

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT BY MED POL DURING THE BIENNIUM 2002-2003

This document lists and describes the activities that are proposed to be implemented as part of MED POL during the biennium 2002-2003. It is divided into five sections covering the main subject areas and responsibilities of MED POL and contains a number of draft recommendations to Contracting Parties and the Secretariat. It is presented to MED POL National Coordinators for analysis and approval in view of its submission to MAP Focal Points and Contracting Parties for adoption.

1. General policy and coordination

During the 2000-2001 biennium, the MED POL Programme focused its activities on more concrete action for the control of pollution, as requested by the Contracting Parties. The launching of the process of updating the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and the preparation of an Operational Document, the launching of the Mediterranean GEF Project activities which largely count on the contribution of MED POL, the specific activities related to compliance and enforcement, the identification of hot spots and the formulation and implementation of more objective-related monitoring programmes are examples of the efforts made by MED POL to become a concrete tool for the Mediterranean countries for finally moving towards a phase of actual control of pollution. During the 2002-2003 biennium, it is proposed to pursue the approach followed and in particular to move towards effective implementation of the SAP.

As a result, during the 2002-2003 biennium, MED POL will focus on those activities that will provide assistance to countries in achieving the SAP targets, as specified in the "Operational Document for the implementation of the SAP", presented to this Meeting for discussion and approval (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG 183/6). To this end, the full implementation of the activities of the Mediterranean GEF Project will be especially important.

The MED POL Programme will continue to carry out activities related to assessment of pollution that are considered to be essential tools for verifying the state of pollution of the region and the progress made by countries in the control of pollution, and valid means for achieving appropriate coastal zone management.

Throughout the activities, MED POL will give priority to the implementation of capacity-building programmes. In this context, in addition to those activities "historically" carried out by MED POL (such as training and assistance in the implementation of monitoring programmes including data quality assurance), MED POL, with the financial assistance of GEF, will also include in its work plan capacity-building for pollution inspectors, solid waste management, river pollution, management of wastewater treatment plants, and other areas all related to the implementation of the SAP.

Within this framework, MED POL will enhance cooperation with those competent intergovernmental, international, regional and sub-regional Institutions, Organizations and Agreements as well as potential donors, which could contribute to the implementation of the activities. In particular, it is proposed to strengthen cooperation with GEF, in view of its present and possible future contribution to the implementation of the SAP and with the UNEP/GPA Secretariat for guidance on the long-term implementation of the SAP; also with FFEM, METAP, ICS/UNIDO and the other SAP-supporting Organizations for their specific financial and intellectual contribution. Also, there will be close cooperation with CP/RAC and PAP/RAC in view of the important role they will have in the coordination of certain activities of the SAP. Cooperation will be continued with WHO, in charge of the technical coordination of many activities related to SAP and other aspects of compliance and control, and with

IAEA/MESL, responsible for the data quality assurance activities of MED POL. WMO and IOC will also continue to provide an important contribution to specific aspects of the monitoring activities of MED POL. The EuroMediterranean partnership is also expected to play an important role in assisting the implementation of MED POL activities and close contacts should therefore be maintained with the European Commission. In this context, the MAP/ Donors Steering Committee which it is proposed to establish as part of the coordination activities of SAP, will greatly assist countries in creating and maintaining contacts with other potential donors interested in the financing of specific projects related to the implementation of the SAP. Close contacts should also be kept with those sub-regional Agreements such as RAMOGE and the Adriatic Initiative which could contribute to specific activities but could also represent a valid platform for the implementation of the objectives of MED POL and MAP. Finally, there will be cooperation with NGOs, and in particular with the association "Amici per la vita", for the specific support they could provide at the national and international levels for the sensibilization, information and participation of the public at large in relation, in particular, to the implementation of the SAP.

It should be noted that during the new biennium the Secretariat will also stress the activities related to the future implementation of the Dumping and the Hazardous Wastes Protocols. In particular, concerning the Dumping Protocol, which is expected to enter into force soon, the Secretariat is proposing to complete the preparation of all Guidelines called for by Articles 4 and 6 of the Protocol and hence to facilitate the expected implementation of its provisions by the Contracting Parties.

2. Workplan for the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme

Municipal Wastewater

When preparing the SAP, special emphasis was given to the need to tackle properly the issue of sewage pollution at the national level, considered one of the most important regional problems. In this context, the Mediterranean GEF Project is expected to contribute substantially to the creation of a technical, institutional and financial basis for the long-term solution of sewage pollution in the region. The preparation of pre-investment studies foreseen by the Project starting in 2001, which will also include hot spots due to municipal pollution, will in fact represent the first step for long-term investment, along with the preparation of National Action Plans, which should also necessarily include the issue of urban pollution. The implementation of the national activities related to the elimination of municipal pollution implies the mobilization of large amounts of funds which, in the medium and long-terms, should mostly be found from national budgets. However, the involvement of financial institutions and donors in the formulation process, as well as the future implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project, will provide the countries with additional future opportunities and perspectives. Countries should however consider as an immediate priority the implementation of a number of policy actions (e.g. promoting and updating related legislation), which will show their concrete intention to meet the targeted objectives.

During past years, the National MED POL Coordinators were requested to gather the most recent information available from official sources on municipal wastewater treatment plants and to submit the information received to the Coordinating Unit as a follow-up to one of the main issues included in the 1985 Genoa Declaration. Official data and information resulting from previous activities related to the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the identification of pollution hot spots were used to form the basis on which information was exchanged. A draft document presenting the status of sewage treatment plants was presented to the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators, held in Reggio Calabria from 20 to 23 June 1999. A final document was published in 2000 reflecting the comments and additional information received during and subsequent to the above meeting (MAP Technical

Report Series n. 128). The majority of the data contained in the above document covers the period up to the year 1999. In view of the importance of the subject, included as one of the key issues in the SAP, it is proposed to regularly **update the list of the wastewater treatment plants** so as to verify the progress made by countries in controlling municipal pollution. The first revision of the document will be prepared by the year 2003 under the technical supervision of WHO/MED POL.

Another issue relevant to SAP and also connected to the issue of municipal sewage is **municipal wastewater reuse**. Due to the increased shortage of water in most of the Mediterranean countries and the need to decrease pollution loads that enter the Mediterranean Sea, reuse of municipal wastewater could greatly alleviate this situation. However, because effluents from treatment plants often contain pollutants, usually microbiological, there is a need to develop this critical issue further. The first step to be proposed is the preparation of an assessment of the situation prevailing in the Mediterranean, possibly in combination with the updating of the "wastewater treatment plants in the Mediterranean", in order to identify the extent of the current practice of reuse in the Mediterranean. Guidelines will also be prepared describing practical measures for promoting the practice in a safe and efficient manner. The activities will be coordinated by WHO/MED POL.

As part of the GEF Project in support of SAP, a set of **guidelines related to sewage treatment and disposal** will be developed using the GEF funds allocated. The mechanism to be used for the preparation of such guidelines will consist of the preparation of a draft outline. This will then be sent to the National MED POL Coordinators for comments. As soon as the outline is finalized, detailed guidelines will be formulated by an expert (with the assistance of a group of specialists and under the supervision of MED POL). These guidelines will then be sent to the National Coordinators for further comments. The final guidelines will be presented for review to a meeting of government-designated experts, and subsequently for approval to the MED POL Coordinators. WHO/MED POL will be technically responsible for the preparation of the Guidelines.

Limited **research projects on the specific area of alternative and innovative sewage treatment** for Mediterranean conditions, as well as reuse of sewage treated, could be launched, as foreseen in the SAP. However, in view of the limited financial resources available, external support from ongoing research in these areas will be sought.

In view of the expected entry into force of the LBS Protocol during the biennium 2002-2003, **national regulations on sewages discharges** into the sea and rivers are expected to be updated, taking into account the provisionS of the Protocol and the existing common measures. As a result, during the 2002-2003 biennium, in parallel with the preparation of the guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal, MED POL could provide assistance to countries in need for the preparation or updating of national legislation.

Solid wastes

During the biennium 2000-2001, the Secretariat worked extensively on the subject of **coastal litter** and, in particular on the preparation of an assessment of the coastal litter management in the Mediterranean countries and on the identification of the institutional and technical gaps at the national level. As a result, a document was prepared and is submitted to the present meeting for review and comments (UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/Inf.4). The Secretariat is proposing to continue work on the subject with the aim of formulating an action plan that should help the countries to manage the issue better and meet the SAP objectives. To this end, an expert meeting will be organized during the 2002-2003 biennium to review the progress made and discuss the content of the action plan, which will contain elements for strengthening the institutional aspects of coastal litter management in the Mediterranean

region, as well as the criteria for the use of solid waste treatment and disposal technology in coastal areas.

In parallel with the above activities, MED POL will participate in the related MCSD activities and contribute to the work of the thematic group on solid waste management.

Guidelines on coastal urban solid wastes will also be developed during the biennium 2002-2003 as part of the GEF Project to support the SAP. The mechanism to be used for the preparation of these guidelines will be the same as that proposed above for sewage treatment and disposal. Emphasis will be placed on urban solid wastes as they relate to coastal zones and will take into consideration the ongoing work and the results of the assessment of coastal litter. The guidelines will be part of the action plan on the management of solid litter mentioned above.

Air pollution

No special activities are proposed under this subject identified by the SAP. In trying to meet the agreed targets, the countries should be in close contact with the regional and international competent Organizations and Convention Secretariats for the implementation of programmes and measures foreseen by the existing legal instruments such as the EU Directives and the Kyoto Protocol. Concerning the related issue of climate change, the Secretariat will continue to follow the development at the scientific and policy levels and will regularly report to the Contracting Parties on Mediterranean-related issues.

Industrial pollution

One of the key elements of the SAP is the **reduction and elimination of industrial pollution**. In view of the related targets set by the SAP, which need to be elaborated in detail, the Secretariat has laid heavy emphasis on the issue during the past biennium, in particular when updating the SAP by taking into account developments in the scientific, technical and legal fields. As a result, a draft Operational Document for the Implementation of the SAP was prepared and presented to an expert meeting held in Catania from 28 to 30 March 2001. Concerning industrial pollution, the Operational Document proposed a specific approach to establish a method for achieving and tracking the pollution reductions foreseen in the SAP. On the basis of the comments and suggestions made at the meeting, a new draft Operational Document was prepared and is submitted to the present meeting for analysis and approval (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG 183/6). With reference to the technical aspects included in the Operational Document and in view of the expected adoption of the "national baseline budget" approach for achieving industrial pollution reductions, during the 2002-2003 biennium the Secretariat will prepare a number of supporting documents covering:

- the procedure for establishing the inventory of sources that would enable national authorities to estimate the baseline budget for each targeted pollutant;
- the relevant and substantial point and diffuse sources of the targeted pollutants taking into account production levels, pollutant loads, etc.;
- the methodology for the estimation of the baseline budget for each targeted pollutant.

It is proposed to convene a meeting of government-designated experts during the biennium 2002-2003 to review and approve the supporting documents prepared by the Secretariat.

According to the SAP, the updating of the national regulations for point source discharges of pollutants from industrial sources should start in 2002 with the assistance of the Secretariat.

In this context, a number of guidelines on industrial pollution will be developed during the 2002-2003 biennium as part of the GEF Project to support the SAP.

In the context of industrial pollution, under the umbrella of the MCSD's thematic group on industry, MED POL will contribute to the preparation of an inventory of relevant new and innovative technologies using the more advanced information technologies such as Internet.

Concerning **POPs**, as part of the activities of the Mediterranean GEF Project in support of the implementation of the SAP, a document will be prepared providing technical information on the nine pesticides and PCB substitutes and on the environmentally-sound disposal and progressive elimination of the nine pesticides and PCBs. In preparing the document, the Secretariat will cooperate with the relevant international bodies and organizations, including UNEP/GIWA, taking into consideration the expected adoption of the POPs Convention.

Physical alteration and destruction of habitats

No specific activities are proposed for the biennium 2002-2003.

Monitoring

Monitoring activities have been the backbone of the MED POL Programme since its launching and continue to be the major tool for assessing the quality and quantity of marine pollution. With the implementation of the SAP, monitoring is also becoming an effective tool for verifying the reduction of pollution expected to be achieved by the countries. During the past biennium, monitoring has therefore become more objective-oriented and, as a result, efforts are being made to assist countries to launch specific trend, compliance and biological effects **national monitoring programmes**.

In view of the more specific and challenging objectives of the MED POL Phase III monitoring programme, sometimes implying different methodologies and different competencies, the Secretariat expected slower progress in finalizing national programmes despite the provision, of training and direct assistance within the budget limitations

As a result, six national monitoring programmes were successfully finalized and data were provided by five countries. Details on the ongoing programmes and the action taken to establish new ones, including the assistance provided to countries during the previous biennium, are presented in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG 183/Inf.3.

It therefore appears essential to identify the problems (technical and/or institutional) that are delaying the finalization of monitoring programmes and to aim at the involvement of the largest possible number of countries in the monitoring activities. At the end of the year 2001, a meeting will be held to discuss with participating scientists the implementation of the trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring activities and it is proposed to hold another meeting during the biennium 2002-2003.

The major goal for the coming biennium is therefore the full establishment of the monitoring programmes on the regional scale with the contribution of all the countries. In view of the importance of eutrophication phenomena in the region, eutrophication parameters will be added to the mandatory parameters of the trend monitoring programme. Assistance will continue to be provided to countries, within the financial possibilities of MED POL, to facilitate the implementation of the monitoring activities and also for the purchase of small pieces of equipment, chemicals and material, and for individual and group training.

Concerning **data management**, the work initiated during the biennium 2000-2001 to adapt the standard reporting formats of MED POL Phase II to the new needs of MED POL Phase

III will continue during the 2002-2003 biennium. At present, formats are available in EXCEL worksheets to ensure easy transmission of the monitoring data. As a second step, the data received by MED POL will be integrated into a database that will allow full assessment and management of data. For this purpose, the MED POL database will be restructured into a new one where in the validated data of the past monitoring activities and those of MED POL Phase III will be combined. As a pilot exercise, compatible national databases in selected countries will be established aiming at achieving easy and error-free transmission of national data into the MED POL database and good management both at the regional and national levels. An information document on the progress being made on MED POL data management is presented as UNEP(DEC)/MED WG 183/Inf.5.

The **Data Quality Assurance** Programme managed by IAEA/MESL will continue to be the essential tool for achieving reliable data and the successful implementation of the monitoring programmes. External quality control of data will be achieved through the ongoing DQA services (intercomparison exercises, training courses, quality assurance missions etc.), whereas the implementation of internal quality control procedures will be solicited from the participating laboratories by MED POL during the time span of implementation of the monitoring programmes. Intercalibration exercises will also be organized for biological effects monitoring as well as training courses in cooperation with the University of Genoa and RAMOGE.

In order to ensure full managerial use of the data and results of the monitoring activities, a review will be made of existing criteria and standards for the classification of polluted areas.

Following the approved MED POL programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001, a consultation meeting to finalize the **Interim Quality Criteria and Standards for Bathing Waters** will be convened in 2001. A draft document has been prepared by WHO/MED POL taking into account the situation existing in sub-regional treaties and the new guidelines of the World Health Organization. However, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the quality criteria and standards that may finally be adopted by the Contracting Parties should avoid contradiction with others adopted by other countries or groups of countries, keeping in mind however the special situation of the Mediterranean region. As a result, in view of the negotiations still going on at the level of other international fora covering a number of Mediterranean countries, it is proposed, if need be, to convene an additional meeting during the 2002-2003 biennium to ensure that the quality criteria and standards eventually adopted in the region would be appropriate for the needs of the region and would be easily and fully applied by all Contracting Parties.

The 1996 LBS Protocol extends its coverage to include the hydrographic basin of the region. The SAP also includes a number of related regional and national actions in its work plan. As a result, and in view of the limited past experience of MAP and MED POL in the field of **river pollution and river basin management**, it is proposed to gradually initiate implementing specific and basic activities and programmes to be able to assist in the near future countries to fulfil their obligations towards the new LBS Protocol. The activities will be carried out taking into account work already ongoing at the regional and international levels.

In view of this new need of the region within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, when formulating the Mediterranean GEF Project, MED POL included a number of basic related activities that could create the basis for the implementation of future larger national and regional actions. With funds made available through the GEF Project, Guidelines for river pollution monitoring will therefore be prepared and finalized during the 2002-2003 biennium with the assistance of experts. An expert consultation is also scheduled to review the draft, which is expected to be adopted by Contracting Parties in 2003.

In this context, and in line with the activities foreseen in the SAP, during the 2002-2003 biennium information on the quality and quantity of 50 selected rivers will be gathered by MED POL from national authorities and regional and international sources to form a basic regional register. The register will be submitted to National Coordinators for review and approval.

Capacity-building

As specified above under "Monitoring", the capacity-building activities related to the implementation of **monitoring programmes** will continue during the 2002-2003 biennium under the technical supervision of IAEA/MESL. They will include:

- running four Intercomparison Exercises comprising Organic Contaminants (OCs) in a sediment sample and a biological matrix and Trace metals and methylmercury (TMs) in a sediment sample and a biological matrix;
- advising MED POL-designated laboratories, as requested, with respect to marine analytical chemistry and marine pollution monitoring and assessment activities;
- conducting split sampling analyses and providing assistance to MED POL-designated laboratories as requested;
- providing MED POL-designated laboratories with Reference Materials and Standards as available;
- undertaking Quality Assurance missions to member States as required;
- providing MED POL Secretariat with advice on relevant scientific information as required (monitoring and assessment, laboratory networking, database management activities, emerging pollution issues);
- hosting four training courses at IAEA/MESL in Monaco (one per year for each of Ocs and TMs analyses);

It is expected that, through the GEF-financed activities to support SAP, the capacity-building activities will be enhanced. There will be training programmes on the topics related to **pollution monitoring and inspection** and also on **wastewater treatment plants**. Initially, a regional training course will be organized at which the participants will be trained in the technical, legal and administrative aspects of the subjects, as required. At least one participant from each country will attend the training course, which will aim at preparing trainers. The next step will be the organization of a number of national training courses on each of the above topics, which will be organized basically by the staff trained during the regional course. In addition, issues related to specific country conditions will also be included in the national training courses and efforts will be made to produce training material in the language of the country where the national courses are to be held. At the end of the training programmes, the respective manuals will be widely distributed throughout the region.

During the biennium, making use of funds available under the Mediterranean GEF Project, CP/RAC, in close cooperation with MED POL, will prepare a number of **guidelines** and organize **training courses** in the field of cleaner production and technology, as a direct contribution to the implementation of the SAP. The GEF Project in fact foresees the following:

- regional guidelines for the application of BAT, BEP for industries;

- regional guidelines for the application of BAT, BEP for industrial sources of BOD nutrients and suspended solids;
- regional guidelines for the application of BEP for fertilizers in agriculture;
- regional action plan for the reduction of hazardous wastes from industries;
- regional training course on cleaner production techniques;
- national training course on cleaner production techniques.

Additional activities related to the promotion and use of cleaner technology will be implemented during the biennium 2002-2003 by CP/RAC and training courses on EIA by METAP within the framework of the Mediterranean GEF Project.

Public participation

The activities to enhance public participation in the process of implementation of the SAP will be a joint effort by MAP and all its components, based on the MAP's Strategy on Information and Public Awareness approved by the Contracting Parties. For its part, MED POL will continue to involve NGOs in its activities and will try to diffuse information to the public on the SAP content and its objectives as much as possible.

Concerning more specifically the related activities included in the SAP, during the 2002-2003 biennium, making use of funds from the Mediterranean GEF Project, guidelines will be prepared to facilitate the involvement of all concerned components of civil society in the implementation of the SAP. A workshop will also be convened by MAP to discuss and agree on the content of a regional programme for public participation in the implementation of the SAP. The programme will take into account relevant programmes and Conventions such as the Aarhus Convention.

Reporting

A unified **reporting system** covering the Convention and the Protocols is being prepared by MAP and will be finalized this year. In view of the complexity of the SAP and the evident difference in nature of the action contained therein (e.g. policy action, pollution reductions, implementation of action plans, etc.), it was not considered feasible at this stage to include in the MAP reporting system specific formats related to reporting on the implementation of the SAP by the countries. However, the Secretariat is following the work of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office and will make use of the experience in reporting on the implementation of the GPA, which will be discussed at the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the GPA to be held in November 2001 in Canada. On the basis of the results achieved by the GPA Secretariat in this field, specific reporting formats will be prepared during the 2002-2003 biennium.

As indicated in the SAP, **information on levels and trends of loads of pollution** will be collected by MED POL as a result of the national monitoring programmes and published regularly in the MAP Technical Report Series or other specific volumes.

As a result of the successful launching of the **Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)** pilot project in Alexandria, Egypt, one additional country will be selected for implementing PRTR. A set of guidelines will be prepared to enable and facilitate a larger involvement of countries in the process and a regional trainer training course will be organized in 2002.

Concerning the review and development of **indicators** being carried out as part of the activities of the MCSD, the Secretariat will cooperate closely with BP/RAC, EEA and experts from the countries to elaborate a set of marine pollution indicators that could be applied in the unified MAP reporting system mentioned above.

National Action Plans (NAPs)

According to the SAP workplan as well as the activities of the Mediterranean GEF Project, Mediterranean countries should formulate their NAPs, or equivalent sectoral plans as appropriate, by the year 2003, and they should be fully operational by 2005. As a result, during the 2002-2003 biennium, the Secretariat, making use of the Mediterranean GEF Project funds, will closely work with the countries to initiate the process. As a first step, the Secretariat will formulate a draft methodology for the preparation of national diagnostic analyses that will be discussed and reviewed at a meeting with SAP national coordinators and experts. The national diagnostic analyses are in fact the basis for the formulation of the NAPs. Through the GEF Project, countries will soon be contacted for the finalization of Memorandums of Understanding that will describe the process of preparation of the NAPs and will include details on the activities to be carried out, the financial assistance and the specific tasks of the national actors involved.

Other activities related to the LBS Protocol

As a result of the interest shown by Mediterranean countries in responding to their growing water demands through the creation of new **seawater desalination plants** and as a follow-up to the request made by some Contracting Parties to the Secretariat, MED POL has prepared an assessment of the situation in the region which combines: (1) information on the status of and trends in desalination plants in the region; (2) information on the possible environmental effects of the discharge of brine; (3) the possible implications of such practices for the provisions of the Dumping and LBS Protocols; and (4) elements for the preparation of guidelines. The document is presented to this Meeting as UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/Inf.6 for information and discussion. The Secretariat is proposing to organize an expert meeting in 2002 to elaborate further the guidelines for the management of brine produced by desalination plants and finalize the assessment, which will be brought to the attention of National Coordinators for possible submission to Contracting Parties. The guidelines would mostly focus on the proper siting of the desalination plants so as to reduce the impact on the marine environment and on possible remedial measures for existing plants.

The **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)** is considered a very important document because of the quantity and quality of information that it contains and a very useful background for all the MED POL activities. Its updating and finalization, already preliminarily started in 2001, will be completed during the 2002-2003 biennium in consultation with MED POL National Coordinators, making use of the Mediterranean GEF Project funds. The Secretariat will ensure the updating through the following:

- review of the previous TDA report to identify the chapters that would need to be updated and the possible addition of new chapters following new developments in the relevant environmental Conventions, as well as the availability of new scientific information;
- selection of a team of regional experts;
- convening of a consultation meeting to review the updated TDA report;
- submission of the new TDA report to National Coordinators for approval.

The issue of **pollution hot spots and sensitive areas** has been and will be developed within the framework of the GEF Project. The list of hot spots adopted in 1997, although it represents a very important step forward as it constitutes a first attempt to produce a precise assessment of the pollution sources of the region, may need to be reviewed because the data, collected in 1996-1997, could require updating to reflect new developments that may have occurred in the countries. In planning the activities, it should be recalled that, in the short term, i.e. during the period 2001-2003, the Mediterranean GEF Project is providing funds for review of the pollution hot spots criteria, preparation of an updated list and the conduct of pre-investment studies on a number of selected hot spots. The same approach is being followed for sensitive areas. In the long term, the Secretariat is of the opinion that, in order to reflect the progress made by the countries, the list of hot spots should be reviewed on a regular basis and it is proposing every four years. Taking into account the activities started in 2001, the following action will be implemented during the biennium 2002-2003:

- (a) selection of hot spots where pre-investment studies will be carried out, in consultation with the GEF-eligible countries; and
- (b) conduct of the selected pre-investment studies.

During the meeting of the Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement, held in Sorrento, from 15 to 17 March 2001, it was agreed, inter alia that similar meetings should be held regularly, the exchange of information should be intensified, the capacity-building component should be reinforced in order to strengthen the **inspection systems**, and guidelines for environmental inspection systems should be prepared. During the 2002-2003 biennium the Secretariat will work in line with the above recommendations. More particularly, the Secretariat, in addition to the abovementioned guidelines, will prepare technical manuals, visit and assist individual countries in need to develop inspection systems further, prepare a web site with specific information and success stories, and prepare training courses. The activities will be partly financed by the Mediterranean GEF Project.

During the last meeting of the MCSDD held in Tunis, it was suggested that WHO prepare an **assessment of the state of environmental health in Mediterranean countries** that would enable them to apply better management for pollution reduction. The assessment would also help countries to incorporate health concerns into environmental management, thus reducing the risks to human health. Work related to the health effects of polluted seawater, which was carried out in the past as part of MED POL, now needs to be completed to include coastal areas (including the catchment basins) as they are now covered by the Barcelona Convention and the LBS Protocol and imply pollution and risks to public health. As a result, it is proposed to undertake a study to identify the state of environmental health in the Mediterranean during the 2002-2003 biennium with funds coming directly from WHO.

3. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

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

In this context, considering the relevance that dumping activities may have for planning pollution monitoring and control activities and the expected entry into force of the 1995 revised Dumping Protocol, the Secretariat is attempting to use the information already available, to integrate it with new information and prepare an **assessment of dumping activities for the period 1995-2001**. A letter was sent to the National Coordinators on 1 February to identify national authorities and experts who could assist the Secretariat in the

preparation of the assessment. In view of the few responses received (only eight countries have replied to the Secretariat's request), the Secretariat is soliciting the requested information from all countries and is proposing to finalize the assessment during 2002.

Under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and in accordance with the 2000-2001 MED POL programme of activities, during the year 2000 the Secretariat prepared draft "**Guidelines for the management of fish waste or organic materials resulting from the processing of fish and other marine organisms**". The Guidelines were sent to the MED POL National Coordinators on 30 January 2001 for comments and amendments. A revised draft (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/4) was then prepared and presented to the Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators for consideration and approval. The Meeting recommended its transmission to Contracting Parties for adoption.

Under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and in accordance with the 2000-2001 MED POL programme of activities, during the year 2000 the Secretariat prepared draft "**Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea**". The Guidelines were sent to the MED POL National Coordinators on 30 January 2001 for comments and amendments. A revised draft (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/5) was then prepared and will be further elaborated on the basis of specific comments to be sent by the National Coordinators. A final draft will be prepared during the 2002-2003 biennium.

Under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and in order to fulfil the requirements of Articles 3 and 6 thereof, the Secretariat is proposing to work during the biennium 2002-2003 on the preparation of **Guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials**, which will complete the list of guidelines to be prepared. The Secretariat will seek the assistance of experts from the region to prepare draft guidelines before their submission to MED POL National Coordinators for approval and to Contracting Parties for adoption. As a first step, the Secretariat considers that a proper and unanimous definition of the term: "inert uncontaminated geological materials" is essential in order to be able to start the work; National Coordinators will soon be contacted on the subject.

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

Regarding the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, it should be noted that a number of activities aiming at preparing the ground for the future implementation of the Protocol are included in the SAP activities and will be implemented during the 2002-2003 biennium, mostly as part of the Mediterranean GEF project work plan (see the chapter on Industrial Pollution above).

In addition, the Secretariat is proposing to prepare an **assessment of the status of hazardous wastes management in Mediterranean countries** that would take into account the obligations of the Basel and other related Conventions. The assessment would enable the Secretariat to avoid duplication of work and identify gaps and needs in view of the related activities to be carried out as part of the implementation of the SAP.

5. Activities related to the identification and follow-up of environmental and pollution emerging issues

During the last meeting of the MCSD in Tunis, the Contracting Parties requested MED POL to follow up and inform the Contracting Parties of the development of the **climate change** issues in the Mediterranean region. On the basis of, and as a complement to, the above request, the Secretariat is proposing to collate information based on IPCC reports within the framework of the Climate Change Convention and other sources of information related to the Mediterranean countries and to prepare a background and up-to-date information document. Regarding the launching of new studies on the impact of climate change in Mediterranean

coastal zones, MED POL will undertake this, as appropriate, in the context of ongoing or new Coastal Areas Management Programmes (CAMPs) launched as part of MAP.

Following a small consultation meeting on environmental and pollution emerging issues held in Rome from 31 May to 1 June 2000, in addition to the **research** areas identified as part of the work on the implementation of the SAP, the Secretariat is proposing to launch limited research projects on **airborne pollution** and on **marine antifoulants** as subjects of special Mediterranean relevance. Concerning airborne pollution, it was felt that, in parallel with the monitoring activities carried out as part of MED POL, a number of areas still needed investigation such as the pollutants' routes and the mechanisms of wet and dry depositions in the region. Concerning antifoulants, in view of the global ban on TBTs being negotiated by IMO, it was considered necessary to study the toxic effects of the alternative biocides that are going to be used in the region. In view of the growing expansion of **mariculture** activities in the region, it is also recommended to prepare an assessment of the impacts and the environmental implications of such activities.

A special session on environmental and pollution emerging issues will be organized jointly with the **CIESM** on the occasion of the CIESM General Assembly to be held in Monaco in September 2001. A number of grants will be provided to Mediterranean scientists to facilitate their participation.