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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee
of the Project for the preparation of a Strategic
Action Plan for the Conservation
of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO)
in the Mediterranean Region

Tunis, 7–8 May 2002

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE SAP-BIO PROJECT

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Introduction

Following the 1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee (Tunis, 22-23 February 2001), the SAP BIO Project got to the heart of the matter of its implementation: the First Meeting of National Correspondents (Alicante 2-4 July), followed by the launching of the national processes (National Reports and National Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues) were accompanied by the preparing of a series of regional documents (Regional Reports).

The present Meeting is the Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee. It was convened by RAC/SPA in Tunis for 7 and 8 May 2002. The following organisations attended the meeting as members of the Advisory Committee:

- WWF-International Mediterranean Programme,
- IUCN - WESCANA
- IUCN - Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
- MEDWET Programme, under the auspices of the RAMSAR Convention,
- FAO,
- Council of Europe (Secretariat of the Bern Convention),
- European Topic Centre/Nature Protection and Biodiversity (ETC/NPB),
- the Agreement on Cetacean Conservation in the Black Sea, Adjacent Areas and the Mediterranean Sea (ACCOBAMS), represented by its Secretariat

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinating Unit and FederCoopesca were represented at the Meeting.

The list of participants appears in Annex I to this Report.

Agenda item 1 - Opening the Meeting

The Meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 7 May 2002, at the Le Diplomat Hotel by the Director of RAC/SPA, Mr Mohamed Adel HENTATI, who welcomed the participants and introduced the representatives of the ETC/NC and of FederCoopesca, who had not been present during the first Meeting. He stressed that the Advisory Committee's role was not only to coordinate all the projects but also to help RAC/SPA receive inputs from all the Mediterranean countries for preparing the SAP.

Mr Arab HABALLAB (Coordinator - MAP Deputy) mentioned the main phases and achievements of MAP and informed the Meeting that after the SAP MED and SAP BIO projects, MAP was preparing to launch other SAPs (i.e. SAP for water, SAP for coastal zone management).

Agenda item 2 - Electing the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

After informal consultation, the Committee elected the following Members of the Bureau of the Meeting:

- Chairperson: Mr Spyros KOUVELIS
- Vice-Chairperson Ms Françoise BAUER.

Agenda item 3 - Adopting the Agenda and organising the work

The Provisional Agenda, prepared by RAC/SPA, appearing in Document

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/1 and annotated in Document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/2, was proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the proposed timetable, which appears at the end of Document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/2.

Agenda item 4 - Presenting the progress so far made in developing the SAP BIO Project

The Secretariat of RAC/SPA summarised the progress so far made in implementing the Project since the first Meeting of the Advisory Committee (22-23 February 2001) with reference to Document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/3.

In particular, RAC/SPA reported on the First Meeting of National Correspondents (Alicante 2-4 July 2001), the implementing of national processes that followed (National Reports and National Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues) and the activities now being carried out within the framework of the regional process (mainly the preparing of regional documents).

RAC/SPA invited Committee Members to contribute to finalising the document on the inventory of activities and outputs developed in the Mediterranean region, dealing with the SAP BIO Project (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/Inf.4).

The first draft National Reports prepared by countries and the regional documents so far finalised were made available to Committee Members for consultation.

The Committee Meeting examined the Project's implementation and made recommendations and considerations. The discussion focused mainly on the links between the national and regional level of the Project, the importance of controlling the quality of the Project's outputs, including the objectives and priorities of other relevant international organisations in the SAP, and the importance of taking socio-economic aspects into account when developing conservation measures.

The Committee appreciated the effort made within the framework of the SAP BIO Project to avoid duplicating other existing initiatives.

Detailed recommendations made by this Meeting under this Agenda item appear in Annex IV to this Report.

Agenda item 5 - Guidelines for preparing the SAP BIO priority National Action Plans

Following a short introduction by RAC/SPA's Secretariat of Document "Draft general guidelines for preparing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues within the framework of SAP BIO project" (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/4), the Meeting examined, amended, and adopted the Document, as appears in Appendix A to Annex IV to this Report.

Under this Agenda item, the Meeting revived two other documents presented by RAC/SPA: "Guidelines for elaborating National Action Plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds", and "Guidelines for elaborating National Action Plans for the control of fishing practices and gear harmful to threatened species and habitats".

The main recommendations emerging from the discussion on this issue appear in Annex IV to this Report.

Agenda item 6 - Supervising the processes for elaborating National Reports and recommendations concerning the finalising of these Reports

RAC/SPA's Secretariat spoke about the draft Regional Report and the methodology followed for supervising and coordinating the preparing of these Reports, and the Meeting then made recommendations for finalising the National Reports and circulating the National Reports.

These recommendations appear in Annex V to the present Report.

Agenda item 7 - Detailed outline for preparing the SAP BIO document

RAC/SPA's Secretariat introduced Document "Detailed outline for preparing the SAP BIO Document" (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/5).

Before the general discussion the GEF Project Manager, gave as an example the main features of the SAP MED Document, which, having started in 1997, was at a more advanced stage than SAP BIO.

A general discussion followed on preparing the SAP BIO document, mainly focusing on the importance of including the objectives, priorities and principles of other relevant organisations in the document, and considering the composition of the working team in charge of preparing the document. Then the Committee Meeting went through Document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/5 paragraph by paragraph, suggesting improvements, and adopted the document, which appears in Appendix B to Annex V to this Report.

The recommendations on this Agenda item appear in Annex IV.

Agenda item 8 - Conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting

The Meeting approved the conclusions and draft recommendations prepared by the Secretariat (Annex IV to this Report).

Agenda item 9 - Closure of the Meeting

The Meeting was closed by the Vice-Chairperson at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 8 May, 2002.

ANNEXE I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
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**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION
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ANNEX II
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/3	SAP BIO Project - Report of the progress so far made in developing the SAP BIO Project
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/4	Draft general guidelines for preparing action plans on specific biodiversity issues within the framework of SAP BIO project
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/5	Detailed outline for preparing the SAP BIO document
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/6	Report of the Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the SAP-BIO Project (to be issued after the end of the meeting)

Information documents

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/Inf.1	Provisional List of Participants
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203./Inf.2	Provisional List of Documents
	Guidelines for the elaboration of national action plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds
	Guidelines for the elaboration of national action plans for the control of fishing practices and gear harmful to threatened species and habitats
	Impact of fishing technology in the Mediterranean Sea
	Report on the introduction in the Mediterranean of marine and brackish water species for aquaculture purposes

Reference documents

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| UNEP (DEC)/MED IG.6/7 | Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the amendments to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, to the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft and on the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean |
| UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.12/9 | Report of the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols |
| SAP BIO PROJECT DOCUMENT | Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region |
| UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.175/8 Rev.1 | Report of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee of the project for the preparation of a strategic action plan for the conservation of biological diversity |
| UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/6 | Report of the first meeting of National Correspondents of the project for the preparation of a strategic action plan for the conservation of biological diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region |

ANNEX III

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

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|------------------------------|---|
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| <u>Agenda item 2.</u> | Election of the Bureau |
| <u>Agenda item 3.</u> | Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of work |
| <u>Agenda item 4.</u> | Presentation of the progress so far made in developing the SAP BIO project |
| <u>Agenda item 5.</u> | Guidelines for preparing the SAP BIO priority National Action Plans |
| <u>Agenda item 6.</u> | Supervising of the processes for the elaboration of National reports and recommendations related to the finalising of these Reports |
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| <u>Agenda item 9.</u> | Closure of the meeting |

ANNEX IV

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the SAP BIO Project appear below.

Appendix A and B to this Annex contain respectively the "General Guidelines for preparing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues within the framework of the SAP BIO Project" and "The detailed guidelines for the preparation of the SAP BIO Document", as revised by the meeting of the Advisory Committee.

General recommendations

1. Considering the growing worldwide interest in multinational governance issues and the fight against poverty, and in order to add biological diversity issues to these new main lines, SAP BIO should pay particular attention to having the conservation of biological diversity included in development programs.
2. Each of the organisations that are Members of the Committee have promised support in elaborating SAP BIO in the fields where they have particular expertise (e.g. indicators, impact of free exchange on biological diversity, by-catch, wetlands, etc.). To this effect, they will send their particular contributions to RAC/SPA, which will circulate them to all National Correspondents. In addition, they will study the practical modalities that will permit the final outputs of the projects to be presented to their respective bodies.
3. RAC/SPA, in collaboration with the Members of the Advisory Committee to the SAP BIO Project, should help countries identify national priorities. To this effect, a list of the proposed priorities, by country, will be transmitted to the Members of the Committee for recommendation and comment. The international consultants in charge of following up the national processes, the National Focal Points or the regional representatives of organisations that are Members of the Committee could be used to help, particularly at national consultants workshops.
4. RAC/SPA will inform the Committee Members of the dates of the national workshops for them to report to their National Focal Points and the respective regional representatives and invite them to participate and to enhance the national and regional consensus process of the SAP BIO.

Recommendations concerning the National Processes

5. In finalising the national processes, RAC/SPA, working with the Advisory Committee through the instruments at its disposal, will guarantee the quality of the information included in the National Reports and the data on which the National Action Plans are based.

6. National processes will not be restricted to the writing of reports but should also constitute an opportunity for reflection and consultation between the relevant actors, the role of the national consultants in charge of preparing the Action Plans being to reflect the outcomes of the consultation.
7. The approach followed in elaborating the National Reports, which takes into account the outcomes and activities of other relevant organisations, should be pursued when elaborating the National Action Plans, which will take into account objectives and priorities selected from other conventions, agreements and organisations.
8. When elaborating the National Action Plans, it is highly recommended that new forms and practical approaches to conservation that take into account the experiences and difficulties encountered be identified and suggested. It is important to promote instruments for controlling the application of proposed measures.
9. One of the main approaches in the National Action Plans should be to help sea users become aware and involve them as partners in identifying and applying conservation measures.
10. For the National Reports and National Action Plans, the Committee recommend:
 - putting them on the SAP BIO web site
 - using the information exploitable in GIS format to reinforce the GIS databases provided by RAC/SPA to countries, and developing the SAP BIO cartography component

Recommendations concerning the preparation of the SAP BIO document

11. It is important to make sure that there is a close link between the national and regional processes when elaborating SAP BIO, which should not be a national contribution package only. It should deal with the main issues of common interest at regional level, sustainable use of shared resources, and coordination measures to harmonise and support the implementing of national actions.
12. The proposed measures concerning the SPA BIO project at regional level for improving the conservation and management of biological diversity resources should not shift specific problems from one country to another, such as the problem of restrictions on the use of driftnets.
13. With a view to making the SAP BIO document clearer, it is recommended that, as far as possible, information should be presented in table and matrix form.

14. In the sections on suggestions for actions and priorities, it may be more useful to fix quantitative objectives, if possible and necessary, and to classify actions and priorities according to the emergency and to the term (short, medium, or long)

ANNEX IV - APPENDIX A

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING ACTION PLANS ON SPECIFIC BIODIVERSITY ISSUES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SAP BIO PROJECT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) was designated as the Lead Agency for the SAP BIO project “Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region”.

One of the first steps for the development of the project is the preparation of National Reports. Taking into account the needs and opportunities identified within the National Reports, National Action Plans on specific issues should be prepared.

This short document offers some suggestions for preparing National Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues. A series of points to be included in the Action Plans is proposed. The suggested outline is a general plan dealing with Action Plans concerning various subject; it is not a strict formula but can be adapted to the different subjects and harmonised with existing National Action Plans on the same issue, introducing new sections and deleting some of the proposed points below.

2. IDENTIFYING A SPECIFIC ISSUE

Through developing the Action Plans the countries are enable to examine deeply the problems, already identified by the national reports, which are in fact regarded as priorities for the implementation of a sustainable management which would guarantee ultimately the protection of marine and coastal species and ecosystem: industrial and urban pollution, urban development, tourism, trade, invasive species, fishery etc.

Action Plans can deal with legislation, protection of environments and/or species, habitat management, species management, monitoring and research, education, public awareness, communication, training etc.

Concerning fishing, it would be preferable to avoid Action Plans that concern target species by fishery or fishery management, and to encourage Action Plans that deal with the impact of fishing on threatened species, by-catch, and sensitive ecosystems.

When finalised, the only component needed for implementing the Plans should be the financial support.

3. ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ACTION PLAN

- Generally speaking, the Action Plans should include the following points:

Description: An overview of the problem that is the object of the Action Plan is expected, using the available sources of information and the scientific literature dealing with this problem. Threats and current conservation measures (if any) concerning the species or the zones that are the object of the Action Plan should be reported.

Justification: Why is the Action Plan necessary?

Targets: What are the objectives of the Action Plan?

Action plan: Presentation of the Action Plan and list of the foreseen activities. An introduction to the layout/s linking each forecast activity would be appreciated. Links with the existing National and Regional Action Plans on the same subject is recommended (RAC/SPA Action Plans on cetaceans, monk seals, marine turtles and marine vegetation). In particular, concerning Action Plans on marine turtles and marine vegetation, if possible links respectively with the recommended action at national level and the implementation timetable should be made.

Priority: Within the framework of the activities foreseen in the Action Plan, what are the priorities?

Responsibility: Who is responsible for implementing the plan?

Stakeholders: Who are the stakeholders and what are their respective responsibilities and roles? Whenever possible it is recommended that local people be involved.

Prerequisites for implementation: What are the conditions (if any) necessary for implementing the Action Plan?

Expected problems for implementation: What are the expected problems for implementing the Action Plan and what are the remedial actions foreseen to overcome these problems?

Implementation calendar: For each activity of the Action Plan, a detailed calendar is expected. Probably you can't decide on the dates, but it is important to identify what is the time required for implementing each activity of the Plan (1 week, 1 month, 2 months, one year...) and to list the activities in a logical succession.

Budget: For each of the activities of the Action Plan a detailed budget is expected.

Monitoring: How to monitor and review the success of the Action Plan

Investment portfolio: This section should be presented as a self-explanatory document, which, focusing on the financial aspects, contains all the elements necessary to understand the objectives and main features of the Action Plan. When preparing this section it is important to bear in mind that it can be detached from the Action Plan and addressed to the funding sources (e.g. donors) to obtain the funds to implement the Action Plan.

For example, the main topics of a hypothetical Action Plan to reduce the impact of fishing on sea grass beds are shown in the Annex I to this Appendix.

EXAMPLE: SUGGESTIONS AND GENERAL CONSIDERATION ABOUT THE ELABORATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF FISHING ON SEAGRASS BEDS

Preface

This “example” has to be considered as a series of open suggestions useful to perform the Action Plans dealing on different issues, rather than a final Action Plan to be taken as it is. The decline of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows is almost a general problem, well known in some areas. Furthermore, it is an important issue due that, in addition to their crucial role in the Mediterranean ecosystem, it seems that the density of *Posidonia* meadows could decline by half in two decades. It is for this reason that the example of *Posidonia oceanica* has been used to introduce a series of comments we consider useful to perform the Action Plans. Obviously in each case only those appropriate suggestions will have to be used and of course not all possibilities have been mentioned in the “example”. The most important thing to keep in mind is that a sequence of steps has to be followed in a concise and clear Plan of Action (in more or less 20 pages).

Identification of an specific issue/problem and their causes

The impact of trawl fishing on seagrass beds of *Posidonia oceanica* / The regression of the *Posidonia* seagrass due to the impact of fishery practices.

The action plan can regard all the coast of the country (this situation is more likely where more gaps of knowledge exist) or one or more specific areas. A particular attention to specific areas is recommended where the collection of data, cartography are more advanced, therefore in this case (when action plan regards specific area/s) in each different item (description of the problem, Justification, targets, etc), after the general part, references to the precise site/s and specific local problem/s should be included.

1. Description of the problem

(From the document “*Impact of Fishing on Ecosystem in the Mediterranean Sea: An analysis of the major threats of fishing gear and practices to biodiversity and marine habitats*”):

Mediterranean seagrass beds are mostly constituted by the endemic angiosperm species *Posidonia oceanica*. This species inhabits large areas of coastal seabed down to depths of 40 m in optimal conditions and covers a total surface of about 20,000 square nautical miles, that is, 2% of the surface area of the littoral sea (Ardizzone *et al.*, 2000; Bethoux and Copin-Montegut, 1986). Seagrass beds are spatially complex and biologically productive ecosystems that provide habitats and food resources for a diversified fish fauna and act as an important nursery area for many species (Harmelin-Vivien, 1982). Red mullets (*Mullus* spp.) are among the commercial species recruited in seagrasses, and are most abundant in summer and autumn, depending on the species (Jiménez *et al.*, 1997). Meadows regress significantly for two main reasons, anthropic changes in sediment structure and composition, and the direct mechanical impact of fishing (Ardizzone *et al.*, 2000). Bottom trawling has the most dramatic consequences on *Posidonia*, though other fishing practices such as dynamite fishing may also be destructive at a more local level.

International concern about the conservation of this particular habitat led to the banning of trawling on seagrasses in EC waters (Regulation No 1626/94), and the listing and designation of *Posidonia* beds in Annex 1 of the EC Habitats Directive as special conservation areas.

Trawling impacts on seagrass beds by both suspending sediments and directly damages vegetal mass. Sediment suspension affects macrophyte photosynthesis by decreasing light intensity. This is believed to have contributed to the disappearance of seagrass meadows, and to affect fish recruitment and the quality of juvenile feeding areas in the Mediterranean Spanish coast (Sánchez-Jerez and Ramos-Espla, 1996). The quantification of the short-term impact of otter trawling on *Posidonia* beds has been extensively studied only in Murcia (south-eastern Spain), home to an important trawling fleet (Martín *et al.*, 1997; Jiménez *et al.*, 1997; Ramos Espla *et al.*, 1997). Trawling is the main agent causing the degradation of deep seagrasses off this part of Spain, where up to 40% of the total *Posidonia* surface is highly damaged (Sánchez Lizaso *et al.*, 1990). There, comparison of the structure of a *Posidonia* bed in a non-trawled area to that of a heavily fished one shows profound changes in the latter, where the surface area occupied by dead shoots was much higher than in the undisturbed seagrass 85.2% and 5.9% respectively. Experimental trawling hauls show that a medium-size typical trawler would root out an estimated 99,200 and 363,300 *Posidonia* shoots per hour in the disturbed and undisturbed areas respectively. The mechanical impact of the gear was higher in the most degraded area, otter doors causing a continuous furrow on the bed because of the loss of complexity and consistency of the bottom. The relative effect of the gear thus in turn depends on the state of conservation of the grass. Whereas otter doors were responsible for rooting out 93% of *Posidonia* shoots in the healthiest seagrass, their contribution was limited to only 51% in the damaged area because the meadow there was also vulnerable to other parts of the gear. Differences in fish assemblages inhabiting healthy and disturbed *Posidonia* beds have been recorded and point to major changes in the structure of demersal communities caused by otter trawling. Whilst ichthyofauna typical of deeper detritic bottoms (*Pagellus erythrinus*, Triglidae,...) or of sandy or muddy-sandy bottoms (*Lithognathus mormyrus*, *Blenius ocellatus*,...) are found in the degraded seagrass, they seldom occur in a well-preserved *Posidonia* bed. The contrary applies to some typical species inhabiting seagrasses (*Labrus merula*, *Symphodus rostratus*,...) or hard bottoms (*Muraena helena*, *Chromis chromis*). The effects of trawling on the megabenthos in *Posidonia* beds are also very evident. These included the reduction or elimination of species typical of hard bottoms and their replacement by ubiquitous species and others typical of sandy/muddy bottoms, as a result of the sediments being enriched with finer particles. Other effects were the increased numbers of active filter feeders and sedimentivorous species, such as solitary ascidians (*Microcosmus* spp.) and holothurians, perhaps because of the raised concentration of organic matter in the water and sediment. The higher catch of macrobenthos in disturbed seagrasses could also reflect an increase in the vulnerability of benthos to trawling in the latter habitats. The negative effects of trawling on seagrasses have been confirmed by studies in other parts of the Mediterranean. Ardizzone *et al.* (2000) concluded that degradation of *Posidonia* beds in the Middle Tyrrhenian Sea, on the Italian coast, was caused by both increased water turbidity due to anthropic causes and bottom trawling, the latter affecting non-rocky, trawlable bottoms. Seagrass beds in southern Tunisian waters are trawled for penaeid shrimps, whose early life stages are associated with this habitat (Caddy, 2000). Dynamite fishing still occurs in some Mediterranean waters and is not good news for seagrass beds. Although strictly prohibited in Algeria, it is practised close to the shore at shallow depths (0-10 m) (A. Nouar, pers. comm.). Poacher fishermen target salema (*Sarpa salpa*) shoals

and cause extensive damage to rocky bottoms and coastal seagrass beds. The negative physical impact of the above reported fishing practices aside, the fishing of seagrass communities significantly affects trophic webs and, therefore, ecosystem structure and function. Comparison between fished and protected *Posidonia* beds in France and Italy, indeed, pointed to a decrease in top predators, mainly Scorpaenidae and Serranidae feeding on fish and large crustaceans, and to a parallel increase in mesocarnivores (Labridae), probably because of the lower predation pressure of the former, more susceptible to fishing (Harmelin-Vivien, 2000). The decrease in the mean weight, density and biomass of fish in the exploited seagrass, as well as the higher indices of animal diversity found in the reserves have been reported in several studies (Buia *et al.*, 1999; Harmelin-Vivien, 2000; Francour, 1999).

As concerns the **protection measures**, *Posidonia oceanica* is protected either directly by national law (e.g. France) or regional law (e.g. the Catalonia and Valencia regions in Spain) or indirectly via international agreements signed by the states.

In particular, concerning the countries of the European Union, it is important to mention the Directive n° 92:43 of 21 Mai 1992, labelled "Habitat Directive". In the Annex I, which determines the coastal habitats, *Posidonia oceanica* meadows are considered as priority Site of Community Interest (SIC).

Moreover in order to protect *Posidonia* Meadows and other sensitive coastal habitats, in some countries trawling is forbidden less than three nautical miles from the coast (e.g. France, Italy, Tunisia), above the 50 m isobath (Spain, Italy, Gulf of Tunis, Algeria) or 20m (the rest of Tunisia), so that, in principle, trawling is impossible over part of the Mediterranean *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. Nevertheless, in practice this legislation is often not respected.

2. Justification

Many of the studies referred to above found a direct relationship between the health of the seagrass ecosystem and the level of effective protection. Most of them also point to its important ecological function and its vulnerability to physical damage and the fishing mortality associated with human exploitation. Seagrasses must therefore be protected from bottom trawling and other destructive practices, and fishing pressure reduced as much as possible;

3. Targets

At this level and taking into account that in the Mediterranean Sea there are different levels of knowledge about the status of *Posidonia* two different examples for a AP on this same subject will be mentioned:

Type A: For a situation where the distribution of *Posidonia* is well known and described

Type B: For a situation where few information about cartography exists.

In practise, together with actions to improve the information and knowledge on the specific issue, current regulations banning trawling on *Posidonia* beds in most Mediterranean coastal areas need to be enforced and greater areas of seagrasses included in marine protected areas totally closed to fishing. Campaigns to build awareness together with effective monitoring and surveillance are other useful tools. Additional technical measures such as the deployment of artificial reefs (if justified) could offer further protection.

4. Action Plan (List of the foreseen activities)

The activities to be carried out have to be listed and grouped in the different main items:

- a) To monitor the fishing activity on the community of *Posidonia oceanica* and the fishing activity
- b) To increase the knowledge to understand the community of *Posidonia oceanica* and the impact of fishing practises on it to adequately address the problem.
- c) To make proposals for action to remedy the problem.

Between the most relevant activities related with the items a) and b), we can mention: monitoring, scientific assessment and research like a cartography of seagrass beds of *Posidonia oceanica* in the area; Historical data of area covered by seagrass beds; Evaluation of the impact of trawl fisheries; Limits of sustainability based on any magnitude ...

In relation with the item c): the advice to make possible the enforcement of existing fishery regulations and recommendations to implement new ones (Mainly those applied to fishing gears and other technical measures related with time-space closures and legal landing sizes, ...).

The analysis of existing national and regional regulations and the assessment of the level of implementation / enforcement is recommended (see the document: “Legal analysis of the measures adopted by Mediterranean coastal states to minimise the Impact of Fishing activities on Marine Ecosystems and non-Target Species”).

In any case, the activities related with proposals for action, should take into account that a balance of a variety of sometimes contradictory objectives is needed. Actually, in order to assure the feasibility of the recommended actions, the conservation of habitats and species and the protection of the environment have to be balanced with a sustainable fishery activity throughout a secure economy and preserving the social fabric in fishery-dependent communities and also promoting local governance.

Referring the already mentioned situations: where the distribution of *Posidonia* is well known and described (Type A) and where few information exists particularly about cartography exits (Type B) the following suggestions can be made:

Type A

In a case were a situation where the distribution of *Posidonia* is well known and described it could be performed and recommended the implementation of a Control Rule based on limits of sustainability to protect the seagrass beds, and also in targets for the fishing activity looking for their sustainability inside of the limits already adopted. This is a exercise in which all concerned stakeholders should be involved.

Note on indicators of sustainability in the context of fisheries: The Agenda 21 of the UNCED Rio de Janeiro in 1992 calls for: “a harmonised development of sustainable development indicators ...” and the UNCED Rio Declaration states that: “In order to protect the environment the Precautionary Approach shall be widely applied ...”.

Specific sustainability indicators are necessary to assess and monitor the impact of fisheries on species and habitats. These indicators which present use tend to be limited to biological components of the fishery system (Stock biomass (B) - i.e. a magnitude measuring the population of a threatened species or habitat - and fishing mortality (F): a measure of Fishing effort/Pressure) provide an operational tool for providing advice to manage the fishing impact. Changes in indicators over time, however, cannot be meaningfully interpreted in relation to sustainable development without considering them in

relation to a reference value corresponding to the sectoral or societal objectives (or target) and ecosystem constraints (or limits).

Type B In this case, actions to fill gaps of knowledge and to implement a monitoring could be performed, together with preliminary regulatory measures like for instance and following the criteria of the precautionary approach the forbidden of trawl within 50 m depth can be proposed as precautionary measure.

5. Priority

Some of the above mentioned activities could be more important and urgent than others. For example trawl forbidden within 50 m depth could be a priority (making the law if it doesn't exist or ensure the enforcement of the law if the law already exists).

6. Responsibility

The different activities to be carried out have to be assigned, attending to their characteristics, to the different participants involved. This is the case, for instance, of all research activities that should be carried out by a scientific institution, whereas the ones related with surveillance and control at sea should be responsibility of who is in charge of the coast guard. The legal aspects referred to implementation and enforcement of the agreed measures should obviously be responsibility of the administration of the state.

7. Stakeholders

The stakeholders and their respective responsibilities and roles should be identified. In this case the fishery administration at different levels (local, national, inter-governmental or international), the industry directly using the resources, the fishers, but also fish processors, boat-builders, net-makers, markets, consumers The knowledge-holders on marine environment, habitats, flora and fauna and fisheries (scientific national institutions and international, governmental and non-governmental organisations, ...). When possible the involvement of local population is also recommended.

8. Prerequisites needed for implementation

The active participation of the administration at different levels mainly at local level and the fishery sector mainly those elements more closely related with the work at sea, is essential to assure the success of the plan. Furthermore, a clear idea of the scientific facilities (vessel disposability, side scan sonar, ...) is needed in order plan those feasible activities from a realistic point of view. Finally the aspects related with the surveillance and control and those activities to make aware all the society about the plan should be also taken into account as major elements.

9. Expected problem for implementation

The main expected problems regarding the implementation of the action plan will probably be those related with the databases at disposal (appropriate quality, coverage and mainly their availability) as well as the general will of the different stakeholder involved.

10. Implementation calendar

For each activity of the action plan, a detailed calendar is expected. It is important identify what are the time request for the implementation of each activity of the plan (1 week, 1 month, 2 months, one year, ...) and list the activities in a logical succession.

Summarising table/s could be introduced. For example:

Activities	1st month	2nd month	3rd month	4th month	5th month
e.g. <i>Collection of available documents and publications</i>						
e.g. <i>Buying of the material ...</i>						
e.g. <i>Preliminary missions on the field</i>						
.....						

11. Budget

By items like is made, for instance, in any scientific project. Activities at sea should be separated from the rest of items in the budget.

Summarising table/s could be introduced.

12. Monitoring

In order to verify the success of the Action Plan monitoring activities such as (i) the control of the low border of meadows, (ii) the evaluation of the density of leaves, (iii) mapping of meadows, (iv) visual census of fish of the meadows, ... should be carried out before, during and after the implementation of the actions.

If among the aims of the action plans there is the increasing the awareness of fishermen or general public, the setting up of enquiries (using questionnaires, or interviews), before, during and after the action/s implementation, to verify the consciousness raising, could be made.

13. Investment portfolio

A summary of the main items of the action plan and a detailed budget should be presented in this chapter, which as referred in the guidelines should be a self-explanatory document addressed to the funding sources.

ANNEXE IV - APPENDIX B

**DETAILED OUTLINE FOR PREPARING THE SAP BIO
DOCUMENT**

PREFACE

The present draft document already revised and approved by the National Correspondents at their First Meeting (Alicante, 2-4 July), has been enriched with the addition of the profiles of the experts (working team) in charge of preparing the SAP BIO Document and a timetable for the preparing each section of the document.

INTRODUCTION

The project "Determination of priority actions for further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" developed in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, includes the "Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region", (SAP BIO) with RAC/SPA as the Lead Agency.

In formulating this project, particular attention was paid to existing plans and programmes and in particular to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The CBD is an overall general legal framework whose implementation in the Mediterranean marine and coastal zone could be undertaken through the SPA protocol. Within this framework, SAP BIO would be partially considered as implementing part of the Jakarta Mandate of the CBD.

SAP BIO PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the SAP BIO project is to establish a logical base for implementing the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Sea, providing for an outline of activities over a three-year period, in order to produce a SAP for the conservation of biodiversity, to be presented and adopted at the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

In doing this, it is recommended that the project focus the correct level of attention on the role of local communities, with the aim of involving them in planning and carrying out future projects.

INPUTS TO THE SAP BIO

The National Reports, priority National Action Plans, and regional reports will represent the major inputs to the SAP BIO. It is therefore of prime importance that these documents be conceived, elaborated and formatted in a way that is compatible and consistent with the SAP BIO.

In addition to the outputs elaborated within the framework of the project, the SAP BIO should incorporate other inputs, mainly existing strategies and results obtained within the framework of other networks and/or organisations.

ISSUES ADVERSELY AFFECTING BIODIVERSITY, OF POTENTIAL PRIORITY CONCERN FOR THE SAP BIO

The issues of primary importance within the biodiversity context are listed here in after. This provisional list will be amended taking into account the information collected through the National Reports.

- eutrophication,
- tourism and urban development,

- infrastructure development,
- hunting and fishing,
- pollution hot spots,
- habitats and ecosystems in danger - critical for biodiversity issues,
- invasive species.

In addition, other issues of potential impact on biodiversity could be listed, to be taken into consideration:

- erosion and desertification phenomena and processes,
- change of land use,
- socio-economic issues: migration, abandoning the land, encroaching on coastal areas, rural exodus, impacts of poverty, illegal practices, rapid socio-economic changes,
- trade in rare species,
- over-exploitation of coastal and marine resources (not fisheries only),
- incorrect agricultural practices,
- forest fires,
- disasters, natural phenomena, climate change.

Finally, issues of a general nature will have to be analysed, leading to respective priority actions later on:

- gaps in knowledge, leading to the required research (scientific, technical, management research),
- institutional and human capacity for implementing, monitoring, assessing and updating, leading to capacity building actions,
- level of public awareness and the awareness of the authorities, willingness to implement,
- participation, involvement of the general public and stakeholders, leading to the identifying of the respective priority actions.

TENTATIVE CONTENTS OF THE SAP BIO

Analysing other comparable documents at regional and national level, as well as taking into account the above-mentioned conceptual approach and provisions of the project document, the following contents for the SAP BIO are proposed as a basis for discussion.

Preface

(to be written referring to the following points:)

- Special features of the Mediterranean region
- The importance of the marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean
- Relationship between climate changes and biodiversity
- The relationship between biodiversity conservation and sustainable economic development in general in the Mediterranean
- The main initiatives taken in the past regarding the conservation of the marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean
- The new Protocol concerning “Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Sea”
- RAC/SPA’s activities and its being chosen as Lead Agency for the SAP BIO project
- The importance of the co-ordination and synergy among Mediterranean international organisations
- The objectives and expected results of the SAP BIO
- Acknowledgements.

Preface

Timetable for the preparation of this section: May 2002 - September 2002

Profile of person in charge of writing this section (EXPERT 1)

- Experience in different fields of marine biology (fishery, conservation, ecology, marine and coastal habitats)
- Experience in international conventions and in nature conservation organisations.
- Knowledge SAP BIO project

Table of contents

(as listed below – including the above Preface)

List of acronyms

(This will include a list of words, usually pronounced as such, formed from the initial letters of other words, and what they stand for, used in the text, e.g.:

- CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity
- NAP – National Action Plan
- RAC/SPA – Regional Activity Centre/Specially Protected Areas
- SAP – Strategic Action Plan
- UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme...etc.)

Executive summary

(Will include a summary of the text, highlighting the main points)

Methodology used for the elaboration of SAP BIO

(Will include explanation about methods used to prepare the document)

Table of contents, List of acronyms, Executive summary, Methodology used for the elaboration of SAP BIO

Timetable for the preparation of these sections: May 2002 – January 2003

By RAC/SPA Secretariat

1. Introduction and background information

The answer to “Why do we need a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean?” will introduce the project. Reference will be made to its general concept. The introduction will also give detailed background information on the whole process, starting from the adoption in 1975 of the Mediterranean Action Plan and in 1976 of the Barcelona Convention. It will refer *inter alia* to:

- the decision taken by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 1981 to establish a Centre for Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas
- the adoption of the Protocol concerning MSPA in 1982 by the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries
- the process of revising the MAP and its legal instruments, particularly MAP Phase II and the new Protocol concerning SPAs and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
- the Convention on Biological Diversity signed at the United Nations Rio de Janeiro Conference on the Environment and Development in 1992
- the Jakarta Mandate on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity
- the several important aspects of the new SPA Protocol which entered into force in December 1999
- RAC/SPA as sub-regional co-ordinating units of ACCOBAMS
- SAP MED
- the follow-up of a project proposal on “Determination of priority actions for further elaboration and implementation of the SAP for the Mediterranean Sea”, which was

eventually approved by the GEF Council in April 2000, and which includes the “Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for biodiversity in the Mediterranean region”, with RAC/SPA as the Lead Agency.

- Donors systems

2. Conceptual framework

2.1 Objectives of the SAP BIO

This will explain the main objective of the SAP BIO project.

The SAP BIO is aimed at establishing a logical base for implementing the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Sea

2.2 Principles to be applied

To attain the objectives of the Strategy actions should be guided by various principles.

- When conceiving, developing and implementing the SAP BIO, existing projects, action plans, and initiatives concerning marine and coastal biodiversity of relevance to the Mediterranean Sea should be taken into account.
- All actions taken at all levels (national, sub-regional or regional) must be coordinated using coordinating instruments when and where these exist, and creating others when and where necessary.
- Non-governmental organisations must be involved in the drafting and execution of conservation policies.
- When identifying and carrying out measures for conservation of the marine/coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region within a sustainable-use framework, those related to the implementing of the provisions made by the new SPA Protocol and its Annexes should be given high priority.

2.3 Expected use of the SAP BIO

The main use of the SAP BIO is to provide a basis for implementing the actions identified at national and regional level. It will also be used to:

- reach consensus on measures to be taken,
- increase awareness and willingness on national actions,
- involve all stakeholders,
- improve the technical basis,
- identify and rank causative factors,
- implementing and regularly update NAP's
- declare new protected areas,
- manage protected areas,
- increase the protection and management of species,
- improve national legislation
- fund rising

2.4 Inputs

This sub-section will include other inputs derived mainly from existing strategies and results obtained within the framework of other networks and/or organisations. Declarations and Initiatives of other institutions and organisations will also be taken into consideration.

Introduction and background information

Conceptual framework

Timetable for the preparation these sections: May 2002 - September 2002

Profile of person in charge of writing these sections (EXPERT 2)

- *Familiarity with the preparing of reports and the developing of strategies for nature*

conservation.

- *Knowledge of international conventions including MAP system.*
- *Knowledge of socio-economic topics.*
- *Knowledge of SAP BIO project.*

3. Synthesis of National Reports and NAPs

Given the fact that the National Reports and National Action Plans will represent one of the major inputs to the SAP BIO, this section will present a thorough synthesis of all such National Reports and Action Plans. This synthesis will bring under one umbrella all the separate elements found in them. It may present in thematic form and at national level all the various issues, problems (with their status and trends) and threats (highlighting their causes, impacts and significance). It will also present all the priority actions, including the National Action plans, in a coherent, detailed manner.

As much as possible this chapter should be schematised.

Synthesis of National Reports and NAPs

Timetable for the preparing this section: May 2002 - 15 September 2002

Profile of people in charge of writing this section (EXPERTS 3, 4, 5, 6)

Expert 3

- *Higher degree in marine science, expert in fishery and impact of human activities on the environment*
- *Excellent knowledge of written English*

Expert 4

- *Higher degree in marine science, expert in sensitive habitats and species, establishing and managing of protected areas*
- *Excellent knowledge of written English*

Expert 5

- *Higher degree in natural science, expert in coastal zones and wetlands*
- *Good knowledge of written English and French*

Expert 6

- *Higher degree in marine science (wide experience in various fields)*
- *Excellent knowledge of written French*

4. Regional assessment

Taking into consideration the inputs and important contributions made by the National Reports regarding the situation in each respective country and the regional reports (i.e. FAO documents to face the impact of fishing activities on biological diversity), this section will carry a general detailed assessment of

- the major issues, elaborating their causes, impacts and significance at regional level
- the issues of sub-regional or national importance, together with their causes and impacts
- the status of sensitive habitats and critical sites that are of ecological importance
- the status of sensitive and/or endangered Mediterranean species
- issues of transboundary character (scope)

Regional assessment

Timetable for preparing of this section: May 2002 - 15 October 2002 (To be finalised taking into account the results of the section 3)

Profile of people in charge of writing this section (two of the experts in charge of preparing the section 3 and the EXPERT 2)

Profile 1

- *Higher degree in marine science with wide experience in different fields (fishery, conservation of biodiversity; ecology; marine habitats)*

Profile 2

- *Higher degree in natural science, expert in coastal zones and wetlands*

EXPERT 2

- Knowledge of socio-economic topics

5. Definition of approaches and measures

This section constitutes an important part of the SAP BIO. It will define the approaches and measures to be taken. Apart from offering a diagnosis of the situation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean, the SAP should project a harmonisation of its proposed actions with other ongoing or planned programmes.

Possible examples of approaches are:

- the Ecosystem Approach - This is useful when information is available on different scales, from species upward. Although a large-scale approach is recommended, the ecosystem approach may be performed at the different levels of: organism; population; community; ecosystem; and landscape
- the approach which uses the Precautionary Principle. This approach is useful when little or no data is available, and can be applied on different scales
- the mutual assistance
- the participative approach.

Definition of approaches and measures

Timetable for the preparation of this section: May 2002 - 30 November 2002 (To be finalised taking into account the results of the sections 3, 4 and 5)

Profile of person in charge of writing this section (EXPERT 7)

- *Experience in the developing of strategy for the conservation of nature*
- *Experience in the preparing of documents for international organisations*

6. Identification of priorities

Determining priorities is not an easy task. More often than not, the capacity of governments and organisations to deal with environmental problems is limited. There are usually several other demands that need urgent attention. The dilemma is how to use the limited financial and human resources in the most effective way. So in seeking the conservation of biodiversity one must be selective and ask which species, habitats and sites most merit attention. Some may need urgent action requiring both human and financial resources. Others may simply require some

form of legislation. This section will identify priorities after an assessment of the National Reports. Priorities may be presented at five levels:

- Priorities of a general nature
- Priorities at regional level
- Priorities at national level
- Common priorities per critical site, area, ecosystem
- Common priorities for endangered species.

As much as possible this chapter should be schematised.

Identification of priorities

Timetable for the preparation of this section: May 2002 - 15 November 2002 (To be finalised taking into account the results of the sections 3 and 4)

Profile of people in charge of writing this section (two of the experts in charge of preparing the section 3 & EXPERT 7)

Profile 1

- *Higher degree in marine science with wide experience in different fields (fishery, conservation of biodiversity; ecology; marine habitats)*

Profile 2

- *Higher degree in natural science, expert in coastal zones and wetlands*

EXPERT 7

- *Experience in the developing nature conservation strategies;*
- *Experience in the preparing documents for international organisations*
- *Knowledge of international agreement.*

7. Definition and ranking of Priority Actions on specific biodiversity issues

One of the objectives of the National Reports is to identify priority issues and their causes and impacts, and identify, and elaborate the measures and priority actions needed. This section will identify, define and rank priority actions, distinguishing between priority actions at National level and priority actions at Regional level. Various measures can be considered, e.g.

- sustainable use of natural resource and land
- in-situ conservation (protected natural areas, conservation outside the protected areas, species conservation, habitat conservation, wetlands, the marine environment)
- ex-situ conservation
- institutional reforms
- legislative reforms
- economic reforms
- training, education and awareness
- research
- international co-operation and networking
- data collection/filling gaps in knowledge

Quantitative objectives should be fixed and actions and priorities classified according to the emergency and to the term (short, medium and long).

Defining and ranking of Priority Actions on specific biodiversity issues

Timetable for the preparation of this section: May 2002 - 15 December 2002 (To be finalised

taking into account the results of the sections 3, 4 , 5 and 6)

Profile of person in charge of writing this section (EXPERT 7)

- Experience in developing nature conservation strategies
- Experience in preparing of documents for international organisations

8. Coordination and synergy among relevant organisations

The role that relevant organisations could play in implementing the SAP BIO activities should be presented here taking into account the aims and status of each of them.

Coordination and synergy between relevant organisations

Timetable for preparing of this section: May 2002 - January 2003 (To be developed taking into account the results of the sections 3, 4 , 5, 6 and 7 and to be finalised by the 3th Meeting of the Advisory Committee)

Profile of person in charge of writing the draft of this section (EXPERT 2)

- Experience at international conventions and in international organisations;

9. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring is a process by which actual or potential changes in ecological character can be detected. It generally requires a specific reason and method for collecting particular data or information. This section will outline the framework for designing two types of monitoring:

- monitoring priority actions
- general monitoring of other issues, including the ongoing process of the SAP BIO implementation and monitoring of the progress in the conservation of biodiversity (biological indicators can be used). Monitoring should be at short, medium, and long term.

This section will present evaluating and reporting programmes directed at and related to the various issues, problems and threats as well as indicators to be used to this end.

Ideally this process should involve two levels:

- the first is aimed at regular monitoring, evaluating and reporting the status of the existing biodiversity (at different levels, i.e. species, population, community, ecosystem, landscape) in the region, starting from the National Reports,
- the second is aimed at regular monitoring, evaluating and reporting the status of bodies and elements dealing with biodiversity, such as the policies, laws, capabilities and popular consensus in the different countries of the region.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Timetable for preparing of this section: May 2002 - January 2003 (To be finalised taking into account the results of the Sections 3, 4 , 5, 6 and 7)

Profile of person in charge of writing this section (EXPERT 8)

Higher degree in biological science with experience in monitoring methodologies and biological indicators

10. Investment Portfolio

The Investment Portfolios will be lifted from the National Reports and will be summarized in this section. Investment portfolio for the actions to be implemented at regional level will be given in this section. A number of summarizing tables will also be presented.

Investment Portfolio

Timetable for preparing of this section: May 2002 - January 2003 (To be finalised taking into account the results of the Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

Profile of person in charge of writing this section (EXPERTS 9, 10)

Profile 1 and 2

- *Experience in preparing strategies and investment portfolio*
- *Working experience with International Organisations*
- *Knowledge of donors systems*

11. Provisions for Follow-up

The SAP BIO is long-term in character. The measures and actions to be implemented are of a complex nature and therefore it will be appropriate to consider the need to elaborate on:

- preparing Regional and National Operational Strategies for implementing the SAP
- a further refining of the Investment Portfolios at national level, thus improving the base for international support and funding
- preparing a long-term Strategy for international funding
- identifying research priority actions to be started immediately
- capacity building
- immediate participatory activities, public campaigns, etc
- participation of stakeholder
- communications, visibility of SAP BIO
- further refining of SPA protocol.

Provisions for Follow-up

Timetable for preparing of this section: May 2002 - January 2003

Profile of person in charge of writing this section (EXPERT 7)

- *Experience in the development nature conservation strategies*
- *Experience in preparing documents for international organisations*

Annexes (if needed and as appropriate)

Reference bibliography

A list of all publications referred to or consulted.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRINCIPLES FOR PREPARING THE SAP BIO

- Within the assessment process, gaps in knowledge at regional level and those predominant at national level should be identified.
- When considering the potential and available socio-economic measures, market instruments, change of consumption pattern, measures connected with issues related to

poverty, migration, rural exodus, the abandoning of land, etc., should be considered, if relevant.

- When identifying measures, those related to the implementing of provisions made by the SPA Protocol and its Annexes should be given high priority.
- Measures related to impacts of disasters, potential catastrophes and forest fires if relevant should be considered.
- When devising provision for follow-up actions, to be implemented after the SAP BIO is adopted, taking into account its long-term character and the complex nature of measures and actions to be implemented, as well as the resulting level of expenditure, it seems recommendable to consider the need for:
 - preparing a Regional, and National, Operational Strategies for implementing the SAP BIO,
 - a further finalizing of Investment Portfolios at national level, thus improving the base for international support and funding,
 - preparing a long-term Strategy for international funding,
 - identifying research priority actions to be started immediately,
 - capacity building,
 - immediate participatory activities, public campaigns, etc.
 - financing in bilateral framework

THE WORKING TEAM

Due to the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary character of the SAP BIO, a working team composed of experienced members with various profiles is needed to prepare the SAP BIO. The structure, profiles and other requirements will be elaborated in the Detailed Outline, taking into account the recommendations made by the 2nd Advisory Committee.

With regard to the profiles presented in the previous chapter, the following figures are supposed to constitute the working team of the SAP BIO Project:

1. Expert in marine biology (wide experience in various fields and knowledge of international organisations dealing with environment protection)
2. Strategist (International organisations and socio-economic topics)
3. Expert in marine biology (impact of human activity)
4. Expert in marine biology (sensitive habitats and species)
5. Expert in marine biology (wide experience in various fields)
6. Expert in coastal habitats, wetlands, birds
7. Expert in developing nature conservation strategies
8. Expert in biology (monitoring and biological indicators)
9. Economist with expertise in investment portfolios (Anglophone)
10. Economist with expertise in investment portfolios (Francophone)

THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE, WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE

The steps to be envisaged for preparing the document could be as follows:

- Defining the structure and composition of the working team
- Identifying potential members of the team
- A working session with team members: description of the tasks to be carried out, inputs, procedures and deadlines, distribution of tasks among team members, defining of phasing of preparation of individual parts/chapters and other logistical details as appropriate
- Preparing individual contributions (drafts) by team members, as defined by the distribution of tasks among members and the Workplan
- A working session to revise individual contributions and provide for formulating a draft version of parts of or the entire document

- Editing the first draft SAP BIO
- Presenting the first draft SAP BIO at the Third Meeting of the Project's Advisory Committee
- Presenting the revised first draft SAP BIO at the Second Meeting of National Correspondents
- Preparing the final version of the draft SAP BIO
- Presenting the final draft of the SAP BIO document at the:
 - 2003 Meeting of RAC/SPA NFPs
 - 2003 Meeting of MAP NFPs, (May - September 2003), and
- Submitting the draft SAP BIO document to the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption (autumn 2003).

