system with a view to providing rapidly to coastal States information concerning behaviour, risks and different possibilities for action in the case of accidents involving oil and other hazardous and noxious substances;
- preparing, disseminating and keeping up to date operational guides and technical documents;
- developing and maintaining a regional communication/information system appropriate to the needs of the States served by the Centre;
- developing technological cooperation and training programmes for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances, and organizing training courses;
- assisting coastal States of the region, which so request, in the preparation and development of bilateral, multilateral or sub-regional operational agreements between neighbouring coastal States;
- preparing and keeping up to date operational arrangements and guidelines, aimed at facilitating cooperation between coastal States in cases of emergency;
- organizing and activating the Mediterranean Assistance Unit for combating accidental marine pollution, as established by decision of the Contracting Parties in 1993; and
- assisting coastal States of the region, which in cases of emergency so request, to obtain assistance from the other Parties to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, or when possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, to obtain international assistance from outside the region.

In the implementation of these activities, REMPEC collaborates with other MAP components on specific topics, as appropriate. Other stakeholders, particularly NGOs and civil society, are encouraged to participate in the Centre's activities and, where appropriate, memoranda of understanding may be signed between the Centre and other partners regulating such collaboration. In implementing its activities, the Centre benefits from the technical support of IMO.

In conducting its activities, REMPEC relies on its network of Focal Points, particularly for the dissemination of information received from the Centre and the selection of appropriate representatives of the various national authorities, departments and agencies to participate in REMPEC activities.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The core funding for REMPEC's activities is provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). The Centre also liaises with the IMO for the implementation of other activities in Mediterranean countries funded through the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP). Projects which further the implementation of REMPEC's mandate can also be concluded with other intergovernmental bodies or private partners, in consultation with IMO and MAP.

Draft Mandate of Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre

Background

The Blue Plan was established in 1977 by decision of an Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/IG.5/7) as a regional cooperation programme with the aim of "putting at the disposal of political leaders and decision-makers all information that will enable them to develop plans likely to ensure sustained optimal socio-economic development without degrading the environment" and "helping governments of coastal states in the Mediterranean region to increase their knowledge of the joint problems they have to face, both in the Mediterranean Sea and in their coastal areas". The programme was implemented by a non-governmental association, MEDEAS, established under French law, located at first in Cannes and then in Sophia-Antipolis, with the scientific support of a Coordinating and Overview Group appointed by the Executive Director of UNEP. In 1979, the Contracting Parties nominated MEDEAS as a MAP regional activities centre, and it became the Blue Plan Regional Activities Centre in 1984.

As MAP developed, and in light of global environmental challenges, especially those relating to sustainable development, the focus of the Blue Plan's operations was subsequently repositioned with the development of its role as a Mediterranean observatory for the environment and development and the extension of the prospective approach in coastal regions. Following the Johannesburg Summit and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSDD), the Blue Plan was requested to prepare a major report entitled *A sustainable future for the Mediterranean: The Blue Plan's environment and development outlook*, which assessed the progress made since 1985 and called for action directed towards alternative sustainable development scenarios. The report inspired the elaboration of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), adopted in 2005. In July 2008, a new analysis of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, drawing on the Blue Plan's work since 1977, was submitted to all those participating in the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, thereby confirming the Blue Plan's role, on behalf of MAP, as a Mediterranean observatory.

Objective and mission

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including the (MSSD), the objective of the Blue Plan is to ensure that Mediterranean stakeholders and decision-makers are aware of environmental and sustainable development issues in the region and that they have at their disposal future scenarios to assist in decision-making.

In this respect and through its dual functions as an observatory of the environment and sustainable development and a centre for systemic and prospective analysis, the Blue Plan's mission is to provide the Contracting Parties with a firm basis of data, statistics, indicators, environmental and sustainable development assessments to guide their action in giving effect to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The cross-cutting nature of this mission transcends the environment to cover the full range of issues related to sustainable development.

Scope of action and key issues

Effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as the MSSD, requires a long-term approach to decision-making for which a firm basis is needed of reliable, comparable and homogenous data offering a realistic assessment of the state of the environment in the region, including new issues such as climate change. This

involves the need to develop tools and methods which clearly demonstrate the interactions between the environment and development, combined with assessments of the nature of current and future developments, based on the construction of indicators, economic modelling and scenarios, which can be powerful factors in collective thinking.

Within this context, the Blue Plan's main fields of action are:

- the ongoing identification, collection and processing of environmental, economic and social data and statistics for the use of stakeholders and decision-makers;
- assessment of the interaction between the environment and economic and social development, and the building and of relevant indicators and tools to measure progress towards sustainable development;
- the preparation of analyses and prospective studies to assist in constructing visions of the future as an aid to decision-making; and
- dissemination of the findings of this work in the various appropriate forms and channels.

The core themes and areas covered by the Blue Plan include climate change, water, energy, transport, urban, rural and coastal areas, as well as tourism, which cuts across these various themes and areas and is covered by a specific chapter of the MSSD. In addition, Blue Plan's work also covers ecosystems and waste.

The Blue Plan's work in these areas is guided by the following principles:

- openness, because the scale and quality of its output, audience and impact depend on its capacity to develop relations with different stakeholders (the United Nations, European and bilateral actors, and civil society);
- the existence of a comparative advantage in relation to the themes studied;
- a constant drive for quality in terms of output, organization and communication; and
- a results culture as, in view of its mission, the Blue Plan always has to be in a position to report on its work and findings.

Principal activities

The key elements of Blue Plan's activities are established in the *sustainability analysis grid* presented in its strategic orientations document as from November 2006. The activities relate to the main sustainable development issues, with particular reference to climate change. The 2007-2015 intervention framework, which was validated by the Blue Plan Focal Points in June 2007, sets out the activities planned for the coming years, which are in line with the requests made by the Contracting Parties and involve in particular:

- continuing, improving and extending systemic and prospective studies on the interaction between population, resources, environment and development;
- exploring the futures of specific coastal regions;
- developing Blue Plan's role as a Mediterranean observatory for the environment and development;
- studying variables, statistics and environmental state and trend indicators;
- providing decision-makers with documentation on sources of information and research on development-environment issues and ensuring that Blue Plan's work and publications are widely circulated;
- assisting the contracting Parties in implementing the provisions of the MSSD in their national strategies;
- documenting indicators, conducting in-depth analyses and identifying good practices in volunteer countries, EU bodies and regional partners and initiatives,

especially in the areas of water demand, energy and climate change, sustainable tourism, sustainable rural development and sustainable transport;

- producing and circulating a set of indicators for the follow-up of the MSSD;
- assisting countries to draw up indicators for their National Strategies for Sustainable Development; and
- submitting to each session of the MCSD a summary of the developments noted in the implementation of the MSSD, based in particular on Blue Plan priority indicators.

For most activities, the Blue Plan develops partnerships with other MAP components, which are covered by memoranda of agreement. The Blue Plan also endeavours to build up partnerships with the various stakeholders in sustainable development in the Mediterranean, which are covered by protocols of agreement (examples include the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies and private companies).

Sources and mechanisms of funding

The funding for the Blue Plan's activities is provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund and various other partners (including Mediterranean countries, European Commission, European Investment Bank, French Agency for Development, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, World Bank and private companies), which contribute to its programme of work on the basis of specific agreements.

Draft Mandate of the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

Background

The Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) was established in Split in 1980 by decision of the Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/IG.5/7, paragraph 54) of 1977 to assist in the implementation of the Integrated Planning Component of the Mediterranean Action Plan adopted in Barcelona in 1975. Its original mandate was broad in scope and encompassed ten priority actions in six fields of activity that required immediate action. With the development of MAP, and in light of the challenges of the global environmental context, especially those relating to coastal areas, the focus of PAP/RAC's operations was subsequently repositioned to respond to the need for the sustainable development of the region's coastal areas, particularly through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The adoption of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (the "ICZM Protocol") in 2008 formalized the role of PAP/RAC with regard to the implementation of the ICZM protocol.

Objective and mission

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, the specific objective of PAP/RAC is focused on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol (2008) as the paramount instrument for the sustainable development and integrated management of coastal zones in the Mediterranean.

In this respect, PAP/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, with particular reference to the ICZM Protocol, especially with a view to: the sustainable development of coastal zones and sustainable use of their natural resources; the integrity of coastal ecosystems and landscapes and the preservation of their biodiversity; the coherence of action among all public and private coastal actors and stakeholders, as well as the respective authorities at the national, regional and local levels; and coordination with all related and relevant regional and global conventions and agreements.

Scope of action and key issues

Over the years, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, as elaborated in the White Paper on Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (2002), has become a crucial approach in coping with the constant pressures on the coastal areas of the Mediterranean. Based on the guiding principles of integrating economic, social and environmental systems, with emphasis on their interdependence and complementarity; applying the ecosystem approach; using of appropriate governance mechanisms; and promoting participation in the decision-making process, ICZM is a proactive approach that offers the capability of coping with either persistent problems as well as new and emerging ones, such as the concentration of coastal activities, urban sprawl, coastal risks, climate change and the unbalanced use of natural resources.

PAP/RAC's main fields of action for the achievement of the sustainable development of coastal zones consist of coordinating the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, the provision of assistance to the Parties for the implementation of their commitments under the Protocol, the implementation of pilot/demonstration projects to demonstrate the feasibility of ICZM and promote replication and capacity building and information dissemination in the field of ICZM.

Within the framework of the application of ICZM, several key sectoral issues with a coastal focus are addressed by PAP/RAC:

- Urban development: linking ICZM to spatial planning (both land and marine) and urban management processes;
- Natural resources: the rational use of water and other natural resources, such as minerals and sand, in coastal, and specifically urban coastal areas; coastal fishing and aquaculture; agriculture; industry;
- Sustainable tourism: the assessment of carrying capacity for tourism, spatial planning in tourist areas;
- Landscape and heritage: protection, management and planning of landscapes and heritage;
- Coastal and soil erosion: assessing the vulnerability of coastal areas and coastal planning for risk prevention and mitigation;
- Infrastructure and transport: avoiding congestion by ensuring the appropriate integration and location of the various transport systems, including maritime activities;
- Pollution and waste: developing integrated pollution and waste reduction policies, programmes and projects;
- Risks: abating increased vulnerability to natural hazards; preventing, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change;
- Specific coastal ecosystems: the integration into ICZM of the conservation, protection and use of wetlands and estuaries, marine habitats, dunes, coastal forests and woods, and islands.

Principal activities

The key elements of PAP/RAC's activities, as defined in the ICZM Protocol and other long-term MAP policy documents, include the following:

Co-ordination of the initiatives and activities envisaged by the ICZM Protocol, including:

- the definition of a common regional framework for integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean;
- the preparation of regular reports on the state and development of integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean region;
- the exchange of information and the implementation of activities of common interest;
- the implementation of the tasks entrusted to PAP/RAC in action plans adopted within the framework of the ICZM Protocol.

In addition, PAP/RAC will continue to identify and address emerging ICZM thematic issues and will develop methodologies, tools and techniques for ICZM (such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) and land and marine spatial planning, and will prepare guidelines and guides on best practices. Particular attention will be paid to preparing the reports and technical studies needed for the implementation of the Protocol, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, observatories, data and inventories, and indicators.

Assistance to the Parties:

PAP/RAC will continue to provide technical assistance to Contracting parties which so request, in particular to help them:

- participate in a Mediterranean coastal zone network;
- prepare and implement their national strategies for integrated coastal zone management;
- co-operate in training activities and in scientific and technical research programmes;
- co-ordinate, where appropriate, the management of transboundary coastal zones.

Pilot/demonstration projects

The Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) is one of the longest standing MAP programmes. The objective of the CAMP programme is the implementation of practical coastal management projects in selected local Mediterranean coastal areas to demonstrate the application of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as a major tool. With a view to the implementation of MAP legal instruments, and specifically the ICZM Protocol, CAMP projects have the following goals:

- develop relevant implementation instruments and procedures for sustainable development in project areas;
- identify and apply relevant methodologies and tools;
- contribute to capacity building at the local, national and regional levels; and
- secure the broad use of the results achieved.

After almost 20 years of implementation, a series of recommendations to improve the development and management of CAMP projects have been adopted. In future, CAMP projects will therefore focus more fully on:

- improving governance and participatory approaches;
- establishing permanent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- promoting synergy and co-operation among stakeholders;
- exploring the potential for achieving sustainable financing and co-financing of ICZM activities;
- stimulating public-private-NGO partnerships;
- developing ICZM knowledge and information sharing platforms; and
- improving the CAMP programme and project design.

PAP/RAC will retain a leading and co-ordinating role in the implementation of the CAMP programme, with particular reference to:

- encouraging the Contracting Parties to develop initiatives for new CAMP projects;
- assisting countries to undertake feasibility studies for CAMP projects;
- developing CAMP project activities and assist national and local authorities in their implementation; and
- assisting the Contracting Parties in the implementation of post-CAMP activities and the dissemination and replication of CAMP results.

In carrying out these activities, PAP/RAC will seek complementary financing and develop synergies with other regional projects, in particular those financed by other sources.

Capacity building

PAP/RAC is the lead centre to co-ordinate and catalyse activities in support of the implementation of ICZM through the organisation of training, education and awareness-raising activities, networking, publications and the dissemination of information. In order to capitalise on existing knowledge to build capacities for the implementation of ICZM, PAP/RAC will support and facilitate communication mechanisms and channels among the Contracting Parties, MAP

components and other relevant stakeholders by providing clearing-house mechanisms, networking and the sharing of information through the media and over the internet, among other means.

In implementing its activities and with a view to ensuring complementarity and synergy of ICZM initiatives within the Mediterranean, PAP/RAC will continue to collaborate with all relevant partners in the region, within and outside the MAP system, including: the MAP components; the MCSD, and particularly its thematic groups on ICZM-related issues; national and local governments; bilateral and multilateral organizations and associations (and particularly the World Bank, European Union, UNDP, World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission); NGOs; private sector establishments; and sub-regional initiatives, such as the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, the Northern Adriatic Commission and RAMOGE.

In this regard, particular emphasis will be placed on giving effect to specific provisions of the ICZM Protocol respecting:

- Relations with national authorities: as set out in Article 30 of the Protocol, which calls for the appointment of Focal Points, who are the representatives of the Contracting Parties and serve as liaison with PAP/RAC regarding the technical and scientific aspects of ICZM and for the disseminate of information at the national, regional and local levels. Meetings of Focal Points are held regularly and reports are prepared periodically providing information on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol (Article 31); and
- Relations with other partners (IGOs, NGOs, private sector, ...), covered by Article 14 of the ICZM Protocol, in accordance with which, with a view to ensuring efficient governance throughout the process of the integrated management of coastal zones, PAP/RAC will collaborate with stakeholders, including: the territorial communities and public entities concerned; economic operators; NGOs; social actors; and the public concerned. Such participation may extend to partnerships.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The principal funding for the implementation of PAP/RAC's activities and covering its staff is provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). Financing by the host country is regulated by the host country agreement between UNEP and the Government of Croatia (1996) and is limited to the provision of premises and the coverage of some of the operating costs. Additional funding will continue to be sought for actions related to ICZM, either in response to international calls for proposals or through spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries and the private sector. Although PAP/RAC can use other mechanisms of funding, its work will be linked and tuned with the UNEP/MAP priorities.

Draft mandate of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Center (SPA/RAC)

Background

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established in Tunis in 1985 by decision of the Contracting Parties (UNEP/IG.23/11), which entrusted it with responsibility for assessing the situation of natural and scenic heritage and assisting countries to implement the 1982 Geneva Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. In 1993, the Contracting Parties indicated their determination to make the Mediterranean a pilot region for application of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the amendment of the Barcelona Convention and the adoption of the 1995 Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the "SPA/BD Protocol"), which came into force in 1999.

Objective and mission

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, such as MAP Phase II and the MCSD, the specific objective of SPA/RAC is to contribute to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol.

In this respect, SPA/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, with particular reference to the SPA/BD Protocol, especially with a view to: developing and promoting Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) in the Mediterranean; and reducing the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Scope of action and key issues

Biodiversity issues are becoming increasingly complex, which means that whereas SPA/RAC's focus was initially limited to the main species and sites, it has now widened to cover habitats, sustainable ecosystem management and taking account of the ecosystem approach.

With a view to furthering the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol, SPA/RAC developed a Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO), which was adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003. The principal objective of the SAP BIO is the establishment of a logical basis for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol by the Contracting Parties, international and national organizations, NGOs, donors, and all other stakeholders in the protection and management of the Mediterranean natural environment, by setting out principles, measures and concrete and coordinated actions at the national, transboundary and regional levels for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity, within the framework of the sustainable use of natural resources.

Within this context, SPA/RAC pursues the following basic objectives:

- fostering improved knowledge of marine and coastal biodiversity;
- improving the management of existing and facilitating the creation of new marine and coastal protected areas;
- enhancing the protection of endangered species and habitats;
- contributing to the reinforcement of relevant national legislation and national and international capacity-building; and
- contributing to fund-raising efforts.

SPA/RAC's main fields of action to pursue the above objectives, as identified in the SAP BIO, are as follows:

- developing research to complete the knowledge base and fill in knowledge gaps on biodiversity;
- inventorying, mapping and monitoring coastal and marine biodiversity;
- assessing and mitigating the impact of threats on biodiversity;
- conserving sensitive habitats, species and sites; and
- coordinating capacity-building and technical support.

In this regard, taking fully into account of the objectives identified by the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), within the context of the principles and approaches identified in the introductory section covering all MAP components, particular emphasis is placed by SPA/RAC in its work on the responsible fisheries principle, the "no adverse effect" principle and the "prevention better than last minute cure" principle.

Principal activities

The key elements of SPA/RAC's activities, as defined by the SPA/BD Protocol and the SAP BIO, and other long-term MAP documents, include the following:

Coordination of initiatives and activities for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol:

- the implementation of scientific and technical research programmes as defined by the SPA/BD Protocol (Article 20), with priority being given to scientific and technical research related to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and the species appearing in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol;
- the preparation of management plans for protected areas and species;
- the preparation of cooperation programmes in order to coordinate the creation, conservation, planning and management of specially protected areas, as well as the choice, management and conservation of protected species;
- the implementation of the tasks with which SPA/RAC is entrusted by the action plans adopted within the framework of the SPA/BD Protocol; and
- the preparation of educational materials designed for various groups.

In this connection, SPA/RAC formulates recommendations for guidelines and common criteria for the selection of marine and coastal protected areas that could be included on the SPAMI List, common criteria for the inclusion of additional species in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol, guidelines for the establishment and management of protected areas and any other technical tool relevant to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol. SPA/RAC creates and updates databases on specially protected areas, protected species, directories of Mediterranean specialists and organizations in various fields covered by the SPA/BD Protocol, bibliographic databases, and databases on other matters of relevance to the Protocol. SPA/RAC also prepares the reports and technical studies that may be required for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol.

Assistance to the Parties

SPA/RAC provides technical assistance to Contracting Parties which so request, in particular to help them:

- identify, establish and manage specially protected areas, including the preparation of management plans for their marine parts, within the context of national, subregional and regional programmes;
- prepare and implement National Action Plans for the protection of endangered species and habitats;

- strengthen their capacities to deal with issues relating to the conservation and management of Mediterranean biodiversity; and
- exchange scientific and technical information concerning current and planned national research and monitoring programmes and the results thereof.

Capacity building

SPA/RAC draws up and implements training programmes, particularly regarding: public environmental education; the training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel; scientific research; the acquisition, utilization, design and development of appropriate equipment; and the transfer of technology on advantageous terms to be agreed among the Parties concerned, through training sessions, courses, study tours, on-the-job training and field missions.

Cooperation with national, regional and international organizations

SPA/RAC is the lead MAP centre for cooperation with the regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the protection of areas and species, in accordance with the specificity of each organization and the need to avoid the duplication of activities. It will also continue to collaborate with the other MAP components and with all relevant partners in the region to ensure synergy and complementarity in relation to action concerning specially protected areas and biodiversity.

In this regard, particular emphasis will be placed on giving effect to specific provisions of the SPA/BD Protocol respecting:

- *Relations with national authorities*, which are provided for by the SPA/BD Protocol through: the appointment of National Focal Points for SPAs, who are the representatives of the Contracting Parties and the point of contact for SPA/RAC (Article 24); the regular organization of meetings which enable the various stakeholders to meet on at least a two-yearly basis (Article 25(b)); and the drafting of regular reports which provide information regarding the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol (Article 23); and
- *Relations with other partners (UN bodies, international and regional conventions and agreements, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector)* (Article 25(g)), which may attend the meetings of the National Focal Points as observers. Some partners are also identified in the Action Plans for the conservation of threatened areas or species adopted within the MAP framework as being "Partners" or "Associates" to these Action Plans. Finally, where appropriate, memoranda of cooperation may be drawn up between SPA/RAC and its partners to promote the implementation of activities under the SPA/BD Protocol.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The principal recurrent funding for SPA/RAC activities and staffing is provided through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). Additional funding is sought for actions that are clearly defined in space and time, either in response to international calls for proposals or through spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries, international institutions, donor agencies and the private sector.

Draft Mandate of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)

Background

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) was established in 1996 by decision of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and is covered by a cooperation agreement between the Department of Environment of the Government of Catalonia and the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain. When CP/RAC was first established, its focus was to promote and disseminate cleaner production (CP) in the industrial sector of Mediterranean countries. However, since 2007, it has embraced the integrated approach applied by UNEP to sustainable consumption and production (SCP), as reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), which endorses SCP as one of the main objectives to achieve sustainable development in the region. Likewise, SCP is one of the overarching objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for which implementation at the Mediterranean level Mediterranean Partners and Actors in general and MAP in particular must play an active role, according to the *Catania Declaration* of the 13th COP. In February 2008, CP/RAC was also nominated as a regional centre for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Objective and mission statement

The specific objective of CP/RAC is to contribute to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as the Stockholm Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, such as the MSSD, and the MCSD, based on the SCP integrated approach as adopted by UNEP. In this task, CP/RAC focus especially on the 1996 Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (the amended "LBS Protocol"), the 1996 Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (the "Hazardous Wastes Protocol"), especially on article 5.1; article 5.2; article 5.3; and article 5.4 of the LBS Protocol and article 5.2 of the HW Protocol, in which SCP plays a crucial role, and on those other Protocols in which the shift to SCP is key to attain their objectives.

The CP/RAC mission is to promote mechanisms leading to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and sound chemical management in the Mediterranean.

Scope of action and key issues

In light of the challenges for sustainable development in the regional and global environmental contexts, especially those relating to the fact that economies can only be sustainable if efforts to make economic sectors more environmentally-friendly are accompanied by a society-wide shift to sustainable consumption patterns, the focus of CP/RAC is put on the following key issues to contribute to the objectives of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the MSSD:

- contributing to create knowledge in decision makers on the links between the patterns of consumption and production and the environmental degradation of the Mediterranean region
- providing technical assistance to the public and private sector of Mediterranean countries for reducing land-based pollution, particularly harmful substances and hazardous waste, through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT), Best

Environmental Practices (BEP), Cleaner Production (CP), the IPPC principles and sound chemical management.

- boosting green competitiveness as tool through which managers and industrialists drive Mediterranean small and medium enterprises to succeed in the global market
- fostering mechanisms through which sustainable criteria are progressively introduced within the whole consumption-production system of organizations and enterprises: eco-labelling, sustainable procurement, sustainable management of industrial areas, corporate social responsibility, etc
- promoting sustainable lifestyles that really fit in the specific cultural, natural, economic and social heritage of Mediterranean societies and contributing to create information and education for sustainable consumption
- bringing MAP closer to the UNEP's and the EU objectives on SCP and building cooperation between MAP components and relevant agents and initiatives relevant for SCP to the Mediterranean

Principal activities

The key elements of CP/RAC's activities, deriving from the Barcelona's Convention and its Protocols, the MSSD and other long-term MAP documents, as well as the Stockholm Convention, include the following:

Address the links between consumption and production patterns and environmental degradation

- assess the general consumption and production patterns and environmental degradation trends in the Mediterranean region as well as opportunities for the consumption-production integrated approach in the region; facilitate promising new opportunities for cooperation in the Mediterranean and ongoing initiatives in the region;
- support countries and give them technical and methodological assistance in national SCP strategies;
- contribute with innovative approaches to effectively reduce pollution and waste generation addressing both the consumption and production perspectives.
- awareness and information: raise awareness of the link between consumption and production patterns and environmental degradation; provide negotiators and policy makers with key and innovative information for decision-making from a consumption--production integrated perspective;
- create partnerships and build networks with institutions, agents and experts at the cutting edge of knowledge, for further disseminating and developing the consumption--production integrated approach.

Follow-up and assessment of trends and challenges relating to SCP

- the preparation of periodic reports reviewing and monitoring development trends and benchmarking of existing methodologies at Mediterranean countries, and the progress made by Mediterranean countries in implementing SCP in the business sector and the main initiatives taken by local agencies, consumer associations, NGOs and other civil society actors to promote the shift to sustainable consumption and environmentally sound lifestyles; and
- the promotion of debate and discussion among experts and representatives of government agencies, consumer organizations, business and industry, civil society and other stakeholders regarding the needs, priorities and challenges relating to SCP in the region.

Involvement of key SCP players

- the creation of partnerships with representatives of the private sector, academia and civil society for joint collaboration in the promotion of SCP alternatives; and
- cooperation with international agents dealing with SCP with a view to developing synergies and avoiding duplication.

Promotion of tools to facilitate SCP in the business sector

- the preparation of technical studies on CP and other pollution prevention alternatives (eco-efficiency, BATs, BEPs, etc.) in the main industrial sectors of Mediterranean countries;
- the development of plans and methodological guidelines to facilitate the application of SCP alternatives in the public and private sectors, including eco-labelling, green procurement and corporate social responsibility;
- the provision of capacity building, training and technical support at both the regional and national levels; and
- the publication and dissemination of information to raise awareness of successful projects and SCP experiences in Mediterranean countries.

The fostering of green competitiveness as a tool for Mediterranean SMEs to succeed in the global market:

- enhancement of the visibility of the financial opportunities generated by the environment with a view to promoting green competitiveness in the region;
- the promotion of the green competitiveness of SMEs through private-public partnerships; and
- the organization of roadshows and the development of other awareness-raising tools to improve understanding of green competitiveness technologies.

Raise the awareness of consumers concerning their role and responsibility in driving change towards sustainable development

- the dissemination of information among the Mediterranean population on alternatives for sustainable lifestyles;
- the provision of capacity building for concerned stakeholders as businesses, educators, administrations, local agents
- the promotion of responsible/sensible consumption among young people; and and institutions, consumer organizations and NGOs,
- the creation of partnerships and the building of networks with institutions, agents and civil society agencies for this purpose.

Promotion of the sound management of chemicals

- the provision of advice to countries on the sound management of chemicals;
- the provision of training and technical support to stakeholders; and
- the dissemination of experience in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Promotion of the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals

- the provision of assistance to countries for the creation of their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention.
- the identification of priorities in relation to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in countries;
- the publication of technical studies concerning strategies for heavy metals; and
- contribution to international projects for the management of chemical waste contaminated with PCBs.

In implementing its activities and in order to ensure complementarity and synergy with other SCP initiatives relevant to the Mediterranean, CP/RAC will collaborate and promote the cooperation of MAP components with: the Marrakech Process and its Task Forces; the European, African and Arab SCP regional processes; the European Commission; the European Environmental Agency; UNEP/DTIE, UNITAR, the Basel Convention, other Centres for the Stockholm Convention and other bilateral and multilateral organizations and associations and subregional initiatives promoting SCP.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The principal sources of funding for CP/RAC activities and staff is Spain, through the Ministry of Environment, Marine and Rural Affairs, and the Catalan Department of Environment and Housing, and international agencies (e.g. GEF, MTF, etc). Funding is regulated on a biannual basis through the signing of specific agreements in accordance with the priorities, recommendations and plans specified by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona and Stockholm Conventions and cooperation agreements between MAP and relevant agencies and institutions (e.g. EC-MAP Work Cooperation Programme, Horizon 2020, EEA-MAP Work Cooperation Plan, etc). CP/RAC can use other mechanisms of funding but its work should be linked and tuned with the UNEP/MAP priorities.

The biennial CP/RAC's work programmes will define the target stakeholders and public for the activities to carry out.

Draft Mandate of the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC)

Background

The Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC) was established in 2003 by the decision of the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention held in Catania, when the refocusing of the Italian Centre ERS/RAC towards ICTs was approved. The Environment Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC) hosted by Italy, was previously established by the "8th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention" (Antalya, Turkey, 12-15 October 1993). In Catania, the Italian Government entrusted the management and the responsibility of the Centre to the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Territory and Sea as well as to the Sicilian Region; the Centre is therefore entirely in public hands.

In line with Article 15 of the Barcelona Convention, the scope of the Centre has been to optimise information and communication technology and train operators.

At the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Portoroz on November 2005, the Centre was mandated inter alia to establish a common information management infrastructure (Info MAP) to facilitate and support information and communication activities across MAP, including the management and upgrading of the UNEP/MAP website, the MED POL Info System and the MAP reporting system, as well as information and communication activities related to the MSSD.

At the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, 15-18 January 2008), the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) announced its decision to transfer the functions of INFO/RAC to ICRAM (Italian Central Institute for Applied Marine Research), now merged into ISPRA (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research), starting from January 2010.

Objective and mission

Support the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), in the achievement of their objectives, through the provision of Information and Communication services, the dissemination and sharing of environmental information and the strengthening of the communication capabilities of UNEP/MAP and of the key stakeholders in the Mediterranean region, in order to raise public awareness, assist decision-making processes and promote sustainable development and environmental protection in the Mediterranean basin.

The Centre will strive for close cooperation with other key environment institutions and international bodies working on environmental data and information management, to progressively move towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS). This will ensure the availability of coherent, scientifically sound environmental knowledge to support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and strategies.

Scope of action and key issues

The main objectives of the Centre are grouped in the following three main thematic areas:

I. Information and communication technology

Design and implement a common infrastructure (InfoMAP) for internal (UNEP/MAP) and external information among Mediterranean coastal States to carry out coordinated activities at the national and regional level, for the full implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the MSSD. Furthermore, manage and periodically update the UNEP/MAP, MED POL Info System, MSSD websites/CMS/intranet and the MAP Reporting System, in coherence with the reporting mechanisms already developed by UNEP-MAP components on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and by the Plan Bleu on the implementation of the MSSD.

II. Reporting, communication, education, training and awareness-raising

Provide knowledge and tools to improve, in close coordination with the Coordinating Unit and other MAP components:

- a) regional cooperation in the field of data flows management, information sharing and reporting mechanisms, through appropriate communication, education and training; establish long-term,
- b) working partnerships among UNEP/MAP Components, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;
- c) promote public participation and raise awareness on the activities of UNEP/MAP, of the Barcelona Convention and of related programmes on the environmental and sustainable development policies of individual member states of the Convention. Special attention will be given to specific training/educational products, based on Contracting Parties existing experiences and needs.

III. Dissemination of results from environmental research and from innovative observation and monitoring technology

Promote the sharing and dissemination of experiences and results stemming from environmental research and innovative tools/technologies, including those resulting from earth observation initiatives relevant to the Mediterranean environment and sustainable development. The scope is to strengthen the knowledge base for bridging the gap between science, environmental monitoring and policy making in the Mediterranean region, taking into account existing efforts at the Euro-Mediterranean level to focus on good practices relevant to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and of the MSSD.

INFO/RAC will promote the use of the best available information and communication means and tools for the reduction of the overall ecological footprint of MAP's components, contributing to the greening of the Barcelona Convention, thus contributing to enhance the UNEP/MAP overall visibility.

Principal activities

The key elements of INFO/RAC's activities derive from the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the MSSD and the Reports of the meetings of Contracting Parties and of MAP Focal Points; they include the following:

I. Information and communication technology

- Developing, maintaining and integrating InfoMAP components, including the on-line reporting systems and InfoMAP GeoPortal and websites;
- Providing technical assistance to Contracting Parties in on-line reporting activities;
- Promoting networking on Information and Communication technology;
- Reducing MAP ecological footprint through the best use of I&CT;
- Promote, in cooperation with other MAP components, the construction of a UNEP/MAP spatial data infrastructure with basic and reference environmental information and data for UNEP/MAP, its components and the Contracting Parties

II. Reporting, communication, education, training and awareness-raising

- Cooperating with all MAP components for improving data flows management, information sharing and reporting mechanisms;
- Cooperating in MAP environmental and corporate reports, including guidelines for corporate communication;
- Contributing in development of communication products and services, such as MAP websites, MedWaves e-magazine, e-Newsletter, short promo videos;
- Contributing to improving communication and linkages within the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties, MAP components and with external stakeholders;
- Developing a network of Communication officers within the Contracting Parties;
- Preparing periodical survey on IC needs and communication impacts;
- Organizing MAP events such as events targeted to young people at COPs, celebration days and on-line contest;
- Participating in activities related to environmental education, through the use of best available IC tools and information resources;
- Improving communication with civil society and private sector including exchange of information on best practices regarding educational toolkits;
- Facilitating partnerships with NGOs and other actors concerned with promoting public participation and raising awareness of the objectives and activities of MAP and the Barcelona Convention;

III. Dissemination of results from environmental research and from innovative observation and monitoring technology:

- Identifying opportunities for R&D cooperation initiatives on Marine and coastal environment;
- Collecting and disseminating R&D project results related to the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, taking into account existing European and regional initiatives relevant for building a platform on best practices on science and policy interactions;
- Disseminating information on opportunities stemming from innovative earth observation technologies, to facilitate the development of early warning systems on the major environmental challenges in the Mediterranean region.
- Reviewing, in cooperation with other MAP components, existing tools and means for the monitoring and vigilance of the Mediterranean Sea and its coast, to identify knowledge gaps according to the requirements and needs of UNEP/MAP and its components, taking into account existing initiatives and related projects, such as the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security (GMES).

Sources and mechanisms of funding

The INFO/RAC activities are financed by the Italian Government subject to the national budgetary rules, as well as from the Mediterranean Trust Fund. ISPRA also provides in-kind contribution to the INFO/RAC programmes. Other sources of funding will be identified and sought at the European and International level, including private sector and sponsorships, as appropriate, to perform activities linked and tuned with the UNEP/MAP priorities.