



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP/BUR/53/4
6 October 1998

Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the Protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its
Protocols

Tripoli, 16-17 November 1998

MAP INFORMATION STRATEGY

Table of Contents

Introduction

MAP'S MANDATE

THE ROLE OF MAP

MAP'S STRATEGY ON INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Product

The Target

The Means

- I. Publications
- II. The MEDU Library
- III. Home Page
- IV. Mass media
- V. Other means

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

ANNEX I

Introduction

The present report is submitted by the Secretariat to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties in compliance with the request of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997) "to present to the Bureau a concrete action programme in the field of information within the MAP system".

MAP'S MANDATE

In June 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) brought together in Rio de Janeiro, the greatest number of Heads of State and Government ever assembled in one place to discuss environment and sustainable development.

The "Rio Declaration" adopted, includes an important statement on the right of the general public to be considered in matters related to the environment. Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states:

"At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes"

Recognizing the important role which public information and public awareness may play in the success of any MAP strategy in the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the sustainable development of the region, provisions were made in MAP Phase II, and various amendments have been introduced to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as three new protocols approved during the period 1994-1997.

These legal instruments should constitute the legal basis for a MAP Information and Public Awareness Strategy and are listed in Annex I.

THE ROLE OF MAP

The role which MAP is called to play on information is to coordinate action and act as a catalyst in the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the region.

Specifically:

- provide relevant information to decision makers in order to assist them in the promotion and the implementation of sustainable development and the protection of the environment;
- provide information to the public in connection with the state of the environment of the Mediterranean region and the measures adopted for improvement in order that environmental awareness in the Mediterranean region be enhanced;
- encourage public access and participation to information activities for the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean region;

- mobilize participation and involvement of major actors concerned.

MAP'S STRATEGY ON INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

In order to enable MAP to fulfill its role, a detailed MAP Information and Public Awareness Strategy should be formed. This strategy should describe the kind of information and the message(s) to be communicated to the MAP partners and the public at large as well as the most effective Environmental Communication procedure.

- **Environmental Communication** is a critical component of environmental policy making, since it engages people in personal ways and involves the sound understanding of communication process and environmental issues. In fact, communication and development are inseparable; the public wants to be considered and involved in matters related to environment and development. Policy makers, business and industry leaders and government officers soon came to realize that public sentiment had become an important consideration in matters related to the environment.
- **Public Awareness and participation** is the process of conveying information related to the public or sometimes to special target groups (e.g. schoolchildren, tourists, industrialists etc) with a view to enlisting their support for particular MAP objectives and to promoting general MAP aims. Participation is not a solitary thing, rather it refers to a combination of activities and outcomes.
- **Public Information** means publicizing the issues addressed, objectives pursued and breakthroughs made under MAP, to as large and mixed a public as possible through various means of communication, with a view to making MAP well known, raising its profile and improving its public image.

In order to form a fundamental strategy with explicit public information and awareness objectives, and timetables for achieving them, the entire process must be sensitive to cultural, social, political and economic concerns of the region and adapt accordingly. Therefore different and strategic roles need to be assigned to the various categories of Focal Points of the Contracting Parties and to the Regional Activity Centres (RACs).

MAP Information and Awareness Strategy should be based on a well defined plan with clear specific objectives: WHAT, TO WHOM, HOW.

The Product: What is to be communicated.

The Mediterranean Action Plan, its mandate and work. The activities, products and MAP's 20 years of experience in the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the region together with other selected and useful information in order to enhance environmental awareness and decision making.

The Target: Whom the Product is to be communicated to.

The term Target, in this context, is referred to the public at which MAP public information and awareness outputs are aimed. This public should be the beneficiary of MAP's information strategy.

The Target may be divided into several different groups:

- World public
- Regional public (people who live and work in the Mediterranean basin),
- National public
- Transient (tourists etc)

The above mentioned groups may be subdivided into smaller ones according to age, language, profession and responsibilities.

Presently MAP's main target groups are the following:

- Governments, Government departments and MAP Focal Points
- Libraries, Universities, Research Centres, Scientists
- IGOs
- NGOs
- The Mass Media

As a first step these Target groups should be broadened to include:

- Socio-economic Actors
- Industrialists
- Children and Youth

In order to reach all target groups the key element is nationalization. The Regional Activity Centres, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Contracting Parties must be assisted in information capacity building, and be urged to assist both in the preparation and dissemination of MAP information. It is unlikely that MAP and its human resources, however efficient, could be effective in reaching regional, national and local audiences without the assistance of competent authorities on a regional and national level.

However until the necessary assistance to the present staff is actually funded (to be defined in relation with the scope of adopted MAP information strategy), improvements could indeed be implemented by the existing MAP human resources.

Recommendations

- **The target groups should be broadened and updated periodically according to the needs;**
- **the Contracting Parties should define the kind of information (legal, scientific) to be communicated;**
- **the Contracting Parties and the RACs should play an active role in the dissemination of MEDU and MAP information on the international, regional, national and the local levels;**
- **the MEDU and the RACs should ensure that the MAP mailing list be routinely updated.**

The Means: Ways and resources to be used.

The following should be taken into consideration:

- Conditions for the wide dissemination of MAP information vary greatly from country to country within the region. Apart from cultural, economic geopolitical and language differences, there are very distinct differences in the technology for the accession, management and dissemination of information among the MAP countries.
- The Contracting Parties differ in their receptivity to public information about MAP. For example, political and public sensitivity to environmental issues is much keener in some countries than in others, and some have much longer-established tradition, institutions and means for the dissemination of information.
- Public Information varies greatly in different parts of the region. Certain issues which are of great public concern in some Contracting Parties, may have little or no relevance in others.
- The processes in reaching the public vary from country to country, and certain media are more developed than others in different countries and situations.

Presently, the Target groups are reached through a mailing list containing 1714 entries and compiled by the Athens MEDU and by the RACs. The following means are being used or have been used:

I. Publications

a. Specialized publications

- MAP Technical Report Series
- Convention and Protocols
- MAP and RACs Reports of Meetings
- RACs publications

b. General information material

- MEDWAVES Magazines
- Brochures and Leaflets
- Posters and Stickers

MAP TECHNICAL REPORT SERIES (MTS)

The series contains selected reports resulting from the various activities performed within the framework of the components of MAP.

So far 118 volumes have been published which have been disseminated as indicated in the MEDU mailing list and on request.

Recommendations

- **Upgrade the presentation of MTS;**
- **encourage RACs publishing in MTS;**
- **update MTS list;**
- **improve the “marketing” of the mailing list (specific partners) as necessary;**

- **urge National Focal Points to assist MEDU in the enhancement of the MTS mailing list by supplying a list of national NGOs and libraries.**

CONVENTION AND PROTOCOLS

- *Mediterranean Action Plan and the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea*, 52 pages. United Nations, New York 1980. Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic.
- *Mediterranean Action Plan Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources. Final Act and Protocol*, 18 pages. Published by the United Nations, New York 1980.
- *Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas*, 32 pages. MEDU, Athens, 1986. Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic (in one volume).
- *Mediterranean Action Plan and Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols*, 61 pages. MEDU, Athens, 1992. Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic.
- *Mediterranean Action Plan and Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols*, Informal Document. MEDU, Athens, 1997.

These have been distributed to a selected group of the MAP family, (Focal Points, Government experts, IGOs, NGOs), libraries, and upon request, to institutions and the media.

Recommendations

- **Improve the presentation (easy-to read, easy-to-access, easy reference);**
- **urge Focal Points to distribute the Convention and Protocols to appropriate national institutions, NGOs and libraries, or to submit to MEDU a selective list of potential recipients;**
- **use better marketing methods.**

MAP REPORTS OF MEETINGS

All MAP Meeting reports and documents, 1975 to present, are deposited with the MEDU library, and constitute the MEDDOC database. *A MAP List of Meetings and Documents* is published and distributed biennially.

Reports of MAP meetings are distributed to a selected group of the MAP and RAC family (focal points, Government experts, IGOs, NGOs) and upon request, to institutions, academics, researchers, students as well as the mass media.

RACs PUBLICATIONS

RACs produce and distribute their own publications.

Recommendations

- **Encourage RACs to upgrade their publications;**
- **deposit copies of all RAC publications and reports with the MEDU Library;**
- **use UNEP/MAP/RAC order of presentation in all covers;**
- **use MAP brand-identification.**

MEDWAVES (MW)

The first issue of MEDWAVES was published in July 1985 in English and French. Since 1990, following the decision of the Contracting Parties, MedWaves has been published in English, French and Arabic. The first issue of MedWaves in Arabic is no 19, January 1990. MedWaves magazine is issued three to four times annually and mailed by MEDU to nearly 2000 recipients in multiple copies worldwide. It is distributed to Focal Points, Government experts, libraries, scientists, NGOs, IGOs, journalists and others upon request.

Recommendations

- **Improve the design and layout of MedWaves though progress has already been made. Restructure contents (analytical part, per major theme and per issue; activities, achievements, RAC, NGO information, list of meetings etc.);**
- **ensure the timely delivery of reports to the MW Editor by the Focal Points and other sources;**
- **allocate one or a half page for each RAC as well as one page for NGOs, MAP-Partners and make these contributors responsible for the updating of the page;**
- **send MW to RACs, Focal Points and NGOs, and urge them to distribute them to other National/local NGOs and libraries, institutions, scientists and the media.**

BROCHURES AND LEAFLETS

- The first MAP brochure, the *Mediterranean Action Plan*, 28 pages, was prepared and published in 1985 by MEDU in all Mediterranean languages. It has been distributed by MEDU to international recipients and by the Focal Points on a national level.
- *Genoa Declaration on the Second Mediterranean Decade*, prepared and published by MEDU in 1988. Languages: All Mediterranean languages (in one volume).
- *High and Dry brochure*, 48 pages, designed and published by MEDU and OCA/PAC (Nairobi), in 1991. Languages: English, French, Arabic.
- MAP brochure, the *Mediterranean Action Plan*, 40 pages, prepared for the Rio Summit, compiled and published by MEDU in 1991. Languages: English and French.
- MAP brochure on MCSD, *Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development: A Regional Channel for Agenda 21*, prepared and published by MEDU in 1997. Languages: English and French (in one volume).

- MAP brochure, the *Mediterranean Action Plan: A Contribution to Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Basin*, 36 pages, prepared and published by MEDU in 1996. Languages: English, French.
- MAP leaflet, four-fold prepared and published by MEDU in 1997. Languages: English, French.
- Various Blue Plan and SPA/RAC brochures.

Recommendations

- **Update the Institutional MAP brochure as necessary. Languages: English, French, Arabic;**
- **create an analytical *Pressure-State-Response* (PSR) eye-catching, easy-to-read, easy-to-absorb short brochure with focus on the Mediterranean environment. Languages: Arabic, French, English as a first step; all Mediterranean languages as a second step;**
- **create a *Pressure-State-Response*, eye-catching, easy-to-read, easy-to-absorb long-term leaflet, one deriving from the PSR brochure, for the general public with focus on the Mediterranean environment and development. Languages: All Mediterranean languages;**
- **create a special brochure for children and youth (seek the assistance of a country with proven experience in such types of brochures). Languages: All Mediterranean languages.**

POSTERS and STICKERS

- *Turtle poster*
Printed in Athens in 1986 by MEDU. Photograph A. Demetropoulos. 5000 copies;
- *Monk Seal poster*
Printed by Water Branch, UNEP, Nairobi in 1998. Design by J. Lamb. 10000 copies were sent to MEDU;
- *Dolphin poster*
Printed in Athens in 1985 by MEDU. 1000 copies;
- *MEDUNIT poster (Art)*
Printed in Athens in 1986 by MEDU. 1000 copies.

Stickers mentioned hereunder were financed by Water Branch, UNEP, Nairobi. It must be noted that none of these stickers were originally designed to serve MAP purposes.

- *SOS Message in a bottle*: Designed and printed in two sizes by MEDU, in 1984, 100000 copies. Reprinted in 1985, 1986 and 1993.

It must be noted that this sticker is being used by UNEP for the "Year of the Ocean 1998" and appears in the UNEP letterheads;

- *Dolphin*: Designed and printed by MEDU in 1984. 150000 copies. Reprinted in 1985, 1987, 1991, 1993;
- *Pink Whale*: Designed and printed by MEDU in 1985. 50000 copies. Reprinted in 1985 and 1993;

- *Keep our Seas Alive*: Designed and printed by MEDU in 1985. 150.000 copies. Reprinted in 1987 and 1993;
- *Help Stop Global Warming and Sea-level Rise*: Designed by the Water Branch, Nairobi. Printed in Athens by MEDU in 1988. 100000 copies. Reprinted in 1991.

Recommendations

- **Design, adopt and produce a MAP generic sticker designated to serve as MAP brand-identity lasting impression to the general public, and use its design elements in other kinds of MAP visual products;**
- **issue other posters and stickers in connection with specific events; the distribution of these posters and stickers to be carefully planned and monitored by MAP and the Focal Points.**

II. The MEDU Library

The MEDU library, established in May 1986, houses a small special collection of monographs, scientific periodicals, technical reports and reference publications on marine pollution, sustainable development, environmental policy and law, climate change and other related topics. It serves as a depository for RACs publications and reports as well as for UNEP and other UN Agencies scientific and technical publications, and maintains a complete official documents collection and data base of meetings organized and convened by MAP from 1975 to present. Designated for the use of the MEDU staff, the library, despite its limited resources, has continued to offer assistance and to provide reference services and training to the Mediterranean scientific, professional and student community.

Recommendations

- **Define the policy and set guidelines regarding the MEDU library status, services, as well as its potential in the framework of MAP and MAP policy on Information;**
- **organize the library's collection in electronic form in order to facilitate collection management and development and enhance library services;**
- **design and compile a MAP library database of MEDU and RACs library holdings (documents, publications). Make the database accessible and searchable via conventional means and via the Internet;**
- **create a MAP library information network with the MEDU library serving as the Focal Point and the active participation of RACs for effective information sharing exchange and dissemination;**
- **enhance the MEDU library's presence on the MAP Home Page;**
- **support the library and the library's role in order that its growing responsibilities as a Centre for the deposit/acquisition, management and dissemination of environmental information in the region, be met. To that end, full time library staffing should be seriously considered and a librarian's post be established.**

III. Home Page

The MAP Home Page was designed by Data Processing and the Library and was uploaded to UNEP server in September 1997, upon approval by the professional staff meeting. It consists of, Information on MAP; History and Milestones; Legal Framework of MAP; Institutional Structure; Partnerships; Programme of Activities; Publications; and up-to-date news as well as glossary of terms. Moreover, it provides downloading option for copies of selected MAP meeting reports, the Barcelona Convention and Protocols, copies of 73 MAP Technical Reports and various other

documents and publications.

It may be accessed at: <http://www.unepmap.org>

The MAP Home Page is updated approximately every three weeks.

Recommendations

- **Designate a professional staff member as overall responsible for the MAP Home Page;**
- **recruit a qualified expert in the relevant field for the updating of the Home Page;**
- **set guidelines regarding the contents, contributors/contributions (MEDU staff, RACs) updating schedule, text editing, technical support;**
- **consider enhancing the Home Page.**

IV. Mass media

The press is contacted through, press releases, interviews, direct contact with individual journalists, press conferences on the occasion of the Contracting Parties meetings.

It must be taken into consideration that the Mass Media (Newspapers, magazines, written publications, radio, television) is a very special target group, as they have the potential of reaching a great number of people.

The print medium, most often available to a mass audience, is the newspaper. However, it must be noted that:

- Environmental journalists are often presented with technical and sometimes conflicting information and are required, under deadlines, to make sense of material referring to complex issues and make it readable and comprehensible. This leads to a confusing picture for the public and, at times, undermines the credibility of journalists on environmental issues;

there is too much press release journalism, crisis-oriented, inconsistent, lacking in follow-up and not enough analysis of the issue;

- MEDU has to adopt a guarded attitude to the press in order to protect the reputation of MAP.

Recommendations

- **Prepare MAP Press releases and feature stories supported by raw material, for in-depth treatment, specifically for the press;**
- **issue MAP press releases and feature stories in English, French and Arabic;**
- **produce special material for the press on the Mediterranean Environment Week;**
- **urge Focal Points to assist in the preparation and dissemination of MAP press releases and feature stories on the national and local level.**

V. Other means

- Exhibitions
- TV/Video Film outputs
- Special events

EXHIBITIONS

MAP has organized the following exhibitions:

- *The 1983 Exhibition panels:*
In 1983 T. Farcas, consultant, Water Branch, Geneva, created an exhibition consisting of 12 light-weight panels, which was shown in 1983 during the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Dubrovnik.
- *The 1985 Exhibition panels:*
In 1985, a new MAP exhibition was created by Mr. N. Gabrielli, architect and consultant of the Municipality of Genoa. The exhibition consisted of 35 plastic-coated aluminum panels, each weighing 5 kilos. This exhibition was shown at the 1985 meeting of the Contracting Parties in Genoa; in Athens, December 1985 as part of the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of MAP; in Algiers, March 1986; in Tunis, November 1986; in Nairobi (French Cultural Week), March 1987; in Malta, July 1988; and in Tripoli (Libya), February 1989. In March 1990 MAP discontinued the use of this exhibition since the data shown had become obsolete.
- *The 1992 Exhibition panels:*
In 1992, a new MAP exhibition was created by M. Caparis, consultant, and the Senior Information/Conference Assistant. The exhibition consisted of 18 light-weight, easy to transport panels, 43 pictures with photographs and texts. It was shown at the Thessaloniki International Fair, September 1992; in Piraeus at the Music, Vision, Media Exhibition in November 1992; in Athens at the Multimedia Exhibition in December 1992; and at the HELECO Exhibition in April 1993; in Nicosia, in September 1993; at the Thessaloniki International Fair in September 1993; in Antalya, in October 1993; at the Thessaloniki International Fair in September 1994. In January 1995, MAP discontinued the use of this exhibition since the data shown had become obsolete.
- *Computer slide show on MAP:*
Prepared by Data Processing and shown to the delegates in Barcelona, at the Contracting Parties Meeting, in Barcelona, in 1995
- *UNEP Photo Exhibition:*
On loan by UNEP Nairobi, 60 photographs, no text. Shown at the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Athens, in September 1994. Inaugurated by the Coordinator and the Deputy Mayor of Athens.

It should be taken into consideration that these exhibitions intended as a portable display for frequent use around the region, are in fact, only barely mobile and costly to transport.

Recommendations

- **Develop a good set of transparencies and/or slides for the use of professional staff and RACs;**
- **abolish such type of exhibitions which are costly to transport;**
- **encourage and support exhibitions organized on a national and local level, especially exhibitions for children.**

TV/VIDEO FILM OUTPUTS

- MAP produced a video in 1995, 15 minutes long, which follows closely along the thematic lines of the MAP first booklet.
This video lacks creative and local appeal and is outdated.
- Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) produced in 1990, a 52 min. video: "*Mucking up the MED*". The video, a great success, is now outdated.

Recommendations

- **Produce a new video on the Mediterranean environment and the Mediterranean Action Plan;**
- **produce 1 or 3-4 min TV spots on specific subjects;**
(If the principle of MAP videos and TV spots is adopted, a study will be prepared to assess feasibility and cost);

note: It would be useful if MAP redistributed to Focal Points, the "Moving Pictures European Catalogue", 1997-1998, by TVE, to be used nationally as necessary.

SPECIAL EVENTS

World Environment Day

The material regarding the World Environment Day is prepared, produced and disseminated directly by UNEP Headquarters. It must be noted that this material reaches the Contracting Parties and RACs late in May.

Mediterranean Environment Week (Genoa Declaration 1985)

Until today, the Mediterranean Environment Week has been occasionally observed. However, it could become the highest expression of Contracting Parties solidarity. Mediterranean Environment Week is a unique opportunity to bring MAP alive for its public.

In order to achieve results, careful planning as well as production of relevant material, timely dissemination and careful planning of events should be organized by MEDU in close cooperation with the Contracting Parties and RACs.

Recommendations

- **Produce a short TV spot(s) on specific subject(s) and a poster every year for the Mediterranean Environment Week; the subject to be specified by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties;**
- **forward the TV spot and poster to the Focal Points and RACs the end of March, for further dissemination;**
- **introduce to schools the idea and the message of the Mediterranean Environment Week on a regional level;**
- **plan a drawing competition for Mediterranean children. This competition should be implemented by MAP in cooperation with the Contracting Parties for the year 2000;**
- **plan and design a stamp for the year 2001, with identical drawing for the Post Offices of all Mediterranean countries. Designate first day of circulation for all Contracting Parties 5 June 2001.**

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Invite the Contracting Parties to appoint Focal Points on Information;**
- **convene a Working Group on Information in order to present to the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, 27-30 October 1999) for adoption of a MAP Information Strategy based on a well defined plan with clear, specific objectives as well as the appropriate staff and budget;**
- **assign different and strategic roles, in connection with MAP Public Information and Public Awareness, to various categories of MAP Focal Points and RACs;**
- **promote Mediterranean Environment Week on the local, national and international levels;**
- **design MAP's *brand-identification* to be used in all MAP's visual products;**
- **support and enhance the involvement of NGOs and IGOs in this exercise;**
- **organize training programmes on information and public awareness for nationals of developing Mediterranean countries.**

ANNEX I

MAP Phase II*

INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

Public information and public participation are a dimension essential to the policy of sustainable development and environmental protection.

The objectives of this component are:

- to provide to the general public the information available on the state of the development and environment of the Mediterranean and its evolution and the measures taken to improve it;
- to enhance the environmental awareness of the population and create a common approach to the environmental problems of the Mediterranean;
- to facilitate public access to activities for the protection and management of the environment and access to scientific knowledge in a proper manner: and
- to mobilize and ensure the participation and involvement of major actors concerned (local and provincial communities, economic and social groups, consumers etc).

To achieve the stated objectives on the national and regional levels, the actions needed are:

- to implement coordinated information campaigns and special activities on environmental protection directed towards managers and decision-makers, as well as children, students, teachers and tourists;
- to launch educational programmes aimed at informing the public and young people in particular of the value and the rarity of natural heritage, the need to avoid degradation of natural and urban environments and the importance of public participation in their conservation and management;
- to continue and expand publication and distribution of brochures, leaflets, posters, reports, newsletters and other information material as well as the use of the media in all its forms;
- to enhance and strengthen the exchange of information and experience on environmental problems of the region and to develop cooperation in this field;
- to ensure through the Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres that all relevant IGOs and NGOs have appropriate access to information concerning MAP, and actively participate in MAP activities accordingly: and
- to publish the Report on the State of the Evolution of the Mediterranean Environment at regular intervals.

*UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.6/7

BARCELONA CONVENTION*

Article 15

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

1. The Contracting Parties shall ensure that their competent authorities shall give to the public appropriate access to information on the environmental state in the field of application of the Convention and the Protocols, on activities or measures adversely affecting or likely to affect it and on activities carried out or measures taken in accordance with the Convention and the Protocols.
2. The Contracting Parties shall ensure that the opportunity is given to the public to participate in decision-making processes relevant to the field of application of the Convention and the Protocols, as appropriate.
3. The provision of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not prejudice the right of Contracting Parties to refuse, in accordance with their legal systems and applicable international relations, to provide access to such information on the ground of confidentiality, public security or investigation proceedings, stating the reason for such a refusal.

*UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.6/7

PRIORITY FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES
1996-2005*

INFORMATION

1. To encourage the development of methodology for applying the participation approach in the process of decision-making related to sustainable development at national and local levels.
2. To increase the flow of information on the environment and the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II to governments and national and international institutions and to promote greater public awareness regarding these matters.
3. To prepare public information on the scientific and technical data and information produced by MAP Phase II and to promote and encourage production at national level of public information to back up information and awareness campaigns on the environment and sustainable development.

*UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.6/7

SPA AND BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL*

Article 19

PUBLICITY, INFORMATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

1. The Parties shall give appropriate publicity to the establishment of specially protected areas, their boundaries, applicable regulations, and to the designation of protected species, their habitats and applicable regulations.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to inform the public of the interest and value of specially protected areas and species, and of the scientific knowledge which may be gained from the point of view of nature conservation and other points of view. Such information should have an appropriate place in education programmes. The Parties shall also endeavour to promote the participation of their public and their conservation organizations in measures that are necessary for the protection of the areas and species concerned, including environmental impact assessments.

*UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.6/7

HAZARDOUS WASTES PROTOCOL*

Article 12

INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

1. In the exceptional cases in which transboundary movement of hazardous wastes is permitted under Article 6 of this Protocol the Parties shall ensure that adequate information is made available to the public, transmitted through such channels as the Parties deem appropriate.
2. The State of export and the State of import shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Protocol and whenever possible and appropriate, give the public an opportunity to participate in relevant procedures with the aim of making known its views and concerns.

*UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.9/4