

Introduction

Taking into consideration the experience gained by MED POL in the field of land-based pollution assessment and control, the content of the MED POL Phase IV Programme adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2006 and the ongoing related regional and international priorities and initiatives, the overarching long-term goals of the MED POL programme can be summarized as follows:

1- To preserve the marine ecosystem of the Mediterranean Sea by protecting it from effects of land-based pollution on living and non-living resources including human health

The Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem is under increasing threat due to uncontrolled coastal development, population expansion, increasing coastal tourism, unregulated and unsustainable fishing, over-extraction of freshwater (including aquifers and groundwater) and pollution. The population of the Mediterranean region has almost doubled since 1970, with greatest densities in the coastal zone. Tourism also represents an additional stress on resources and a source of pollution, and this is expected to increase in the future. Urban growth rates are high with predictions that for southern and eastern Mediterranean countries the population will shift from predominantly rural to urban. Currently, 42 percent of the coastal zone is under artificial land cover and it is projected that half the coastal zone will be covered by roads, ports, airports and industrial and power facilities by 2025.

A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA-MED) was prepared in 1999 and was revised and adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2004. The TDA-MED identified the major sources of transboundary pollution and hotspots and provided a foundation for interventions at the national and regional level that would benefit both the individual countries and the basin as a whole. Decline in biodiversity, fisheries, and seawater quality, along with human health risks and the loss of groundwater-dependent coastal ecosystems were identified as the major environmental concerns of the basin.

The TDA-MED was used as a basis for the preparation of two Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs): the Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP-MED) and the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO), which were adopted by the Contracting parties in 1996 and 2003 respectively. The SAP-MED outlines the specific targets and activities agreed by the member countries to address the Mediterranean Sea environmental degradation and formed the basis for the formulation of the countries National Action Plans (NAPs), which were finalized and endorsed by the Contracting Parties in 2005.

The MED POL Programme addresses this goal by providing assistance to countries to enable national authorities to fully implement the LBS, the Dumping and the Hazardous Wastes Protocols. This includes pollution reduction, monitoring and assessment activities related to each of the Protocols that are implemented in close cooperation with the Parties and through synergies with relevant regional and international initiatives.

2- To ensure urban and industrial sustainability in the Mediterranean region by inducing policy changes and reforms in urban and industrial sectors.

The Mediterranean countries fully recognize the need for a coordinated and innovative approach for the implementation of policy reforms, priority interventions and investments that address transboundary pollution and biodiversity conservation priorities identified in the two SAPs and the NAPs. Thus there is a need to leverage policy/legal/institutional reforms as

well as additional investments for reversing degradation of the damaged large marine ecosystem, the contributing freshwater basins, habitats and coastal aquifers. This leveraging will be addressed through the implementation of MED POL activities in the framework of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (SP) and in coordination with UNEP, the World Bank and GEF and other relevant international cooperation Agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and bilateral and multilateral donors.

3- To consolidate the environmental security in the Mediterranean region in addressing appropriate transboundary issues in the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean Environment within the natural boundaries does not respect national borders. Countries may influence the environmental security of their neighbours by way of transboundary pollution of land-based and sea-based sources. Close cooperation between the riparian states and tracking and responding to those areas where environmental factors are likely to trigger or intensify conflict or pose a threat to national interests become crucial. MED POL, in the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership and the Hazardous Waste Protocol carries out activities related to the management of transboundary pollution from urban and industrial sources and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.

4- To contribute to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) identifies three major regional challenges: the environmental challenge - environmental degradation, the demographic economic and social challenge and the challenge of globalization, and regional cooperation and governance.

The strategy is based on three interdependent pillars: a) economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation, b) social equity, improved standard of living, access to essential services and availability of financial resources, c) protection of the environment.

A number of specific objectives and strategies of the MSSD related to the protection of the environment fall under the competence of the MED POL Programme and, as a result, a contribution to their achievement is indeed expected through the implementation of the Programme. The MSSD objectives to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and improve governance at local, national and regional levels are tackled by MED POL through activities related to tourism, agriculture, urban development and sea, coastal areas and marine resources. In particular, activities on management of wastewater and sanitation, water re-use and reduction of inputs of nutrients, prevention and reduction of pollution at sea from dumping activities and reduction and prevention of pollution from land-based activities are expected to represent a concrete contribution to the achievement of the MSSD objectives.

5- Adaptation and mitigation of climate change in the Mediterranean region

The fourth IPCC report identifies the Mediterranean region as a climate change hot spot. This would include the rise of the sea level, increase precipitation in the Northern part and decrease of precipitation in the southern part as well as increase in number of flood cases. The region opted to address the climate change issue through mitigation and adaptation strategies. These strategies are in line and harmonized with the commitments of the Mediterranean Countries in the framework of Kyoto Protocol and UNFCCC.

To enable the region to face the expected phenomena and reduce their impacts, MED POL will address several issues related to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in

regulating and controlling the quality of urban and industrial effluents, sound management of waste water and waste as well as reuse of treated effluents, integrating environmentally friendly sea water desalination activities in national water policy and protection of marine resources, better understanding of the pollution released from urban and industrial centers with special focus on green houses gases and contributions to mitigation of climate change through Co₂ sequestration in geological sub structure of the sea.

Proposed activities

Sub-programme 1: Implementation of the LBS, DUMPING AND HAZARDOUS WASTES Protocols

Specific GOAL

To facilitate the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP, the dumping Protocol and its guidelines according to Art. 6.2 and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol as well as their entry into force.

Objectives

- 1- To facilitate the financing of National Action Plans (NAPs)
- 2- To develop a methodology for the quantification of inputs from diffuse sources in the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership
- 3- To implement a mechanism for a differentiation approach in the pollution reduction process of the NAPs
- 4- To launch policy reform demonstration projects in the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership (SP) related to tanneries, lubricating oils, batteries and fertilizers
- 5- To provide technical assistance to countries to facilitate the implementation of the Dumping Protocol and its guidelines in cooperation with IMO
- 6- To contribute to and facilitate the implementation of the action plan to combat the illegal traffic of hazardous wastes in Arabic countries
- 7- To implement demonstration projects for the management and disposal of PCBs in the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership

As a result of the endorsement by the Contracting parties of National Action Plans (NAPs) to address land-based pollution, MED POL will continue to closely work with the national and regional initiatives (EU Directives, European Investment Bank (EIB), the Union for the Mediterranean, EU Horizon 2020), and with international financial institutions (GEF and World Bank) to ensure the financing of the priority actions of the NAPs.

In addition, with the assistance of regional experts, the Secretariat, the framework of GEF SP will review the state-of-the-art quantification of inputs into the marine environment from diffuse sources, in order to identify a reliable process which could be used to assess the magnitude of inputs of pollutants from diffuse sources and enable the development of an appropriate regional policy to address this issue.

During the biennium 2008-2009 MED POL developed, through a region-wide consultation process with representatives of Contracting Parties, stakeholders and NGOs, a differentiation

mechanism based on Emission Limit Values (ELVs) to be applied in the revision of NAPs and the development of regional plans and programmes including legally binding measures and timetables required by Art.15 of LBS Protocol. If adopted by the Contracting Parties meeting in 2009, MEDPOL will implement the terms of the mechanism to be integrated in the programmes and plans for the reduction of pollution of priority substances.

MED POL will continue the formulation of regional plans/programmes required by Art.15 of LBS Protocol for a priority substance (Mercury) and a priority sector (food sector). The regional plans/programmes would be prepared on the basis of the differentiation mechanism and through a region-wide consultation process with national authorities and stakeholders.

MED POL was not able to launch the implementation of its related activities in the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership due to some delays in its actual launch. Therefore MED POL will hopefully launch, during the 2010-2011 biennium, five pilot projects in Turkey, Algeria, Lebanon and Syria in four industrial sectors (tanneries, lubricating oils, batteries and fertilizers) that will be replicated through the overall GEF replication strategy as well as a pilot project for the development of ELVs and Environmental Quality Standards (EQS).

MED POL, in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the London Convention and the relevant national authorities and stakeholders, will continue providing legal, institutional and technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of the guidelines developed under Art 4.2 of the Dumping Protocol. The secretariat will start providing assistance to the Contracting Parties for the establishment of National Threshold Limit Values (NTLV) to assess the toxicity of dredged materials to be used by national authorities as an element of the permitting system on the basis of the guidelines which will hopefully be reviewed by the NFPs. In addition MED POL will publish a regional map exhibiting the sites of dumping of ammunitions for the use of maritime agencies, port authorities, fishermen, local communities, etc. Finally, MED POL will continue to work closely with IMO to promote the implementation of the guidelines on waste management developed by the London Convention.

As a follow up to the risk assessment on Co₂ sequestration in geological substructure of the sea which is under preparation with the assistance of the Spanish government, negotiations will be carried out with the Contracting Parties with a view to possible amendment of Art. 4.2 of Dumping Protocol.

In cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat and its Regional Centres in Bratislava and Cairo, MED POL will finalize the regional assessment on the management of e-waste in order to propose to the Contracting Parties in 2011 a regional action plan in line with Basel Convention provisions.

In cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat and its Regional Centre in Cairo, MED POL will assist in the implementation of the strategy and an action plan for the control of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes in the Arabic countries which was developed in 2009. In particular, the proposed activities which MED POL would support are:

- 1-the development of a database of internationally banned hazardous chemicals and wastes and a methodology to detect them,
- 2-the preparation of a training manual for customs and ports authorities to detect smuggling and illegal trade of internationally banned hazardous chemicals and wastes. In this context, MED POL will extend the mandate of the Mediterranean Network on Compliance and Enforcement of legislation to include coordination between ports authorities/inspectors to build their capacity in preventing and combating illegal transboundary movements of

Hazardous Wastes. This issue will be included in the agenda of the next meeting of the Network scheduled for November 2009.

As part of the activities of the recently approved GEF Strategic Partnership, MED POL, in cooperation with CP/RAC, will launch five demonstration projects for the environmental management and disposal of PCBs in Albania, Egypt, Syria, Libya and Lebanon. The projects aim at the implementation of a national capacity building programme on how to perform a disposal process (selection, confinement, authorization, shipment and disposal) for oils and equipment contaminated with PCBs in selected demonstration sites together with a nation-wide capacity building programme for the stakeholders and public on the environmental and health issues of the management of PCBs. As a result of the five-year project, it is expected that 800 tons of PCBs will be disposed through the implementation of the demonstration projects. The activities on PCBs as part of SP are considered a concrete contribution to the implementation of the NAPs and the NIPs of the Stockholm Convention.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 010-011	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/Partnerships
	Implementation of the LBS Protocol				
- Recommendation of Contracting Parties Meeting in Portoroz 2005	Cooperation with Contracting Parties, EC, EIB, GEF, WB (identification of projects, missions, meetings)	NAPs' pollution reduction interventions financed	MED POL and Contracting Parties	Project implementation in 10 countries	- Horizon 2020 - GEF-SP
- LBS Art.4	Implementation of GEF SP activity related to estimation of the inputs from diffuse sources	Use of model(s) for the quantification of releases from rivers and watershed	MED POL with relevant Mediterranean institutions	Model(s) approved by national experts	- GEF SP - EUROHARP
- Agenda 21 - JOP - MSSD - SAP	Implementation of the differentiation mechanism for pollution reduction in, among others, for the formulation of action plans and programmes containing measures and timetables	Differentiation mechanism based on ELVs embedded in the pollution on reduction process	- MED POL with regional experts - Contracting Parties	Mechanism implemented	IPPC
- LBS Art.5 and 15 - SAP	Implementation of MED POL-related activities of the GEF Strategic Partnership - Launching of pilot projects in demonstration sites in Turkey, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria	National policy reforms to address tanneries, phosphogypsum, lube oil and lead batteries	MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC and UNIDO and Contracting Parties	National policy reform approved by competent authority	GEF-SP

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 010-011</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Achievements/ Indicators</i>	<i>Related initiatives/Partnerships</i>
	<i>Implementation of the LBS Protocol</i>				
- LBS Art.5 and 15 - SAP - Differentiation mechanism	Formulation of measures for priority substances and sectors	- Measures for priority substances: mercury - Measures for priority sectors: Food sector	MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC and Contracting Parties	Measures prepared and submitted to CPs	GEF-SP

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 010-011	Responsibility	Achievements/Indicators	Related initiatives/Partnerships
	Implementation of the Dumping Protocol				
Dumping Protocol Art.6.2	Implementation of adopted guidelines 1. Organization of national stakeholders' meetings. 2. Development of NTLVs for one Mediterranean Countries Printing and publishing the regional map for dumping of ammunitions and guidelines for fishermen.	1. One national stakeholders meeting 2. NTLVs in two countries developed 3. map on dumping of ammunitions and guidelines is printed and disseminated	MED POL in cooperation with relevant Contracting Parties and the London Convention secretariat	1. Institutional set ups and cooperation among national stakeholders improved. 2. NTLV submitted for approval of the national authority approved by Contracting Parties 3) Map distributed to all countries and stakeholders	London Convention activities
CPs decision Almeria	Negotiations with CPs on Co ₂ sequestration	Possible amendment of Dumping Protocol	MED POL with cooperation of CPs	Decision of CPs on possible amendment	-London Convention -OSPAR -Spanish Government

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 010-011</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Achievements/ Indicators</i>	<i>Related initiatives/ Partnerships</i>
	<i>Implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol</i>				
Hazardous Wastes Protocol Art.4	Implementation of PCB component of GEF Strategic Partnership	Demonstration projects in Albania, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Lebanon	MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC	National programmes for the environmentally sound management and disposal of PCBs contaminated oils and equipment launched by electricity companies.	GEF SP
Hazardous Wastes Protocol Art.5.5 and 8	1. Implementation of selected activities of the action Plan to combat illegal traffic of hazardous waste in Arabic countries	1. data base for banned hazardous waste and chemicals 2. training manual for ports officers and inspectors	MED POL in cooperation with Contracting Parties, BC, BCRCs	1. Data base for banned hazardous waste and chemicals is prepared 2. Training manual for ports officers and inspectors is prepared.	Basel Convention and its BCRC
Stockholm Convention Art. 15 of LBS	Facilitating the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the Mediterranean region	Organization of a meeting among regional Stakeholders relevant to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention subject to availability of funds	MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC	Meeting report	CP/RAC

Sub-programme 2: Assessment of the implementation of LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols

Specific GOAL

To monitor the effectiveness of national measures taken to implement the Protocols

Objectives

- 1- To develop effectiveness indicators
- 2- To assist countries to formulate and establish national monitoring programmes in compliance with Article 12 of the Convention and Article 8 of the LBS protocol
- 3- To assess the state of marine pollution in the Mediterranean and determine its trends
- 4- To assess the level of reduction of inputs from point sources
- 5- To develop a comprehensive set of Marine Pollution indicators

During the biennium 2008-2009, in close cooperation with MEDU and the relevant RACs, MED POL developed a set of indicators to assess, according to Art. 26(b) of the Convention, the effectiveness of the implementation of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols and the related programmes of measures. In the current biennium MED POL will assess the relevance and the feasibility of such indicators on the basis of data generated by the Contracting Parties.

According to Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention all Contracting Parties shall establish monitoring programmes and designate the competent authorities responsible for pollution monitoring. In addition, Article 8 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol stipulates that these monitoring programmes should aim to systematically assess, as far as possible, the levels of pollution

The monitoring activities in MED POL Phase IV are designed on the basis of the above and with the following specific objectives:

- to determine temporal trends of some selected contaminants in the coastal waters and specifically in hot-spot areas in order to assess the effectiveness of policy measures and actions taken ;
- to undertake periodical assessments of the state of the environment in hot spots and general coastal areas (needed to provide information for decision makers on the basic environmental status of the areas which are under anthropogenic pressures), and
- to control whether there is compliance with national / international regulatory limits.

As Contracting Parties are responsible for establishing national monitoring programmes that would include state and trend monitoring, compliance monitoring and monitoring of loads (NBBs), during the 2010-2011 biennium every effort should be made to complete the full geographical coverage of the region with appropriate programmes and the provision of data and results.

Financial assistance will be provided to those countries that are still in need. Contracting Parties are encouraged and assisted to also undertake biological effects monitoring and eutrophication monitoring, as appropriate. Baseline studies will continue in cooperation with ongoing projects to cover the South-eastern Mediterranean.

Data Quality Assurance is vital to ensure reliable and good quality data. IAEA will continue to be responsible for chemical contaminants (trace metals and organics) in biota and

sediments, by organising intercalibration exercises and hosting training courses for Mediterranean scientists. Increased efforts will be made to ensure the follow-up of Data Quality Assurance in the participating laboratories, through additional training and visits, as needed. Nutrients and chlorophyll-a data intercalibration will be organised using QUASIMEME services and the University of Alessandria (Italy) will be responsible for biomarkers intercalibration. MED POL will assist laboratories to participate in the DQA activities. Specifically, for biological effects, a joint workshop will be organised with the participation of laboratories from MED POL, OSPAR and HELCOM, to discuss the results of the intercalibration and to seek possible harmonisation in methodologies and assessment criteria.

The process for updating the reference methods for monitoring and analysis will continue in 2010 with the support of IAEA taking into consideration the importance of harmonizing methodologies.

As was indicated in the approved MED POL phase IV programme, compliance monitoring will focus mostly on the monitoring of inputs of loads of pollutants which could reach the marine environment directly or indirectly from point sources in administrative region(s) and at national level. Accordingly, MEDPOL in the biennium 2010-2011 will assess the level of reduction of pollution between 2003 and 2008 on the basis and produce a document related to the compliance monitoring. This work will facilitate and improve the assessment of loads from industrial points sources

The regional and national assessments of the status of the generation of data and information to assess Marine Pollution Indicators (MPIs), which were performed by regional and national experts, will continue in order to prepare "fact sheets" to be used by the countries. The secretariat will continue its efforts to harmonize the generation of data and information in order to have a consolidated, comprehensive and reliable set of indicators which would be used at a later stage to develop the DPSIR indicator-based State of Environment (SoE) report. To this aim, MED POL will continue to work closely with EEA, JRC and Blue Plan to harmonize activities and will provide technical and financial assistance to national institutions responsible for the monitoring programmes.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 10-11	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
	Assessment of the implementation of the Protocols				
Art. 12 of the Convention and art. 8 of LBS protocol	Assistance to countries for the formulation/ implementation of national monitoring programmes including health-related monitoring	National and regional databases	Contracting Parties in cooperation with MED POL	Number of NMPs and agreements signed; Amount of data generated	
SAP and MED POL IV	Assessment of reduction of inputs	Report	Contracting Parties with MED POL assistance	Reports finalized	EU EPER
Art 26 of the Convention	Testing of effectiveness indicators	Testing report on the relevance of each of the indicators	Contracting Parties with MED POL assistance	Testing report finalized	
MED POL IV	Assistance to countries for the formulation/ implementation of eutrophication and biomonitoring programmes	Data and reports on eutrophication and biomonitoring	Contracting Parties with MED POL assistance	Amount of data generated	
MED POL IV	Assistance for baseline surveys	Data and reports	Contracting Parties with MED POL assistance	Amount of data generated	IFREMER
MED POL IV	Development and/or updating of common monitoring and analytical methodologies	Updated monitoring and analytical methodologies document and website	MED POL in cooperation with IAEA	Number of published methodologies	IAEA
MED POL IV	Data Quality Assurance 1. Chemical contaminants 2. Biomonitoring 3).Eutrophication	Good quality data	MED POL with: 1. IAEA 2. Alessandria Univ., Italy 3. QUASIMEME	Results of intercalibration exercises	1. IAEA 2. DISAV 3. QUASIMEME

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 10-11</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Achievements/ Indicators</i>	<i>Related initiatives/ Partnerships</i>
	<i>Assessment of the implementation of the Protocols</i>				
- Recc.Contracting Parties Meeting, Catania 2003	Development of Marine Pollution Indicators (MPIs)	Strengthened capacity and capability of the Contracting Parties to assess MPIs	MED POL in cooperation with EEA, BP, MedStat and Contracting Parties	DPSIR Indicators-based assessment of the state of marine environment	EEA-BP

Sub-programme 3: Use of implementation tools

Specific GOAL

To build the capacity of national authorities for reporting, information gathering, transfer of technology, inspectorate systems and monitoring.

Objectives:

- 1- To make of MED POL Information system operational
- 2- To promote the transfer of technology
- 3- To implement PRTRs
- 4- To ensure proper implementation of monitoring
- 5- To assist countries to strengthen their inspectorate systems

As a result of the close cooperation between MED POL and INFO/RAC, it is expected that MED POL information system will be fully operational in 2010. It will comprise two modules: an intranet which would improve the communication between the MAP secretariat staff, the Contracting Parties and the stakeholders, and an online reporting system for trends and compliance monitoring.

Facilitating and enhancing the transfer of technology and know-how among Mediterranean Countries is an important tool to ensure the effective implementation of NAPs. In this context, MED POL will continue to cooperate with CP/RAC to implement specific activities related to the transfer of know how and clean technology.

PRTR is gaining more and more importance as an efficient tool for the sound management of industrial pollution and management of chemicals at global and regional levels. MED POL will continue to provide technical and financial assistance to Turkey to finalize the full size project, to Syria to expand the PRTR system to cover additional coastal environmental directorates and to Morocco to expand the Pilot project into full size project. As a result of a change in priorities leading ICS-UNIDO to interrupt its contribution to the implementation of the PRTR activities, MED POL undertook constructive contacts with ED –DG Environment and Italy to ensure a partial sponsorship to the implementation of its PRTR programme. Therefore the full implementation of the proposed programme is subject to the availability of funds and technical assistance from potential partners.

IAEA-MESL will continue to organize training courses related to the analysis of heavy metals and organics for monitoring. MED POL will conduct a survey in the countries to determine whether new or additional training courses are required, taking into consideration the implementation of the ecosystem approach by the Contracting Parties, as well as the need to ensure harmonisation with the EU Member States monitoring programmes to be developed in the framework of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Water Framework Directive.

National training courses on Wastewater Treatment Plants operation, management and reuse of the treated effluents will continue to be organized to serve as well as a contribution to mitigation of the climate change effects. Regarding the strengthening of inspectorate systems in the countries, the regular meeting of the network on compliance and enforcement will be held in 2011; it will highlight the specific needs of the countries to use the compliance and enforcement indicators and will suggest specific activities for the implementation of the indicators. Assistance for technical, institutional and organizational issues will continue to be

provided to countries upon request. As mentioned earlier, at the meeting of the Network to be held at the end of 2009, MED POL will review the possibility to extend its mandate to cover ports inspectors and include activities related to the control of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous waste.

The activities related to inspection systems, included in the GEF Strategic Partnership have been delayed due to late launching of the project, now expected in mid 2009. As a result, the following countries will benefit from the activities: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria and Turkey. The activities in each country are expected to last for one and a half years, while the whole project will last five years to cover all countries. It is expected that during 2009-2010, two countries will participate in the activities. The work will include the formulation of plans of action for permitting, compliance and inspection, the training of national inspectorates through workshops and the drafting of amended national legislation in relation to inspection systems. Therefore, an initial meeting to consider the existing legislation will be organized at national level, followed by a national workshop and at the end of the one and a half year period, a final meeting will be held with the aim to propose potential amendments to existing legislation.

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Achievements/ Indicators</i>	<i>Related initiatives/ Partnerships</i>
	<i>Use of implementation tools</i>				
LBS Art. 10	Organization and implementation of capacity building programmes - Training course on Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation, Management and reuse	Trained personnel	WHO/MED POL in cooperation with the Contracting Parties	Number of trained people	
MED POL IV	Training courses on the analysis of chemical contaminants	Trained personnel	MED POL in cooperation with IAEA	Number of trained people	
Art 15 of Barcelona Convention	Development of MED POL Information System 1) Development of DBs 2) Development of plotting and GIS modules	Intranet and online reporting system for MED POL	MED POL with cooperation of INFO/RAC and Contracting Parties	System operational	EMWIS (SEMIDE) EUWI-MED
LBS Art .5,9,10	Promotion of transfer of technology	Facilitating transfer of technology	-MED POL -Contracting Parties	Effective transfer of technology between Contracting Parties	CP/RAC

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Achievements/ Indicators</i>	<i>Related initiatives/ Partnerships</i>
	<i>Use of implementation tools</i>				
LBS Art 6	Strengthening of Inspectorate systems in all countries; capacity building programme 1. Meeting of network on compliance and enforcement 2. Assistance to countries upon request for strengthening the inspectorate systems 3. extend the mandate of the Med INEC to cover ports inspectors	1. Identification of problems and enhancement for implementing the compliance indicators 2. Technical, institutional, organizational and financial assistance upon request including capacity building	WHO/MED POL with assistance from the Contracting Parties	1. Finalization of compliance and enforcement indicators 2. Assistance provided to two countries	GEF SP

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Achievements/ Indicators</i>	<i>Related initiatives/ Partnerships</i>
	<i>Use of implementation tools</i>				
-11 th Contracting Parties Meeting	Launching of PRTR in all countries 1. Finalize PRTR full size project in Turkey 2. Launch PRTR full size project in Syria and Morocco Turkey 3) Follow up the operationally of PRTR project in Egypt.	Reporting and data bases established	MED POL in cooperation with and Contracting Parties	PRTR systems operational	EC (EPER) UNECE

Sub-programme 4: Physical alteration and destruction of habitat

Specific GOAL

To reduce the impact on the marine environment of litter and sea water desalination plants

Objectives

- 1- To prepare a targeted awareness campaign on impacts of desalination plants
- 2- To develop a regional action plan for litter management

The issue of marine litter in the region has two origins: inadequate coastal solid waste management (mostly in the southern and eastern countries) and lack of awareness of sea users such as beach-goers, tourists, maritime traffic, fishermen etc. In this framework, MED POL with the assistance of regional expert(s) and in coordination with UNEP RS launched in 2009 the process aiming at developing a regional Action Plan for litter management. A draft Strategy for the reduction of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean was prepared and it will be further refined during the biennium 2010-2011 and completed by a feasibility study including the costs of its implementation. The Strategy will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for consideration at their meeting in 2011.

The need for desalting seawater is becoming more and more pressing in the Mediterranean where water needs are constantly increasing. It is estimated that by the year 2010 water demands in the region will increase by 32% at least for the southern and eastern countries. Thus, since the desalination industry is steadily growing in the Mediterranean region, MED POL will continue to assist the relevant national authorities and stakeholders on issues related to the planning for desalination plants, siting, EIA and capacity building programme.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
	Physical alteration and destruction of habitats				
13 th Contracting Parties Meeting, LBS art. 5	Provide assistance to Mediterranean Countries	Consultancy mission	MED POL	Mission reports	-European Desalination Society (EDS) -SPA/RAC -NGOs -CP/RAC -PAP/RAC
11 th Contracting Parties Meeting, LBS art. 5	Development of a regional strategic action plan for litter management	Action Plan	MED POL with Contracting Parties	Regional and national programmes	UNEP RS GPA NGOs -SPA/RAC

Sub-programme 5: Public health

Specific GOAL

To assess and reduce sewage pollution reaching the Mediterranean and to improve the quality of bathing and shellfish-growing waters and reduce health risks from tourist establishments

Objectives

- 1- To assist countries in the better management and operation of municipal wastewater treatment plants and use of treated water.
- 2- To assist countries in the implementation of monitoring of bathing waters and shellfish-growing areas.

The Mediterranean and its coastal areas constitute the receiving body for a number of wastes generated on the coast and thus the main recreational amenity, provided by the sea for local populations as well as millions of tourists who visit the area annually, is seriously threatened. One of the overall objectives of MED POL Phase IV is the assessment of all point sources and loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean and the magnitude of the problems caused by the effects of contaminants on living and non-living resources, including human health, as well as on amenities and uses of the marine and coastal regions. Therefore, the draft guidelines on coastal bathing waters will be presented in their final form taking into consideration the results of the implementation of the pilot projects related to the preparation of bathing waters quality profiles with the view to be approved by the Contracting Parties in 2011. The Guidelines will also provide input to the preparation of a number of bathing waters profiles in countries willing to do so and according to the proposed methodology. The implementation of the Guidelines in their final form, including the profiles, will be discussed along with shellfish growing areas' activities in a consultation meeting to be held during the biennium. A blind intercalibration exercise will be organized during the biennium for health related monitoring activities. The methodology consists in analyzing prepared samples sent to the laboratories and in discussing the results in a meeting. The discussion will lead to the adoption of the proposed Guidelines.

The methodology for the preparation of action plans related to health risks in tourist establishments will be finalized, with the purpose of preparing appropriate guidelines for the hotel industry.

For the implementation of the Millennium development goal for sanitation and the work on river basin management, a list of wastewater treatment plants in cities with more than 2,000 inhabitants, discharging in rivers that flow in the Mediterranean, has been prepared. Taking into consideration that the assessments of the treatment plants in Mediterranean cities discharging directly or indirectly into the sea were prepared in the year 2000, an updating of the situation is necessary and will be made during the biennium along with the estimation of trends for the decade. As a further contribution to the climate change issue, a set of compliance indicators for the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants will be prepared, so as to safeguard the reuse of the treated effluents. In addition, a contingency planning will be developed, with the aim to provide guidance in extreme weather events, especially in flooding situations within the framework of adaptation to climate change. For the implementation of the guidelines on the reuse of treated wastewater, it is expected that at least three national training courses on the subject will be held, as already some countries have expressed their interest on the subject. The training material will be translated into several languages (as required) to satisfy the needs of the different courses.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
	Public health				
-LBS Art. 7 -MED POL IV	- Finalization and approval of Guidelines along with quality profiles on bathing waters - Preparation of bathing waters quality profiles	Sixty bathing waters quality profiles in eight countries	WHO/MED POL with the assistance of Contracting Parties	Number of beach profiles in eight countries	WHO
-BS Art. 7 -MED POL IV	1. Consultation meeting on guidelines including bathing waters quality profiles and shellfish growing waters activities 2. Distance Intercalibration exercise for bathing waters quality	Guidelines to be adopted on bathing waters quality and profiles	WHO/MED POL with Contracting Parties participation	Guidelines approved	
MED POL IV	Guidelines for environmental health risks in tourist establishments	Guidelines prepared	WHO/MED POL with the assistance of Contracting Parties	Guidelines agreed	WHO
-LBS, Art. 8 and Annex I - SAP	1) Updated assessment on Mediterranean wastewater treatment plants discharging into the sea 2) Development of compliance indicators of WWTP for water reuse 3) Contingency planning for WWTP in extreme weather events	1) Assessment prepared 2) Compliance indicators developed 3) Contingency plan prepared	WHO/MED POL with the assistance of Contracting Parties	1) Number of treatment plants assessed 2) Document on the implication of indicators 3) Document on guidance in extreme weather events	-WHO

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Achievements/ Indicators</i>	<i>Related initiatives/ Partnerships</i>
	<i>Public health</i>				
-SAP	1) Training courses on implementation of guidelines on wastewater reuse 2) Assistance to countries for the reuse of treated wastewaters upon request	1) Three national training courses to be organized 2) Technical, institutional, organisational & financial assistance provided	1) WHO/MED POL in collaboration and cooperation with Contracting Parties 2) WHO/MED POL on request of Contracting Parties	1) Number of experts trained in three countries 2) Assistance provided at least to two countries	

Sub-programme 6: *Institutional arrangements and cooperation including Stakeholder involvement and public outreach*

Specific GOALS

- 1- To better coordinate the MED POL activities with national authorities.
- 2- To achieve a wide and solid cooperation with all relevant international, regional and national actors to further improve the results of the MED POL Programme for the benefit of the countries
- 3- To facilitate the implementation of NAPs at national and local levels through stakeholder participation
- 4- To improve and widen the knowledge on MED POL activities and achievements

Objectives:

- 1- To maintain and strengthen cooperation with the scientific community
- 2- To maintain and improve cooperation with the relevant UN bodies and Convention Secretariats
- 3- To further cooperation and launch joint activities with RACs
- 4- To consolidate cooperation with EU and EEA
- 5- To ensure participation of NGOs in MED POL activities
- 6- To further cooperation with GEF, the World Bank, the EIB, FFEM and other relevant international and regional stakeholders
- 7- To maintain close cooperation with national authorities through meetings and contacts
- 8- To facilitate the involvement of national and regional stakeholders including the private sector in the implementation of NAPs
- 9- To establish a MED POL information system and implement the MAP strategy in relation to the MED POL activities

The ongoing work of the Mediterranean scientific community on marine pollution monitoring and assessment, such as CIESM and JRC and on operational monitoring and observation systems, such as MOON and MED GOOS, will be closely followed up and cooperation will be strengthened.

Cooperation will also continue with WHO participation on a full time basis, with IAEA and all other UN Agencies/Bodies carrying out work relevant to the various components of MED POL, with global and regional Convention Secretariats and International and Intergovernmental Organizations. In this context a joint workshop with ICES (OSPAR) and HELCOM will be organized in 2010 on biological effects monitoring with the aim of harmonizing methodologies.

Cooperation will also be strengthened with RACs on the basis of their respective competences and in the framework of the implementation of the ecosystem approach according to the adopted road map. Especially relevant for Phase IV of MED POL will be an efficient and concrete cooperation with the European Commission in view of the relevance of its initiatives such as the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Horizon 2020.

Close cooperation will be maintained with all the relevant regional actors in the field of reporting to facilitate the efforts of the countries with different reporting obligations. In this

connection, the successful work initiated with the European Environment Agency (EEA), in the framework of the signed joint work programme, will be continued and a formal protocol for the regular exchange of data will be proposed and discussed.

NGOs will continue to play a key role in critically participating in the planning and implementation of the MED POL activities. NGOs will be invited to attend as appropriate.

MED POL Meetings and specific partnerships will be established to facilitate the implementation of specific activities at the local level. A constructive role by NGOs is also expected in the long-term implementation of the NAPs, as they were successfully involved in the formulation of the NAPs in a large number of countries.

Contacts and operational links will be intensified with regional and international donors and banks, such as the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, since their involvement could facilitate the implementation of the NAPs by the countries. As in the past, long-term partnerships will be sought with GEF and FFEM for projects and initiatives that could promote the implementation of the MED POL activities.

As part of the process of preparation of regional plans/programmes, a Meeting of government-designated experts will be held to examine additional draft regional plans/programmes before their submission to Contracting Parties.

A number of meetings will be organized to facilitate coordination and improvement of the MED POL programme. Specifically, a meeting of MED POL Focal Points will be organized as well as a meeting to review the monitoring activities.

The MED POL database will be properly managed and data will be made available for regional assessments. The MED POL Information System will also facilitate the dissemination of information throughout the region.

Finally, MED POL will continue to assist Mediterranean scientists to participate in relevant training courses and meetings.

As stakeholders have been actively involved in the process of the preparation of NAPs, MED POL, in cooperation with Horizon 2020 initiative, GEF and WB as well as the appropriate NGOs, will provide assistance to the national authorities to organize meetings to inform the stakeholders about the status of the implementation of NAPs and promote the involvement of stakeholders in the follow up and evaluation process. In addition MED POL, in close cooperation with CP/RAC, will address the regional associations of industry and business such as ASCAME, EUROCHLOR and other relevant associations to promote the implementation of NAPs in their field of action. Specific partnerships will be established, as appropriate.

MED POL, in cooperation with INFO/RAC, will implement the MAP information strategy and a system to increase the visibility of MED POL. In addition MED POL will assist national authorities to prepare national websites on MED POL.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
	Cooperation and Institutional arrangements				
MED POL IV	Joint ICES (OSPAR)/MED POL/HELCOM workshop on biological effects	Harmonization of methods and data reporting	MED POL in cooperation with ICES	Harmonized methodologies	ICES WGBEC, HELCOM
MED POL IV	National MED POL Coordinators meeting	Decisions on MED POL programme	MED POL with the participation of NCs	Programme properly coordinated with national authorities	NGOs
LBS Protocol	Government-designated expert meeting on programmes and measures	Meeting held	MED POL with the participation of Contracting Parties	Programmes and measures identified	
MED POL IV	Meeting on monitoring activities	Recommendations for improvement of monitoring activities	MED POL with the participation of Contracting Parties	Implementation of monitoring activities improved	Mediterranean scientific institutions
LBS SAP	Facilitating the access to existing financial sources for the implementation of NAPs	Assistance provided to countries to ensure long-term financing of NAPs	MED POL in cooperation with Contracting Parties	NAPs financed	GEF SP
MED POL IV	Management of MED POL databases	Properly managed database	MED POL in cooperation with INFO/RAC	Data and information easily accessible	
MED POL IV	Assistance for training and fellowships	Participation of scientists in training courses and meetings	MED POL in cooperation with NCs	Trained and informed people	

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Achievements/ Indicators</i>	<i>Related initiatives/ Partnerships</i>
	<i>Public outreach and stakeholder involvement</i>				
MED POL IV	Preparation of National Websites on MED POL activities and achievements	Increasing the visibility of MED POL at national level	MED POL and Contracting Parties	Websites operational	INFO/RAC
MED POL IV	Organization of meetings at national level for stakeholders	Facilitating the implementation of NAPs	MED POL with Contracting Parties	Informed stakeholders	
MED POL IV	Implementation by MED POL of the relevant components of the MAP information system	- MED POL website - Increased visibility of MED POL	MED POL	More quotations of MED POL in national reports	INFO/RAC