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Sea against Pollution

Catania (Italy), 11-14 November 2003

REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE 2002-2003 BIENNIUM



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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of MAP National Focal Points

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cateceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
AEWA	African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement
BOD	Biological oxygen demand
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Project
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIHEAM	Centre international de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Mediterranees
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CITET	Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies
CP/RAC	Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre
EEA	European Environment Agency
EMAS	Eco-management and Audit Scheme
ERS/RAC	Environment Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre
FFEM	Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GWP	Global Water Partnership
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA-MEL	International Atomic Energy Agency Marine Environment Laboratory
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICARM	Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management
ICRAM	Central Institute for Research Applied to the Sea
ICS/UNIDO	International Centre for Science and High Technology of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INDEMER	Institut du droit economique de la mer
IOC	International Oceaographic commission
IUCN	International Union for the conservation of Nature
LBS Protocol	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, 1996
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MEDA	Mediterranean Development Agreement
MEDASSET	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
MEDU	Mediterranean Unit
MedWet	Mediterranean Wetlands
METAP	Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PCB	Poly Chlorinated Byphenyl
RACs	Regional activity centres
RAMOGE	Accord St-Raphael - Monaco – Gênes
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SMAP	Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme
SPA Protocol	Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean
SPAMIs	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GPA	UN Environment Programme / Global Programme for action
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

Introduction

This report covers the application of recommendations adopted by the Contracting Parties at their Twelfth Ordinary Meeting held in Monaco from 11-13 November 2001 and their implementation under the guidance of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties.

It is the first time the Secretariat is introducing separate reports for the progress of implementation of activities carried out during the present biennium and the programme budget and recommendations for the new biennium to come.

The attention of the National Focal Points (NFPs) is drawn to the following points in the report:

1. The status of ratifications and acceptances, which is still unsatisfactory, despite, the progress made.
2. The reporting system required by the Parties has been successfully implemented on a voluntary basis by 5 countries and drawing lessons from this experience a regular and general reporting is proposed starting by covering the 2002-2003 biennium
3. The process of the evaluation of MAP components has been pursued by undertaking the overall evaluation of the MAP structure together with the evaluation of REMPEC and SPA/RAC.
4. A revised list of partners has been elaborated on the basis of the objective criteria for admission of and cooperation with non-governmental organizations as decided by the Contracting Parties in 2001.
5. The cooperation with UN Agencies, European Union, and other IGOs has recognized progress such as the Athens declaration for the Mediterranean partnership and intensive participation of MAP to the WSSD.
6. The entry into force of the new Protocol concerning Specially-Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean has been followed by intensive activity, in particular through the preparation of SAP BIO (Strategic action plan for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity), specific action plans for endangered species and the implementation of EC MEDA project.
7. Following the effective implementation of the GEF Project progress has been made in the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to address Pollution from Land-based Activities.
8. In view of the Prestige accident and implementation of the new prevention and emergency protocol, REMPEC has started to elaborate an implementation strategy
9. The preparation of the report Environment and development has progressed considerably. Follow up of MCSD activities and recommendations was particularly intensive for water, indicators and free trade.
10. The preparatory process for the Orientations for a Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development has provided a coherent regional vision; whereas the

MCSD assessment and prospects still require some additional strategic consideration by the Contracting Parties.

11. Starting from 2004, the new reference and operating currency for MAP is in euros.

I. COORDINATION

I.A.1 Legal framework

1.1 Status of ratification of the Convention and the Protocols

Since the last MAP National Focal Points in September 2001, Albania, Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Slovenia and Turkey have either accepted the amendments to the revised Convention and to certain Protocols or have ratified one or more of the new Protocols. As at 18 July 2003, a total of 14 Contracting Parties had accepted the amendments to the revised Convention, 14 had accepted the amendments to the revised Dumping Protocol and 13 to the revised Land-based Sources (LBS) Protocol. In addition, 13 Contracting Parties had ratified the new Special Protected Areas (SPA) and Biodiversity Protocol, four the new Offshore Protocol, four the new Hazardous Wastes Protocol and five the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

Of these new and revised instruments, as at 18 July 2003 only the new SPA and Biodiversity Protocol had entered into force. It should be recalled that six ratifications are required for the entry into force of a new Protocol and that 17 Contracting Parties have to accept the amendments to a revised instrument for it to enter into force. A detailed table of the status of signatures and ratifications is attached as Annex I to this report.

1.2 Accession of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro to the Barcelona Convention

Following the notification in February 2003 of the succession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Barcelona Convention and its four Protocols since 27 April 1992, UNEP's Regional Office for Europe was notified on 20 March 2003 that the newly reorganized State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become Party to the Barcelona Convention by succession and that the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Montenegro had been nominated as the MAP National Focal Point. It should be recalled that this procedure is in conformity with the decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Antalya, 12-15 October 1993), which established the framework for dealing with situations of this nature.

On the basis of these developments, the Secretariat has consulted the authorities of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro on issues related to institutional procedures and making an early start with the process of ratification of the new or amended instruments of the Barcelona system. At its meeting in Sarajevo in May 2003, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties decided to invite the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro to the meeting of the MAP National Focal Points in September 2003 and the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2003 (Reference document UNEP/BUR60/4).

1.3 Recent developments relating to the legal framework

1.3.1 *The new Prevention and Emergency Protocol*

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties adopted the new objectives and functions of REMPEC and decided to organize the Third Meeting of National Legal and Technical Experts on the Amendments to the Emergency Protocol. The Meeting was held in Malta in January 2002 to finalize the text of the new Protocol, which was adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries convened immediately thereafter under the new title of the

Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.

While reinforcing the duties of the Parties related to preparedness and response, which were already covered by the 1976 Emergency Protocol, the new Protocol, with its focus on prevention, now provides Mediterranean coastal States with a legal instrument that will facilitate the implementation and enforcement of international law regarding the prevention of accidental and operational pollution from ships. The main features of the new Protocol include:

- the requirement for Contracting Parties to take measures in conformity with international law to prevent pollution from ships in their capacity as flag State, port State and coastal State and to develop their national capacity and bilateral and multilateral cooperation (Article 4);
- the reinforcement of the provision of the 1976 Protocol concerning the monitoring of the Mediterranean Sea Area in order to provide the basis for the enforcement of the relevant conventions, especially as regards the prevention and detection of pollution (Article 5);
- the extension of the requirement to exchange information between the Parties which, in addition to the competent authorities responsible for combating pollution and assistance, now also covers the authorities responsible for implementation of international regulations on the prevention of pollution, and particularly the MARPOL 73/78 Convention (Article 7), and the dissemination of information on the measures taken for the prevention of pollution from ships;
- the inclusion in the new Protocol of provisions on the prevention of accidental pollution and the emphasis placed on improving the safety of navigation, based on an assessment of the environmental risks of maritime traffic and the adoption of appropriate measures aimed at reducing the risks of accidents and their environmental consequences (Article 15);
- the commitment to define national, sub-regional or regional strategies for the reception of ships in distress in ports and places of refuge (Article 16), as well as the provisions reflecting the MARPOL 73/78 requirements relating to port reception facilities and requiring the provision of adequate reception facilities in ports and terminals, including for pleasure craft, and the supply of relevant information to ships using ports (Article 14).

Taking into consideration recent accidents and their implications for the Mediterranean region, the REMPEC Focal Points, at their meeting in Malta in February 2003, called for the entry into force of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol by the end of 2003.

1.3.2 Feasibility study for a new legal instrument on ICAM

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties called for PAP/RAC to assist in the preparation of a feasibility study for a regional protocol on sustainable coastal management. This initiative is in accordance with the broader scope of the revised Barcelona Convention, which extends to the coastal region of the Mediterranean and under which the Parties "commit themselves to promote the integrated management of the coastal zones, taking into account the protection of areas of ecological and landscape interest and the rational use of natural resources" (Article 4, paragraph 3(e)). It is intended, on the one hand, to emphasize the need to take into consideration the sensitivity of coastal areas in Mediterranean sustainable development policies and, on the other, to anticipate the multiplicity and complexity of the problems relating to coastal area management in the region

With a view to the preparation of the feasibility study for a legal instrument on integrated coastal area management (ICAM), PAP/RAC assembled a group of

Mediterranean experts, each representing a different facet of this very complex issue. Three expert meetings were organized to discuss the objectives of the feasibility study and its contents, review the work programme and terms of reference of the feasibility study and discuss and work towards the finalization of the study.

1.3.3 Liability and compensation

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties called upon the Secretariat to convene a meeting of experts to prepare a document on the preparation of appropriate rules and procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area. At its meeting in Monaco in October 2002, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to organize a small meeting of legal experts for an exchange of views regarding developments in this field since the 1997 Brijuni Meeting of Government-Designated Legal and Technical Experts.

A small meeting of experts from the Basel Convention, the Industrial Accidents Convention, REMPEC and the Universities of Genoa, Milan and Athens was held in April 2003 in Athens. In selecting the experts for this meeting, the Secretariat bore in mind the need to ensure synergy with other liability regimes that are in force or are expected to come into force in the near future. The aim of the meeting was to indicate whether there was a need for a new instrument on liability and compensation under the Barcelona system and/or to assess the possibility of applying any other liability regime that is or is expected to be in place soon.

With the aim of avoiding overlapping and ensuring any possible synergy, the meeting reviewed the potential implications on the Mediterranean region of the new Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters adopted under the UNECE Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, as well as of the proposed European Union Directive on Environmental Liability.

The meeting agreed on the need to establish a Mediterranean liability and compensation regime as an important tool to promote the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention and to protect of the sea from pollution. It concluded that, as there is no other similar liability regime applicable in the region, the preparation of a legal instrument on this subject would be of added value for the Mediterranean. It suggested that any new legal instrument could be composed of a general part devoted mainly to setting out the principles, and four annexes addressing the principal areas not covered by other global and regional initiatives (the IMO Conventions, the Basel Convention and probably the proposed European Union Directive), namely: dumping; offshore activities; activities affecting biodiversity, as indicated in the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol; and land-based sources of pollution.

At its meeting in Sarajevo in May 2003, the Bureau discussed the conclusions and recommendations of the expert meeting and suggested that the Secretariat should follow a step-by-step approach based on consultations with insurance companies and socio-economic actors on the financial limits and their interest in the establishment of such an insurance market.

1.4 Reporting system

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties approved the reporting format prepared by a working group and decided to start its implementation on a trial basis during the biennium 2002-2003. Six countries (Algeria, Croatia, Monaco, Spain, Tunisia and

Turkey) agreed to participate in the pilot phase of the application of the reporting system and submitted their national reports.

Comprehensive national reports covering all sections of the reporting format have been received from five countries (Spain, Monaco, Tunisia, Croatia and Turkey). The reports from Spain and Monaco contain complete information on all items in the reporting format, while there are still some gaps in the reports from Tunisia and Turkey. Although the reports from Tunisia, Croatia and Turkey were satisfactory in terms of information on national legislation and related activities, there were clearly some problems in the collection of technical data. The other country (Algeria) sent in material covering a number of sections of the reporting format. In general terms, the shortcomings of this material were in the field of legal and administrative data, and technical and statistical information.

The Secretariat has closely monitored progress in the implementation of the reporting exercise and organized the following supporting activities:

- a training course for national officials in Ankara on 26 February 2003 at the request of the Ministry of Environment of Turkey; and
- two additional meetings of the Working Group on the Reporting System (Catania, 12 December 2002, and Athens, 4-5 July 2003) to review progress in the implementation of the pilot exercise and a report on the lessons learned.

The fourth meeting on the Reporting System in Athens was attended not only by representatives of five participating countries (Croatia, Spain, Monaco, Tunisia, Turkey), but also of seven other Contracting Parties. The purpose of the latter meeting was to conduct a *a posteriori* examination of the exercise and, in light of the experience gained, to decide whether any amendment would be appropriate to the reporting format so that a proposal for a common approach and feasible options could be submitted to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania with a view to starting implementation of Article 26 of the revised Barcelona Convention respecting reporting. In general terms, it has however become evident from the pilot exercise that one major concern is that national reports require input from several government institutions with the need for a high level of inter-sectoral coordination.

1.5 Monitoring system for the enforcement of MAP legal instruments

Article 26 (1) of the revised Convention provides that:

The Contracting Parties shall transmit to the Organization reports on:

- (a) the legal, administrative or other measures taken by them for the implementation of this Convention, the Protocols and of the recommendations adopted by their meetings;*
- (b) the effectiveness of the measures referred to in subparagraph (a) and problems encountered in the implementation of the instruments as mentioned above.*

Article 27 adds that:

The meetings of the Contracting Parties shall, on the basis of periodical reports referred to in Article 26 and any other report submitted by the Contracting parties, assess the compliance with the Convention and the Protocols as well as the measures and recommendations. They shall recommend, when appropriate, the necessary steps to bring about full compliance with the Convention and the Protocols and promote the implementation of the decisions and recommendations.

To comply with the above obligations, and further to the establishment of the reporting system, the Bureau of Contracting Parties at its last three meetings requested the Secretariat to consider the necessity of establishing a mechanism for the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention. After reviewing the proposals prepared by the Secretariat on this subject at several of its meetings, the Bureau recommended that an integrated approach should be followed for the elaboration of the implementation and compliance mechanism based on mutual interaction with the reporting system. It was proposed that a Working Group on Implementation and Compliance with the Barcelona Convention should be established with a mandate to prepare during the biennium 2004-2005 for submission to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005:

- a platform for the establishment of a mechanism to promote implementation and compliance with the Barcelona Convention; and
- better harmonization of the reporting format with other multilateral environmental agreements and the European Communities.

Following its review by the Bureau, the proposal was then examined by the Working Group on the Reporting System at its meeting in July 2003. The meeting proposed that, instead of a working group with a limited representation of the Contracting Parties, an open-ended working group should be established and all the Contracting Parties be invited to participate actively in the process of the elaboration of the mechanism. It also proposed that the Secretariat should prepare a regional assessment report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols for submission to the meetings of MAP National Focal Points and the Contracting Parties in 2005.

1.6 Meetings and support to countries on legal matters

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties recommended the Secretariat: 1) to assist the Contracting Parties in their efforts to adhere to the MAP legal instruments; 2) to assist the Contracting Parties to incorporate legal instruments in their national legislation; 3) to take the necessary action needed to make MAP legal instruments better known in the Mediterranean; 4) to organize a training programme on international law for government nominated experts.

In order to meet these requests, the following activities were organized:

1. a Workshop of Legal Experts on the Application of the Barcelona Convention (Tunis, June 2000);
2. a meeting of officers responsible for marine and coastal legal instruments (November 2001) with the collaboration of the Junta de Andalucia to discuss the present situation of legal and institutional protection of the Mediterranean;
3. a programme of assistance to countries for the incorporation of legal instruments into their national legislation (starting in 2001), including:
 - a) Syria: legal assistance to adhere to the MAP legal instruments;
 - b) Tunisia: support for institutional discussion and public awareness of the new legal instruments for coastal and marine protection;
 - c) Lebanon: support for the implementation of the new legal instruments for coastal protection.

To further assist the Contracting Parties in this respect, the Secretariat published and distributed a new version of the informal document in English and French containing the new and revised legal instruments, which includes the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

I.A.2 Institutional framework

2.1 MAP evaluation including MCSD

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to start preparing a strategic assessment of the general framework of the Barcelona Convention (the operational bodies and the Coordination Unit) and to that end to draw up a report by October 2002, in cooperation with the Bureau, for submission to the next meeting of the MAP National Focal Points. This request implies that the assessment should not only cover the administrative components of MAP, but also structures at the national level (National Focal Points), meetings, the MCSD and even UNEP to the extent that it contributes to the MAP under its Regional Seas Programme.

The methodology of the strategic assessment was broadly discussed during the extraordinary meeting of the Directors of regional activities centres (RACs) held in Delphi in July 2002. At its meeting in Monaco in October 2002, the Bureau decided to establish a Think Tank to prepare the strategic assessment with the following composition:

- the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Monaco);
- a representative of a Mediterranean country member of the European Union (Greece);
- a representative of a Southern or Eastern Mediterranean country (Syrian Arab Republic);
- a representative of a Mediterranean country included in the next enlargement of the European Union (Slovenia);
- two experts to be appointed by the Secretariat.

The Bureau also decided to utilize an internal procedure for the evaluation on the grounds that representatives of countries, experts and members of the Secretariat all have the detachment necessary to undertake a self-evaluation. In December 2002, the MAP Coordinator therefore invited the MEDU professionals and directors of the RACs to give their points of view on several important issues related to the performance of the Barcelona system, based on their working experience and general knowledge of MAP, its partners and programmes, and taking into account ongoing and past sectoral evaluations. An integrated, participatory and general approach was applied, resulting in the preparation of an introductory self-assessment paper. The latter was submitted to the Bureau and used for the preparation by the Secretariat of a strategic platform, which was examined by the Think Tank at its three meetings in Athens in March, April and June 2003.

At its meeting in Sarajevo, the Bureau mandated the Think Tank to finalize the report for submission to the meeting of MAP National Focal Points (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/5).

2.2 Evaluation of RACs (REMPEC and SPA/RAC)

In conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat continued the evaluation process of MAP components. After PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and the 100 Historic Sites programme in the previous biennium, evaluations were undertaken of REMPEC and SPA/RAC by teams of qualified experts.

Taking into account the lessons learned from the previous exercises, the evaluations were based on information collected from relevant documents and through questionnaires, as well as a series of interviews with the authorities of the host country and the representatives of various countries and partners. The evaluations examined the efficiency and effectiveness of the projects and activities carried out and their impact at the national,

sub-regional and regional levels, as well as assessing their cost-effectiveness and the lessons learned from their implementation. The first results of the evaluation process were presented to the meetings of the respective National Focal Points.

2.2.1 Evaluation of REMPEC

The evaluation of REMPEC was organized in close cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and was carried out by two independent experts. The evaluation focused on the extent to which the Centre has been successful in achieving its objectives through its planned and actual outputs, as well as its management performance. The evaluation was based on a desk review of documents, questionnaires, meetings and interviews with the REMPEC focal points, carried out on the occasion of their sixth meeting. The evaluation process was completed by the end of May 2003 and the two final reports are submitted to the meeting of the MAP National Focal Points (working document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/7).

2.2.2 Evaluation of SPA/RAC

The evaluation of SPA/RAC was initiated in October 2002 with the assistance of three experts. Following an in-depth analysis of documents, together with additional information obtained through interviews and questionnaires, the preliminary findings and proposals were presented at the meeting of SPA/RAC National Focal Points in Marseilles in June 2003. A revised draft report of the evaluation is submitted for consideration by the meeting of MAP National Focal Points (working document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/6).

The evaluation is expected to provide grounds for a reform of the Centre so as to improve its regional and international visibility through a more objective information and communication strategy, a more pro-active cooperation strategy with relevant regional and international institutions, IGOs and NGOs, as well as the more effective integration of biodiversity and sustainable development into its programme of activities, based on the recommendations contained in the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

2.3 Follow up of past evaluations

2.3.1 PAP/RAC

The first in-depth evaluation of PAP/RAC was carried out in 1999 and produced 28 recommendations concerning its operation and activities. In accordance with these recommendations, PAP/RAC has taken action to resolve a number of issues: *strategic* (a mission statement for PAP/RAC was adopted; institutional obstacles to integrated coastal area management (ICAM) in the Mediterranean have been identified; and terminology for project development has been brought into line with that of other major partners), *CAMP-related* (regular six-monthly reporting on the follow-up of coastal area management projects (CAMPs) has been introduced; and the possibility of cross-border and second-generation CAMPs has been explored), *institutional* (the feasibility was assessed of developing a new regional legal instrument on coastal area management; National Focal Points meetings have been resumed; a Deputy Director has been engaged who is not a national of the PAP/RAC host country; the level of involvement of Mediterranean NGOs has been increased in programme implementation) and *technical* (a list of PAP/RAC publications has been produced; several documents have been published in Arabic; and PAP/RAC's website has been expanded). In June 2002, the UNEP Evaluation and Oversight Unit informed PAP/RAC that it considered that most of the recommendations had been implemented and that "*where the recommendations could not be implemented fully due to financial constraints, we trust that there will be follow-up from PAP/RAC once the financial situation improves.*"

A second external evaluation of PAP/RAC, focusing on its cost-effectiveness, was undertaken in June 2001 by two experts, including a former Turkish National Focal Point for PAP/RAC. The conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation are contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.190/8. Of the 16 broad recommendations made, most have since been implemented. In accordance with the strategic recommendations of the evaluation, the focus of PAP/RAC's mandate has been sharpened, preventing overlap with the activities of other MAP Centres and concentrating on ICAM; the knowledge gained in the implementation of its programmes has been disseminated more widely and information and guidance papers produced; several Regional Seas Programmes have been advised on the efficient implementation of their work plans; and new approaches to sustainable development have been sought, for example through the development of the ICARM approach. In response to the recommendations concerning coastal area management projects (CAMPs), PAP/RAC has deepened its knowledge of the efficiency of CAMP programmes; it has as a rule engaged national consultants for the execution of CAMP projects; has strongly promoted post CAMP project activities and has further investigated the various means of financing relevant sustainable development activities; has encouraged national counterparts in CAMPs to pledge more substantial financial contributions for their implementation (e.g. CAMP Algeria); and has explored the possibility of launching the first transboundary CAMP encompassing regions in Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. Finally, the number of on-line and hard copy PAP/RAC publications available has been increased and the development of the PAP/RAC website in Arabic is being considered in the 2004-05 work programme.

2.3.2 Historic sites

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, taking into account the recommendations of the evaluation of the 100 Historic Sites programme, suggested using the MCSD framework to propose a draft of a new programme, with a view to sustainable development, concerning the Mediterranean cultural heritage that is both more open and better targeted. At its meeting in Antalya in March 2002, the MCSD examined this issue and agreed that a group of voluntary representatives would meet. The meeting, attended by the representatives of Tunisia, Greece, Morocco, Monaco, Turkey, Croatia, Naples, Medcités and France, was hosted by France and held in Nice in April 2003. The report of the meeting is attached as document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG228/Inf.19.

The meeting developed an outline for a working programme for the next three years and identified potential partners and resources. It was suggested that MAP could support the programme through its centres and their activities, and particularly the CAMPS currently being carried out in Algeria, Malta and Murcia. It was further proposed that the programme would have a light structure within MAP, organically linked to PAP/RAC, with some autonomy in its work and management. A small board would be established, composed of organizations that would participate over several years, and consisting mainly of cities, universities and other appropriate national and international institutions, such as the Council of Europe and UNESCO. Marseilles has already expressed its interest in cooperating with and supporting the programme.

I.A.3 Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

3.1 Synopsis of activities

Since it was set up in 1996 as an advisory body to the Contracting Parties, the MCSD has met on eight occasions to review progress in its work and prepare sets of proposals on the issues included in its work programme. Of its first set of eight thematic issues, the MCSD has continued working on free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context. Some of the other thematic issues, namely sustainable management of coastal zones, management of water demand, sustainable development indicators, industry and information, awareness and public participation, have also been followed up by the Secretariat and the RACs. Information on each of these issues is provided in the sections of the report on the respective RACs.

Several meetings were organized during the biennium by the MCSD Secretariat, including two meetings of the MCSD (Antalya, Turkey, in March 2002, and Cavtat, Croatia, in May 2003) and one meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Calvia, Spain, in November 2002). The working sessions and workshops organized by the RACs are referred to in their respective sections of the report.

The Seventh Meeting of the MCSD (Antalya, March 2002) was postponed from October 2001 because of the international context. As the thematic issues covered by the Working Groups and the respective sets of recommendations had been examined by the Extraordinary meeting of the MCSD held prior to the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Seventh Meeting of the MCSD mainly focused on the subjects of MCSD assessment and prospects and the framework orientations for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. The meeting agreed on a methodology for the preparation of the framework orientations, decided to establish a Task Force to consider further the MCSD prospects, recommended the organization of regional fora, selected certain new thematic issues (financing, agriculture, consumption patterns and waste) and advised on activities related to other issues (such as tourism, historic sites, water, free trade and local governance).

The Eighth Meeting of the MCSD (Cavtat, May 2003), in addition to reviewing progress on a few thematic issues, mainly focused on one sensitive issue (MCSD prospects) and one difficult one (the framework orientations for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development). The Meeting was characterized by a critical atmosphere throughout and the absence of one-third of its members. In the light of previous discussions of the MCSD's efficiency and effectiveness, the Eighth Meeting clearly showed that the MCSD needs to undergo serious change in relation to its structure, membership and methods of work.

3.2 MCSD assessment and prospects

Since the first set of MCSD recommendations was prepared and adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1997, a series of questions have been raised concerning the MCSD's methods of work, the quality and usefulness of its results, the implementation and follow-up of its recommendations and issues relating to its membership and participation. It was therefore considered necessary to carry out a review and assessment of the organization and methods of work of the MCSD with a view to defining options for its further development and increasing its efficiency in advising the Contracting Parties and all other concerned partners on matters relating to sustainable development.

In this context, it should be recalled that the activities that the MEDU and the MCSD Secretariat are expected to carry out have continuously grown in volume without any proportional increase in resources, particularly taking into account the need to organize MCSD meetings and steering committees, the inter-sessional follow-up and coordination of thematic activities, the preparation of the strategic review, the MCSD assessment and prospects exercise and the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. In addition, the Secretariat is expected to act as a catalyst and improve cooperation between regional organizations, civil society and the major groups in the whole field of sustainable development.

This issue was placed on the agenda of the Seventh Meeting of the MCSD with a view to exploring and identifying a series of options for a better organized and more efficient MCSD. Considering that further discussion was necessary on this subject, a Task Force of MCSD members was established, with Italy and Spain acting as co-chairs, in addition to representatives of the Secretariat and the concerned RACs. The Task Force met in Barcelona in October 2002 and April 2003 to consider a note prepared by the Secretariat and, in particular, a draft report by Mr Georgiades (Cyprus). The report, as revised to take into account the views of the Task Force, was submitted to the Eighth meeting of the MCSD which, following strained discussions, agreed upon a set of proposals for the improvement of the MCSD and requested the Coordinating Unit to pursue the MCSD assessment exercise in relation to the need to promote sustainable development throughout the activities of MAP.

3.3 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development: Vision and orientations

In conformity with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, based on the proposal by the MCSD and the conclusions of the Strategic Review of the MCSD, the preparatory process for the formulation of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development was launched. This preparatory process consisted mainly of developing framework orientations setting out the guiding principles for the elaboration of the Strategy, based on the identification of a limited number of pressures and issues.

The terms of reference for developing the framework orientations were finalized and three experts were identified in May 2002 (Mr. M. Ibrahim, Mr. A. Mahjoub and Mr. J. Prats), who were commissioned to prepare the main background studies, namely: Environment and natural resources; Economic development and social equity; and Governance, political and institutional issues. The experts were requested to identify policy issues of a regional nature, concerning many of the key actors in the region, as the blocks upon which the MSSD could be built. The work currently being carried out by the Blue Plan for the preparation of a Mediterranean Environment and Development report, focusing on pressures and status issues will provide the background information for this process. The Blue Plan's report is expected to be finalized by the end of 2003, shortly before the preparation of the actual Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development is due to start.

The three background studies, which constitute a valuable set of supporting information, were discussed at a workshop held in Barcelona in March 2003, with the financial support of Spain. Following the constructive discussions at the workshop, during which a large measure of agreement was reached on the major issues and challenges for sustainable development in the Mediterranean, three additional experts (Mr. G. Corm, Mr. M. Ennabli and Mr. A. Laounia) were requested to contribute to the elaboration of a more strategic and political report proposing draft framework orientations for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, for submission to the Eighth Meeting of the MCSD.

The discussion of the draft report on framework orientations by the MCSD was not very conclusive and it was proposed that a revised, shorter and better structured report on framework orientations should be prepared with a view to its submission to the Thirteenth

Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania. The draft report on framework orientations was also accompanied by a shorter paper, prepared by Mr. Ennabli, setting out a vision for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. This paper focused on a set of key challenges and derived strategic "contracts". In so doing, it provided a rational and coherent framework for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and was highly appreciated by the members of the MCSD. The related reports and the report on the discussions and recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the MCSD meeting are submitted to the meeting of MAP National Focal Points for information in UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/Inf.9.

I.A.4 Cooperation and partnership

4.1 United Nations agencies, Environmental Conventions, intergovernmental Organizations and funding institutions

Further to the recommendations of the Twelfth Contracting parties meeting in Monaco, 2001, the Secretariat has widen and further strengthened its cooperation with various United Nations Agencies, Convention Secretariats, other relevant Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs) and the European Commission for the preparation of the report of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), the GEO, for the implementation of biodiversity programmes, marine pollution control programs, statistics, indicators, reporting and environmental standards, in preparing joint projects submitted for external funding including MEDA/SMAP, ensuring synergy with global and regional conventions and joint work with United Nations Regional Economic Commissions in relevant priority fields for the Mediterranean.

At its last meeting in Sarajevo, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, keeping in mind the recommendations of the Contracting Parties asked the Secretariat to strengthen the cooperation with Conventions addressing horizontal and cross cutting issues and the relevant programs of implementations and to take into consideration the outputs of the future Kiev Conference and Process "Environment for Europe"

In this context, the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to Espo Convention "On the environmental Impact Assessment on Trans-boundary Context" together with its executive Secretary paid a visit to the MEDU on 10 April 2003. They raised the issue of a closer cooperation with the Secretariat in:

- promoting the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries to adhere the Espo Convention that by a decision of the Contracting Parties to this convention got a global geographic dimension and thus is open for countries from regions other than UNECE one;
- finding mechanisms for synergy between two conventions to achieve and improve implementation on national level.

The meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties in Sarajevo recommended to the Secretariat to follow up this initiative by keeping in touch with Espo Convention Secretariat and preparing a joint working plan to be implemented during the next biennium (for example a joint seminar to explain the synergies between both conventions and the added value of their ratifications) and promotion of bilateral agreements on national level). The Bureau asked the Secretariat to invite the Espo Convention to the Contracting Parties Meeting in Catania in November 2003.

4.2 The WSSD and the Mediterranean

In conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties requesting an active contribution to the WSSD preparatory process, the Secretariat has been associated to the three UN Regional exercises [Europe, West Asia and (North) Africa]; moreover, MAP has contributed to the preparation of the UNEP GEO III report.

MAP activities and achievements in relation to sustainable development and mainly through the MCSD have contributed to the promotion of the exemplarity of the Mediterranean, despite the shortcomings regarding the follow up and implementation of the

recommendations and proposals for action. The various sets of recommendations, the multiple workshops, the recent publications, the Strategic Review and some thematic brochures together with the launching of the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy, have all contributed to MAP and MCSD's visibility, but still a lot needs to be done.

With the active support of several MCSD members, the notion of "Mediterranean Agenda 21" was introduced in the WSSD Plan of Implementation; moreover, an important Mediterranean Side Event was organized at the WSSD with the support of MIO-ECSDE and Monaco, and the active participation of several Mediterranean and European partners.

As for the Johannesburg Summit, the crucial challenges for the Mediterranean Strategy will be to present sustainable development as a set of choices which are relevant to all Mediterranean Partners and actors, a set of principles which can guide future action and a set of practical policies at local, national and regional levels.

From the key documents approved at the WSSD, mainly the Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, many issues, of high interest and relevance to the Mediterranean, ought to be given due consideration by the MCSD in its future programme of work and throughout the preparatory process of the "Orientations" and then the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy.

Considering the importance given to the Type II Partnership Initiatives, the Secretariat of MAP/MCSD has prepared a Mediterranean initiative concerning the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy, entitled 'Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean: Policy and Tools'; the proposal was finally endorsed by the UN CSD/WSSD Secretariat (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/Inf.9) The main objective of this Partnership Initiative is to provide visibility and recognition to Mediterranean achievements and plans towards Sustainable Development; in fact, the Type II initiative and the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Strategy are closely related and mutually supportive.

Concerning the cooperation with the UN-CSD and the request by the Contracting Parties for eventually institutionalising such cooperation, it is important to note that the UNEP/MAP Secretariat cannot directly address the CSD meetings, unless through UNEP (mainly concerned with global issues) or through the Contracting Parties (usually concerned with National issues or UN Regional issues). If the Mediterranean case is to be presented as a specific eco-region with its characteristics and achievements, then it would be important to look for a specific accreditation through ECOSOC as Barcelona Convention or MCSD.

The WSSD process has provided a good opportunity for the preparation of a series of publications intended to provide the wide public with the state of the art about MAP's commitment towards sustainable development in each of its main fields of activity. The following brochures were produced:

- Towards Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region;
- The Revision of MAP Legal Framework: The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- Promoting Cleaner Production in the Industrial Sector;
- Reducing Pollution from Land;
- Protecting the Mediterranean against Maritime Accidents and Illegal Discharges from Ships;
- For a Sound Coastal Management in the Mediterranean;
- Safeguarding Mediterranean Biodiversity.

In conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties requesting the Secretariat to provide support to countries to promote information and awareness, several countries and partners were encouraged to prepare specific environment and sustainable development brochures in their local languages as well as in English or French for wide dissemination to the public and concerned partners.

Launched as a MCSD initiative, a total of 14 National publications have been produced: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Syria and Turkey together with a specific one on NGOs jointly prepared by Medforum and MIO-ECSDE.

National brochures by Algeria and Tunisia could not be finalized despite substantial preparatory work, whereas an additional one is being prepared by Israel. Other countries were also requested to prepare similar brochures.

4.3 Cooperation of RACs and MED POL

REMPEC has established and successfully maintained co-operation with a number of specialized international governmental and non-governmental organization such as IMO, UNEP Industry and Environment, Helsinki Commission, WMO, ICRAM, INDEMER, MOIG, INTERTANKO, ITOF, IPIECA, HELMEPA, OECD, CEFIC ICE, CEDRE, US EPA and ESA.

In 2002 the Centre was granted the status of observer by the Bonn Agreement. Throughout the implementation of the Project, regular contacts, exchange of information and experience have taken place between REMPEC and the mentioned organizations, allowing sharing of experience and transfer of technology. The co-operation resulted in the improvement of the Centre's professional capacity and in the increased quality of its work in the implementation of Project activities.

Within the framework of this co-operation some significant agreements were reached: with ICRAM in order to utilize its expertise in the field of environment, as a component of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (Memorandum of Understanding signed in Malta on 28th October 2002); with the European Space Agency and ICRAM to have a Junior Expert at REMPEC within the framework of the EC project "Gaiant-Vasco which is dealing with "satellite monitoring" in the Mediterranean. The junior expert will be at Centre for an initial period of seven months.

Particular mention deserves the continuous improvement of the co-operation with IMO in the field of seminars, sub-regional training, pilot projects as well as the development of sub-regional agreements. Within the framework of its "Technical Co-operation Programme" IMO continued to sponsor activities carried out by REMPEC in the Mediterranean region. The amount made available for 2002- 2003 is \$151.000 while the previous biennium was \$120.000.

An agreement was signed in October 2002 between the FAO and the MAP/Blue Plan following an audit of Silva Mediterranea, a historic network for forestry co-operation in the Mediterranean. This audit had invited Silva Mediterranea to refocus its approach to become less technical, more forward-looking and more "sustainable development", and to make closer links with the MAP. France decided to support this reorientation by providing the BP/RAC with a senior expert to head the project; an assistant expert should be provided shortly by the FAO using French funds.

A co-operation agreement was signed on February 24 2003 by the MAP and the CIHEAM (Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes, International Centre for Higher Agronomic Studies in the Mediterranean), a regional

institution created in 1962 to provide training, research and co-operation for agricultural and rural development in the Mediterranean Basin; and calls for regular meetings of ministers of agriculture from its member states. The aim of this agreement is threefold: to ensure improved use of combined strengths in the future work of the CIHEAM and of the MAP/Blue Plan concerning the relationship between agriculture, natural resources and sustainable development in general; to make the discussions that they have been organising respectively for several decades more widely open to their partners; and to help ensure that these combined discussions and this strengthened co-operation will benefit both CIHEAM and MAP as well as other regional partners, in particular the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

In addition to the long-standing cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO), work has continued to be carried out in cooperation with other UN Agencies for the implementation of specific activities. In particular, as in the past, IAEA/MEL has been responsible for the implementation of the data quality assurance of chemical analyses through training, intercalibration, scientific visits, purchase of instruments, advice and quality control. In view of some personnel changes at the Agency, cooperation with WMO did not continue during the biennium. The cooperation with ICS-UNIDO was instead formalized and has resulted in joint activities carried out for the implementation of the PRTR Project and the launching of one pre-investment study in the framework of the GEF Project.

Cooperation with the Cleaner Technology Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC) in Barcelona was strengthened as part of the GEF Project and negotiations were carried out to bring MED POL and CP/RAC further closer in the framework of the long-term implementation of the SAP.

A new Agreement was signed with the Universities of Genoa and Alessandria, Italy, to ensure the continuation of the data quality assurance activities related to biological effects monitoring.

Close cooperation was ensured with MED GOOS and, as a result, MED POL has been acting as formal partner of the MAMA Project and responsible for one work package of the Project.

The MED POL Secretariat continued to have close working relations with the existing sub-regional Agreements of the region. In particular, cooperation was ensured with RA.MO.GE. (France, Monaco, Italy) in the framework of monitoring and, in relation to the implementation of SAP, for the preparation of national baseline budget of releases. In this framework, RA.MO.GE. contributed to the preparation of the methodology and of the software that is now being used by all countries. Cooperation was also strengthened with the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII) in the framework of monitoring and river basin management and plans were made for concrete future joint work.

Full cooperation has continued with GEF and the partners of the GEF Project. In particular, negotiations were made to finalize the terms of cooperation with FFEM; as a result, the formal signature of an Agreement will be made soon for the transfer of the funds and the implementation of the activities.

Contacts were maintained with the office of the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP and with a number of Regional Seas Programmes. In particular, financial support was provided by UNEP for cooperation with NOWPAP and an MOU has been formalized with PERSGA for cooperation and exchange of experience at no cost for MAP. Close contacts were also maintained with OSPAR and HELCOM, mostly to ensure harmonization of programmes and methodologies.

The MED POL Secretariat actively participated in the work of UNEP for the preparation of a global assessment of persistent toxic substances (PTS) requested by the

UNEP Governing Council in 1997. In particular, one staff member of MED POL acted as team member for the work which was carried out for the Mediterranean region as part of the global assessment, and all the available MED POL data were put at the disposal of the team. The Mediterranean regional assessment was published by UNEP in 2002.

The MED POL Secretariat participated at the process of preparation of the Marine Strategy launched by the European Commission. Close contacts were ensured at all times with the European Commission Secretariat to ensure harmonization of programmes and it was agreed to further strengthen cooperation in terms of monitoring, reporting and SAP implementation. In addition, the MED POL Secretariat closely worked with the European Environment Agency (EEA) in the field of monitoring data reporting and management aiming at finding appropriate solutions to streamline the flow of data from European/Mediterranean countries.

Collaboration with other organisations provides the framework for an optimisation of activities for the conservation of the Mediterranean Sea, as well as for enhancing the quality of the activities done to support countries.

Within the framework of the SAP BIO Project, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by SPA/RAC and the Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the role to be played by FAO in the preparation of necessary studies on the interaction fisheries/marine ecosystems.

Apart from the above-mentioned collaboration with FAO on the SAP BIO Project, this organization was on the SAP BIO's Advisory Committee. Other organizations on this committee were: WWF-International Mediterranean Programme, MedWet Programme under the auspices of the Ramsar Convention, IUCN-WESCAN, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, ALECSO (Arab League), ACCOBAMS Secretariat, European Thematic Centre for Nature Conservation (ETC/NC), Council of Europe (Secretariat of the Bern Convention) and the MAP's Coordination Unit.

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat and RAC/SPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate the joint implementation of this agreement and action Plan on cetacean elaborated in the frame of the Barcelona convention in the Mediterranean.

In accordance with the recommendations made by the Contracting Parties, RAC/SPA pursued its contacts with the Secretariats of the following Conventions: Bern Convention, Bonn Convention, Ramsar Convention and CBD.

With a view to developing common activities related to prevention and contingency plans to confront the pollution likely to affect protected areas, contacts have been under way with REMPEC since February 2003.

4.4 Regional Environmental Centre for East and Central Europe

REC was created in 1990 with the mission to assist in solving the environmental problems in concerned countries by promoting cooperation among NGOs, governments, business and other stakeholders, and by promoting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making; since then, REC has extended its fields of interest to issues that are also of great concern to MAP, such as legal instruments and related capacity, environmental policy, EIA and SEA, etc.

REC has Country Offices with 58 persons each, in close cooperation with the Ministries of the Environment; new offices in Cyprus, Malta and Turkey are being considered; MAP could benefit from these facilities and REC would welcome such cooperation through

its national offices. Cooperation could also be seriously considered in the scope of the Pact of Stability.

Considering their expertise in information and awareness issues (REC has largely contributed to the preparation and implementation of the Aarhus Convention), REC is being associated to the preparation of the Mediterranean Information, Awareness and Public Participation Strategy; REC has expressed an interest in cooperating with MAP through joint activities in concerned countries; in addition to some received from a few countries; most of the programmes funds are collected through projects

4.5 Euro Arab Management School

Considering the potential benefit of a cooperation with the Euro Arab Management School, established in mid-90s by the EU and the League of the Arab States, mainly regarding joint training and capacity building courses for Mediterranean administrators and experts on issues in the assistance programme of MAP, working sessions between both management of EAMS and MAP would be held in the short term most probably by the end of August so as to include MAP training interests in EAMS programme through an "environment" sub-programme for next and following years, and work out a Memorandum of Cooperation.

4.6 Baltic 21 Programme

Being both concerned with the protection and management of regional seas, a consultation and cooperation mechanism is under way with the Baltic 21 Programme so as to exchange information and experience as well as promote cooperation in marine and environmental pollution issues as well as sustainable development approach.

4.7 Cooperation between MAP and METAP

During the last two years, cooperation with METAP has improved through exchange of information, regular consultations and contribution to respective activities; more precisely, METAP is one of the key partners in the implementation of the GEF/MED project; cooperation is going on with BP/RAC on Trade and Environment issues, and with PAP/RAC on Coastal Zone management on which a joint workshop was organized in January 2002 in Malta and for which an important strategic project will be jointly prepared in view of the next call by EMP/SMAP.

4.8 EU, EC and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

Following the decision of the Twelfth meeting of the Contracting Parties, requesting the Secretariat to work out proposals for strengthening cooperation between MAP and EMP, MEDU had working sessions with concerned persons from EMP/SMAP and has participated and contributed to the preparatory process of the Second Conference of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of the Environment that was held on 8-10 July 2002 in Athens, attended by the President of the Contracting Parties and the Coordinator of MEDU.

In conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties, two draft reports were prepared and disseminated: one on "the experience of MAP in promoting integration of environmental concerns into sustainable development" and the other on "MAP and EMP: identifying goals and capacities, and improving cooperation and synergies".

The importance of cooperating with MAP has been clearly and explicitly recognized and reaffirmed in the "Athens Declaration by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers for the Environment"; in particular, this Declaration quotes that:

The Conference attaches particular importance to strengthening ties between the Partnership and the Mediterranean Action Plan including the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development. To this end it:

- welcomes the intention of the MCSD and the MAP Coordinating Unit to hold regular dialogues on policy development, on the progress and results of programmes and projects and on possible areas of co-operation in order to promote co-ordination, coherence and complementarity in their assistance to the region;
- takes note of the MAP 'Report on its experience in promoting integration of environmental concerns into sustainable development' as well as its 'Orientation paper identifying goals and capacities and improving cooperation and synergies'. As a consequence of these reports, the MCSD and the MAP Coordinating Unit are invited to pursue further work on synergies;
- calls on the Euro-Mediterranean Committee to invite the MAP Coordinating Unit to make occasional presentations to the Committee, in particular following Conferences of the Parties, on the implications of MAP's work and of the decisions and recommendations of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the progress of the Partnership;
- invites the MCSD to update the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention regularly on progress in the EMP;
- urges the further involvement of the MAP Regional Activity Centres in relevant capacity building efforts under the Partnership;
- invites MAP to contribute fully to the Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Environmental Integration;
- invites the MCSD and the MAP Coordinating Unit to explore ways and means of using the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to encourage those of the 12 Partners who so wish, to implement the instruments and recommendations of the Barcelona Convention.;

and

- the Conference considers that the appropriate context to deal with a regional sustainable development strategy in the Mediterranean is the Barcelona Convention/MAP context; this is the context that addresses the Mediterranean as an eco-region and it has the mandate to promote sustainable development after the amendment of the Convention and the establishment of the MCSD in 1995. Related work within the EMP must be seen as an input to the sustainable development objective of the region;
- the Conference welcomes the work recently launched within the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, which brings together governments, regional and local authorities and civil society representatives. This work aims at completing a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development by 2004 for adoption by the 14th Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention. The Conference welcomes the Blue Plan/MAP's intention to prepare a Report on Environment and Development in the Mediterranean as an input to this Strategy with the technical support of the EEA;
- the Conference considers that environmental integration within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and mutual supportiveness between environment and trade policies in implementing the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area will be major contributions to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development."

Following these decisions contacts were maintained on a regular basis with the EC/SMAP "Secretariat" so as to reach the definition of a certain implementation of these decisions.

Going along with the spirit of the Athens Declaration, a list of interesting and practical proposals to strengthen synergy were presented at the 5th SMAP Correspondents meeting, April 2003; among others issues, these concern a regular information and consultation mechanism on policy and activities matters (through meetings every six months between both "Secretariat" including, as appropriate, RACs and EC/DGs), invitation of MAP to Euro-Mediterranean Committees and to Conferences, invitation of EC/EuroMed to the CP Conference of the Barcelona Convention, to make appropriate use of MAP and MCSDD capacities for EC/EuroMed/SMAP issues and programmes of activities;

In the new international context, and in particular the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, the recent developments of the European Union integration, accession, association and stabilization process call for a better coordination and synergy with the European Union and its assistance programs on regional and bilateral basis. In view of institutionalising, if possible, this cooperation process through a structural and policy process, both sides are working out a consultation and cooperation mechanism that would pave the way for an efficient and strengthened operational synergy. To that end, the Coordinator of MEDU has discussed related issues with the new "Mediterranean" team within DG Environment in the European Commission and the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties is expected to meet with the European Commissioner for the Environment.

In addition to the cooperation in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, MAP has benefited from substantial financial support for various projects carried out by MAP components, in particular RAC/BP for the "Environment and Development Report" and for "Environment Statistics", RAC/SPA for "Protected Areas", REMPEC for "Port Reception facilities for collecting wastes" and for "development of national systems for preparedness and response", as well as to a series of small projects and an active cooperation between MED POL, BP/RAC and the EEA.

4.9 Non-governmental organizations and other partner organizations

At its meeting in Monaco, November 2001, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona convention adopted the new criteria for inclusion and retention in the list of MAP partners. During the biennium, the Secretariat has reviewed the list of partners according to these new criteria.

The Secretariat has sent the new approved criteria to all MAP partners, requesting them to provide the necessary information in order to make an assessment and prepare a report, for the consideration by the Bureau, as requested by the Contracting Parties.

From the assessment it has resulted that only 70 partners met the new adopted criteria, while the other neither responded to the Secretariat request nor provided satisfactory information.

Once the Bureau decided about the new list of partners, the Secretariat notified both the partners remaining on the list and those partners that could not meet with the criteria of their status.

The Secretariat has processed several requests of NGOs for funding projects dealing with important and interesting subjects focusing and supporting the achievement of the MAP

objectives. Total MoUs with NGOs for 2002 have been 18 with allocations of USD\$106,000. Total MoUs with NGOs for 2003 are six with allocations of USD \$22,000.

Meanwhile four other NGOs' networks applied to become MAP partner: INARE (the Institute for Sustainable Development and Management of Natural Resources) located in Greece, the Union of Northern Associations for Sustainable Development located in Lebanon, Mediterranean SOS Network located in Greece and ECAT Tirana located in Albania.

I.A.5 Meetings and Conferences organized within the MAP framework

The issue of rationalizing MAP calendar of meetings is of the topic addressed by the last Contracting parties meeting in Monaco 2001 in light of the process of International Environmental Governance (IEG), which include coordination between Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and clustering.

A calendar of meetings organized in the framework of MAP as of 31 December 2003, is attached as Annex II to this report.

In addition to the Contracting Parties meetings, various other meetings are held regularly to achieve the objectives of MAP, such as: decision-making meetings (Bureau of the Contracting Parties), advisory meetings (meetings of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), National Focal Points meetings for MAP and the Regional Activity Centres (RACs), technical meetings (MED POL meetings, meetings relevant to legal issues and NGOs, meetings organized within the framework of the Regional Activity Centres).

The purpose of all these meetings are to review the implementations of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as the various decisions of the Contracting Parties in the preparation of the different work programme. Moreover, consultation with and the advice of the representatives of the Contracting Parties as well as those of the Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations have been fundamental in conceiving effective actions in pursuing MAP objectives.

In compliance with the decisions of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties (Monaco, November 2001), various decision-makings, advisory and technical meetings were held during the 2002-2003 biennium. The reports of all these meetings were distributed to all participants and to MAP Focal Points urging them to implement the various recommendations contained therein.

Concerning the recommendation of the last Contracting Parties meeting in Monaco, 2001 on the use of Arabic as a working language at certain important MAP meetings, the Secretariat has translated into the Arabic language the pre-session, in-session and post-session documents of all the Bureau of Contracting Parties meetings organised during that biennium.

I.A.6 Information, public awareness and participation

6.1 Strategy for Information, public awareness and participation

In the framework of the MAP Information Policy, decisions and recommendations of the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the following key activities have been undertaken over the 2002-2003 biennium, all of which aim at enhancing the visibility of MAP's role and contribution to safeguarding the environment while promoting sustainable development in the region:

6.1.1 *MAP website*

The MAP website is fully operational. It was last updated in June 2003. A new update is foreseen for September 2003. The process of updating usually includes upgrading.

New links and link-backs, as well as new groups have been incorporated, including some of specific interest. Such as: a) Marine research centres and universities (over 100 Mediterranean centres categorized by country); b) Technical series of related organizations; c) Environmental Statistics; d) Oceanography, Maritime transport and, f) Search engines and portals.

6.1.2 *Indicators*

- Links within the MAP website to outside regional and international organizations: 605
- MAP presence on the Web. Number of citations of MAP: 4,330
- Organizations linked to MAP website: 89
- Links by topics to related websites: 450

An efficient statistical software will be applied to help measure the outreach of the website.

6.1.3 *Availability on the website of MAP documents and publications*

- The conversion of Meeting Documents in all published languages, dating back to 1975, into electronic format was completed, with 83% of the total collection now available via the web site.
- All MAP publications have been converted in PDF to be accessed from the website.
- All MAP's Technical Series Reports (MTS) were electronically converted and also accessible.

6.2 Relations with the Media in the Mediterranean

Special attention was given to networking with communication and media professionals in the region, these providing an efficient and appropriate channel for disseminating information on MAP activities to the wide public. The following main initiatives have been launched:

6.2.1 *Workshops for Communication Professionals*

At their Twelfth meeting in Monaco 2001, the Contracting Parties approved the organization of three workshops for media professionals in the Mediterranean region. The implementation was subject to external funds, which were not received. Joining funds

approved under MTF and in co-operation with CP/RAC and PAP/RAC, MEDU organized the Workshop for Mediterranean Communication Professionals on Environment and Sustainable Development: the Role of the MAP, Barcelona, Spain, May 7-10, 2003.

Over 30 Mediterranean communication professionals were invited to participate in the first-ever event of this kind organized by the MAP. Twenty professionals from eleven Mediterranean countries participated, representing daily newspapers, weekly magazines, TV channels and Radio stations in: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Slovenia, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey. Invited media professionals from other Mediterranean MAP member countries could not attend for different reasons, such as difficulties regarding the granting of entry visas, last minute commitments, etc.

Participants were briefed mainly on:

- MAP, its mandate, objectives, structure, origins, evolution and fields of activity;
- MAP information strategy and activities;
- the MCSD (same as above, with reference to the initiative of proposing a regional strategy on sustainable development);
- MED POL (same as above with an explanation of the Strategic Action Programme to reduce pollution from land);
- the strategies and objectives of Cleaner Production in the industrial sector; and
- MAP activities and projects in the field of Coastal Zone Management.

Specific presentations on each of these subjects were made by MEDU, CP/RAC and PAP/RAC officers, followed by questions and answers. Participants also took part in field visits to two industries in Barcelona implementing the strategy of cleaner production (COMESA for industrial vehicle components, and La Vanguardia, a leading Spanish daily newspaper). The visits were followed by questions and answers sessions.

In a full-day session, participants presented their media and the challenges they face in the field of covering and following up on issues related to the environment and sustainable development.

They proposed mechanisms to overcome these challenges, through a regular flow of information mainly from MAP and amongst themselves. All participants with the active role of MAP formed an informal media pool concerned with environment and development in the region.

Participants emphasized, among other recommendations, the need for MAP to organise more workshops following the path of the one held in Barcelona, as being an effective and efficient means of updating the media and ensuring more involvement in environment and sustainable development related issues and activities in the Mediterranean Region.

MAP information Office, CP/RAC and PAP/RAC directors, followed up the workshop providing information and interviews. Numerous journalists drafted articles based on the subjects of the workshop, which were presented in the media their respective countries.

Moreover, the MAP Information Office has regularly been providing all participants with information, press releases and press features, with focus on the World Environment Day, the issue of freshwater in the Mediterranean and in the world, as well as links to relevant websites.

6.2.2 Press Releases, Press Features, Press Conferences

MAP prepared and disseminated press releases on punctual events (such as the signature of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol), with detailed background on the subject dealt with, as well as Press Features on relevant events (such as the World Environment Day, the problems of water in the world and in the Mediterranean). MAP also organised press conferences on the occasion of important meetings (for example: the Contracting Parties in Monaco, MED POL National Coordinators meeting in Italy). MAP has also prepared for press briefings and press conferences to be held during the Contracting Parties meeting this year in Catania, Italy).

6.2.3 The MAP Media Network

With the addition of new contacts with the Mediterranean media, the MAP Media Network has been regularly updated and upgraded. It currently includes 380 Mediterranean media and communication professionals dealing with the coverage of environment and sustainable development. It also includes over 100 publishers and editors of specialized magazines and newsletters from international, regional and national governmental and non-governmental organizations.

6.3 Mediterranean strategy for information, awareness and public participation

The draft structure of this regional strategy has been prepared, following two sub-regional meetings: One for the MAP Arabic-speaking member countries, and one for the MAP East Adriatic member countries, in addition to Turkey, Cyprus, Malta and Israel.

A meeting of a team of experts was held to work on the drafting of the final regional proposal for this Strategy.

6.4 MAP publications

MAP continued with the process of updating and upgrading its information tools, mainly as follows:

6.4.1 MAP Series for the Johannesburg Summit plus Poster

MAP produced and disseminated in English, French and Arabic, the following thematic series for the Johannesburg Summit:

- The Revision of the MAP Legal Framework: The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- Protecting the Mediterranean against Maritime Accidents and Illegal Discharges from Ships;
- Promoting Cleaner Production in the Industrial Sector (also in Spanish);
- For a Sound Coastal Management in the Mediterranean Safeguarding Mediterranean Biodiversity;
- Towards Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region;

MAP also produced a series of leaflets, summarising the contents of each one of the above-mentioned publications, in English, French and Arabic. In addition, MAP produced and disseminated a poster for this occasion.

6.4.2 MedWaves

From January 2002 to August 2003, MAP prepared and disseminated in three languages (English, French and Arabic) issues number 46, 47, 48/49 (special issue) and 50. Issue 51 is scheduled for completion by the end of the year 2003.

MedWaves proved to be a widely efficient information tool and MAP has increased the number of copies printed. Each issue contains insights on key subjects of interest for the Mediterranean, such as biodiversity, water, coastal management, pollution reduction, etc.

6.5 MAP Technical Reports Series (MTS)

During the period the following MAP Technical Reports were compiled, published and distributed:

- Free Trade and the Environment in the Euro-Mediterranean Context, 4 Volumes, MTS 137, (BLUE PLAN, 2002) (Parts in English & French);
- Guidelines for the management of fish waste or organic materials resulting from the processing of fish and other marine organisms. MTS 136, (MED POL, 2002). (En, Fr, Sp, Ar);
- "Zone côtière de Sfax": Synthèse des études du projet, rapport de la réunion de clôture et autres documents choisis. MTS 135, (PAP) (Fr);
- Project "Israel": Final Integrated Report and Selected Documents. MTS 134, (PAP) (En);
- MAP CAMP "Malta" Project: Final Integrated Project Document and Selected Thematic Documents (PAP) (En).

Three new MED POL issues are now under preparation, dealing with: a) Assessment of Mariculture in the Mediterranean Region, b) Riverine Transfer of Water, Sediments and Pollution to the Mediterranean Sea and c) Assessment of Sea Water Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean Region.

6.6 Evaluation and improvement of information activities in the RACs

During their meeting in January, the RACs' Directors requested that the MAP Information Officer provide, through field visits to each RAC, further professional assistance, tailored to the specific needs of each one of them, to improve their respective information and communication activities.

This task has been already achieved with CP/RAC and PAP/RAC (Blue Plan is next on the agenda and others will follow). The focus was put mainly on providing guidelines and orientations related to the definition of target groups; the preparation and dissemination of publications; the improvement of drafting style; the upgrading of websites; the enhancement of networking with scientific, academic communities; regional and international organisations; wide public and civil society with a special focus on the media.

For this purpose, the task concentrated on the evaluation of information instruments; the re-definition of target groups, and of the dissemination system according to target groups, with a perspective of building up a 3000-contact mailing list. It also included means of improving each RAC website, of increasing links to other sites of general and specific interest and of ensuring target groups are linked to the Centre's web page.

Particular attention has been given to improving the drafting style, preparation of executive summaries and fact sheets; information notes and press releases as well as means of increasing and improving contacts with general and specialised communication and media professionals, at the regional and national levels. It included the upgrading of sources of information on ongoing related activities carried out mainly by international and regional organisations, of specific interest for each RAC's fields of activity.

It was agreed upon to set up a general MAP Intranet (MEDU-RACs) including documents, reports, mailing lists, updated lists of National and RACs Focal Points, roster of consultants, and any other sources of information of interest to all MAP staff. The improvement of their library services and the necessary steps to transform it into a documentation centre, have been among the key issues.

6.7 The MAP Library

6.7.1 Enquiries

Between Jan 2002 to May 2003 the MAP Library dealt with 628 enquiries. Of these, one third was from MEDU and RAC Staff, and two-thirds from external users, of which more than half came from the academic community.

The library sent out nearly 550 copies of MAP publications and documents in response to requests for information. Over 950 key library materials were catalogued into the new system. New services were also implemented in order to alert staff to newly available information, including online journal articles and alerting services, links to full texts of relevant conventions, legal materials and UN Documents.

6.7.2 Automation

The library automation project was successfully completed and implemented. A fully integrated system, it allows various points of access through the web site to MAP documents and publications, key library holdings, links to full texts of publications, conventions, legal documents, related web sites and contacts.

The conversion of meeting documents dating back to 1975 in all published languages and into electronic format was completed, with 83% of the total collection now available via the web site. In addition, all MAP's Technical Series Reports were converted to electronic format and also made accessible via the web site.

6.7.3 Mediterranean network of environmental libraries

The MAP Librarian attended the European Association of Aquatic Science Libraries and Information Centres (EURASLIC) Conference in May 2003. A proposal was put forward that UNEP/MAP in partnership with the Greek National Marine Research Centre, and in collaboration with EURASLIC and other interested organizations promote a network of Mediterranean Libraries dealing with aquatic environmental issues. Its aims would be, within current resources, to share and exchange information resources, exchange professional advice and keep each other informed on current developments in information management. A paper on the library automation project was also presented to Conference.

6.8 Dissemination

MAP publications have been disseminated to over 3.500 different recipients. The list is expected to increase considerably and be restructured with the addition of the RACs

respective mailing lists. Recently, MAP had to increase the number of printed copies of its new publications in order to meet the growing demand, in particular for MedWaves magazine.

6.9 The Mediterranean GEF project

MEDU, through the Information Officer, has provided the Mediterranean GEF Project with professional assistance for the preparation of guidelines on Public Participation and its integration in the National Action Programmes.

6.10 Coordination and provision of news services for the UN Secretary General

MAP, through its Information Office, coordinated and provided a round-the-clock world wire news service and news-feed to the U.N. Secretary General during two official visits to Athens, one in January on the occasion of the UN mediation on Cyprus, and one in April, during the EU Summit of Heads of States on Enlargement (41 Mandataries and the UN Secretary General). This contribution was formally acknowledged by the Secretary General's team in Athens and New York.

6.11 The MAP intranet system

MAP has restructured and redesigned its Intranet system to provide a consolidated source of information for MEDU and RAC Staff. The new structure includes access to all MAP documents including the pre-session ones; Roster of Consultants; Administration; Mailing Lists, including MEDU and RACs, MAP and RACs Focal Points, etc. It will be completed in September 2003.

I.A.7 Financial and Administrative issues

7.1 Financial issues

7.1.1 *Use of the euro*

At their last meeting in Monaco, 14-17 November 2001, the Contracting Parties have requested the Secretariat "to adopt the principle of use of the euro as the operating currency; to submit, jointly with UNON, a report to the Bureau on ways, means and implications for its consideration and thereafter to the UN Controller for approval, the request by the Contracting Parties to use the euro as the currency for the Mediterranean Trust Fund"(MTF).

As a follow up to the decision of the Contracting Parties related to the use of the euro versus the Dollar in MTF and MAP activities, several correspondences were sent to UNON/UNEP in Nairobi and to the UN Secretariat in New York (the Controller and the Treasurer) requesting guidance and advice for the implementation of this important question. During a mission to the United Nations in New York on April 2002, the Secretariat had met with concerned officials upon recommendation by UNON, explaining the importance of this issue and working out some alternative solutions, giving as far as possible, due consideration to the Contracting Parties request and the relevant UN rules and regulations.

As the UN reference and operating currency is the US Dollar, moving to the adoption of the euro as a UNEP/MAP reference and operating currency, presents difficulties to the UN System. However, following several reminders and exchange of correspondences between the UN Secretariat, the UNON/UNEP and UNEP/MAP, it was recognised that this issue deserves some positive solutions since more than 90% of the contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund are made in euro and that the expenditures are and will be increasingly effected in euro. Considering that most of the inflows and outflows transactions are done in the latter currency, the conversion from euro to the US Dollar and then to the euro was regarded as inconvenient and costly in terms of losses due to the exchange rate fluctuations.

The U.N. Assistant Secretary-General and the Controller had further considered to go some way towards meeting the concerns raised by the Contracting Parties, without compromising the Financial Regulations, as the US Dollar being the currency in which the United Nations books are to be maintained.

Thus, at the request of the Secretariat, UNON related authorities have endorsed the following steps:

- the establishment of a euro bank account within the Mediterranean Trust Fund, the proposed start-up date should be January 2004;
- the presentation in euro currency of the next biennial budget to the Contracting Parties for its adoption - the reference budget being the euro budget version as adopted in Monaco in November 2001;
- the processing of accounts and financial statements in the latter currency. Presentation in US dollar for indicative purposes (at prevailing exchange rate);
- the adoption of the euro as the reference and operating currency for UNEP/MAP;
- the notification of contributions to the Contracting Parties by UNON in euro currency, with a note related to the next biennial budget presentation. While it should be formulated in both currencies, the Parties will approve the budget in euro and at the same time take note of the budget in US dollars. The latter will be the basis for recording in the United Nations accounts in line with the UN Financial Regulations and Rules.

In May 2003, an MTF euro bank account was opened at Frankfurt (Germany) and was operational since then.

7.1.2 Status of contributions to the M.T.F. related to the Barcelona Convention as at 31 December 2002 (Annex III)

On 31st December 2002, the status of contributions was as follows (Annex III):

- Total pledges for 2002 : \$ 5,981,246
- Total collections during 2002 for 2002 : \$ 5,710,220 representing 95.47%
- Total Unpaid pledges for prior years : \$ 1,377,921
- Total collections during 2002 for prior years : \$ 690,425 representing 50.10%
- Total of collections in 2002 (B+D) : \$ 6,400,645 representing 87%
- Total pledges to be received (A+C)-(B+D) : \$ 918,636.9 representing 13%

7.1.3 Status of year 2003 contributions to the M.T.F. related to the Barcelona Convention as at 30 June 2003 (Annex IV)

7.1.4 Remittance of contributions (Annex V)

On 30th June 2003, the status of Contributions was as follows (copy attached):

- Total pledges for 2003 : \$ 6,029,863
- Total collections during 2003 for 2003 : \$ 4,501,541 representing 74.65 %
- Total Unpaid pledges for prior years : \$ 907,900
- Total collections during 2003 for prior years : \$ 165,837 representing 18.26 %
- Total of collections in 2003 (B+D) : \$ 4,667,378 representing 67.27 %
- Total pledges to be received (A+C)-(B+D) : \$ 2,270,386 representing 32.73 %

In comparison with year 2002 where the contribution rate reached 37.88% by mid-year, it is to be noted that 74.65 % of year 2003 total pledges have been remitted by the end of the first semester, thanks to the adherence of the Parties to the new related procedures as adopted by the Bureau at its meeting held in Monaco in October 2002.

7.1.5 Withdrawal from the trust fund

The Bureau authorized the following withdrawals from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF):

- USD\$30,000 to supplement the existing funds (US\$50,000) for the forthcoming MAP Focal Points meeting, due to the increase in costs in the host country; in that respect, the Secretariat was urged to negotiate the most advantageous rates for accommodation of participants, and the rental of the meeting room and conference services, only to cover the cost of one person from EU member countries, including candidates, and, for other countries, to cover the cost of an additional person if the countries so requested for reasons related to the agenda or organization of the meeting; the Secretariat was also requested to contact the relevant Greek authorities, in close cooperation with the National Focal Point, in order to obtain additional support;
 - US\$10,000 to offset the loss of purchasing power for all PAP/RAC personnel salaries;
 - US\$20,000 to finalize the MAP evaluation process;
 - US\$20,000 to pursue the elaboration of the MSSD;
 - US\$2,000 to assist the establishment of a new programme under the MCSD on the cultural heritage.

7.1.6 State Union of Serbia and Montenegro in MAP activities framework

The 2003 UN regular budget rate of assessment for Serbia and Montenegro (FRY) has been sharpened down to approximately 0.019785 %. This amount is only an approximation and will need to be finalized by the U.N. Committee on Contributions in June 2003. In practice, once the level is agreed upon it would be multiplied against MAP budget figures for 2004 and 2005 as to determine the new State Union contributions for that period. It is suggested that it will be a net increase for the MAP budget as the incoming of Serbia and Montenegro will generate additional expenses.

7.2 Personnel matters

7.2.1 At MEDU

As per normal procedure, the Coordinator post was advertised with the deadline of 14 November 2002. To date the recruitment process is still on going. The Bureau of Contracting Parties had expressed the wish to extend the term of office of the present Coordinator of MAP until December 2003. Meanwhile, the Coordinator has been granted a three-month extension until June 2003. Following a recommendation from the Bureau, a new procedure is in progress, requesting an additional extension up to the next Contracting Parties meeting. The post of the Coordinator has been re-opened for a month until 12 July 2003 and the Coordinator was extended from July 1st until November 30th, 2003.

The MEDU Programme Officer Post - opened since last December - was filled in by Ms Tatjana Hema - Albanian national - replacing Mr. DaCruz. Ms Hema took up her duties on January 2003.

Ms Natasha Vergiris – Greek national - has encumbered the Information Assistant post since June 2nd, 2003.

7.2.2 General Staff promotion

During the present biennium three General Staff posts have been promoted:

G4 to G5 and G5 to G6 at MEDU
G4 to G5 at MED POL.

8.2.3 At REMPEC

Mr. Jonathan Pace, a Maltese national was recruited in September 2002, following the decision of the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to create a new post of the Programme Officer for dealing with the prevention of pollution from ships.

Mr. André Sammut, G6, Assistant to the Administrator, paid using the Italian voluntary contribution to MAP for REMPEC.

Ms. Ruth Mizzi, G6, Bilingual Secretary as above

New posts (Temporary) financed under extra funds)

Ms. Lilia Khodjet El Khil , P3, Technical Assistant (under MEDA Project)
Ms. Brigid Galea, G4, Clerk Secretary, (under MEDA Project)

Secondment by external organizations

Mr. Francesco Strangis, P2, Junior Programme Officer (by Italian Oil Association).

Since January 2003, within the framework of the EC/ESA project VASCO/GAIANET, aimed at exploring the potential for surveillance of oil spills by remote sensing from satellite based platforms, Ms. Cristina Farchi, a new graduate in marine science, was seconded to REMPEC in order to follow the development of the project and to act as a liaison officer between REMPEC and the European Space Agency (ESA).

II. COMPONENTS

II.A. Pollution prevention and control

1. Prevention and control of pollution from land-based sources

The biennium 2002-2003 has been very significant for the MED POL Programme, with a change in focus from its traditional concern with pollution assessment to the control of pollution, and particularly the implementation phase of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) adopted under the LBS Protocol. MED POL, substantially assisted by the GEF Project, has concentrated on helping countries to strengthen their technical, policy and institutional capacities for the long-term implementation of the SAP. The first concrete activities have consisted of the preparation of national baseline budgets of pollution releases and National Diagnostic Analyses, in order to prepare the ground for the formulation of National Action Plans setting out medium-term plans for the fulfilment of SAP targets and objectives. The economic dimension of the implementation of the SAP has also been taken into account and will be further developed during the next biennium.

As MED POL Phase III is due to be completed in 2005, the Secretariat has also initiated the process of reviewing the present Programme so as to be able to propose a new programme with new objectives and principles to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005. The first steps have been to collate and process information on recent developments at the regional and international levels, including those related to the Johannesburg Summit and the action taken by the European Commission, as well as other Regional Seas Programmes. The successes and gaps in the present Programme are also being taken into account. Although the process of preparing a new MED POL Programme will mostly be undertaken during next biennium, in 2003 the Secretariat started identifying, with the help of Mediterranean experts, the basic elements for the formulation of the future Programme.

1.1 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme

1.1.1 *National Action Plans (NAPs)*

On the basis of the work plan for the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP), which is being carried out with the financial supported by the Mediterranean GEF Project, Mediterranean countries are expected to formulate National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based activities by the end of 2003 with a view to making them fully operational in 2005. To assist in this process, during the biennium 2002-2003 the Secretariat, using GEF Project funds, prepared guidelines for the preparation of National Diagnostic Analyses (NDAs) and Baseline Budgets of pollution releases (BB) as the basis for the preparation of NAPs (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/INF.3). In cooperation with RAMOGE, software and a database were prepared for use by national experts and authorities in estimating releases from the industrial sectors referred to in Annex A to the LBS Protocol in cases where the data are not available. With the financial assistance of the GEF Project, in each of the GEF-eligible countries the Secretariat contracted experts designated by the National Coordinators to assist them in the implementation of these two activities. The Secretariat also contracted experts from non-eligible countries, including European Union states (France and Spain).

In view of the complexity of these tasks, a meeting of government-designated experts was held (Catania, December 2002) to review and coordinate activities for the preparation of the NAPs and to streamline MED POL and GEF cooperation (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.212/4). The meeting was organized with the assistance of the GEF Project and in cooperation with

PAP/RAC and CP/RAC. Further assistance was provided to national experts in this respect through the organization, with the assistance of a regional expert and the financial support of the GEF Project, of five sub-regional meetings to:

- review and discuss the guidelines for the preparation of NDAs and BBs;
- harmonize the outputs of the national experts;
- enhance horizontal cooperation between experts from different countries with similar environmental problems; and
- constitute a pool of Mediterranean experts who could play a major role in the implementation of the NAPs.

Based on the outcome of the sub-regional meetings, a report was prepared for consideration by the MED POL National Coordinators outlining the progress made in the preparation of NDAs and BBs, as described by the national experts, and identifying the difficulties and assistance required to overcome them (UNEP(DEC/MED WG.231/INF.4).

By mid-July 2003, the Secretariat had received seven National Diagnostic Analyses and one baseline budget report. BBs and NDAs from all coastlines, including European Union member states, are expected to be finalized by the end of the year. With a view to harmonizing the information contained in these reports, they are being reviewed with the assistance of a regional expert and comments are being sent to the national experts for consideration and finalization. These reports represent the basis for the preparation of National Action Plans.

Closer operational contacts were established between MED POL and the Global Programme of Action (GPA) coordination office in the Hague in relation to the implementation of the SAP and in particular the preparations of National Action Plans. A project of US\$260,000 is being finalized covering the identification of financial alternative instruments and the enhancement of cooperation between regional stakeholders.

1.1.2 Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

One of the major activities expected to have a direct impact on the development of the NAPs is the preparation of pre-investment studies for pollution hot spots with the support of the GEF Project.

An expert meeting was organized to examine and finalize appropriate criteria for the prioritization of pollution hot spots taking into consideration the potential risk of transboundary effects (Athens, April 2001). In order to ensure consensus on this matter, the findings of the meeting were circulated to all Mediterranean countries for comments, which were incorporated into the proposed criteria for the prioritization of pollution hot spots. These criteria were forwarded to the GEF-eligible countries, which were requested to revise their national reports on hot spots prepared in 1997 and to indicate in each case the potential risk of transboundary effects. Due to the complexity of this task, experts were contracted from each GEF-eligible country, under the technical responsibility of WHO/MED POL and with the financial assistance of the GEF Project, who contributed considerably to the whole exercise. The same request was also made to non-GEF-eligible countries. The exercise was completed for all countries in 2003, in accordance with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, and the information compiled on national hot spot areas, including the natural characteristics and pressures of the areas, as well as a comparison between the old and recent data, is set out in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/5.

The GEF-eligible countries were then requested to apply socio-economic criteria, prepared by METAP, for the prioritization of pollution hot spots with a view to the preparation of pre-investment studies. The revised country reports, with the data and information on the

potential risk of transboundary effects and the application of socio-economic criteria, were considered by an ad hoc technical committee for pollution hot spots (Athens, January 2002), which established a preliminary priority list of pollution hot spots for pre-investment studies. In order to increase the certainty of actual investments being carried out, this priority list was communicated to the countries for their opinions regarding the proposed hot spot(s) and their position at either the national or local level regarding the follow-up investments. The final priority list of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies was prepared and adopted by the second ad hoc technical committee (Tirana, March 2002). As a contribution to this activity, METAP was asked to develop generic terms of reference (TORs) for the preparation of pre-investment studies, as a basis for the preparation of TORs at the national level.

Following these decisions concerning the preparation of pre-investment studies, expert missions to prepare TORs and assess the costs of the formulation of pre-investment studies and to identify an implementing agency were organized in five countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey) during the period May-September 2002. Four of these countries agreed with TORs and signed a letter of agreement for the preparation of the pre-investment study. Only one country (Bosnia and Herzegovina) has so far completed the procurement procedure for the selection of a consultant and signed a contract with UNEP/MAP for financial assistance for the preparation of a pre-investment study. Slovenia recently proposed a new pollution hot spot for a pre-investment study and the validation procedure is under way.

The French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), as the main partner in this activity, has decided that it will directly support the preparation of pre-investment studies in four countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia), applying the same procedure as for the other countries under the GEF Project. However, after initial contacts and exploratory missions, the related activities were not initiated according to schedule. In September 2002, FFEM therefore submitted a proposal for a framework agreement with MEDU concerning its contribution to the GEF project which, following negotiations, will be signed soon.

ICS/UNIDO is directly supporting the preparation of one pre-investment study in Croatia. The contract between ICS/UNIDO and the Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning has been signed for the preparation of the study and the respective activities were initiated recently.

Eleven of the twelve GEF-eligible Mediterranean countries have so far participated in the activities relating to pollution hot spots.

In addition to the work on pollution hot spots, activities were also undertaken on pollution sensitive areas. A consultation meeting on criteria for the prioritization of pollution sensitive areas was held (Athens, November 2002). The resulting criteria were circulated for comments to the MED POL National Coordinators and were then used as a basis for the preparation of a document on the revised national pollution sensitive areas, with an indication by category of the immediate measures to be taken (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf.14).

1.1.3 Municipal sewage

The activities carried out in relation to municipal pollution during the biennium were designed to facilitate implementation at the national level of the respective SAP targets and to assist in providing basic tools for the preparation of NAPs. Guidelines were therefore produced on sewage treatment and disposal, municipal wastewater reuse and the management of coastal litter, which were reviewed by a meeting of government-designated experts convened by WHO/MED POL (Athens, April 2003).

The guidelines for municipal wastewater reuse in the Mediterranean region, which are very closely related to the guidelines for sewage treatment and disposal, were developed in accordance with the request by the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators (Venice, May 2001). The draft guidelines were prepared by two regional experts and were reviewed by a workshop on water recycling and reuse practices in Mediterranean countries. Held within the framework of the International Symposium on Water Reclamation and Reuse (Iraclio, Greece, September 2002), convened by the International Water Association, the workshop was jointly organized by WHO/MED POL and the Union of National Associations of Water Services. Attended by 52 experts, the workshop reviewed the draft guidelines, which were then submitted to the meeting of government-sponsored experts in Athens and, as modified, are submitted to the present meeting as information document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf.6.

A document on wastewater reclamation and reuse in the Mediterranean region was also prepared with the support and collaboration of national experts (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf.5). The first part of the document covers the basic concepts of wastewater reclamation and reuse technologies, as well as reuse categories, while the second part addresses the issue of wastewater reuse practices in the Mediterranean region and supplies information on each of the Mediterranean countries.

Guidelines for sewage treatment and disposal in the Mediterranean region were prepared by an expert in collaboration with WHO/MED POL. In accordance with the general procedure for the preparation of guidelines, the draft document was then reviewed by a team of experts before being presented to a meeting of government-designated experts. The final draft is submitted to the present meeting as document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.231/6.

1.1.4 Solid wastes

Guidelines on coastal urban solid waste management were prepared during the biennium as part of MED POL and the GEF Project activities for the implementation of the SAP (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/7). Taking into account the findings of the assessment report on coastal litter in the Mediterranean prepared the previous biennium, the guidelines cover state-of-the-art management tools for urban solid waste in general, with specific attention to those that can be implemented in coastal areas to reduce releases of solid waste into the marine environment. The Guidelines emphasize the importance of reuse/recycling and the environmental management of landfill dumping sites. They also focus on the management of coastal litter, which is a major subject in relation to the SAP. The guidelines, as reviewed by a team of experts and then the meeting of government-designated experts referred to above (Athens, April 2003), are contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/7.

1.1.5 Air pollution

No special activities were carried out on this subject which is covered by the SAP. In endeavouring to meet the agreed targets, countries are expected to remain in close contact with the competent regional and international organizations and convention secretariats for the implementation of the programmes and measures foreseen by the existing legal instruments, such as European Community Directives and the Kyoto Protocol. With regard to the related issue of climate change, the Secretariat continued to follow the respective developments at the scientific and policy levels and will report regularly to the Contracting Parties on Mediterranean-related issues.

1.1.6 Industrial pollution

In addition to activities directly related to the preparation of NDAs and BBs referred to above, a number of guidelines and regional plans on subjects related to industrial pollution

were prepared in the context of the GEF Project as a contribution to the implementation of the SAP.

Guidelines for the management of industrial wastewater in the Mediterranean region were prepared and reviewed by a team of Mediterranean experts prior to their submission to an expert meeting on the management of industrial wastes (Split, March 2003). The guidelines, as reviewed by the meeting, are presented as document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/8. Guidelines for the development of ecological status and stress reduction indicators were also prepared (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/18).

As a further contribution to the long-term achievement of the SAP targets, three regional plans were also prepared on: (i) the management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and the nine pesticides (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/9); (ii) the management of hazardous wastes, including an inventory of hazardous wastes (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/10); and (iii) the reduction by 50 per cent of BOD input from industrial sources by the year 2005 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/11). These documents were exhaustively reviewed in expert meetings organized jointly by MED POL, WHO/MED POL and CP/RAC, with the financial assistance of the GEF Project, and sent to the MED POL National Coordinators for comments.

In addition to the above, CP/RAC prepared three sets of technical guidelines on the application of best available technologies (BATs), best environmental practices (BEPs) and cleaner techniques: (a) in industries; (b) for industrial sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids; and (c) for fertilizers in agriculture. All of these guidelines were subject to a process of expert review.

In accordance with the SAP, the process of updating national regulations respecting point source discharges of pollutants from industrial sources should have started in 2002 with the assistance of the Secretariat. In this context, the Secretariat believes that the numerous guidelines and technical documents prepared should provide a solid basis for the initiation of this process at the national level.

As a result to the interest of Mediterranean countries in responding to their growing water demands through the construction of seawater desalination plants, a consultative meeting of government-designated experts was held with the assistance of two experts in desalination (Forlì, Italy, May 2002). Based on the outcome of the meeting, guidelines for the environmental management of seawater desalination plants in the Mediterranean region were prepared (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/12), which focus on the proper siting of desalination plants with a view to reducing their impact on the marine environment. The subject of desalination is dealt with under this section of the report in view of the recommendation by the Forlì meeting that desalination should be considered an industrial activity, which would therefore be subject to the provisions of the LBS Protocol.

1.2 Monitoring

In the context of the pollution assessment component of MED POL, the national marine pollution monitoring programmes in Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Slovenia and Turkey, which had been finalized in 1999-2000, were revised during the biennium 2002-2003. Two other national monitoring programmes were also finalized in Tunisia and Israel. A draft for a new monitoring programme was received from the Syrian Arab Republic, comments were provided by the Secretariat and a final draft is now expected. In the case of Lebanon, following discussions on the basic elements of its national programme, a new draft programme is now expected. A technical meeting with the national experts of Morocco is planned during 2003 to formulate their MED POL Phase III monitoring programme. However, the draft programmes in Algeria and Malta could not be finalized during this period. Work has

started with Italy with a view to harmonizing its comprehensive national monitoring network with the monitoring objectives of MED POL Phase III. Negotiations are also being held with France, Monaco and Spain to formulate programmes based on MED POL requirements.

Financial support totalling USD 85,000 was provided to assist in the implementation of national MED POL monitoring programmes in Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece and Slovenia during the biennium 2002-2003. During the same period, five new sets of gas chromatography equipment were installed in Algeria, Croatia, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. The above funds have to be accounted together with the USD 249,000 provided to Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey at the end of 2001. Further financial assistance is still available for countries wishing to finalize or revise their programmes during the biennium.

In accordance with the recommendations of the previous meeting of MED POL National Coordinators (Venice, 2001), a proposal was prepared for a eutrophication monitoring strategy in Mediterranean coastal waters. The proposal was discussed by government-designated experts and other scientists during the Review Meeting of Monitoring Activities (Rome, 2001) and was then reviewed and finalized at an expert consultation meeting (Athens, 2002). The strategy (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/14) initially proposes the implementation of a short-term programme covering the basic indicators of eutrophication on which the Trix index is based. As initial steps for the implementation of the strategy, a quality assurance programme has been organized in cooperation with IAEA/MEL and ICRAM and a draft reference methods manual for the analysis of nutrients and phytoplankton pigments in seawater has been prepared (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf.9). A training course for operators of the proposed programme, mainly concentrating on biological parameters, was organized in Italy in June 2003.

Most of the work was carried out during the biennium for the development of the new MED POL database of marine pollution monitoring data. After the conceptual model of the database had been reviewed by an expert meeting (Athens, March 2002), its components were developed, including the Internet module, the database was installed and all the available data from the ongoing monitoring programmes for the period 1999-2002 were entered. As some of 2001-2002 data are still awaited from MED POL national Institutes, the final data entry will only be completed later in 2003. Details of the work carried out, including some of the technical problems faced in data entry, are set out in documents UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/13 and UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf.8.

In the context of research and assistance for emerging issues, which during the biennium focused on the preparation of the eutrophication monitoring strategy, partial support was provided for the organization of a workshop on the environmental impact of mariculture and possible mitigation strategies (Eilat, October 2002). A research project was also financed in Slovenia on the influence of fish farming on coastal marine sediments.

With a view to the expected entry into force of the revised LBS Protocol, MED POL started to extend its activities to cover rivers and river basins. With the financial assistance of the GEF Project, comprehensive basic guidelines for the monitoring of Mediterranean rivers, covering all aspects of river monitoring in the context of the SAP, were prepared and reviewed by the MED POL National Coordinators (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/15). A Power Point presentation has also been prepared for use in the regional and national training courses planned as part of the GEF Project. The guidelines will be translated into national languages whenever needed. It is also proposed to gradually initiate specific basic activities and programmes related to river monitoring to assist countries fulfil their obligations under the new LBS Protocol.

Finally, it should be noted that it had been planned to hold a meeting of government-designated experts in 2002 to discuss and possibly finalize the existing Mediterranean

interim quality criteria for bathing waters. However, the new European Community Directive on the quality of bathing water has been drafted, but not yet adopted. It was therefore decided, with a view to ensuring harmonization in the region, to postpone the meeting until the end of 2003 in the hope that new Directive would be finalized and the values for microbiological indicators adopted.

1.3 Capacity building

In view of the need identified in a number of Mediterranean countries for the training of national personnel in the operation and management of municipal wastewater treatment plants, MED POL has developed an initiative over recent years for the training of trainers at the regional level so that they can then hold training courses at the national level with some support from MED POL. The regional course on the operation and treatment of municipal wastewater treatment plants held during the previous biennium was therefore followed up in 2002-2003 by the organization of a number of national training courses by WHO/MED POL. For the purposes of these courses, the training materials developed during the regional course were translated and made available in Arabic, Croatian, English, French, Greek and Turkish.

One national training course in Arabic (Tripoli, May 2002) was co-organized with the Environment General Authority (EGA) of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. It was attended by participants from the various treatment plants throughout the country and was held in collaboration with the General Company of Water and Wastewater, the Libyan public authority responsible for the operation of wastewater treatment plants. Another national training course in Croatian (Rijeka, October 2002) was co-organized with the Croatian Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Croatian Waters, and was attended by participants from Croatia and Slovenia. The training course offered the opportunity for both countries to work together and collaborate on issues of common interest. During the course some trainers requested to use the training materials for teaching in universities and elsewhere. A national workshop on municipal wastewater treatment held in Albania (Tirana, October 2002) focused on the use of natural systems, which are being given emphasis in view of the current absence of wastewater treatment plants in the country.

It is planned to hold further national training courses on wastewater treatment later in 2003 and during the next biennium. The first of these is planned for Damascus in cooperation of the Syrian Ministry of the Environment.

In the field of environmental inspection systems, a regional training course for trainers was held in Cyprus (Nicosia, November 2002). The training materials were especially prepared for the needs of the course and for the national training courses to follow. The participants are now expected to organize similar national training courses in their countries making use of these training materials, which have been translated into Arabic, Croatian, French and Spanish. In this context, a national workshop on environmental inspection was co-organized by WHO/MED POL and the regional environmental department in Sancti Petri (Seville) in May 2003 for senior national experts from all over Spain. Arrangements are also being made for the holding of similar national courses towards the end of 2003 in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Syrian Arab Republic.

Training activities on environmental impact assessment were also carried out during the biennium in the context of the implementation of the SAP and as part of the GEF Project. These activities, organized in Tunis at the Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET) and supported by METAP, included a regional workshop and two trainer-training workshops for national experts, one in English and another in French.

As in the past, capacity-building activities (training, data quality assurance and intercalibration) for the implementation of national monitoring programmes continued during the biennium 2002-2003 under the technical supervision of IAEA/MEL. In particular, two training courses on the analysis of organic contaminants were held in Monaco for twelve scientists, while three scientists were trained in the analysis of inorganic contaminants in 2002. A new course is scheduled in 2003. Intercalibration exercises for contaminants in biota and sediments were also carried out in 2002 and 2003.

1.4 Public participation

With a view to enhancing public participation in the process of implementing the SAP, it is planned to develop a common methodology for public participation at the national and local levels by the end of 2003, with the financial support of the GEF Project. Assistance will then be provided at the national level for the application of the agreed methodology.

The related activities will be carried out jointly by MAP and all its components, based on the MAP Information Strategy. For its part, MED POL has continued to involve NGOs in its activities and will continue to endeavour to disseminate as much information as possible to the public on the content, objectives and implementation of the SAP.

1.5 Reporting

As noted above, a draft reporting system covering the Convention and all the Protocols has been prepared by MAP and is being tested in a number of countries. Reporting on the application of the SAP has not so far been included in the MAP reporting system in view of the complexity of the SAP and the difference in the nature of the action required, which focuses on such areas as the policy level, the reduction of pollution and the implementation of action plans. With a view to the eventual inclusion of the SAP in the reporting system, a draft report on the evaluation of compliance with the provisions of the SAP (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.228/12) was presented to the MED POL National Coordinators and outlines in detail the information that countries would have to compile to report on compliance with the requirements of the SAP.

As indicated in the SAP, information on the levels and trends of pollution loads will be collected by MED POL through the national monitoring programmes. The data compiles will be used for regular assessments and published regularly in the MAP Technical Report Series or other specific reports.

With a view to promoting the use of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) reporting as a means of strengthening the capacity of countries to identify and monitor sources of pollutants, a PRTR pilot project has been implemented in Alexandria (Egypt) in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO, involving the collection of data from six industrial partners according to agreed formats. Based on the successful launching of this pilot project, three documents have been prepared in collaboration with ICS-UNIDO on:

- guidelines for the use of PRTR reporting formats, taking into consideration the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER) reporting system and other relevant documents (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.231/INF.10);
- database for storing and processing PRTR data (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.231/INF.11);
- process simulation as a tool for the quantification of releases from industrial sites (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.231/INF.12).

These documents would provide the basis for any additional PRTR system that could be implemented in other Mediterranean countries and have therefore been translated into

French and Arabic, and could be translated into other languages where necessary. With a view to promoting the development of PRTR reporting in other countries, a meeting of government-designated experts was held in Alexandria in June 2003 to:

- review the implementation of the pilot project and identify the lessons learned;
- adopt a list of chemicals and industrial sectors to be considered at the regional level;
- adopt the reporting format and related guidelines.

As a convenient and cost-effective means of assessing the effectiveness of the measures taken to combat pollution, and in accordance with the request made by the MED POL National Coordinators at their meeting in Venice in 2001, an expert meeting was also organized to elaborate a concept paper for Marine Pollution Indicators (MRIs). In particular, MRIs are intended to be used as a tool in national reporting on the implementation of the Dumping, Hazardous Wastes and LBS Protocols and the SAP. The concept paper (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/17) proposes to apply the DSPIR (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impacts and Responses) approach and a framework for the calculation of core and supplementary sets of MRIs for three types of indicators: the concentration of chemicals, changes in the marine ecosystem and biomarkers. The concept document also proposes the use of the environment and development indicators generated in the context of the MCSD. This approach is in line with that of the European Environment Agency (EEA) in relation to indicators.

1.6 Sustainability of the SAP: Development of economic instruments for the sustainable implementation of the SAP

The activities carried out with a view to the development of economic instruments for the sustainable implementation of the SAP, which took the form of a project implemented by PAP/RAC, have the following objectives:

- develop and assist in the implementation of economic instruments for the sustainable implementation of the SAP;
- assist in making action to combat land-based pollution self-financing at the national level through the generation of revenue; and
- demonstrate the economic benefits of more integrated approaches to management.

Based on an analysis of the situation at the national level, the twelve GEF-eligible Mediterranean countries were invited to propose pilot projects on the development and implementation of economic instruments. As a result, eight pilot projects were proposed, of which seven were selected.

In five of these cases, the pilot projects have been formulated, diagnostic analyses carried out and appropriate economic instruments developed for proposal to the relevant authorities. One pilot project was terminated after the diagnostic stage in view of a change of priorities in the Ministry in that country. In one case, the relevant ministries have decided to implement the proposed instrument at the national level in 2007. In another, as it has been found that the circumstances are not favourable for the introduction of economic instruments, the results will be simulated for indicative purposes. In the remaining four projects, the national and local authorities are currently in the process of preparing for the introduction of the economic instruments.

In the next stage of the project, the twelve GEF-eligible countries will be invited to prepare national action plans for the introduction of economic instruments to ensure the sustainable implementation of the SAP. With a view to facilitating the implementation of economic instruments for environmental management, the process of preparing guidelines

on this subject was commenced with the holding of a regional expert workshop (Split, March 2003). The national and international experts and practitioners present discussed and approved the outline of the guidelines, which should be based on experience in the implementation of such instruments, including that gained through the pilot projects.

1.7 Other activities related to the LBS Protocol and the SAP

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) is a very important document in terms of the quantity and quality of information that it contains. It provides a very useful background for all MED POL activities. As part of the process of revising the 1997 version of the TDA, a coordinator and several experts were recruited, with the financial support of the GEF Project, to review and amend its various chapters. A meeting was held in January 2003 to review the chapters and harmonize the document. The final version of the TDA will be ready by the end of 2003. In view of the need for the TDA to follow a specific format for the purposes of GEF, and also considering that it contains valuable information that could be useful for the future development of MED POL activities, it is intended to prepare two versions of the TDA, namely a shorter report as requested by GEF and a larger assessment report on the sources and impacts of transboundary materials in the Mediterranean.

As a follow up to the activities on environmental inspection systems carried out since the previous biennium, draft guidelines were prepared on this subject based on the recommendations of the Consultation Meeting of the Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement (Sorrento, 2001). The draft guidelines, incorporating the comments made by MED POL National Coordinators, are contained in information document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/19.

In view of the importance of the subject and the need for the full application of the guidelines, a reference handbook was developed to provide further information on their application. The handbook is divided into four parts (organizational Issues, general procedural issues, human infrastructure and sampling), each of which was drafted by a Mediterranean expert with long experience of the subject and subsequently reviewed by a team of experts. The handbook is presented to the meeting as information document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf.13.

Assistance for the strengthening and enhancement of environmental inspection systems was also provided at the national level. A feasibility study for environmental inspections was prepared covering the major industrial activities in hot spot areas in the Syrian Arab Republic. This was followed by an expert mission to visit various industries in the country and the organization of a one-day workshop on the need for environmental inspections (Damascus, April 2002), attended by experts from the various government bodies. Finally, a general work plan and timetable for strengthening environmental inspections in the country were developed covering the preparation and planning of environmental inspections, the training of managerial personnel abroad, the training of inspectors in the country and supervision of the establishment of the inspection system.

A similar approach was followed in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, where an expert visited a number of major industries in May 2002 and held discussions with those responsible for inspections. A preliminary document was then prepared containing a general plan for strengthening environmental inspections in the country, including a work plan and a timetable.

1.8 Coordination and implementation of the GEF Project

The activities of the GEF Project are planned and carried out to support the implementation of the SAP. The Project's activities are all related to the work plan of MAP and/or the MED POL Programme and are therefore reported under their subject headings in

the various sections of this report. The information provided below is therefore confined to general coordination activities.

The Project "Determination of priority actions for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" (GF/ME/6030-00-08) has the overall objective of improving the quality of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Region by better shared-management of land-based pollution through improved international cooperation in the management of land-based pollution of transboundary and regional significance. It was approved by the GEF Council in 2000 in order to create a sound environment in the Region for the implementation of the SAP at the regional and national levels. The GEF project also covers the preparation and adoption of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity (SAP BIO) for the Mediterranean to assist in the implementation of the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol.

The three-year project was initiated at the beginning of 2001 and is implemented by MED POL, MEDU, WHO/MED POL, PAP/RAC, CP/RAC and SPA/RAC. The main contributions to the project are GEF, MTF and FFEM. All the Mediterranean countries are participating in the Project, although only the twelve GEF-eligible countries may receive financial support for the implementation of activities at the national level.

The GEF project consists of numerous activities directed towards: the elimination of pollution hot spots; the preparation of regional guidelines and plans for the elimination and control of pollution; capacity building; the creation of a sustainable financial platform for the continued implementation of the SAP; the preparation of a regional programme for public participation; the preparation, adoption and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the elimination of pollution from land-based activities; and the preparation of the SAP BIO.

The project is managed by the MAP Coordinating Unit, where a project management team has been established consisting of the project manager, an administrative assistant and a secretary. The project manager reports directly to the MAP Coordinator. Several committees have been established for the coordination and management of the project's activities.

The Inter-Agency Steering Committee is composed of the implementing and donor agencies and, in accordance with the agreed procedures for GEF International Waters Projects, is chaired by the leading implementing agency (UNEP). It includes representatives from the UNEP GEF Coordination Unit, UNEP/MEDU, UNEP/MED POL, WHO/MED POL, GEF, UNDP, the World Bank, METAP, FFEM and ICS-UNIDO, as well as other potential donors. So far, three meetings have been organized (Athens, March 2001; Tirana, March 2002; and Athens, January 2003). The meetings were informed of the execution of Project activities and decided on issues relating to the implementation of the project. The last meeting decided to propose the extension of the Project until 2004.

The Coordination Committee is composed of the members of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and national coordinators for activities undertaken in the framework of the project. All the Mediterranean countries have nominated GEF national coordinators. The Committee has met twice (Athens, March 2001; Tirana, March 2002).

The *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee is composed of representatives from MAP/MED POL, WHO/MED POL, METAP, GEF, FFEM and ICS-UNIDO. It is responsible for coordinating the implementation of pre-investment studies for pollution hot spots and has so far met twice (Athens, January 2002; Tirana, March 2002). The Committee has adopted the priority list of pollution hot spots for pre-investment studies, approved generic terms of reference for the preparation of pre-investment studies and adopted a procedure for the preparation of pre-investment studies.

A donors meeting was originally planned for September 2001 to seek financial support for the implementation of activities to reduce pollution in the hot spot areas, based on the pre-investment studies carried out. The meeting has been postponed until late 2003 because of the delay in the adoption of the priority list of hot spots and in order to ensure that it is better prepared and attracts more potential donors and partners.

1.9 Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

Under the terms of Article 5 of the 1976 Dumping Protocol, national authorities are required to keep records of 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, few countries have reported regularly to the Secretariat on the permits issued.

In view of the relevance of dumping activities for the planning of pollution monitoring and control activities and the expected entry into force of the revised Dumping Protocol of 1995, an assessment was prepared of dumping activities over the period 1995-2001. The assessment, which is based on information provided by countries in response to a questionnaire and the information available from other relevant organizations, such as the Secretariat of the London Dumping Convention, is presented as document UNEP(DEC)MED WG.231/20.

In accordance with Article 6 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, in 2000 the Secretariat prepared draft Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea. The guidelines were reviewed by the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Venice in 2001, which called for the preparation of a revised version on the basis of the comments expressed during that meeting. The revised guidelines (document UNEP(DEC)MED WG.231/21) are submitted for consideration and approval with a view to their transmission to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

Also pursuant to Article 6 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, and completing the documents called for in that provision, draft guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials were prepared on the basis of similar guidelines being developed in the framework of the London Dumping Convention and the work of Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP). The draft guidelines (document UNEP(DEC)MED WG.231/22) are submitted for discussion and approval with a view to their transmission to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

1.10 Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

With regard to the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, it should be noted that a number of activities intended to prepare the ground for the future implementation of the Protocol are part of the SAP implementation plan and have been carried out during the biennium 2002-2003, mostly as part of the GEF Project (see the section on industrial pollution above).

II.A.2 Marine pollution prevention and control (REMPEC)

While a better understanding of the comparative threats to the marine environment from human activities clearly indicates that those caused by land-based activities are far more important than those posed by ships and maritime activities, the reduction and eventual elimination of ship-generated pollution remains one of the prime objectives in the struggle for healthier oceans. Despite remarkable results achieved in the overall reduction of ship-generated marine pollution through the implementation of international regulations, technological improvements, better preparedness for dealing with accidental marine pollution, better spill response management and increased international cooperation, shipping and the maritime transportation of goods still present a threat to the health of the marine environment, both through operational discharges of pollutants from ships and the sometimes devastating effects of incidents involving marine pollutants.

Operational oil pollution from ships encompasses a variety of discharges of oil and oily mixtures, as well as chemicals that are generated on board ships, including oil tankers and chemical carriers, as a result of their normal operation. It includes oil and chemical inputs into the sea, both from cargo and machinery, comprising oily ballast waters, tank washing residues, fuel oil sludge and machinery space bilge discharges.

On the other hand, although the quantities of hazardous and noxious substances, commonly referred to as chemicals, transported by sea annually are smaller than the volume of oil carried by tankers, some of these products are far more dangerous to the marine environment than oil. In addition, some of them can be extremely hazardous to the ship on which they are carried, the handling equipment and to human health.

2.1 Strategy for the implementation of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol

Anticipating the adoption in January 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 Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties adopted the new Objectives and Functions of REMPEC. It also adopted the recommendation "to propose and discuss, taking into account the competences of IMO, an agreed common regional policy for the prevention of pollution from ships, based on the adopted 1997 regional strategy and taking into consideration the provisions of the new" Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

Following the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, it became indispensable to adopt a strategy for its implementation and the achievement of the new objectives and functions of REMPEC. The possible elements of such a strategy were discussed by the Extraordinary Meeting of RAC Directors (Delphi, July 2002) and the preparation of a draft strategy was included in the terms of reference for the evaluation of REMPEC. A first draft strategy was presented and discussed during the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, February 2003).

In view of the complexity of the draft strategy, the Meeting of Focal Points agreed to make only general comments on it, but emphasized that:

- the strategy should focus on the issues directly related to the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the new mandate of REMPEC;
- the ratification and effective implementation of the relevant international Conventions is essential for the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean; and
- REMPEC should play an important role in harmonizing the policies of Mediterranean coastal States with regard to the prevention of pollution from ships.

With a view to ensuring that the process of developing the strategy is as participatory as possible, the meeting of REMPEC Focal Points also recommended that an experts meeting be convened. In preparation for such a meeting, REMPEC redistributed the draft strategy document for comments, with the recommendation that the national authorities responsible for maritime affairs should be involved in the review process. However, at its meeting in Sarajevo in May 2003 the Bureau of the Contracting Parties decided that it was premature to convene the proposed experts meeting and requested REMPEC to prepare a draft Ministerial declaration concerning the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from ships, which is submitted as document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/15.

Continuing the process of preparing the strategy, REMPEC prepared a second draft strategy document, based on the comments received, which was circulated to its national Focal Points at the end of July 2003.

In this context, it is emphasized that it is essential for the Contracting Parties to complete the procedures for the ratification, acceptance, approval of or accession to the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol. Moreover, it is recalled that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Malta, January 2002) that adopted the Protocol also called on the Contracting Parties, pending the entry into force of the Protocol, to commence preparations for its implementation at both the national and regional levels.

2.2 Pleasure craft

Representatives of REMPEC attended a meeting of experts (Monaco, January 2003) to examine the latest draft Convention on pleasure craft navigation in the Mediterranean Sea prepared by INDEMER. The meeting agreed that the further development of the draft Convention should focus on the environmental aspects of pleasure craft navigation and that it would be appropriate to continue the preparatory work within the framework of MAP. The 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points confirmed that this initiative is pertinent.

A second meeting of experts (Monaco, April 2003) further examined the proposed legal text and agreed on a revised document that was consolidated with a view to its submission to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties. The proposed legal regional instrument is submitted to the meeting of MAP National Focal Points for transmission to the Contracting Parties with the request that they consider whether to recommend the Secretariat to go further in its finalization in collaboration with the relevant national authorities (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/16).

2.3 Development of national and regional preparedness and response capacities

2.3.1 *Prevention of pollution from ships*

During the biennium, REMPEC's activities on the prevention of pollution from ships have mainly focused on the collection and distribution of information, capacity building, assistance to countries in case of emergency and implementation of the recommendations of the various meetings of the Contracting Parties.

A project on port reception facilities in the Mediterranean region was proposed to the European Communities within the framework of the EUROMED Programme. The project was approved and the relevant contract signed in December 2001. The selection of the consultant to carry out the first two activities of the project (assessment of the situation in the MEDA countries in relation to existing installations and the real needs for the collection and treatment of solid and liquid wastes, as well as oily ballast waters from tankers) was finalized by September 2002 and the relevant activities started in early December 2002. Since the MEDA project does not cover the entire Mediterranean region, REMPEC allocated some resources from the MTF budget to cover countries that are not eligible for MEDA assistance (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Slovenia). In addition, France, Greece, Italy and Spain were invited to collaborate with REMPEC and to provide the Centre with all the information and data relevant to their countries in order to ensure the regional dimension of the project.

A three-day seminar for government officers from Cyprus and Israel on MARPOL 73/78 Annex I was held in Cyprus in July 2003 as the first activity of this kind carried out by REMPEC since the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol. A regional workshop on the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 in the Mediterranean will also be held in October 2003, in which the invited participants will include, in addition to the representatives of the Contracting Parties, the main stakeholders (shipping industry, oil industry, ports), NGOs and civil society. The outcome of the workshop will be presented to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

2.3.2 *Status of National Contingency Plans*

National Contingency Plans (NCPs) are central to the action taken to ensure national preparedness and response capacities in cases of incidents involving marine pollution. The situation as regards NCPs in the countries of the region is as follows:

- in nine countries NCPs already existed and there has been no change (Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia);
- the NCPs in three countries have been revised (Algeria, Israel, Greece);
- in two countries the NCPs have been prepared and are awaiting approval (Malta, Turkey);
- NCPs are under preparation and/or revision in Albania, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Slovenia and Syrian Arab Republic;
- a start has been made on the preparation of an NCP in Lebanon;
- no activities have been reported with regard to an NCP in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the biennium, assistance for the development of NCPs was provided to the national authorities of Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey. The assistance provided to the Syrian Arab Republic covered the further development of the national system for preparedness and response and the related NCP, while activities focused on preparedness for and response to accidents in port areas in Turkey (Mersin and Iskenderun) and Morocco (Nador). A

comprehensive project for the development of national capacities in Albania for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from sea-based sources was prepared and submitted for financing to the LIFE Third Countries instrument of the European Communities in November 2002.

Activities were carried out with a view to the development of a sub-regional contingency plan for the South-west Mediterranean involving Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and a second for the Adriatic Sea involving Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. Preliminary work was also undertaken on the development of a sub-regional contingency plan for the Sicilian and Malta channels between Italy and Malta, to be extended to Tunisia.

2.4 Assistance to countries in case of emergency

REMPEC regularly collects information on accidents that cause or are likely to cause pollution of the Mediterranean Sea. Alerts and accidents recorded in the Mediterranean up to December 2002 are presented in Part C, section 2, of the Regional Information System, which also provides an analysis of the situation regarding accidental marine pollution by oil in the region.

As in previous years, in most cases REMPEC has received the first notification of accidents through Lloyd's Casualty Reporting Services. Only exceptionally has the first information come from the Centre's Focal Points. Since November 2001 there have been no major marine oil pollution accidents in the Mediterranean region that have necessitated international cooperation in dealing with their consequences. All registered oil spills in the Mediterranean have been of very limited size and have been dealt with by the competent national authorities or clean-up contractors.

Whenever so requested by the competent national authorities, REMPEC provides assistance to coastal States facing marine pollution incidents. The assistance ranges from facilitating communications and the dissemination of information and reports, to providing the countries concerned with expert technical advice concerning response measures, as in the cases of the cargo vessels the CAMADAN carrying a potentially hazardous cargo, which suffered an accident in Malta harbour in March 2002, and the GELFO which sank 12 miles off the Moroccan coast on 15 November 2002.

During the biennium, some of the Contracting Parties to the Emergency Protocol that have coasts on more than one sea (France and Spain) were affected by serious marine pollution accidents that occurred outside the Mediterranean. REMPEC closely followed the development of the situation and the progress of response operations, keeping its official correspondents informed. In several cases, the Centre forwarded to non-European Union Mediterranean coastal States the situation reports issued by the European Union's Civil Protection Unit.

2.5 Collection and distribution of information

The major output of this activity is the continuing development of the Regional Information System (RIS). Updated documents have been printed and distributed according to the REMPEC distribution list. In addition, the TROCS (Transport of Chemical Substances) database has been further developed and has now become the Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS), which is no longer a single database but a more sophisticated tool placed at the disposal of all interested users in order to facilitate the decision-making process in cases of emergency.

Furthermore, with a view to providing decision-makers with technical information suitable to be utilized in the process of updating NCPs and databanks, several documents issued by REMPEC as well as documents prepared by other entities and considered to be of major interest were distributed to the Centre's Focal Points. The REMPEC documents distributed included:

- Basic documents, recommendations, principles and guidelines concerning accidental marine pollution, preparedness and response and mutual assistance, as well as prevention of marine pollution from ships, 2002 edition, RIS A (E/F);
- Guide for combating accidental marine pollution in the Mediterranean, 2002 edition, RIS/D/1 (E/ F);
- Recommendations for the prevention of pollution and adverse environmental effects from pleasure crafts in the Mediterranean Sea (E/F);
- REMPEC brochure prepared for the WSSD in Johannesburg entitled "Protecting the Mediterranean against Maritime Accidents and illegal discharges from ships towards a sustainable development in the Mediterranean region" issued in June 2002 (E/ F).
- Alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean, 2002 edition (E/ F).

2.6 Capacity building

In the field of capacity building, the Centre continued to give priority to the development of national systems for preparedness and response and to the adoption of sub-regional contingency plans, as well as to training.

The status of ratification of IMO Conventions and the related Protocols provide some indication of the results achieved. At the end of 2002, of 33 relevant Conventions and Protocols, ten had been ratified by almost all the Contracting Parties and 15 by a part of them. Over the past two years, there have been 18 new ratifications: one ratification each for SOLAS Protocol 88, Load Lines Protocol 88, CSC 72, STCW 78, Intervention Protocol 69, OPRC 90, Bunkers Convention 2001 and SOLAS 74; two ratifications each for SOLAS Protocol 78, Facilitation Convention 65, CLS Protocol 92, Fund Protocol 92 and Salvage Convention 89. In addition, four countries denounced CLC 69, one country denounced CLC Protocol 76, three countries denounced Fund 71 and one country denounced Fund Protocol 76.

Once again, the results of the Centre's training and exercise activities have been remarkable. A series of seminars, training courses and workshops have been organized, including two regional training courses, three sub-regional training courses, three national training courses, a seminar on liability and compensation held in Tunisia, ten technical meetings and the 6th meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points. In total nearly 500 participants attended these events. The list of participants at these courses and meetings and their break-down by country confirms the evaluation of the REMPEC training component as being very successful, especially when it is considered that of the 2200 people trained since the creation of the Centre, nearly one half have been trained over the past four years.

2.7 Cooperation with the oil industry and other organizations

As in the past, cooperation with the oil industry has continued to develop and increase. In particular:

- within the framework of the French VIE system (*Volontaire à l'international en entreprise*), TOTALFINA ELF has continued to provide REMPEC with a junior marine biologist;

- the Italian oil industry, represented by UPI (*Unione Petrolifera Italiana*), has since March 2002 seconded an engineer to REMPEC for an initial period of two years; and
- under a trainee agreement with the French University *Patheon-Assas Paris II*, a junior graduate in law has worked in REMPEC for seven months since February 2002 and has carried out a comparative study of existing international regulations (IMO, EC, MAP) on maritime transport and the protection of the environment.

2.8 Implementation of the recommendations of the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties

In addition to completing the process of revising the Emergency Protocol and the development of a proposal for a regional legal instrument on the prevention of marine pollution from pleasure craft, as reported above, close collaboration was established with the European Space Agency (ESA). In this context, REMPEC participated actively in several projects (TESEO, VASCO, CLEOPATRA) aimed at testing the effectiveness of satellite monitoring in the field of operational and accidental marine pollution.

It is envisaged that a pilot project on the combined utilization of spatial, aerial and marine platforms in particular areas of the Mediterranean will be carried out within the framework of THETIS. A proposal for this project will be submitted to the European Communities for financing.

II A.3 Cleaner production

3.1 Contribution of CP/RAC to the implementation of LBS Protocol

The reduction of industrial pollution is one of the most important priorities of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the implementation of the LBS Protocol. During the biennium 2002-2003, one of the points of emphasis of the GEF Project, under the coordination of MED POL, has been to prepare guidelines and plans. Several of these have been prepared by the Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC) to assist countries in the preparation of the industrial pollution component of their National Action Plans (NAPs). These technical documents include the application of best available techniques (BATs), best environmental practices (BEPs) and cleaner production techniques. The guides and plans produced include:

- a regional guide for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilizers and the reduction of nutrient loss from agriculture, prepared by a team of experts and reviewed by two external experts;
- a regional guide for the application of BATs, BEPs and cleaner technologies in industries in Mediterranean countries, prepared by a team of experts and reviewed by an expert meeting, and presenting the methodology to be followed in future when applying BATs, BEPs and cleaner technologies in the region;
- a regional guide for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial installations that are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids, prepared by a team of experts and reviewed by an expert meeting, intended as the technical basis for the regional plan for reducing BOD input from industrial sources in the region by 50 per cent by 2005; and
- a regional plan for the reduction of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in Mediterranean countries by 20 per cent by 2007, prepared by a team of experts and reviewed by an expert meeting.

3.2 Capacity building and training

During the biennium 2002-2003, the various capacity-building and training activities carried out by CP/RAC have been planned taking into account the following criteria: sectors of interest in the region, sectors in which CP/RAC has carried out in-depth work, capacity-building activities in the context of current projects, activities related to the revision of studies or publications and activities carried out in the framework of MAP. The activities undertaken have included the following:

- a regional training course on cleaner production techniques and practices intended for officials and experts responsible for developing National Action Plans (NAPs) within the framework of the SAP with the aim of providing them with know-how and case studies to facilitate the introduction of eco-efficiency approaches in the NAPs;
- an expert meeting on pollution prevention in the textile sector to promote the exchange of experience and the transfer of know-how between Mediterranean experts, during which the study on pollution prevention in the Mediterranean textile industry was presented and the participants visited a leading Catalan textile company to see how it has integrated environmental considerations;
- a series of training workshops (twelve during the biennium) on the Minimization Opportunities Environmental Diagnosis (MOED) methodology, with the aim of introducing MOED to consultancy firms, companies and professionals to assist in detecting pollution prevention opportunities in industrial processes;
- a workshop for Mediterranean communication professionals on environment and development and the role of MAP in the region, as an introduction for communication

professionals to environment and sustainable development issues (in which CP/RAC presented the industrial aspects);

- a meeting to follow-up the effect given to the recommendations of the MCSD working group on industry and sustainable development, held as a sequel to an earlier regional workshop on this issue, bringing together Mediterranean institutions to review the activities they are carrying out within the context of the above recommendations and to analyse how the respective proposals could or are already being implemented;
- a second seminar on legal and managerial instruments for the protection of the Mediterranean coast;
- a workshop on sustainable development and the sustainable use of natural resources to examine experiences of successful cases of the implementation of cleaner production techniques, sustainable development and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region;
- an exchange of experiences between the Slovenian Regional Development Centre Koper and CP/RAC to strengthen the capacities of officials from Slovenia by presenting the model of environmental management in Catalonia.

CP/RAC also provided important support for the MCSD workshop on Framework orientations for the preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and for a symposium on protected coastal and marine areas of the Mediterranean.

3.3 Publications and dissemination of information

Activities have been carried out during the biennium for the dissemination of information on the business advantages of incorporating environmental and sustainable development aspects into industrial activities.

During the biennium, an IntraWeb was created to establish a rapid means of communication for National Focal Points and CP/RAC. A series of periodical and other publications continued to be prepared for the presentation of new issues related to cleaner production in the Mediterranean context, including new aspects related to the priorities of the SAP. *Med Clean* and *CP News* are now issued only in electronic format. The following are the main publications issued:

- *CP News* (Numbers 10 to 15 with information on activities carried out in the region in relation to cleaner production);
- *Med Clean* (12 case studies of Mediterranean companies which have identified and introduced pollution prevention opportunities were issued in 2002, four more were finalized in 2003 and further four will be published during the course of the year);
- *CP/RAC Annual Technical Publication: Mediterranean enterprises and sustainability* (the second issue containing contributions by the participants to the Regional Workshop on the Status and Trends of Industry and Sustainable Development was published early in 2002 and issue No. 3 will be published during 2003);
- *Leaflets and brochures* - the following general and sector-specific leaflets have been issued, in the latter case including a CD-ROM containing the corresponding study:

General

- Promoting cleaner production in the industrial sector: Towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean
- CP/RAC leaflet

Sectoral

- Prevention of pollution in the dairy industry
- Pollution prevention opportunities in the tanning industry in the Mediterranean region
- Possibilities for recycling and re-use of used oils
- Prevention of pollution in textiles, dyeing, printing and finishing
- Pollution prevention in the printing sector

Multimedia

- Pollution prevention in the dairy industry
- Pollution prevention in the tanning sector

MOED training course (an interactive course with theoretical material, examples and practical exercises intended to facilitate the process of learning the MOED methodology, together with a leaflet highlighting the major points in the course and serving as a case for the CD ROM).

The CP/RAC web site has been restructured and updated, as has its intraweb with restricted access to the National Focal Points (see <http://www.cema-sa.org>). A database of Mediterranean experts on pollution prevention has been developed as a source of reference for identifying experts on eco-efficiency and cleaner production in the Mediterranean context. Moreover, with the aim of contributing to technology transfer in the region, a database compiling environmentally-friendlier technologies for the textiles sector (dyeing, printing and finishing) has been prepared and will be made available on the CP/RAC web site. A database for the paper and pulp sector will also be prepared.

3.4 Studies

Guides on tools, management strategies and methodologies are the basis for the implementation of eco-efficiency alternatives. During the biennium, CP/RAC has prepared several studies, including the materials on the MOED methodology referred to above. Another important subject covered by general studies is to monitor the level progress achieved in the introduction of sustainability concepts and the status with regard to cleaner production in Mediterranean countries. CP/RAC also continued to develop studies on pollution prevention opportunities, including cleaner techniques, BATs and BEPs available in Mediterranean sectors, which provide a preliminary diagnosis of the situation in a specific sector in each country, thereby establishing a Mediterranean profile for each of the sectors.

The general studies prepared include:

- biotechnology applications in industry, introducing biotechnology, its principles, evolution and the main biotechnology areas, presenting industrial applications as a tool for environmental management and pollution prevention, highlighting existing biotech resources in the Mediterranean region and elsewhere and presenting case studies of the application of biotechnology for the reduction of pollution in the various industrial sectors;
- the state of cleaner production in MAP countries, describing the situation and evolution of cleaner production in the region; and
- the organization of industrial sectors in the region, providing an initial picture of how industrial sectors are organized in Mediterranean countries and the relevant actors.

The sectoral studies are the following:

- alternatives for the prevention of pollution in the surface treatment industry (update of an earlier study);
- prevention of pollution in the dairy industry, describing the main production processes and auxiliary operations involved in the manufacture of dairy products, outlining the associated environmental issues and the main options for pollution prevention, presenting the current situation of the sector in each Mediterranean country and including examples of the application of some of the alternatives presented by companies in the region;
- pollution prevention in the textile industry in the Mediterranean region, describing production processes and auxiliary operations involved in the dyeing, printing and finishing subsectors and the main options for pollution prevention in these subsectors, and including a presentation of the industry in the various Mediterranean countries with examples of specific companies;
- pollution prevention in the printing sector, describing the production processes and auxiliary operations and the main options for the prevention and reduction of pollution in the sector; and
- pollution prevention opportunities in the logistics sector, with particular reference to company logistics, including transport and loading/downloading points.

3.5 Projects

In addition to its involvement in the GEF Project, as described above, CP/RAC has participated in a number of other projects:

- *LIFE project*: capacity building in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project, coordinated by the National Focal Point, consists of creating a cleaner production centre in the country. The support provided has included setting up a library for the future cleaner production centre, issuing the newsletter *Voice of sustainability* and carrying out various capacity-building activities. A national delegation of representatives of several ministries, as well as public and private institutions, visited CP/RAC to see how the Catalan Ministry of the Environment is operated, its structure, the units dealing with companies and its work in promoting eco-efficiency. A programme of training activities was organized for 40 persons from public and private institutions in the country as an introduction to cleaner production opportunities. A workshop was also held for officials of administrative bodies, companies and technicians focusing on the role of governments in promoting environmental management, especially in industry. Finally, a training workshop was held to train 25 staff from enterprises in the MOED methodology.
- Project ACORN – EPICENTRE: the project focusses on instruments of environmental management for small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), particularly through a comparison between the MOED methodology and that proposed by Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and the drafting of a step-by-step path that SMEs can follow to implement an environmental management system. The methodology is oriented towards the supply chain and the ability to implement single steps of the methodology (not all at once).

II.B Biological diversity and specially protected areas

Since the entry into force of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, numerous and diverse activities have been carried out for its implementation at the national level and in collaboration with regional organizations and institutions at the Mediterranean level. The process of elaborating the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP/BIO) has provided an opportunity to define national needs with a view to improving the efforts undertaken for the implementation of the Protocol and contributing to reducing the decline in marine and coastal threatened species and the degradation of their habitats.

II.B.1 Finalization of the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)

Alongside the Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities in the Mediterranean region (SAP), a project for the elaboration of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) was approved by the GEF Council in April 2000. SPA/RAC was appointed lead agency for the project. The main objective of the SAP BIO Project is to collect data and identify the needs of countries in the region in this field so as to produce a SAP for the conservation of biodiversity for presentation to and adoption at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The SAP BIO provides a logical basis for the implementation of the new (1995) SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.

The starting point for the elaboration of the SAP BIO was an assessment at the regional and national levels of Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity, based on existing inventories, databases and data from all the projects, international agreements and national plans concerning biodiversity. This has been indispensable in identifying needs, priority actions and the best approaches at the national and regional levels to improve the capacity for the effective implementation of the Protocol, taking in account the recommendations from Rio and Johannesburg.

To promote coordination and avoid duplication, it was agreed that in the elaboration of the SAP BIO account would be taken of what had already been developed at the national and regional levels. An Advisory Committee was also established, composed of representatives from international and regional bodies, which has provided technical advice on the elaboration of the SAP BIO.

The Mediterranean countries were invited, through their MAP National Focal Points, to designate National Correspondents whose main role has been to coordinate activities at the national level and to provide guidance to SPA/RAC in implementing the Project. A first meeting of National Correspondents was held in Alicante in July 2001.

The SAP BIO Project commenced on 1 January 2001. Since then there have been three meetings of the Advisory Committee (Tunis, February 2001 and January 2003; and Athens, May 2003. Between the first and second meetings of the National Correspondents, 19 Mediterranean countries undertook national diagnostic processes and produced national reports, 57 National Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues were proposed and ten regional documents and the preliminary draft of the SAP BIO were produced. A second draft of the SAP BIO, taking into account the comments expressed during the second meeting of National Correspondents, was finalized and presented to the Sixth Meeting of SPA National Focal Points.

The SAP BIO Project was presented to the *Working group for addressing the 2010 target at international level* at the meeting “2010: The Global Biodiversity Challenge” (London, May 2003), organized by CBD, UNEP, WCMC and UNDP. It was presented on 22 May 2003, namely International Biodiversity Day. The importance of implementing the activities envisaged in the SAP BIO Project has been further emphasized in view of the recommendation by the CBD Secretariat to the Regional Seas Programmes to contribute to the 2010 target by envisaging such a goal as part of their activities.

The main difficulty foreseen in the future implementation of the SAP BIO is the lack of taxonomists in the Mediterranean area. Another important need for the implementation of the SAP BIO is to develop mechanisms at the bilateral and multilateral levels. Considering these points, the SAP BIO has been elaborated as a regional contribution to the implementation of the Johannesburg recommendations.

II.B.2 Protection of threatened species

2.1 Implementation of the Action Plan for Managing the Mediterranean Monk Seal

At the last meeting of the SPA National Focal Points (Valencia, April 2001), SPA/RAC pointed out that the action so far undertaken in the Mediterranean for the conservation of the Monk seal is not sufficient to ensure the survival of the species and that its decline has not been halted. In accordance with the request of the meeting of the SPA National Focal Points, an expert meeting was held in the Syrian Arab Republic in September 2002, which reviewed a document proposing priority activities to improve protection measures for the species. Taking into account the comments of the Bureau (Sarajevo, May 2003), a short practical document setting out urgent priority actions was presented to the sixth meeting of SPA National Focal Points (Marseilles, June 2003) intended to prevent the extinction of the Monk seal and reduce the problems related to interactions with coastal fisheries.

Other activities to identify the presence of the Monk seal in specific sites have also been carried out, including a field mission in the spring of 2002 to identify possible hot spots for the presence of the Mediterranean monk seal in the Cyrenaica coastal region in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in collaboration with the Libyan Environment General Authority (EGA) and the Instituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica Applicata al Mare (ICRAM) of Italy.

2.2 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles

The activities carried out in this field focused on the following subjects: (i) improving scientific knowledge of certain aspects of the biology of marine turtles, and particularly the dynamics of their Mediterranean populations and nesting activities; (ii) developing regulations relating to the conservation and management of marine turtle populations and habitats; (iii) disseminating information and exchanging experience through the organization of training sessions and the publication of technical documents; and (iv) organizing the First Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles. The latter meeting was organized, jointly with the Secretariats of the Bonn Convention and the Bern Convention, in Rome in October 2001 with the financial and logistical support of the Italian Government, through the Ministry of the Environment and ICRAM.

At the request of the Turkish SPA Focal Point, assistance was provided for a programme of monitoring green turtles in the summer of 2001 on Kazanlı beach. The main aim of the programme was to start a complete survey during the nesting season in order to provide the Turkish Ministry of the Environment with the basic information needed to set up a

conservation strategy for the species. A poster on the results of the programme was presented at the last International Symposium on Marine Turtle Biology and Conservation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In addition, assistance was also provided in 2002 to the Turkish Ministry of the Environment for conservation activities in southern Turkey, mainly on the Akyatan and Samandag beaches. The aim was to start a monitoring programme taking into account the Kazanli model. The assistance provided included national expert training activities. Support was also provided for the scientific survey that has been under way since 1996 to carry out monitoring, nest management and research on the nesting sites on the Kuriat Islands.

The Lebanese Ministry of the Environment, with the support of SPA/RAC and the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), also organized a survey to assess marine turtle nesting along the Lebanese coast. The survey provided further evidence of green turtle nesting in southern Lebanon and identified interaction with fisheries as a major problem.

In accordance with the recommendation made by the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, a technical report was prepared on the standardization of tagging methods and the centralization of information resulting from tagging programmes in a database. This document was presented as an information document to the meeting of SPA National Focal Points.

With a view to reducing the mortality of marine turtles, draft guidelines have been prepared to improve the involvement of marine turtle rescue centres. The guidelines are intended to provide conservationists, decision-makers and those responsible for existing rescue centres with the necessary information and practical advice for the development and effective use of these centres for the rehabilitation of sick and injured marine turtles. The draft guidelines were presented for information to the meeting of SPA National Focal Points. SPA/RAC also published in three languages (Arabic, English and Maltese) a training/awareness module for fishermen with the aim of reducing mortality due to the accidental capture of marine turtles in fishing gear. The module will also be published in French and, following agreement with several National Focal Points, in Croatian and Slovenian. It will be used to undertake awareness campaigns targeting fishermen in various Mediterranean countries.

2.3 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

The action carried out in this field focused on improving knowledge of the situation of the species, coordination with ACCOBAMS and using stranding to obtain a better knowledge of the problems of cetaceans.

A Mediterranean Database of Cetacean Strandings (MEDACES) has been set up at the University of Valencia (Spain), based on a Memorandum of Understanding with SPA/RAC, and is currently supported by the Spanish Ministry of the Environment. MEDACES is being developed as a joint initiative within the framework of SPA/RAC and ACCOBAMS.

In view of the need to establish a stranding network should be established in every coastal State, guidelines have been elaborated by the University of Valencia, based on a Memorandum of Understanding with SPA/RAC. The work took into account the experience acquired by the Italian network for monitoring cetacean strandings and contains guidelines for the development of networks at the national level (notification of strandings, skill and role of local correspondents, equipment, sampling and standardization of records, national coordination, regular meetings, workshops, etc.). The guidelines were presented to the meeting of SPA National Focal Points for information.

To mark the recent entry into force of ACCOBAMS, a workshop was organized, in collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and the Tunisian Government, with a view to producing a guide for the elaboration of national action plans for the conservation of cetaceans. The recommendations made by the workshop are being used to assist several Mediterranean countries in the development of national action plans that take into account the provisions of ACCOBAMS and the action plan adopted within the context of the Barcelona Convention.

It may be recalled that an initiative by SPA/RAC in 1995 for the standardization of photo-identification catalogues was followed by the Europhlukes European programme. A directory of teutophagous cetacean photo-identification (compatible with Europhlukes directives) was initiated in 2002 by SPA/RAC through a contract with an expert from the *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes* of Montpellier, France. In view of the rapid increase in whale-watching worldwide, a document has been prepared that can be a useful tool in the future development and control of whale-watching activities so as to ensure that they are compatible with cetacean conservation. The document takes into account relevant existing initiatives and is harmonized with ACCOBAMS guidelines, which are more detailed and completed.

2.4 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea

The objective of this action plan is to protect vegetation formations that are significant to the balance of the marine environment. The action plan has a timetable, clearly specifying the actions to be carried out. The action undertaken during the biennium was in conformity with this timetable.

During the biennium, the activities carried out by SPA/RAC focused on assisting countries which requested support in mapping and monitoring *Posidonia* meadows. In collaboration with Monaco, assistance was provided to Slovenia to map the meadows within its territorial waters and to carry out a national awareness campaign on the value of these phanerogam meadows. Assistance was also provided to study *Posidonia* meadows in three locations in Tunisia (Monastir bay, Sidi Raïs and Kerkennah).

A meeting with the Action Plan Partners held in Marseilles in April 2002 examined the following subjects: (i) practical modalities for developing the Mediterranean database on marine vegetation; (ii) the standardization of symbols for the mapping of marine vegetation; (iii) inventorying Mediterranean flora species; and (IV) the organization of the Second Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation, which is planned to be held in Greece in December 2003 with the collaboration the Greek National Centre for Marine Research (NCMR).

II.B.3 Elaboration of new action plans

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 25 of the Action Plan, SPA/RAC received a request from the Greek National Centre for Marine Research (NCMR) expressing its interest in becoming an Action Plan Associate for implementation and a request from Nautilus (Italy) expressing its interest in becoming an Action Plan Partner.

3.1 Elaboration of an Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties requested SPA/RAC to prepare an action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean species of cartilaginous fish in view of indications that these species are in decline in the Mediterranean. A meeting of experts was organized (Rome, October 2002), in collaboration with the Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica Applicata al Mare (ICRAM), to review a draft action plan prepared by the Secretariat. The meeting was attended by experts representing the Contracting Parties, the IUCN-Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, the IUCN-Shark Specialist Group and ACCOBAMS. The draft action plan was presented to the Sixth Meeting of SPA National Focal Points with a view to its submission to the Contracting Parties for adoption (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/18, Annex II).

3.2 Elaboration of an action plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA and Biological Diversity Protocol

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties also requested SPA/RAC to draw up a draft action plan for the conservation of bird species listed in the Protocol. SPA/RAC invited various organizations, including MedWet, Tour du Valat, Medmaravis, Birdlife International and AEWA, to collaborate in the process of elaborating the action plan. An ad hoc meeting was held in Tour du Valat (France) in February 2003 to define the outline of the action plan and gather inputs from the partners. The draft plan was presented to the Sixth Meeting of SPA National Focal Points and is also submitted to the present meeting (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/18, Annex I).

3.3 Elaboration of an action plan concerning species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties requested SPA/RAC to prepare the elements for a draft action plan on species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea. For this purpose, SPA/RAC invited the SPA National Focal Points to designate experts to represent their countries in a working group for the elaboration of the draft action plan. A preliminary draft action plan was elaborated and reviewed by a meeting of experts (Barcelona, September 2002). Experts representing IMO, IUCN and other organizations also contributed to the preparation of the plan. The draft action plan was submitted to the Sixth Meeting of SPA National Focal Points with a view to its transmission to the Contracting Parties for adoption (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/18, Annex III).

In order to avoid any lack of coordination or duplication, it is important for the achievement of MAP's goals for REMPEC to participate in those activities relating to the action plan which relate to its fields of expertise.

II.B.4 Assistance to countries in the selection, establishment and management of specially protected areas

The creation of specially protected areas is often an effective way of conserving natural sites of particular interest, but their effectiveness depends on the implementation in practice of the recommended management and protection measures.

During the biennium, SPA/RAC's activities in this field focused mainly on implementing the Regional Project for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region (MedMPA), established within the framework of the

SMAP programme. The project, which commenced in February 2002, is for a duration of 30 months and covers Algeria, Cyprus, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Syrian Arab Republic. SPA/RAC's partners for the implementation of the project are: *Instituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica Applicata al Mare* (ICRAM), Italy; *Unidad de Biología Marina* (UBM) of the *Instituto Universitario del Agua y de las Ciencias Ambientales*, Alicante University, Spain; and *Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels* (ATEN), France.

One of the principal problems addressed by the project is the insufficiency of the information available on marine biological diversity in the Mediterranean. An inventory of the available documentation, in the form of a computerized database containing bibliographic records of the studies and documentation available on biological diversity, has therefore been prepared.

In addition, management plans have been elaborated for specific marine areas, namely: the Al Hoceima National Park (Morocco); the proposed protected area of Rdum Majjiesa-Rass Raheb (Malta); the Zembra and Zembretta National Parks (Tunisia); the Rosh Hanikra Nature Reserve (Israel); the El Kala National Park (Algeria); and Oum Toyour (Syrian Arab Republic). Preliminary expert missions were carried out in Morocco, Malta, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia to prepare for field surveys of the respective marine areas. On this basis, field surveys have been carried out in the Al Hoceima National Park and in the Zembra and Zembretta National Parks as a basis for the development of zoning plans based on bionomical mapping and uses. The results of the preliminary missions and in particular the field surveys are being used for the preparation of provisional versions of the management plans.

The assistance provided for the preparation of national plans for the development of marine protected areas included the elaboration of national plans for this purpose in Cyprus and the Syrian Arab Republic. A series of field surveys were carried out in several coastal sites in Cyprus and Syria with a view to identifying marine sites of conservation interest to be proposed as protected areas under the national plan.

Another of the principal objectives of the project is to develop guidelines and technical tools to help the managers and authorities in charge of protected areas to further conserve natural sites and species. Two technical tools will be finalized during the second year of the project: guidelines for the establishment and management of specially-protected areas; and a practical guide on species in need of special care in Mediterranean coastal areas (identification, population and habitat management, monitoring).

Other activities carried out within the framework of the project included the notification of specially-protected areas of Mediterranean importance (SPAMIs) to the relevant international organizations. A consultation mission to IMO to study procedures for the notification of SPAMIs to that Organization identified the most appropriate proposal as being for SPAMIs to be categorized as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA). The PSSAs established within the framework of IMO are areas that require special protection because of their importance owing to identified ecological, socio-economic or scientific reasons and their vulnerability to damage originating from international maritime traffic. However, there are currently only five marine areas designated as PSSAs worldwide.

In the context of new proposals for inclusion in the SPAMI list, presentation reports were received from the Spanish SPA National Focal Point on the *Parque Nacional Marítimo-Terrestre del Archipiélago de Cabrera, Acanitlados de Maro-Cerro Gordo* and the *Islas Chafarinas*.

II.B.5 Training activities relating to specially protected areas, species conservation and public information

5.1 Training

SPA/RAC sponsored the participation of trainees from Lebanon and Israel in training courses on marine turtle conservation held in Cyprus as part of an initiative carried out in collaboration with the Cyprus Wildlife Society with the support of the General Directorate of Fisheries (Cyprus). It also facilitated the participation by a staff of ten from the Syrian Arab Republic who are working on protected areas in training sessions in Egypt and Tunisia on the management of protected areas.

With a view to strengthening national capacities in the field of inventorying and mapping benthic biocenosis, a training component was included in each of the field surveys organized during the biennium. This enabled the national experts involved to be trained in techniques of mapping plant formations and benthic biocenosis. The activities undertaken in the framework of the Med MPA Project also offered an opportunity to provide training in the countries concerned in the field of the management of special marine protected areas and scientific monitoring. Further national workshops and a regional training seminar are planned during the course of 2003 in the context of the project.

5.2 Manual to support the implementation of species-related commitments

A manual was prepared to provide policy-makers, implementing agencies and managers with practical checklists on legal measures for the implementation of species-related commitments under the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol. The Manual is expected to improve communication and the sharing of information on workable legal strategies and tools within and between countries and institutions.

Support was provided for the cartography of *Posidonia* meadows in the National Marine Park of Zakynthos, Greece, using the standard data-entry forms (SDF). This activity will serve as a pilot study and provide an opportunity to train the park manager in this subject.

5.3 Information

In collaboration with the SPA National Focal Points in several Mediterranean countries (Croatia, Lebanon, Malta), activities are being carried out to raise awareness of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol and the action plans adopted within the MAP context for the conservation of species. These activities include translating the Protocol into the various national languages, preparing brochures and organizing information events.

II.B.6 Collection of data and periodic assessment of the situation

In the framework of data collection and the provision of assistance to countries for the preparation of inventories of species and sites, technical tools for the development of inventories were prepared and scientific and technical information was gathered on habitats and species in sites of conservation interest.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Contracting Parties, a meeting of experts was held (Montpellier, November 2001) to define a reference classification of coastal (terrestrial and wetland) habitat types for the Mediterranean region and to draw up a list of Mediterranean coastal (terrestrial and wetland) habitat types of conservation interest. This list of coastal habitats and wetlands complements the inventory tools existing in the available standard data-entry form (SDF).

With a view to harmonizing the SPA/RAC and MedWet classification systems, a small group of experts was entrusted with the task of developing practical modes for the simultaneous application of the two systems for the establishment of inventories of Mediterranean coastal sites containing wetlands, as well as to develop the MedWet typology for marine areas taking into account the classification of marine habitat types adopted within the MAP framework.

To test the classification list and evaluate its applicability, three case studies are being supported in Spain, Tunisia and Turkey in collaboration with MedWet. The draft classification of coastal habitats and wetlands was presented to the 6th meeting of SPA National Focal Points for transmission to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

An interpretation manual of marine habitats has been prepared to assist Mediterranean countries establish inventories of marine habitats using the SDF. The manual, intended as a tool for identifying and assessing the state of conservation of marine habitats, meets the three requirements of scientific rigour, accessibility for non-specialists and compatibility with other systems (Corine, Habitat Directive).

In addition to the above, technical and scientific advice on mapping *Posidonia* meadows has been provided to Albania to inventory the elements of marine and coastal biodiversity, in the context of a project supported by the GEF/Small programme.

Following a recommendation by the Contracting Parties, and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the process was launched of establishing a Mediterranean clearing-house on marine and coastal biological diversity. A workshop was organized for this purpose (Tunis, May 2003).

II.B.7 Other activities

7.1 Common criteria for the inclusion of additional species in the Annexes to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol

Taking into account the procedures for amending the Annexes to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as similar procedures within the framework of other international conventions and organizations for the establishment and amendment of the list of endangered and threatened species, a document was prepared providing baseline information for the amendment of Annexes II and III to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol whenever necessary.

7.2 Mediterranean Initiative on taxonomy

In accordance with the recommendations made by the Contracting Parties, a draft Mediterranean initiative on taxonomy was prepared with the assistance of an ad hoc group of experts. The draft initiative was presented to the meeting of SPA National Focal Points, which recommended its submission to the meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/18, Annex V).

II.B.8 Status of implementation of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol at the national level

The national reports submitted to the sixth meeting of SPA National Focal Points on the implementation of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol provided an indication of the status of implementation of the Protocol at the national level.

8.1 Institutional framework

In most countries, the central public administrative authorities, usually represented by the Ministry of the Environment, are responsible for putting the Protocol into effect. However, in certain cases, this responsibility may lie with a specialist Ministry or a Ministry responsible for other sectors, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Water Resources, in which case the environment is covered by a specific department, or is shared by two or more departments, such as forests and fisheries, as in the cases of Albania, Cyprus, Malta and Tunisia. In other countries, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain and, in part, Italy, environmental issues come under the responsibility of the central government, and of regional authorities for local or regional questions. In the Ministries responsible for the environment, there are specific administrative units in charge of policy on SPAs and the conservation of biodiversity, which are therefore responsible for the effective implementation of the relevant elements of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol. For several years now, there has been growing awareness at the national level of the importance of protected areas, including wetlands, natural sites, nature parks, nature reserves, threatened and/or protected animal and plant species and sensitive habitats and ecosystems.

8.2 Legal framework for the conservation of species and sites

An effort has been made, including the adoption of new juridical instruments and regulations in certain countries, to improve and adapt national law on the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. Greater attention now therefore needs to be paid to giving effect to current and future legal instruments, particularly with regard to the links between the exploitation of biological resources and the conservation of threatened species and habitats.

8.3 Implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans with regard to Mediterranean marine and coastal zones

Analysis of the situation reveals differences, both as regards the means available and the results obtained or expected, between the countries of the Northern shore of the Mediterranean which are or will become members of the European Union and which, as well as their own means, benefit from European programmes such as NATURA 2000 for the inventorying of sites (for which the designations are in accordance with the European Union Habitats Directive in the case of the five Mediterranean Member States), and the other Mediterranean countries. As part of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, the SMAP Programme has chosen among its fields of action the integrated development of coastal areas, including the conservation of biodiversity. It should also be noted that the SAP BIO Project, in which 19 countries are participating, has enabled all the countries to prepare up-to-date reports on their situation with regard to environmental issues in general, and nature and biodiversity conservation in particular. SPA/RAC plays an important role in this respect through the assistance that it provides countries to help carry out specific tasks, such as making an exhaustive inventory of the flora and fauna on Morocco's Mediterranean coast. While some Mediterranean countries have developed conservation policies in coastal areas and wetlands, they still need to be harmonized with their various other economic and social policies.

8.4 Observation/studies of alien species in the Mediterranean marine and coastal zone

Species that are deliberately introduced (especially for the purposes of aquaculture) or indirectly introduced (in ballast water or for ornamental fish-keeping) should be given greater attention in view of the effects that they can have on local species and their habitats and ecosystems. Little information is available on this subject in the national reports.

8.5 Activities undertaken in the context of implementing the action plans for the conservation of species adopted by MAP

The progress made in carrying out studies, investigations and the elaboration of reports and documents under the action plans in question (particularly those on the Monk seal, marine turtles, cetaceans and Mediterranean vegetation) differs depending on the country and the species. The most noteworthy efforts seem to focus on marine turtles, especially *Caretta caretta* and the Monk seal. Interest in Mediterranean countries in protecting cetaceans increased following the entry into force of the ACCOBAMS Agreement. With regard to vegetation, two species (*Posidonia oceanica* and *Cymodocea nodosa*) attract the most attention. In this context, in view of the lack of temporal references, there is a real desire for a dynamic mapping of *Posidonia* meadows as this phanerogam, which is of such ecological and biological interest, is thought to be most threatened by fishing activities and pollution in many parts of the Mediterranean. The MedWet/GEF Mediterranean Project on wetlands has enabled several Mediterranean countries to examine vegetation in three protected areas, but concrete conservation measures require means that are not available for the time being.

8.6 Activities related to inventories of sites using the standard data-entry form (SDF) for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest

Several countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Slovenia and Syrian Arab Republic, use standard forms to enter data on natural sites of conservation interest. In some cases, this is a result of assessments carried out in the context of particular site identification projects, such as NATURA 2000, or of describing marine areas that could become SPAMIs (RAMOGE). In Italy, a national programme of inventorying species and habitats has started to use the SDF.

8.7 Collaboration in relation to the implementation of the Protocol and/or action plans, especially at the bilateral or sub-regional levels

Most Mediterranean countries are parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention, the Bonn and Bern Conventions and CITES, but the degree of their effective involvement in the conservation of biodiversity and the designation and management of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) is uneven. The countries of the North maintain a certain collaboration with those of the South at the bilateral, regional or sub-regional levels, providing resources that are precious but limited. Among the collaboration projects reference may be made to NATURA 2000, through which sites are designated in accordance with the European Union Habitats Directive in the five Member States of the European Union, and the SMAP Programme. At the sub-regional level, some countries are starting to collaborate on subjects of common interest. Examples include the creation of a Sanctuary for Marine Mammals in the Corsica-Provence-Ligurian Sea Basin (between Monaco, France and Italy), the sanctuary for cetaceans in the Losinj-Cress archipelago (Monaco and Croatia) and the cooperation to

establish an action plan for the management of a transborder area (between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The SAP BIO Project has acted as a catalyst for many countries. Through their participation they have been able to appreciate their situation and concerns in relation to conservation and protection and to identify the related scientific, technical and financial needs. At the national level, public and/or non-governmental bodies and associations are starting to be taken into account and should be further involved in the future in view of the part that they play in raising awareness among those actively involved in conservation and in the management of SPAMIs and marine and coastal protected areas.

II.B.9 Sixth Meeting of SPA National Focal Points

The 6th meeting of the SPA National Focal Points was held in Marseilles with the support of the Regional Council of the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur Region and the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development of France. The meeting examined the activities carried out over the biennium 2002-2003, the new action plans and tools to be adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties and the recommendations and programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

II.C Sustainable management of coastal zones

The state of Mediterranean coastal areas is currently characterized by:

- the existence of over 100 coastal *hot spots* in which many pollution problems are concentrated, relating to both the sea and the land, very often combined with major economic problems that only aggravate the environmental conditions: these areas are predominantly urban agglomerations;
- coastal erosion is a major problem in many Mediterranean countries, with estimates that 25 per cent of the Italian Adriatic coast and 7 per cent of the Aegean coast are showing erosion trends, and only 50 per cent of the total Mediterranean coast could be considered as stable: many of these problems are caused by human activity;
- in heavily polluted areas, many benthic communities are disappearing and habitat loss is the major manifestation of environmental degradation: wetlands have been reduced by 93 per cent since Roman times, while 1,500 km of the Euro-Mediterranean coastline is considered to be artificial (harbours, ports, marinas, etc.);
- the growing threat of the introduction of invasive species as a result of marine transport, particularly in enclosed regional seas such as the Adriatic;
- the effects of climate change and the rise in sea levels are increasingly being felt in the form of droughts, floods, soil erosion and desertification, coastal erosion, storms, changes in seawater salinity and a reduction in biodiversity;
- the Mediterranean cultural heritage, which constitutes a valuable regional resource, is under threat from globalization processes, intensive littoralization and the growth of settlements.

Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) is widely recognized as a conceptual framework that facilitates the development and implementation of strategies and policies for the sustainable development of coastal areas. As a result of the action taken by MAP, and particularly PAP/RAC, as well as other international and national actors, progress has been made in the implementation of ICAM in the region. PAP/RAC has helped to promote a practical approach to ICAM, including: the adaptation and simplification of tools and techniques to make them more accessible; the preparation of a wide range of relevant publications; the implementation of a large number of practical projects; and the analysis in detail of a variety of specific coastal issues and the provision of policy and technical recommendations to national and local authorities and other stakeholders. Efforts have been increased to assist national authorities in the development of specific legislation for coastal areas. Above all, at the request of the Contracting Parties, activities have been launched to explore the possibilities for the development of a specific regional legal instrument for ICAM.

1 Activities in 2002-2003

The activities of PAP/RAC over the past biennium have been directed towards achieving both the long-term MAP objective of promoting sustainable management in coastal areas of the Mediterranean and undertaking practical action to give immediate results in the most problematic fields. The major activities carried out may be summarized as follows:

- An overview of national legislation for sustainable coastal management in the Mediterranean has been undertaken for the purpose of preparing a feasibility study for a regional legal instrument on sustainable coastal management. The feasibility study outlines possible options for the legal instrument. Several expert meetings were organized to discuss the objectives of the legal instrument and obstacles in its

preparation and implementation. The study will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for consideration and further action.

- Regional guidelines for ICAM are being updated to: take into account the experience acquired by MAP and the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) have over the past 10 years, particularly through the implementation of coastal area management projects (CAMPs); introduce methodological improvements in ICAM; and reflect the recommendations adopted by the MCS, MAP and WSSD. Several expert meetings were organized (Nicosia, Split) to discuss the need for the new guidelines and define their content.
- Assistance was provided to Malta, Tunisia and Turkey for the preparation of national reports on integrated coastal management. These reports are comprehensive documents covering opportunities and challenges in coastal areas and policy responses and practices. The reports will be accompanied by several examples of coastal projects and a brief overview of the future of ICAM in the three countries.
- An expert meeting on coastal erosion (January 2002) was organized to: review ways of introducing action on coastal erosion into ICAM; identify the problems and issues related to coastal erosion; and decide on the best way for PAP/RAC to provide assistance. Cooperation started with the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICOD) in Malta on the subject of beach nourishment in the Mediterranean. The Director of PAP/RAC became a member of the Steering Committee of the European Union financed EUROSION project with responsibility for the dissemination of the project's results in the Mediterranean region.
- The development of the concept of Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) was continued and international financial institutions were approached to seek support to test the concept in the Cetina river basin (Croatia).
- PAP/RAC was very active in the implementation of activities within the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and in the preparation of the Adriatic Action Plan, which largely relies on MAP for its implementation. A meeting of experts was organized (Zagreb, April 2003) to prepare the terms of reference for the Adriatic River Basin Management Plan, based on the ICARM approach.

2 Status of implementation of CAMPs

Although the activities of MAP and PAP/RAC are primarily directed towards action at the regional level, and particularly through the promotion of ICAM as a major tool for the sustainable development of coastal areas, most environmental and development problems are highly localized.

Three coastal area management programmes (CAMPs) were implemented during the biennium in Algeria, Lebanon and Malta, while preliminary activities were carried out for four CAMPs in Cyprus, Morocco, Slovenia and Spain. Confidence in this approach is demonstrated by the fact that a number of other countries, including Member States of the European Union, are also interested in starting projects.

2.1 CAMP "Malta"

CAMP "Malta" commenced in early 2000 and was completed in December 2002. The CAMP area covered the island of Malta, focusing on the North-west area. The final presentation conference (November 2002) summarized project results, discussed proposals for follow-up activities and made recommendations for future CAMP projects. It was agreed with the Maltese authorities that regular half-yearly reporting would follow the termination of the project. The introduction of a component on the sustainability of post-project financing enhances the financial sustainability of CAMPs. The CAMP Malta Technical Report Series is currently being prepared.

2.2 CAMP "Algerian Coastal Zone"

Preliminary activities for the CAMP "Algerian Coastal Zone" started in 1999 and the CAMP agreement was signed in October 2001. The geographical area covered includes the area of Bou Ismail Bay, Alger Bay and Zemmouri Bay. Following a series of meetings to prepare the project, full-scale implementation started in the beginning of 2003. However, due to the earthquake in May 2003, which affected a large part of the CAMP area, it was necessary to review the whole project to take into account the impact of the catastrophe. It is expected that the project will be delayed by approximately six months, particularly since it is very complex in terms of the geographical area and problems covered.

2.3 CAMP "Lebanon"

Preliminary activities for CAMP "Lebanon" started in 1999. The CAMP covers the coastal area located to the South of Beirut, encompassing the three municipalities of Damour, Sarafand and Naqoura. The CAMP coordination and supervision has been entrusted to the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon and several national institutions have participated in the formulation, preparation and implementation of the project. A full-time PAP/RAC consultant responsible for harmonizing all CAMP activities and coordinating the work of all the national institutions participating in the project was introduced for the first time and this has already proven to be a successful innovation. Draft final reports on almost all the activities are due during the second half of 2003 and it is planned to complete the project by December 2003. CAMP "Lebanon" features two other innovations, namely: the preparation of a national ICAM strategy and a national law on coastal area management; and a participatory programme and prospective sustainability analysis, which have produced important results through the involvement of stakeholders and the public in general at the municipal level.

2.4 CAMP "Cyprus"

CAMP Cyprus is in its preparatory stage. The feasibility study was finalized in October 2002 and it is expected that the project agreement will be signed in September 2003 so that the inception report and workshop can be organized before the end of 2003.

2.5 CAMP "Slovenia"

The area proposed for CAMP "Slovenia" includes the South Primorska region and the municipality of Ilirska Bistrica, encompassing the Soca river basin, which is the only Slovenian river basin flowing into the Mediterranean. Following meetings with the national and local authorities, the feasibility study has been prepared and places emphasis on cooperation between the partners at the different levels of sustainable development. The CAMP agreement is currently being finalized and is expected to be signed in September 2003, to be followed by the preparation of the inception report and the organization of the inception workshop by the end of 2003.

2.6 CAMP "Morocco"

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties invited Morocco to launch preparatory activities for the signing the CAMP "Morocco" agreement. A consultant has been engaged for the preparation of the feasibility study for the project, which will assess the existing strategic, policy and institutional context, define the area for CAMP and identify possible activities. The feasibility study is due to be completed in September 2003.

2.7 CAMP "Mar Menor" (Spain)

The Bureau of the Contracting Parties at its meeting in Monaco (October 2002) approved the decision to carry out a feasibility study for a CAMP project for the Mar Menor (Murcia, Spain), although the final decision on this project is still to be approved by the Contracting Parties. A technical meeting was organized to discuss the environmental and socio-economic situation of the area and the structure of the project. A team composed of one external expert and nine local experts was assembled to inspect the existing strategic, policy and institutional context of the area, define the area of the CAMP and possible project activities and assess the possibilities for the implementation and long-term sustainability of the project. The feasibility study is due to be finalized in October 2003.

3 The future of MAP activities in the field of CAMPs and ICAM

Further to the meeting in Damascus (March 2001) and at its meeting in Monaco (October 2001), the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention requested the Secretariat to prepare a document of a political nature on the overall vision of the CAMPs for submission to the Contracting Parties in Catania (document UNEP/BUR58/4 and UNEP/BUR59/4).

The concept and structure of ICAM and the CAMP strategy for the Mediterranean, as requested by the Bureau at its meeting in Monaco in October 2002, was presented to the meeting of Joint National Focal Points (Cavtat, May 2003). The comments and suggestions made will be taken into account in developing a draft strategy document for submission to the meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2003. During the biennium 2004-2005, a broad consultation process is envisaged involving the various stakeholders and experts at the regional and sub-regional levels. In this respect, strong synergy should be ensured with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, reinforced by the development of the regional legal instrument on ICAM.

4 Capacity building and training

Emphasis continued to be placed on capacity building for a range of stakeholders at the regional, national and local levels. Taking the advantage of developments in information technology, new modalities have been developed for capacity building with a view to reaching the widest possible audience. Some indications of the results achieved are provided below:

- In addition to the workshop was held in Malta, referred to above, three training courses on integrated coastal area management were organized in Albania, Algeria and Croatia.
- A Mediterranean network of ICAM practitioners, decision-makers, researchers and other parties involved in coastal issues has been established (Mediterranean ICAM Clearing-house) in a project, co-financed by the European Union, to provide a forum for the exchange of information on ICAM in the Mediterranean. The website (<http://www.pap-medclearinghouse.org/>) of the Mediterranean ICAM Clearing-house became operational in December 2002.
- Internet-based training courses on ICAM (MedOpen) are being developed in cooperation with several European institutions. A meeting on MedOpen was held in Split (July 2002) to identify the structure of the training course, the experts to be involved in the project and to define a work plan, outputs and responsibilities. The test run of the course will start soon and the project will be fully operational with its first participants in early 2004.
- A workshop for Mediterranean communication professionals on environment and development in the region was co-organized with MEDU and CP/RAC (Barcelona, May 2003) that included integrated coastal area management and coastal issues among its major themes.

- An increasing number of Mediterranean students are requesting and carrying out internships with PAP/RAC.

5 Information dissemination and awareness

Efforts are being increased to promote ICAM through the publication and dissemination of documents, as well as the dissemination of information through technical means, and particularly the website (www.pap-thecoastcentre.org), which is regularly redesigned. The major results achieved in this field are as follows:

- A brochure *Towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean region: For a sound coastal zone management* and an accompanying leaflet were prepared, primarily for dissemination at the WSSD. The brochure describes the general changes in ICAM following the Rio Conference, the activities carried out in the Mediterranean and the prospects for MAP in its future efforts in the field of sustainable coastal zone management in the Mediterranean.
- The major thematic documents produced include: Good practices guidelines for integrated coastal area management in the Mediterranean; Coastal area management programmes: Improving implementation; New guidelines for integrated coastal area management in the Mediterranean; Guide to good practice for the carrying capacity assessment for tourism in coastal areas; Guidelines for urban regeneration in the Mediterranean region; and Photolibrary on soil erosion processes: Pictorial annex to the guidelines for mapping of erosion processes.
- Achievements in the field of ICAM have been presented at international meetings, including the Water Week organized by the World Bank in March 2003, as well as meetings organized by the European Union, the Council of Europe, national and local authorities, scientific institutions, NGOs and professional associations.

II.D Environment and development

II.D.1 Environment and development report

The Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties requested the Blue Plan to draw up a draft report on environment and development in the region for the next meeting of the Contracting Parties, including a retrospective and prospective analysis based mainly on indicators of sustainable development. In accordance with the proposals of the MCSD, the report focuses on the unity and diversity of situations in the region, the efforts currently being made to achieve sustainable development, good practices and the difficulties encountered. It also provides a second look at *Blue Plan: Futures of the Mediterranean basin*, published in 1989. The value of the report, particularly for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, was acknowledged by the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of the Environment (Athens, July 2002).

The report has been prepared with additional support from the European Environmental Agency (EEA) and the European Commission. Assistance in the preparation of the first draft was received from a steering committee, other RACs and numerous experts on the Mediterranean, particularly those who contributed to the Blue Plan booklets, and the outcomes of forums such as those on water (Fiuggi), towns (Barcelona) and free trade (Montpellier). The first draft, and in particular part three, due to go on-line in French and English at the end of September 2003 on the Blue Plan website, will be corrected and amended with the support of the Contracting Parties and other RACs with a view to publication in the summer of 2004 and the preparation of spin-off reports in 2004-2005. The report is in three parts:

- Part one describes the context, with emphasis on regional specificities (unity and diversity, the exchange of views, etc.) and the major factors involved (demography, urbanization, globalization, economics, government policies, etc.), and sets out hypotheses for the reference scenario in 2025.
- Part two, which constitutes the body of the report, contains six chapters on water, energy, rural areas, urban areas, transport and the coast. Each chapter reviews the principal changes that are occurring and possible pressures and impacts, leading up to the chosen reference scenario. They also analyse what progress is possible, the difficulties encountered and critical points for speeding up progress at the national and regional levels.
- Part three contains a summary, describes the risks that are liable to arise and constitutes a call for action.

II.D.2 Free trade, cooperation and finance

At the request of the Contracting Parties, case studies have been initiated on agriculture (Cyprus, Morocco, Tunisia) and a regional workshop of national representatives, experts, NGOs and international organizations was organized (Montpellier, May 2002) in collaboration with the Centre international de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM). The workshop confirmed the scale of the possible risks (impoverishment of fragile rural areas of rainwater-based agriculture in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, rural depopulation, environmental degradation). It also reaffirmed the need to integrate sustainable development objectives into trade negotiations and to facilitate the transition of these regions towards sustainable rural development through more efficient policies (programmes to combat poverty, decentralization and the quality of local government, European Union support and programmes for the exchange experience). A special edition of

the CIHEAM periodical *Options Méditerranéennes* was issued to report on the results of the workshop.

The Blue Plan also entered into partnership with the World Bank/METAP to evaluate the possible impact of free trade on small and medium-sized textile firms in Morocco, the policy tools to be developed in this area and the lessons to be learned for other countries in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. A workshop was held in Morocco (November 2002), with the participation of business and ministry officials, to launch the work and an expert was recruited to carry out the study. A sub-regional workshop (Maghreb) will be held in Rabat in November 2003 to assess the results.

In late 2002, the European Commission invited proposals for research to assess the impact of free trade on the Euro-Mediterranean area in terms of sustainable development. Although the involvement of the Blue Plan was expected in this initiative, it was necessary to decline in view of the Centre's workload. However, the Blue Plan informed the MCSD of its agreement in principle to make an active contribution to the related consultations and the study will benefit from the work carried out in recent years in the Mediterranean and throughout the world on the impact of free trade and the relationship between environment and development. In particular, the recent overview prepared by the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Cooperation reveals the risks that may be posed by free trade areas which include countries with very different levels of development.

With regard to financing and cooperation for sustainable development, a survey has been carried out, based essentially on OECD data, of changes in financial flows in the Mediterranean (sources, destinations, types, etc.) which shows the fragility of the region, the very uneven geographical distribution of finance and the small amount actually devoted to local sustainable development programmes. An interim report analysed the problems and possible solutions, placing emphasis on the financial difficulties of countries and the need to develop systems of cooperation and financing to ensure a more effective mobilization of the public and private actors for sustainable development (particularly businesses, local authorities and research institutes). Studies in progress in three countries (Croatia, Morocco, Tunisia) will contribute to current regional thinking on this subject. In addition, a study carried out in Egypt on economic tools for the environment has shown the potential benefits of this type of tool for environmental policies.

II.D.3 Integration of sustainability into sectoral policies: Water, tourism, agriculture, forestry and rural development, urban development, industry, energy and transport

An important regional forum on the management of water demand in the Mediterranean was organized (Fiuggi, October 2002) with the support of the Global Water Partnership (GWP), Italy and France. Attended by experts from 20 countries and a large number of institutions, and based on the analysis of national questionnaires, case studies and overviews, the forum led to a better assessment of the progress made and difficulties encountered in implementing the recommendations adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1997. Three workshops (on economic tools, institutional tools and mobilizing action) and a round-table discussion focused on the proposals of the previous regional forum (Fréjus, 1997). The results of the Fiuggi forum were presented to the Third World Water Forum (Kyoto, March 2003) and the MCSD and a special Kyoto edition of the report of the forum was issued in French and English.

The regional and local studies brought together for the forum constitute an important collection of information and are available on the Blue Plan website. The responses to national questionnaires and the case studies show real progress in the implementation of policies to manage water demand in the region, particularly in urban areas. However, the

principal challenge is still agriculture, where examples of progress are less numerous and show the need for changes in agricultural policies and an appropriate combination of tools (targeted grants, price structuring, training and the development of participative approaches). The few successes recorded in agriculture show that major progress is possible and demonstrate the need for more targeted and coordinated action by countries and sponsors.

In addition, the final documents analysing the strategies and prospects for water in Tunisia and Lebanon have been published and are available on the Blue Plan website. They constitute an updated monograph on the water sector in the two countries and illustrate the contribution that can be made by long-term forward thinking in this sector. Finally, a new Blue Plan *fascicule* on water has been prepared for publication.

With reference to the themes other than water covered during the biennium, an expanded version of the future *White paper* on tourism in the Mediterranean was completed in early 2003 and contains contributions from several national experts. The group of experts responsible will be meeting again in the autumn of 2003 with a view to publication in early 2004. This network should be kept together to help raise awareness of sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean tourism industry. More precise forecasting of tourism in coastal areas was also carried out as part of the *Environment and development report*.

In addition to the project approved by the European Commission for the exchange of experience on urban regeneration in Mediterranean towns (see below) a study was carried out on local finances in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. The study, which was finalized in early 2003, provides a preliminary overview of the capacities and constraints on action by local authorities in relation to the urban environment. A second study was undertaken into mobility and modes of transport in six urban areas of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, the results of which will be assessed in the *Environment and development report*. Finally, the monitoring of land-use in four Mediterranean conurbations made it possible to assess the impact of urban sprawl, particularly in terms of its consumption of agricultural land and natural open spaces.

A great deal of data and information has been collected and new forecasts made for energy, transport and waste in the context of the *Environment and development report*. The prospective analysis carried out and the information collected show that major opportunities for progress exist in the fields of renewable energy, and particularly energy saving, and that strengthening policies in these areas could bring considerable benefits.

In the area of agriculture and forestry, synthesis reports have been prepared on woodlands and soil. In addition, cooperation agreements have been concluded with the FAO (for the *Silva Mediterranea* programme) and the CIHEAM which provide the opportunity for cross-disciplinary consideration of the degree to which sustainability has been adopted in these sectors and the conditions for sustainable rural development. As part of the *Silva Mediterranea* project conducted with the FAO and supported financially by France, a team of two engineers is undertaking a three-year action programme. In addition, a workshop on Mediterranean mountains held in April 2003 assisted in setting up a network of experts and the results of the workshop provided inputs to the *Environment and development report*.

II.D.4 Thematic activities on sustainable development

4.1 Water

The availability of water resources and their quality is a major issue in Mediterranean countries, where water is becoming a very important strategic resource. Water consumption

is increasing, reaching its maximum rates in the Southern and Eastern countries. Moreover, population growth in areas suffering from water scarcity exacerbates the crisis. In certain water-scarce countries, the high demands for irrigation and water consumption are accompanied by a striking increase in demand for domestic consumption, which itself is a result of rising living standards. Water consumption is also increasing in the tourist sector, which places a heavy demand on water resources in high seasons, which tend to coincide with peak demand for irrigation in agriculture.

In addition to the country-specific water issues dealt with in all CAMP projects, PAP/RAC has focused attention on dealing with water in urban areas. Guidelines on integrated urban water system planning in Mediterranean coastal areas are being finalized. The use of decision support system (DSS) tools is also being analysed and reviewed in the context of Eastern Adriatic countries as instruments for providing policy-makers with an integrated approach for solving the various emerging national and transboundary problems in water management.

4.2 Agriculture and rural development

In the context of agriculture and rural development, the very urgent issue of the control and management of soil erosion and desertification is covered by PAP/RAC. Two major projects are being undertaken, the first for the Maghreb (Algeria and Morocco) and the second is the LIFE project on improving monitoring of coastal land degradation in Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic, which is lead by ERS/RAC.

The issue of agriculture and rural development should not be limited exclusively to soil erosion, but should also in future take into account the concept of landscape management and should therefore try to integrate other aspects of countryside development and protection. The typology of Mediterranean coastal landscapes is extremely rich and important for the preservation of regional and national identities. However, knowledge about these values is still poor and work could focus more on analysis of landscape management practices in Mediterranean countries, including typology, landscape patterns, identification of outstanding landscapes and the development of guidelines.

4.3 Cities and urbanization

One of the principal activities carried out in the field of cities and urbanization is the project for the exchange of experience and the preparation of guidelines for urban regeneration in the Mediterranean region, carried out by PAP/RAC in cooperation with the Blue Plan in a number of cities. The concept of the project goes beyond urban renewal or modernization, which are processes mainly related to physical change. Experts from the participating cities prepared reports on urban regeneration in their cities, which were reviewed at a workshop (Split, July 2003) with a view to the preparation of a methodological tool for urban regeneration in the form of guidelines, with particular reference to the needs of cities in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

4.4 Tourism

As part of the support provided to countries when new tourism developments are being proposed, assistance has been provided for the assessment of the carrying capacity for tourism development in the region. A guide to good practice in tourism carrying capacity assessment was prepared, based on the experience acquired in this field in CAMP projects, as well as recent experience of the application by PAP/RAC of the carrying capacity assessment methodology for Malta and the Province of Rimini in Italy. The guide was

presented at a workshop on tourism carrying capacity assessment (Rimini, May 2003). The capacity of national and local institutions to undertake tourism carrying capacity assessments was also enhanced through several training courses held within the framework of CAMPs (in Algeria and Lebanon).

II.D.5 Indicators, statistics and database

Several countries carried out further activities on indicators during the biennium, particularly through Medermis project, financed by Greece, on information and environmental reporting, which covers Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Malta and Tunisia. In collaboration with IFEN (the French Institute for the Environment), Blue Plan supported the testing of indicators for sustainable development in Morocco. The information received from these countries meant that Blue Plan could document a further 20 indicators of sustainable development at the regional level.

At the request of the Contracting Parties, the Blue Plan (with the support of the European Commission) carried out case studies on indicators in coastal areas in three countries (Croatia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Syrian Arab Republic). The national reports and the summary report show the benefit of this approach for coastal areas, but also the gaps that still exist. Several other RACs are also engaged in work with the indicators. In March 2003, a large regional meeting of experts, organized in Athens with the collaboration of Blue Plan, selected 15 indicators for the long-term monitoring of the quality of coastal waters. A similar workshop was organized in Tunis by ERS/RAC with the collaboration of the Blue Plan. An important gap in this respect is the poor knowledge of changes in the coastline, and in particular of how it is affected by man-made structures.

During the biennium, a significant effort has been made by the countries involved and Blue Plan to implement the MEDSTAT Environment programme with a view to strengthening the capacities for environmental statistics of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Over the past 15 months, Phase I of the programme has been completed with the following results:

- the sixth and final five-day training session was held (Malta, January 2002) on managing an environmental statistics department within a national institute of statistics and on the job of an environmental statistician, also with representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Monaco;
- a final series of assessments and validations were carried out by Blue Plan experts in all the countries (except Israel and the Palestinian Authority) and six study visits were organized for national experts to various Euro-Mediterranean institutions;
- technical reports on the strengthening of national and regional capacities were published describing the progress made in the programme and the state of national statistical systems for environmental statistics;
- eight national compendia and a regional compendium were published as part of the biennial publication for OECD countries (in French and English, also available on the website);
- the regional database was prepared for Eurostat and is available on the Eurostat NEW CRONOS and CIRCA servers;
- a final conference on environmental statistics for the countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean was organized (Istanbul, February 2003) attended by national statisticians from the Euro-Mediterranean region, Ministries of the Environment, and major international users of environmental statistics, including Eurostat, MAP, OECD and the United Nations Statistics Division.

The major results and successes of the programme have been in its organizational outcomes, including:

- the creation of eight operational units for environmental statistics, including four that are officially integrated into national statistical institutes;
- the real progress made in setting up or improving the operation of national environmental statistics systems, in which national statistical institutes are beginning to play a central role as intermediaries between producers of data and their users; and
- the harmonization of ideas and methods which is gradually occurring at the regional level as a result of the regional training sessions, study visits, expert assignments and use of a common questionnaire and database, reinforced by the increased synergies between the MEDSTAT Environment programme and similar initiatives covering some or all of the countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean carried out by OECD and the United Nations Statistics Division.

Following a tendering process, Phase II of the MEDSTAT Environment programme has also been awarded to the Blue Plan for a period of 36 months starting in April 2003. Phase II, which should allow these important but still fragile advances to be consolidated, has new priorities, namely air pollution, biodiversity and the indicators for sustainable development recommended by the MCSD, without abandoning the issues of water, soil and waste. Emphasis will also be placed on environmental accounting. The new objectives of the second phase also focus on cooperation with the other sectors covered by MEDSTAT, and particularly transport, tourism, agriculture and national accounting.

With a view to pooling data and rationalizing the use of its various databases, Blue Plan developed the software tool ECHEMS for MEDSTAT, which has made it possible to make use of data from a multiplicity of sources, including information from the World Bank's World Development Indicators database and population data. Moreover, the major agricultural and agro-economic variables of interest to the work of the Blue Plan have been prepared and are ready to be integrated into ECHEMS. It is also planned to include data for the tourism and water sectors, as well as the data collected for the *Environment and development report*. It is proposed to make this tool available to countries, and in particular to the national environmental observatories that are in operation.

	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	-	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	25.01.02	-
Bosnia & 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	13.06.03**
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	15.10.01	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.2003	16.02.76	19.11.79	25.01.02	-
European Community	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	-
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	-
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	-	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	-	-
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	-	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
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	-	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	-
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	-
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	-	-	26.12.78/AC	-	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.02	-
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	-	20.05.03**
F.R of Yugoslavia	-	27.04.92/SUC*	-	-	27.04.92/SUC*	-	-	27.04.92/SUC*	-	-

Accession = AD

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

**Turkey and Croatia notified their ratification of the new Emergency Protocol to UNEP /MAP - pending notification from the depositary country

* F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92

On March 20, 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganized state Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention.

	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	-	26.06.01	-	26.07.01
Algeria	-	02.05.83/AC	-	-	16.05.85/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	12.06.92/SUC	-	-	12.06.92/SUC	10.06.95	12.04.02	14.10.94	-	-	-
Cyprus	17.05.80	28.06.88	12.10.01	-	28.06.88/AC	10.06.95	15.10.01	14.10.94	15.10.01	-	-
European Community	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	-	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	-
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/AD	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	-	-	11.09.92/AC	-	-	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	-
Yugoslavia	-	27.04.92/SUC**	-	-	27.04.92/SUC**	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution

Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

2/ The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol)

Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

3/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol)

Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

4/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea

Adopted (Malta): 25 January 2002

Entry into force*:

5/ The Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources (LBS Protocol)

Adopted (Athens): 17 May 1980

Entry into force*: 17 June 1983

6/ The Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPA Protocol)

Adopted (Geneva): 3 April 1982

Entry into force*: 23 March 1986

7/ The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)

Adopted (Barcelona): 10 June 1995

Entry into force*: 12 December 1999

8/ Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation (Offshore Protocol) of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil

Adopted (Madrid): 14 October 1994

Entry into force*:

9/ Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol)

Adopted (Izmir):

1 October 1996

Entry into force*:

* The amendments are not yet into force

Calendar of Meetings organized within the framework of MAP as at 25 July 2003

Date	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact
20-21 January	Sophia Antipolis	Meeting of MEDU and RAC Directors	UNEP-MEDU	A. Hoballah T. Hema
22-23 January	Italy	Third Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the SAP BIO Project	SPA/RAC	M. Hentati C. Rais G. Torchia
27-28 January	Rome	Coordination Meeting (Project MedMPA)	SPA/RAC	C. Rais
31 January	Sophia Antipolis	Meeting of the Steering Committee on Financing and Cooperation for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean	BP/RAC	G. Benoit V. Cistulli
18-21 February	Split	GEF Economic Instruments: Meeting to discuss Implementation and Evaluation of pilot projects	PAP/RAC	D. Povh
7-8 February	France	Ad hoc Meeting for the Elaboration of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Birds	SPA/RAC	A. Ouerghi
12-14 February	Malta	6th REMPEC's Focal Points Meeting	REMPEC	R. Patruno D. Domovic
12-13 February	Split	ICAM Protocol: Expert Meeting on Feasibility Study	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
18-21 February	Istanbul	Environmental Statistics and Task Force	BP/RAC EUROSTAT	J. Iotti
27-28 February	Malta	Trilateral Agreement, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia (Technical Workshop)	REMPEC	R. Patruno D. Domovic
3-4 March	Athens	Experts Meeting on Marine Pollution Indicators	UNEP-MEDU	F. Abousamra
6 March	Athens	Meeting on MAP Evaluation	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason T. Hema
13-15 March	Barcelona	MCSD Workshop Meeting on "Orientations" and Preparation for a Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy	UNEP-MEDU/ MCSD CP/RAC	A. Hoballah
18 March	Sophia Antipolis	Steering Committee on Transports	BP/RAC	A. Comeau P. Miran
18 March	Tunis	Regional Forum in Tunisia on "Remote Sensing as a Support to the Calculation of Sustainable Development Indicators"	ERS/RAC	R. Pantano
18-20 March	Split	Experts Meeting on Industrial Activities	MEDPOL/GEF WHO	F. Abousamra A. Baric G. Kamizoulis
19 March	Sophia Antipolis	Meeting on the Preparation of the Proposal related to Mare Nostrum Project	REMPEC BP/RAC	R. Patruno P. Miran
10 April	Paris	MEDA TEN T (Euro-Mediterranean Transports Corridors)	Nestear	C. Reynaud P. Miran
3-4 April	Barcelona	Second Meeting of the Task Force for MCSD Assessment and Prospects	UNEP-MEDU- MCSD	A. Hoballah
8-10 April	Athens	Experts Consultation meeting to review Regional Guidelines to support SAP	WHO/MEDPOL	G. Kamizoulis
8-10 April	Barcelona	Experts Meeting on Hazardous Waste & PCBs	UNEP/MEDU/ GEF/MEDPOL/ CP/RAC	A. Baric F. Abousamra E. Monfa
10-12 April	Nice	MCSD Working Group on Cultural & Natural Heritage	BP/RAC UNEP/MEDU	S. Antoine L. Chabason
15-16 April	Tunis	Experts Meeting on MSSD Orientations	UNEP/MEDU MCSD	A. Hoballah
21 April	Athens	Meeting on Liability and Compensation	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason

Calendar of Meetings organized within the framework of MAP as at 25 July 2003

Date	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact
23 April	Athens	Second Meeting on MAP Evaluation	UNEP-MEDU	T. Hema
6-9 May	Sevilla	Workshop on Environmental Inspections	WHO/MEDPOL	L. Chabason
7-10 May	Barcelona	Workshop for Mediterranean Communication Professionals	UNEP-MEDU CP/RAC PAP/RAC	T. Hema G. Kamizoulis B. Kamal
7 May	Athens	Extraordinary Meeting of the Advisory Committee of SAP BIO Project	SPA/RAC	M. Hentati
8-10 May	Athens	Second Meeting of the National Correspondents of the SAP BIO Project	SPA/RAC	M. Hentati
14-16 May	Cavtat Croatia	8th Meeting of the MCSD	UNEP-MEDU MCSD	A. Hoballah
16-17 May	Tunis	Workshop on the Development of Mediterranean Cleaning House	SPA/RAC	A. Ouerghi
19-20 May	Sarajevo	Bureau Meeting of the Contracting Parties	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason
19-23 May	Cavtat Croatia	Joint National Focal Points Meeting BP/ERS/PAP RACs	BP/ERS/PAP	G. Benoit G. Cannizzaro I. Trumbic A. Hoballah
27-30 May	San Gemini (Terni) Italy	Meeting of MEDPOL National Coordinators	MEDPOL	F. S. Civili
27-30 May	San Gemini (Terni) Italy	Meeting of MEDPOL National Coordinators	MEDPOL	F. S. Civili
16 June	Athens	RAC Directors meeting	MEDU	T. Hema
12-13 June		4 th Meeting of RAC/CP National focal points	RAC/CP	
16-17 June	Luxembourg	1 st Task Force of MED-ENV II	PB/Eurostat	J. Iotti
17-20 June	Marseille	Sixth Meeting of the National Focal Points for SPA	SPA/RAC	M. Hentati C. Rais
23-27 June	Tunis	National training workshop on techniques of monitoring for marine protected areas (MedMPA Project)	SPA/RAC	S. El Asmi C. Rais
June	Beirut	CAMP Lebanon: Harmonisation-mid term Review Workshop	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
25-28 June	Morocco	National Training Workshop on Development of Tourism in Relation to Protected Areas (MedMPA Project)	SPA/RAC	A. Limam C. Rais
June	Split	ICAM Protocol: Expert Meeting on Draft Feasibility Study Report	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
30 June	Athens	Third Meeting on MAP Evaluation	MEDU	T. Hema
30 June	Alexandria (Egypt)	Regional Meeting to review the Implementation of PRTR	MEDPOL	F. Abousamra
1 July			ICS/UNIDO	
2-3 July	Sophia Antipolis	Meeting of the steering Committee on Environment and Development Report in the Mediterranean Sea	BP/RAC	A. Comeau
4-5 July	Athens	Reporting system, 3 rd meeting	MEDU	T. Hema

Date	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact	Status
21-22 July	Algiers	Workshop for validation of the 1st phase's work – CAMP Algiers	BP/ANAT	A. Bourahla	Confirmed
July	Split	Regional Workshop on Urban Regeneration	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic	Tentative
13-14 August	Sophia Antipolis	4th workshop on Systemic and Prospective Sustainability Analysis within CAMP Lebanon, Naqoura, Liban	BP/RAC	E. Coudert	Confirmed
Sept.ember		Training workshop on mapping Posidonia	SPA/RAC	C. Rais	Tentative

Date	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact	Status
		Meadows			
September	Nicosia	CAMP Cyprus, Inception Workshop	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic	Tentative
15-18 Sept.	Athens	Meeting of MAP National Focal Points	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason	Confirmed
September/ October	Athens	Regional Conference on the Implementation of MARPOL 73/78 and REMPEC Protocol in the Mediterranean	Greek Ministry Of Merchant Marine/ REMPEC/IMO/ UNEP	R. Patrino J. Pace E. Sampatakakis	Tentative
21-28 Sept.	Québec	XII World Forestry Congress	Canada – FAO	L. Dassonville	Confirmed
25-26 Sept	Sophia Antipolis	Meeting of the steering Committee on Environment and Development Report in the Mediterranean Sea	BP/RAC	A. Comeau	Tentative
21 October	Athens	Fourth Inter-Agency Steering Committee Meeting,	GEF	A. Baric	Confirmed
22 October	Athens	Third GEF National Coordinators Meeting	GEF	A. Baric	Confirmed
October	Algiers	3rd workshop « Sustainability Analysis » - CAMP Algiers	BP	E. Coudert	Tentative
October	Ljubljana	CAMP Slovenia: Inception Workshop	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic	Tentative
October	Tunis	Presentation and consultation meeting of the draft management plan of the marine area of Zembra and Zembretta National Park (MedMPA Project)	SPA/RAC	A.Limam C. Rais	Tentative
October	AlHoceima	Presentation and consultation meeting of the draft management plan of the marine area of Al Hoceima National Park (MedMPA Project)	SPA/RAC	A.Limam C. Rais	Confirmed
October	Algeria	Awareness-raising Activities in Algeria on Support of Remote Sensing Techniques for Monitoring and Analysis of Specific Environmental Issues	ERS/RAC	M. Viel	Tentative
October or November	Tarragona	Workshop on Accidents in Ports and their Vicinity	REMPEC/ Spanish Ministry of Merchant Marine	R. Patrino D. Domovic E. Sampatakakis	Tentative
November	Split	Regional Workshop on Sustainable Urban Water Resources Management	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic	Confirmed
11-14 Nov.	Catania	13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason	Confirmed
9-11 December	Athens	Review Meeting on the implementation of the Monitoring programmes	MEDPOL	Fsc/scpb	Tentative
12-13 December	Athens	Second Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation	RAC/SPA	C. Rais	Confirmed
12-13 Dec.	Sophia- Antipolis	Group of experts meeting on « Tourism », Plan Bleu, Sophia-Antipolis	Plan Bleu	E. Coudert	Confirmed
December		Meeting on Liability and compensation	MEDU	T. Hema	Tentative
December	Rome	Expert meeting to review the implications of the MEDPOL monitoring programme	MEDPOL	F. S. Civili C. Beken	Tentative

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

Status of contributions as at 31 December 2002

(Expressed in US Dollars)

As at 31 January 2003

COUNTRIES	Unpaid pledges for 2001 & prior yrs	Adjustments	Pledges for 2002	Collections during 2002 for 2002 and fut. yrs	Collections during 2002 for prior yrs	Unpaid pledges for prior yrs.	Unpaid pledges for 2002 & prior yrs
Albania	25	0	3,490	3,490	0	25	25
Algeria	51,834	0	52,352	52,352	51,834	0	0
Bosnia & Herzegovina	53,955	0	14,958	0	0	53,955	68,913
Croatia	47,883	0	48,362	20,000	47,883	0	28,362
Cyprus	0	0	6,980	6,980	0	0	0
European Commission	0	0	124,647	124,647	0	0	0
Egypt	165	0	24,431	24,431	0	165	165
France	0	0	1,893,125	1,893,125	0	0	0
Greece	138,714	0	140,102	140,102	0	138,714	138,714
Israel	0	0	73,291	73,291	0	0	0
Italy	590,683	0	1,564,060	1,516,834	590,683	0	47,226
Lebanon	25	0	3,490	3,490	0	25	25
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0	0	98,222	0	0	0	98,222
Malta	25	0	3,490	3,490	25	0	0
Monaco	0	0	3,490	3,470	0	0	20
Morocco	27,375	0	13,961	0	0	27,375	41,336
Slovenia	0	0	33,405	67,144	0	0	(33,739)
Spain	0	0	747,378	747,378	0	0	0
Syrian Arab Rep.	7,424	0	13,961	0	0	7,424	21,385
Tunisia	(10,163)	0	10,470	307	0	(10,163)	0
Turkey	0	0	112,182	112,182	0	0	0
Yugoslavia	469,976	0	0	0	0	469,976	469,976
T o t a l	1,377,921	0	4,985,847	4,792,713	690,425	687,496	880,630

Additional Contributions (for information only)							
European Commission	0	0	545,399	518,129	0	0	27,270
Host Country *	0	0	400,000	399,377 2/	0	0	623
Malta	0	19,943 1/	0	19,943	0	0	0
UNEP Env. Fund	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
T o t a l	1,377,921	19,943	5,981,246	5,730,163	690,425	687,496	958,523

N.B. Amounts in brackets mean credit to the Government

The additional contributions are included in this report for information purposes only.

1/ Refund of unspent balance

2/ EUROS 408,163.26

TRUST FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION**(ME)****Status of contributions as at 30 June 2003****(Expressed in US Dollars)**

COUNTRIES	Unpaid pledges for 2002 & prior yrs	Adjustments	Pledges for 2003	Collections during 2003 for 2003 and fut. yrs	Collections during 2003 for prior yrs	Unpaid pledges for prior yrs.	Unpaid pledges for 2003 & prior yrs
Albania	25	0	3,525	0	0	25	3,550
Algeria	0	0	52,876	0	0	0	52,876
Bosnia & Herzegovina	68,913	0	15,108	0	68,844	69	15,177
Croatia	28,362	0	48,846	31,638	28,362	0	17,208
Cyprus	0	0	7,050	7,050	0	0	0
Egypt	165	0	24,676	0	0	165	24,841
France	0	0	1,912,057	1,912,057	0	0	0
Greece	138,714	0	141,503	0	0	138,714	280,217
Israel	0	0	74,024	74,024	0	0	0
Italy	47,226	0	1,579,700	1,579,700 ^{1/}	47,226	0	0
Lebanon	25	0	3,525	0	0	25	3,550
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	98,222	0	99,204	0	0	98,222	197,426
Malta	0	0	3,525	0	0	0	3,525
Monaco	20	0	3,525	3,525	20	0	0
Morocco	41,336	0	14,101	0	0	41,336	55,437
Slovenia	(33,739)	0	33,739	0	0	(33,739)	0
Spain	0	0	754,852	754,852	0	0	0
Syrian Arab Rep.	21,385	0	14,101	0	21,385	0	14,101
Tunisia	0	0	10,575	10,575	0	0	0
Turkey	0	0	113,304	0	0	0	113,304
Yugoslavia	469,976	0	0	0	0	469,976	469,976
European Union	0	0	125,894	128,120	0	0	(2,226)
T o t a l	880,630	0	5,035,710	4,501,541	165,837	714,793	1,248,963

Additional Contributions (for information only)							
European Commission	27,270	0	544,153	0	0	0	571,423
Host Country *	0	0	400,000	0	0	0	400,000
UNEP Env. Fund	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
T o t a l	907,900	0	6,029,863	4,501,541	165,837	714,793	2,270,386

N.B. Amounts in brackets mean credit to the Government

The additional contributions are included in this report for information purposes only.

ANNEX V**Combined statement of Income and Expenditure and
for the first year of the biennium 2002-2003 ended 31**

MEL

December 2002

(United States dollars)

Reference**Income**

Voluntary contributions	Schedule 5.1	4,985,847
Allocations		
Interest income		210,562
Programme support income		
Billings		
Deferred income		-
Miscellaneous income		2,572
Royalties		
Sale of publications		
Total Income		5,198,981

Expenditure

Staff and other personnel costs		2,561,750
Contractual services		904,651
Travel		337,842
Operating expenses		643,975
Acquisitions		63,388
Fellowships, grants and contributions		-
Programme support costs	Statement X	589,515
Total Expenditure		5,101,121
Excess/(shortfall) of income over expenditure		97,860
Prior period adjustments		-
		97,860

Net excess/(shortfall) of income over expenditure

Provisional savings on or cancellation of prior periods' obligations		-
		6,336,177

Reserves and fund balances, beginning of period

Reserves and fund balances, end of period		6,434,037
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Financial reserves, beginning of period

Financial reserves, end of period

**Combined statement of assets, liabilities, reserves and
fund balances as at 31 December 2002****Assets**

Cash and term deposits	Schedule 3.1	4,357,647
Investments		-
Interfund receivable	Note 6	1,100,960
Voluntary pledges receivable	Schedule 5.1	914,371
Other accounts receivable		1,126,234
Imprest advance/replenish		
Inventory		
Deferred charges		57,900
Total assets		7,557,112

Liabilities

Interfund payable	Note 6	-
Other accounts payable		353,589

<u>Combined statement of Income and Expenditure and</u>		MEL
Other liabilities		-
Reserve for obligation		735,747
Deferred credits		33,739
Total liabilities		1,123,075
<u>Reserves and fund balances</u>		
Financial reserves		
Cumulative surplus		6,434,037
Total reserves and fund balances		6,434,037
Total liabilities, reserves and fund balances		7,557,112