

LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ABNJ Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.
ACCOBAMS Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area	CMPP - Moroccan Cleaner Production Center
Adriamed Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries management compatible with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea	COED Cost of Environmental Degradation
AECID Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation	COMJEST Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Sustainable Development
APR Annual Project Report	COMPSUD Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development
AQMOD Aquifer Systems Model	COP Conference of the Parties
ARM Annual Replication Meetings	COPEMED Cooperación Pesca Mediterráneo (Mediterranean Fish Cooperation; FAO)
ASCI Area of Special Conservation Interest (in Emerald Network)	CP/RAC Cleaner Production / Regional Activity Centre
AWC Arab Water Council	CTA Chief Technical Advisor
AWF African Water Facility	DDT Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane
AWP Annual Work Plan	DFID UK Department for International Development
BAT Best Available Technology	DIKTAS Dinaric Karst Aquifer System
BD Biodiversity	DIM Data and Information Management
BIOMEX EC Vth Framework Programme (FP5) Project "Assessment of Biomass Export from Marine Protected Areas and its impact on fisheries in the western Mediterranean Sea"	EAF Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (management)
BOD Biological Oxygen Demand	EastMed FAOs Eastern Mediterranean Area
CAMP Coastal Area Management Programme	EC European Commission
CapNet Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources Management	ECOMARE EU - DG XII - MAST-III Concerted Action "Ecological Effects of Protection in Mediterranean Marine Reserves"
CdL Conservatoire du Littoral	EEA European Environment Agency
CEDA Centre for Environment and Development in Africa	EEAA Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency.
CEDARE Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe	EGA Libyan Environmental General Authority
CEO Chief Executive Officer	EIA Environmental Impact Assessment
CETTEX Consortium of technical centers for textile	ELV Emission Limit Values
CB Capacity Building	EMWIS Euro-Mediterranean Water Information Systems
CBD Convention on Biological Diversity	ENPI European Neighbourhood Policy
CBO Community-based Organization	EQO Environmental Quality Objective
CD Compact Disc	EQS Environmental Quality Standard
CI Conservation International	ESI Environmental Status Indicator
CIDA Canadian International Development Agency	EST Environmentally Sound Technology
CIRCA Communication & Information Resource Centre Administrator	EU European Union
CIRCE Mediterranean Climate Variability and Predictability Project	EUCC European Union for Coastal Conservation
	EUWI EU Water Initiative
	FAO Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

FFEM Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial/ French Global Environment Facility (FGEF)
GDP Gross Domestic Product
GFCM General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GEF Global Environment Facility
GIS Geographic Information System
GPA Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
GTZ Deutsche Gessellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GWP-Med Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
IA Implementing Agency
IAH International Association of Hydrogeologists
IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
IC Information and Communication
ICA Internal Cooperation Agreement
ICAM Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICARM Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management
ICCAT International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
ICM Integrated Coastal Management
ICZM Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IF WB Investment Fund
IFI International Financial Institutions
IMELS Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
IMO International Maritime Organization
IMPAC International Marine Protected Areas Congress
INFO/RAC Environmental Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre
IOC Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRBM Integrated River Basin Management
ISPRA Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Istituto superiore per la protezione e la ricerca ambientale)
IUCN International Union for Nature Conservation
IW International Waters
IW-LEARN International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network
IWRM Integrated Water Resources Management

IW:Science Expanding the Scientific Basis for GEF International Waters Projects
LBS Land-based Sources
LOA Letter of Agreement
LME Large Marine Ecosystem
M&E Monitoring and Evaluation
MAP Mediterranean Action Plan
MBRC Marine Biology Research Centre of Tajura, Libya
MCS Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MCS Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
MDG Millennium Development Goals
MEA Mediterranean Environmental Award
MEDClivar Environmental and Societal Impacts of Climatic Change and Sea-Level rise in the Mediterranean Sea
MED EUWI Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative
MedFisis Fishery Statistics and Information System in the Mediterranean
MedMPA Regional Project for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region (SPA/RAC)
MEDPAN Mediterranean Protected Area Network
MEDPOL Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme
MedSudMed Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and Ecosystems for the application of EAF in the South-Central Mediterranean,
MED TEST Mediterranean Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology
MedWet The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
MeHSIP Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme
MENA Middle East and North African Region
MENBO Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations
METAP Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program
MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development
MOU Memorandum of Understanding
MPA Marine Protected Area
MSP Marine Spatial Planning
MSSD Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MTF Mediterranean Trust Fund
NAMCOW North Africa Ministers Council on Water (under the AMCOW)

NAP National Action Plan
NASA US National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NBB National Baseline Budget
NDA National Diagnostic Analysis
NEAP National Environment Action Plan
NFP National Focal Point
NGO Non-Governmental Organization
NIP National Implementation Plan
NMC Northern Mediterranean countries
NTA National Technical Advisor
NTRB Neretva and Trebisnjica River Basin
PAP/RAC Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PCA Project Cooperation Agreement
PCB Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PCU Project Coordination Unit
PDF-B Project Development Fund– Block B
PEGASO People for Ecosystem Based Governance on Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and Coast
PIF Partnership Investment Fund
PIR Project Implementation Review
PMU Program Management Unit
PoM Plan of Management
POPs Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRP Potential Replication Projects
PRT Project Replication Team
PTS Persistent Toxic Substances
RAC Regional Activity Center
RAED Arab Office for Environment and Development
RAP Replication Advisory Panel
RCU Regional Coordination Unit
RP Replicable Practices
SAP Strategic Action Programme
SAP-BIO Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity
SAP-MED Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities for the Mediterranean Sea
SC Steering Committee
SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEE Southeastern Europe
SEMC Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries
SGP Small Grants Program
SLM Sustainable Land Management
SMAP Short and Medium - Term Priority Environmental Action Programme
SPA Specially Protected Area
SPAMI Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Interest
SPA/RAC The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
SSA Standard Service Agreement
Sustainable MED Mediterranean Environmentally Sustainable Development Program
TA Technical Assistance
TBT Tributyltin
TDA Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
TOR Terms of Reference
TWAP Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme
UfM (or UpM in French) Union for the Mediterranean
UN United Nations
UNCLOS United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNECA United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/MAP United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan
UNEP UCC United Nations Environment Programme – Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment
UN ESCWA United Nations economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNESCO IHP United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Hydrological Programme
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USD United States Dollar
WB The World Bank
WDPA World Data Base on Protected Areas
WFD Water Framework Directive (of the European Union)
WHO World Health Organization
WRM Water Resources Management
WSS Water Supply and Sanitation
WSSD World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF World Wide Fund for Nature
WWF-MedPO World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF European Policy Programme, Rome
WWTP Waste Water Treatment Plant

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ANNEXES

Available as separate documents:

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 345/4	Draft Annexes of the Inception Report (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 345/5	Draft Work-Plan for the Regional Component of the MedPartnership and detailed 2010 Work-plan
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 345/6	Draft Budget Revisions for the Regional Component of the MedPartnership and detailed 2010 Work-Plan
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 345/7	Draft List of meetings of the Regional Component of the MedPartnership

NOTE:

The draft version was presented at the First Strategic Partnership (MedPartnership) Steering Committee (SPSC1) Meeting / Inception Workshop, 17-19 February 2010, Budva, Montenegro,(UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.345/3)

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OTHER DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THIS DOCUMENT (available upon request)

- Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP-MED)
- Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of biological diversity (SAP-BIO)
- Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea
- SAP-MED: NAP Synopsis for each country
- Guidelines for the preparation of national action plans to address marine pollution from land-based activities
- SAP-BIO National Reports
- SAP-BIO National Action Plans

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Scope and format of the Inception Phase

1. The Inception Phase is the first major, and critical, stage in the implementation of the MedPartnership (from now on this shortened name of the project will be used) project. It is generally recognised that in the projects of great complexity and magnitude, and MedPartnership certainly falls in this category, changes in circumstances between the time of project preparation, leading to the Project Document, then its approval and adoption by GEF Secretariat and, finally, start of the implementation (when Inception Phase takes place) are inevitable. This has been the case with this project, having in mind that considerable time (almost 4 years) has elapsed between the abovementioned steps in the project cycle. In addition, this time-lag has resulted in a certain lack of rigorous pre-project consultation with stakeholders in the region with regard to important overall project implementation considerations. The Inception Phase and the respective report provide, therefore, an important means of taking stock of these changes through reviewing the current prevailing conditions for achieving project objectives in comparison with the activities originally proposed. The Inception Phase is also significant for charting the new development efforts in the Mediterranean region (and quite a few have been initiated in the mentioned period), in which there are significant issues which must be addressed before the project implementation can proceed. These are the major reasons why MedPartnership's Inception Phase has taken somewhat more time than it was originally envisaged in the Project Document.

2. The Project Document does not specifically mention the objectives of the Inception Phase, and mentions only briefly the concrete activities to be undertaken during that period (the first Steering Committee/Inception Meeting; the preparation of the report of the meeting; the finalization of the Log frame, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan, including environmental status indicators, baseline data and the preparation of the Annual Work Plan (AWP); and finalisation of the Inception Report immediately after the meeting). However, having in mind the arguments presented in the previous paragraph, it was decided during the first MedPartnership Coordination Group meeting (September 2009) that an extensive and elaborate Inception Phase shall be carried out in order to deal with all the issues that have emerged in that lengthy period between the project preparation phase and the start of actual implementation. Some goals and objectives of the Inception Phase could only indirectly be inferred from the Project Document. While the overriding goal of the Inception Phase is to achieve familiarity of all stakeholders and project partners with the objectives, activities and deliverables of the project, the specific objectives could be stated as follows:

- ❖ To plan co-ordination of actions to be undertaken under the Regional Component (UNEP-MAP and co-executing agencies) and the Investment Fund, now Sustainable Med (World Bank);
- ❖ Project Management Unit (PMU) to take ownership of the project's goals and objectives and establish close working relationships with all co-executing agencies;
- ❖ To revise the overall work plan and budget;
- ❖ To finalize the project's first annual work plan and list of meetings and other events;
- ❖ To finalise Information and Communication Strategy, and to revise the Replication Strategy;
- ❖ To review the baseline data for the M&E indicators, and indicate where additional information may be required;
- ❖ To review and amend, if needed, the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNEP-MAP, the World Bank and the co-executing agencies of the project;

- ❖ To provide a detailed overview of UNEP reporting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements, with particular emphasis on the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) and related documentation, the Annual Project Report (APR), as well as mid-term and final evaluations;
 - ❖ To make all parties acquainted with their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms; and
 - ❖ To discuss again the Terms of Reference for project staff and decision-making structures, as needed, in order to clarify for all, each party's responsibilities during the project's implementation phase.
3. The outcomes of the Inception Phase are expected to be the following:
- ❖ PMU to be fully operational and integrated into the UNEP-MAP organisational structure;
 - ❖ Draft Inception Report prepared, discussed at the Steering Committee meeting, finalised soon after the meeting and distributed among regional stakeholders;
 - ❖ Discussions and consultations between programme partners at the regional and national levels undertaken;
 - ❖ Detailed overall programme document, including work plan and budget and a request for project extension, and programme for the first year of implementation for each MedPartnership component developed and adopted by the Steering Committee;
 - ❖ Agreements with project partners signed;
 - ❖ The implementation of a number of actions started.

Scope and format of the Inception Report

4. This Inception Report is the first integrated basic document of the MedPartnership project. The Report aims at facilitating integration among project's components and providing more detailed instructions for the implementation of the project. It is the major output of the Inception Phase of the project and it should be considered as a "stand-alone" document, which contains sufficient information to enable it to be read by a wider audience than are the project partners themselves. The goal of the MedPartnership Inception Report is to harmonize, interrelate and integrate actions to be implemented within individual Project activities. The Inception Report will be essential in guiding the project implementation process over the succeeding phases of activities. The information contained in the report and in the annexes is supposed to be a complement to the Project Document. The active participation by country representatives and other interested stakeholders in the Steering Committee Meeting/Inception Workshop, and the positive outputs from the succeeding phases of the project, are factors which confirm the commitment of all MedPartnership stakeholders to, and responsibility for, the continuing and successful implementation of the project.

5. The Project Document doesn't specify the objectives of the Inception Report, but it could be inferred that they should largely emerge from the objectives of the Inception Phase (presented above). However, to be more specific, it should be stated that the Inception Report aims to do the following:

- ❖ To provide an agreed statement of the overall work programme and budget, i.e. the revised overall and first year work plan and timetable of the activities to be implemented, and to incorporate any comments following the Inception Workshop;
- ❖ To develop, where necessary, the methodologies, tools and techniques to be applied;

- ❖ To draw a baseline with regards to the regional context and outline complementary issues which the project has to deal with in the following phases of its implementation;
 - ❖ To indicate risks and point to activities where increased efforts will have to be employed soon after the Inception Report will be adopted.
6. The Project Document states what the Inception Report will include, namely:
- ❖ Detailed First Year Work Plan divided in quarterly time-frames detailing the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the Project; Detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the Annual Work Plan;
 - ❖ Monitoring and evaluation requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12 months time-frame;
 - ❖ More detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions and feedback mechanisms of project related partners;
 - ❖ Progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities; and
 - ❖ Update on any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation, including any unforeseen or newly arisen constraints.
7. Anticipating the above as well as taking in consideration the necessary changes in the structure of the Inception Report, the resulting report's table of contents will reflect the following:
- ❖ In addition to the first year work plan and budget, very detailed overall work plan and budget have been developed. Each partner has revised its activities taking in consideration new project's timetable, and extension of the overall duration of the project. The overall and 2010 work plans and timetables, as well as the 2008-2010 list of meetings will be annexes to the Inception Report;
 - ❖ The budget has been broken down into annual budget and changes have been introduced, albeit without overall increase in the GEF contribution to the project. Detailed justification for any budgetary change will be provided by each partner;
 - ❖ Key annexes to the original Project Document were revised, including Terms of Reference (ToRs), M&E plan and Log-frame analysis and they will constitute an addendum to the Inception Report;
 - ❖ Information and Communication, and Replication Strategies will be presented in their revised form.

Inception Workshop

8. It has been envisaged in the Project Document that the first meeting of the MedPartnership Steering Committee doubles as the Inception Workshop. The following reasons have prompted project's Coordination Group to reconfirm that decision:
- ❖ The implementation of the project has been delayed, and the project partners needed some time to catch up during the inception phase. The first Coordination Group meeting in September 2009 had the objective of assisting partners to work out details of their tasks. Subsequently, the PMU carried out an elaborate participatory exercise among all project partners to prepare the draft of the Inception Report, which will be distributed among participants in advance of the meeting. Having that in mind, the Coordination Group agreed that separate Inception Workshop and Steering Committee meeting would only extend the duration of the Inception Phase:
 - ❖ In the absence of an early Inception Workshop, the objective of which would be to provide opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions and

responsibilities and to get acquainted with the specificities of the project, several inception workshops will be organized. Namely, partners within each component will organize at least one inception workshop soon after this meeting, with the aim of launching the activity together with the beneficiary countries; and

- ❖ Since the implementation of a number of the project's activities has already started, the joint meeting is an opportunity to present to members of the Steering Committee the results achieved already in early stages of the project. This will also be a chance to regain ownership of the project at the national level for the remaining period of its implementation, as well as to help create solid basis for a long term sustainability of the project.

9. The objectives of the Inception Workshop/First Steering Committee meeting have been as following:

- ❖ To ensure that all parties are familiar with the objectives of the project and the intended activities and deliverables necessary to achieve these objectives;
- ❖ To ensure that there is no priority areas or issues that are being excluded or overlooked that are essential to the project's implementation;
- ❖ To plan the co-ordination of actions to be undertaken under the Regional Component (UNEP-MAP and co-executing agencies) and the Investment Fund (World Bank);
- ❖ To present the roles, functions, responsibilities and support services of project stakeholders and project's National Focal Points, and of the co-executing agencies of the project;
- ❖ To discuss the Draft Inception Report and to assist the PMU to finalize preparation of the project's first annual work-plan on the basis of the project's log-frame matrix and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan. The resulting amendments to the work-plan and log-frame will be adopted by the Steering Committee and integrated in the final version of the Inception Report;
- ❖ To present, discuss, amend if needed, and adopt the projects overall work-plan and budget; and
- ❖ To update all parties on the progress of the Project so far during its Inception Phase.

Background and History of the Project

10. 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. Recognizing the need to protect the Mediterranean Sea, the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) with the financial support of GEF launched a project (between 2002 and 2006) resulting in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA-MED) for the Mediterranean Sea which identified the following major transboundary environmental concerns in relation to the basin:

- ❖ Decline of biodiversity due to over-fishing, conversion and degradation of critical habitats, introduction of alien species, pollution in the form of excess nutrients and toxic wastes, including oil, solid waste and litter, and the use of non-selective fishing gear;
- ❖ Decline in fisheries due to over-fishing, use of harmful fishing practices, loss of shallow-water habitats for some life stages of critical fish species, the adverse water quality of rivers and coastal aquifers, sewage discharge, dredging and releases from non-point sources;

- ❖ Decline in seawater quality due to inadequate sewage treatment, lack of application of best practice in the agriculture use of fertilizers and pesticides, inadequate controls on atmospheric emissions of heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants from European industrial sources, inadequate source and discharge control for industries bordering the sea, and increased shipping traffic in the Mediterranean causing increased accidental and deliberate releases of harmful contaminants;
- ❖ Human health risks due to the consumption of contaminated seafood, direct and indirect contact with seawater that is contaminated with pathogens and/or viral agents; and
- ❖ Loss of groundwater-dependent coastal ecosystems due to the contamination, salinization and over-exploitation of coastal aquifers.

11. The Mediterranean countries have worked together to set priorities related to these transboundary environmental concerns and have jointly agreed on the interventions needed to address these priorities in two Strategic Action Programs (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).

12. Following the completion of the two Strategic Action Programs (SAP-MED and SAP-BIO), the Mediterranean countries undertook to formulate National Action Plans (NAPs) using a participatory approach that included national and local authorities, the private sector and NGOs. These NAPs specify the priority actions to be undertaken at national level. The two SAPs and the NAPs are now beginning implementation. They comprise actions consistent with GEF priorities of the International Waters Focal Area and Biodiversity Focal Area. A third instrument, the ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, is currently under ratification.

13. The objective of the MedPartnership is to facilitate the implementation of the priorities identified in SAP-MED and SAP-BIO, and related NAPs. The costs of priority pollution remedial actions identified in SAP-MED over a 10 year period has been estimated at almost US\$ 10 billion. SAP-BIO identified 226 actions at national level and 30 actions at regional level for biodiversity protection with estimated costs of US\$ 100 million and US \$40 million respectively. Therefore it is clear that the MedPartnership with 51,397,700 USD total financing including cash and in-kind co-financing for the Regional project and the Investment fund can not fully implement all the priority actions identified.

14. Accordingly, the countries of the Mediterranean have agreed on a collective effort for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean - the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (now named "MedPartnership)- led by UNEP and the World Bank, co-funded by GEF and involving other relevant international cooperation Agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and bilateral and multilateral donors. This Partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of this damaged large marine ecosystem, its contributing freshwater basins, its habitats and coastal aquifers. It consists of two complementary components, the Regional Component: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas (outlined in the present document) and the Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership (submitted by the World Bank and already approved by the GEF Council in August 2006.).

15. For further details the full project document is available on the GEF web-site (<http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=2600>) and on the UNEP/MAP web-site (<http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?module=content2&catid=001024>).

2. STATUS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Progress report of Regional Project's components since April 2008

16. As mentioned above, this Inception Report is based upon the outcome of the MedPartnership's implementation since, roughly, mid 2008. Therefore, the presentation of activities carried so far covers the period well before the "official" start of the Inception Phase of the project, i.e. when the PMU became fully operational (August 2009) and when the first MedPartnership's Coordination Group Meeting took place (September 2009). Major feature of the activities undertaken in that period, which have largely centred upon MedPartnership team building and regional mobilization through the partner's intensive communication with stakeholders in GEF beneficiary countries, have been efforts to lift the project "off the ground" culminating in the first Steering Committee Meeting/Inception Workshop in Budva (Montenegro) in February 2010. The following sections provide a summary of each of these activities. The presentation of activities is grouped by the project's components and sub-components.

Component 1: Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer: coordination of activities, joint outputs

17. **Sub-component 1.1: Management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater** (executed by UNESCO/IHP). In 2007 UNESCO/IHP held pre-project presentation and coordination workshops with countries and partners in Croatia, Tunisia and in the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) Conference in Lisboa. Under the activity "Assessment of risk and uncertainty related to Mediterranean coastal aquifers" a case study in the Nador Lagoon (North-East Morocco) was initiated in close collaboration with the University of Venice. The study is aimed at assessing the quality of the groundwater discharging to the lagoon, identifying human impacts on the groundwater quality and examining the possible occurrence of submarine discharge of polluted groundwater into the marine environment. Activities undertaken until the end of 2009 include (i) exploration mission to Nador and identification of Moroccan Partners; (ii) field trip, evaluation mission and scoping meeting with partners and national authorities and (iii) first hydrogeochemical sampling campaign undertaken in November 2009 jointly by experts from Morocco and the University of Venice.

18. A case study related to coastal aquifer vulnerability mapping was started in the Ghar El Melh aquifer system, located in the northern part of the Gulf of Tunis (Tunisia). The objective of the study, implemented in partnership with the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea, is to evaluate the vulnerability of the aquifer system to salt water intrusion and pollution. Activities started in November 2007 with an evaluation mission and field trips to Ghar El Melh, followed by a scoping meeting with Tunisian authorities and case study partners. Several campaigns dedicated to field data collection were undertaken jointly by Tunisian Ministry of Water Resources and University of Torino in 2008 and 2009. In preparation of vulnerability mapping activities at the Adriatic coast of Croatia a workshop with relevant Croatian institutions and potential partners was held in Zagreb in June 2007. As an outcome of this meeting, the Novljanska Žrnovnica karstic spring, and the Pula coastal aquifer were identified as potential sites for the case study.

19. Under the activity: "Regional actions for Coastal Aquifer Management", activities were directed towards the elaboration of a coastal aquifer supplement to the Strategic Actions Programmes (SAP-MED and SAP-BIO) and the National Action Plans and identifying opportunities to link with the Strategic Partnership Investment Funds have been initiated in

two demonstration sites in Algeria and Montenegro. In the Ramsar protected coastal lake and wetland of Réghaïa in Algeria, a feasibility study on integrated wastewater management for wastewater reuse in agriculture was conducted in partnership with the Algerian Ministry for Water Resources, and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea. Activities undertaken to date include (i) data collection & analysis and development of a GIS, (ii) analysis of the wastewater management, and development of a mathematical model based on an integrated wastewater management approach; and (iii) assessment of the wastewater treatment options to enhance the current wastewater treatment plant. In Montenegro, the aquifers of the Bojana Bay have been investigated in partnership with Montenegrin Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Protection and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea. The demonstration is aimed at improving the knowledge of the groundwater discharge into the coastal currents in the Bojana Bay coastal area and is eventually directed to assessing of vulnerability of the coastal aquifers and to providing solutions for adoption by the municipalities. For this purpose a mathematical model, "Aquifer Systems Model" (AQMOD) for the monitoring and forecasting of groundwater flow has been developed and was presented to a number of Montenegrin authorities and institutions in November 2009. All activities outlined above have fully been funded through co-financing contributions from UNESCO-IHP and its partners. Furthermore, the co-financed activity on sustainable coastal water and land resources management has been planned, to provide a comprehensive coastal aquifers and land management study focused on a representative and critical coastal section with the Gabes Coastal aquifers in the southern coast of Tunisia. This will include assessment of the groundwater and related land resources, including socio-economic and related groundwater needs; the oases ecosystems and relationship with groundwater; and tools for integrated management of groundwater and related land resources.

20. Sub-component 1.2: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (executed by PAP/RAC). From September to December 2009 PAP/RAC and its contracted ICZM expert performed consultations with the national authorities in Montenegro and in Albania related to the ICZM Plan development. As a result, 2 ToRs have been prepared and 2 contracts have been signed and 2 initial reference documents drafted. These documents define project boundaries, key issues and activities, as well as recently implemented projects and activities in the relevant area.

21. On November 25-26, 2009 an inception meeting to initiate ICZM Plan for Reghaïa region, Algeria was held with the objective to set-up the team for the preparation of the ICZM Plan and to discuss necessary inputs, activities and the work-plan. GEF/PAP National Focal Point, PAP representative, PAP consultant and other representatives of the national counterpart attended the meeting. Outputs from the successfully concluded Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) Algeria have been prepared for use within the activity 1.2.2.1.

22. During 2009 an ICZM expert assisted PAP/RAC director in the assessment of on-going activities on regional and sub-regional projects, including LME. The result of this activity was an Assessment Report of on-going and preparatory activities on regional and sub-regional projects, including LME which provided inputs for the Inception report.

23. During 2009 a position paper on climate change in coastal zones of Mediterranean has been initiated. ToR for its preparation has been developed and the contract signed in order to select the most appropriate adaptation measures for the impacts of the climate change and sea level rise in the Mediterranean.

24. On January 15th 2010 meeting of the partners of the Component One (UNESCO-IHP, PAP/RAC and GWP-Med) was held in Paris. The need to strengthen the integration of the Groundwater/Aquifer Management and Water Resources management in the ICZM has been confirmed. Also, a need has been agreed to include climate change aspects during

preparation of the ICZM Plans. It was agreed to update activities in order to improve harmonization and integration among component 1 activities.

25. On February 11-12 a meeting to initiate transboundary Buna/Bojana ICZM Plan with Montenegrin responsible and experts was held in Podgorica with the objective to discuss and agree on the project area, possible activities, workplan and to visit the project area. Representatives of the national authorities expressed interest for involvement of the SPA/RAC and establishment of the MPA.

26. **Sub-component 1.3: Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)** executed by Global Water Partnership for the Mediterranean (GWP-Med). Within the activity "Contribution to the Development of the new Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean", a Water Expert Group (WEG) consisting of country representatives as formal partners and regional organizations and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) as observers was mandated by the Ministers to prepare the Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean (SWM) in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The process was launched in July 2009. Two WEG Meetings were organized with the agreement on the context, content, modalities and distribution of tasks. The SWM is expected to be agreed at the UfM Ministerial Conference on Water (April 2010, Barcelona). It is the first time that such a commonly agreed policy document on Water in the Mediterranean has been prepared and it is expected to guide enhanced regional and country action on the subjects addressed.

27. Activities under "Catalyze action and build capacity on national IWRM planning" are implemented in the policy framework of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) that is operationally linked with the MedPartnership. The following was achieved:

- ❖ In Lebanon, a review of the Lebanese 10-Year National Strategic Plan (2000-2009) was prepared, tackling the issues of water balance, water management, supply and sanitation, irrigation and capacity building and produced related recommendations. About 50 targeted Lebanese stakeholder organisations (Ministries, government bodies, utilities, civil society, donors) have been systematically informed and involved in the Dialogue activities.
- ❖ In Egypt, through the National Policy Dialogue on Water outputs included sustainable financing strategy for water supply and sanitation including analysis of alternative development scenarios, and a household affordability assessment regarding water tariffs. The analysis for both components focused in the Greater Cairo area. About 60 targeted Egyptian stakeholder organisations (Ministries, government bodies, utilities, civil society, donors) have been systematically informed and involved.
- ❖ In Tunisia, outputs include a Training Course on IWRM and a plan for follow up steps in 2010 and on. Activities are led by the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources, while GWP-Med and UNEP UCC/DHI provide technical support and coordination.
- ❖ In Palestine, outputs include scoping of water governance reform activities to be implemented in 2010 and on. Activities are led by the Palestinian Water Authorities with the technical support of GWP-Med.

28. In the framework of activity "Develop strategic vision and Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) plans in globally important river basins", focus was on launching a structured policy dialogue among countries and stakeholders for the sustainable management of the extended Drin River Basin that involves most of the countries of Western Balkans and a complex hydraulic system of tributaries, lakes and aquifers. Four meetings and capacity building workshops were organized in 2009 involving more than 50 key authorities and stakeholders in the process. Buna/Bojana for which activities will emerge from 2010 on is part of the extended Drin River Basin. Activities are implemented in the

framework of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process on transboundary water resources management in Southeastern Europe and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and are operationally linked with the MedPartnership.

Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: Implementation of SAP-MED

29. Sub component 2.1 Implementation of Policy reforms in Industrial sectors (executed by MEDPOL). The following activities have been implemented:

- ❖ 2.1.1 “Demonstration project on reduction of metal inputs through improved management of phosphogypsum”. The project is planned to be implemented in Lebanon. Until now, despite repeated insistence, no confirmation has yet been received from the host country about its preparedness to implement this activity. If Lebanon would not be able to host the activity it is proposed to contact Tunisia. Consultants are not selected.
- ❖ 2.1.2 “Demonstration project on Chromium, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and nutrients control in Tanneries”. This project is planned to be implemented in Turkey, which confirmed its preparedness to implement the activity in the area of Buyuk Basin or Cadiz Basin and nominated Mr. Omer Ozturk as coordinator. Consultants have not yet been selected.
- ❖ 2.1.3 “Demonstration project on recycling of used lubricating oils”. This project is planned to be implemented in Algeria. Ministry of Environment in Algeria informed MEDPOL about its readiness to implement this pilot project. An official letter will be sent soon. Consultants have not yet been selected.
- ❖ 2.1.4 “Demonstration project on recycling of lead batteries”. Syria has confirmed its preparedness to implement the activity and nominated Mr. Fuad Alok as the contact person. Consultants have not yet been selected.
- ❖ 2.1.5 “Assessment of the magnitude of riverine inputs of nutrients into the Mediterranean Sea”. This assessment will be implemented by a group of specialized consultants from University of Perpignan, France. The SSFA is under processing.
- ❖ 2.1.6 “Setting emission limit values (ELVs) for industrial effluents and the establishment of EQSs”. This activity is planned to be implemented making use of up-to-date modeling tools to prepare scenarios of the quality of marine water vis-a vis ELVs as variable in Izmir bay, Golf de Lion, Alexandria Bay, Tunis Bay, and Barcelona Bay for the following pollutants: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Mercury, and Hydrocarbons. MEDPOL is currently negotiating the ToRs with two consultants and two institutions.
- ❖ 2.1.7 “Strengthening the existing mechanism in the Mediterranean countries regarding environmental inspection systems”. During the meeting of the MEDPOL network on compliance and enforcement of regulations for the control of pollution resulting from land-based activities (Athens, 13-14 October 2009), it was agreed that Montenegro, and one country of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Lebanon and Morocco, would be the first countries to participate to the activities for the enhancement of the inspectorates. The first two countries will implement a demonstration project that would provide the example for other countries to follow. Albania, Syria, Turkey along with the remaining of the countries mentioned above will in their turn implement the activities with the frequency of three countries per year.

30. Sub-Component 2.2. Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (MED TEST), executed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). MED TEST activities started in August 2008 with the recruitment of the chief technical advisor and the undertaking of a number of preparation activities such as the review of the framework conditions and the stakeholders analysis in the three participating countries, which led to the

elaboration of the detailed TORs for national implementation. In December 2008 UNIDO launched a public tendering procedure according to UN rules and regulations for the selection of national contractors in each country to perform the activities as per detailed TORs. This procedure was finally completed in March 2009 with the selection and the contracting of the following organizations: CMPP - Moroccan Cleaner Production Center (Morocco); Consortium of technical centers for textile CETTEX, leather CNCC and agro-food CTAA sectors (Tunisia); Egyptian Cleaner Production Center (Egypt).

31. A regional training event was organized in Vienna in April 2009 with the aim to create a pool of 20 national experts from the national partners in the UNIDO TEST methodology, who could take part in the technical assistance activities at demonstration industries. National advisory boards were formed in each country comprising the key stakeholders such as ministry of Industry and of Environment, environmental agencies at both national and local level, industrial associations and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Within 2009 two advisory board meetings were held in each country in order to discuss project's progress and gain required support for project's activities.

32. Promotional material such as brochures, web summaries and press release were prepared in each country and distributed within marketing seminar and event targeting mostly industries and industrial parks in the project's areas (Alexandria governorate, Tangier and Tetouan provinces, and Tunis governorate). The project's website was created (<http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=7477>). MED TEST marketing to the industries required significant efforts aiming at stimulating the interest of the industry for their voluntary participation in the demonstration phase. As a result of the MED TEST marketing activities in each country, a total number of approximately 70 companies, which showed interest in the MED TEST project, were targeted for an initial site review to assess the potential for implementation. This activity was completed in October-November 2009 by the experts trained in the three countries. In parallel national training packages were designed to support each country in implementing TEST.

33. In December 2009 the companies were reviewed and ranked according to a set of criteria and a final list of 42 companies were recommended for final selection and participation in the project. It was agreed that the selected companies would have to sign a contract with the UNIDO local counterpart as an expression of commitment. This activity is ongoing and it is expected to be completed by February 2010. As soon as the contracts are signed, stage I of the project will be successfully completed and the demonstration activities (stage II) will start in each country. Stage II will focus on training and technical assistance for identification of optimal managerial and technical solutions to improve environmental and economical performance of the selected industries, with the ultimate objective to reduce their pollution to the Mediterranean sea.

34. **Sub-Component 2.3. Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries** (executed by MEDPOL and CP/RAC). The activities of this sub component are planned to be implemented jointly by MEDPOL, and CP/RAC in Albania, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Libya. All countries reconfirmed their preparedness to implement the pilot studies. Meanwhile, Croatia also expressed interest to join the activity in order to dispose 100 tons of oil and equipment contaminated by PCBs. Therefore, the possibility that Croatia be accepted as additional country should be explored. If this proposal will be accepted by the Steering Committee, the amount to be disposed by each country should be reduced while the total quantity (870 tons) will remain as indicator of achievement.

35. MEDPOL organized on 16 November 2009 an internal coordination meeting with MedPartnership's PMU and consultants to review the work plan, time table for

implementation and ToRs of MEDPOL activities. Consultants were selected. Standard Service Agreements (SSAs) are under preparation.

36. MEDPOL and CP/RAC organized a coordination meeting in Athens on 24 November 2009 to coordinate the overall activities of sub –component 2.3. As a result it was decided:

- ❖ To organize jointly kick off meetings in each country;
- ❖ Whenever possible to share same experts;
- ❖ On training issues it was decided that: MEDPOL would target out use of PCBs contaminated oils and equipment and CP/RAC will focus on those which are in use; MEDPOL would target the national team in order to train the trainers and CP/RAC would target much wider audience such as relevant public and private sectors, customs department, manufacturing companies using PCBs, NGOs and the media. MEDPOL would prepare a video on the process of the disposal to be used after the life span of the projects to train others groups by national trainers. CP/RAC will include training and awareness on “open application “of PCBs and alternatives;
- ❖ MEDPOL is currently negotiating with three experts for the implementation of the MEDPOL activities of sub component 2.3.

37. Activities 2.3.3 and 2.3.4., undertaken by CPRAC between April 2008 and the end of 2009 concentrated on the initial research on the subcomponents 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 including research on the available awareness materials of the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of PCBs equipment (websites, videos, brochures and other PCBs training materials in Mediterranean countries, as well as other awareness materials and useful PCB websites or that could be found in other countries, international organizations, private sector, etc.

Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs

38. **Sub-component 3.1: Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network**, executed by WWF European Policy Programme (WWF-MedPO) and The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). Activities executed by WWF-MedPO started in November 2008. Since then, the management effectiveness of MPAs has been strengthened and capacity to design new ones improved. This has been achieved through start of the Regional Capacity Building Programme and the implementation of five pilot projects, which feature existing MPAs or MPAs about to be created. The following pilot projects were selected in order to showcase practical solutions to the main problems affecting MPAs management in the south and east of the Mediterranean: Algeria (Development of a participatory Plan of Management -PoM- for the marine component of Taza National Park); Croatia (Development of a participatory PoMs for 5 existing MPAs: Brijuni, Kornati, Mljet, Lastovo, and Telascica); Libya (Identifying an ecologically representative system of MPAs along the Libyan coast); Tunisia (Establishment of the management unit of the MPA of Cap Serrat - Cap Négro); and Turkey (Development of a participatory PoM for the marine component of the Kas-Kekova Specially Protected Area (SPA).

39. The Project Coordination Unit of WWF-MedPO became fully operative with all project staff recruited (Project manager, Project Administrator, Programme officer, MPA officer and Communication Officer). All necessary Memoranda of Understanding and Contracts were signed with the local authorities. In all pilot projects except Libya, a Steering Committee has been established to assist the project implementation and ensure the political support to the field activities. The Committees include all relevant local and national authorities that have a direct or indirect role in the management of the selected MPAs. First activities have been conducted which include:

- ❖ Algeria: project staff set operative at the Taza National Park, preliminary studies started or finalized, including beach visitors survey for the carrying capacity study, seabirds, coastal vegetation, socioeconomic, and artisan fisheries assessments, GIS Training started and First shoots for the documentary on the Taza National Park;
- ❖ Croatia: project staff are operative, the first four Thematic Workshops on "Methodology and legal framework for management plans development"; "Site characterisation for Management Plans", "Stakeholders involvement" and "Management Planning" were all conducted and the relative chapters of the management plan were drafted by the 5 MPAs. Preliminary studies have been finalized;
- ❖ Turkey: project staff are operative as regards the Kas-Kekova MPA project, preliminary studies finalized including a biodiversity assessment in Kas, and awareness events with local population have been conducted; and
- ❖ Tunisia: the convention and contracts are signed with local partners and renovation works of the head office of Cap Serrat - Cap N gro MPA have been finalised.

40. In all pilot projects, except Libya, bi-lateral meetings and inception workshops/events with national authorities and local stakeholders were organized to present the projects' staff, objectives and planned activities. In Libya, a coordination meeting was organized in early 2009 with The Libyan Environmental General Authority (EGA), Marine Biology Research Centre of Tajura, Libya (MBRC), UNEP-MAP SPA/RAC, International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN-Med) and United Nations Development Programme, UNDP-Libya to develop a joint 4-year work plan for the identification of a system of MPAs along the Libyan coast.

41. As part of the Capacity Building (CB) Programme which aims at strengthening the capacity on MPA management, monitoring, and evaluation of the MPA managers, lead staff, key constituents, practitioners and officials of relevant authorities/administrations of the countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean, the following was accomplished:

- ❖ The Mentor Programme was launched in February 2009. Mentors assisted the Project's staff in running the CB Need Assessment at country level. Capacity Building Programme Planning Workshop held on 21-23 April 2009. It aimed to develop the main outline of the Project's CB Programme and to train the Mentors in CB programme planning. Mentors training on "Interactive, Participatory Techniques" was held in Tabarka, Tunisia, on 11-12 November, 2009.
- ❖ The 1st Regional Training Workshop was held in Tabarka, Tunisia on 13-23 November, 2009, with 42 MPA managers and practitioners trained on MPA management planning and committed to Implementation Agreements.

42. The implementation of activities requires the involvement of experts on MPAs. Experts were engaged in the training activities and in the support in the field provided to target groups. Main achievements for 2008-2009 include: the development of an online experts' database including a classified list of national, regional and international experts on MPA related issues. The database will be operational in the beginning of 2010; 27 consultants or researchers and 13 MPA officers have joined the initiative and sent information about their expert profile. The Advisory Group (AG) of the Project was established in September 2009. The AG aims to provide advice and guidance to the Project's staff on scientific, technical and governance aspects related to the implementation of the Pilot Projects and the CB Programme. Nine experts with different background on marine resource conservation, MPA management and governance, socioeconomic, and social networks have joined the AG.

43. MedPAN is the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. In late 2008, the MedPAN network was officially institutionalized as a stand alone association under the French law. The purpose of the MedPAN Association is to promote the creation,

perpetuation and operation of a Mediterranean ecological network of marine protected areas. The Communication Officer was recruited in 2009 and she will serve all the communication needs of both MedPAN Association and MedPAN South Project. WWF-MedPO, representing the MedPartnership project, joined the MedPAN association as a partner and attended the General Assembly on December 4-5, 2009.

44. Within the implementation of the same sub-component, SPA/RAC has carried out the following actions:

- ❖ Rapid assessment survey of coastal habitats of Montenegro: this activity focused on achieving data for a preliminary assessment of the main aspects in support to the definition of specific protection/ management/ measures for the main important areas in Montenegro coast (19-28 July 2008) :
- ❖ Organisation of a three - phase Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Management Plan Preparation & Implementation training (1-4 March 2009; 28 April-2 May 2009 and 7-12 October 2009): this training aimed at improving the individual skills and capacities of Syrian national experts working in the field of MPAs regarding the elaboration and implementation of management plans;
- ❖ Coordination Meeting on the project pilot activities in Libya (February 2009): this meeting held at EGA premises (Tripoli) between the Libyan authorities (EGA and MBRC) and SPA/RAC, WWF and IUCN permitted to define the activities for the future development of a MPAs network on the basis of a common work programme;
- ❖ Organization of the first regional training workshop on MPA management planning (12-24 November 2009): The workshop, held at Tabarka (Tunisia), in close collaboration with WWF-MedPO, allowed providing 40 participants from 12 different Mediterranean countries with a basic planning framework that covers the essential elements of any MPA planning process.

45. As far as the revision of its project activities is concerned, SPA/RAC participated in the meeting at UNEP-MAP (10-11 December 2009) to discuss most of the project issues including budget revision/first years budget and work-plan, revised monitoring plan, co-financing reporting, and any needed adjustment to the activities. Furthermore, the process of the personnel selection for the project engagement was launched on September 2009.

46. **Sub-component 3.2: Promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources through the application of ecosystem-based management approaches**, executed by Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO carried out several activities meant to ensure that the project would have the right impact, and secure to be implemented with minimal delays and that it would make the best use of the available human and financial means, avoiding duplication of work and creating the maximum of synergies. The first of these activities was to adjust the original work programme, to ensure that all activities were organised in a way to maximise the synergies with other FAO activities, and that they corresponded to the most recent thinking on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). Second, FAO organised several meetings with the responsables from the regional projects to divulge the activities planned under the MedPartnership, and ensure their support to the latter. This also included participating in several General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) organised meetings, and presenting the main lines of work planned under the FAO component of the MedPartnership, discussing them with representatives from the member countries. Finally, FAO presented the planned project activities to the representatives from the fisheries institutions of the countries directly targeted by the FAO component of the project (Croatia, Montenegro, Morocco, Turkey and Tunisia) at side meetings organized during the 12th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the GFCM, and agreed on the contact points in each country for this component.

Component 4: Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E

47. **Sub-Component 4.1 Project Co-ordination, Management and M&E** is executed by UNEP/MAP, MIO-ESCDE, the WB and MEDPOL. This sub-component is managed by several partners, but largely overseen by the PMU. The PMU staff recruitment process started in the second half of 2008 with the vacancy announcements for three posts. The process was completed on 1 August 2009, following a thorough UNEP/DEPI led procedure (Marine and Coastal Expert assumed the post in May 2009, Administrative Assistant in June 2009, and the Project Manager in early August 2009). However, the PMU started its activities already with the recruitment of the first staff member, who concentrated on the preparation of legal agreements with partners.

48. The first major task of PMU was to organize the First Coordination Group Meeting, which took place in Athens on 16-18 September 2009. All the partners as well as some observers attended the meeting, with a total of around 40 participants. The meeting has proven to be highly needed event because it has been the first time that all the MedPartnership components have met. They have used the opportunity to present their programmes, problems and constraints, as well as progress report on the hitherto implementation of their activities. The meeting was concluded with following major recommendations (the meeting report has been sent to all partners, as well as posted on the project's web site):

- ❖ Inception phase of the project is a time to review outputs, rather than outcomes of the project and a time to link with partners and national experts and see if there are any changes to demonstration projects that the Steering Committee will need to approve; Legal agreements with partners should be completed as soon as possible;
- ❖ Currently the project ends on 31 August 2013 and if an extension is required, partners should agree on this and bring it to the attention of the Steering Committee for their approval;
- ❖ Communications within the project, given the number of countries and partners, would be critical to the success of the project. The PMU should facilitate process, and although some of the partners have plans for their own web-sites and communication activities, that this should be harmonized during the inception phase of the project;
- ❖ In terms of the relationship between MedPartnership *Regional Project, Investment Fund* and the new programme "Sustainable Med", it is therefore essential that a 1-2 page overview on the coordination between these is drafted for countries;
- ❖ First Steering Committee/Inception meeting should take place in early 2010. PMU would communicate instructions to all partners for their contributions to the report, which would reach PMU by 30 November 2009 at the latest;
- ❖ With regards to the establishment of environment status indicators and long-term monitoring of the Mediterranean, partners were requested to volunteer for the establishment of a working group to elaborate this concept from the perspective of pollution and biodiversity conservation;
- ❖ Regarding the project extension it was concluded that a one year project extension would be a realistic request, but this would be confirmed as partners finalized their detailed work programmes.

49. The preparation for the Inception Workshop/First Steering Committee Meeting (the date was fixed for 17-19 February 2010) started when the contact was established with the Government of Montenegro in early July 2009. The decision to offer hosting the meeting to Montenegro was the result of a policy that all Steering Committee meetings will be held in one of the GEF beneficiary countries of the region, in order to increase the visibility of the

project across the region and help countries to gain ownership of the project. The Montenegro representatives graciously accepted the offer to host the meeting and to provide considerable financial support to its organization. The following was accomplished:

- ❖ Meetings with the Montenegro representatives took place during two missions to Montenegro, the first one in mid October 2009, on the occasion of the Regional Climate Change Conference in Budva, and the second one in December 2009 when logistical details of the meeting were defined;
- ❖ The Host Country Agreement between UNEP-MAP and the Government of Montenegro was signed in January 2010;
- ❖ The PMU received assistance for a secretarial support from MEDPOL. However this has raised the need for a more permanent solution of secretarial assistance to the PMU;
- ❖ The constant communication was kept with the relevant Ministry of Montenegro regarding the visa issuance to the meeting's participants;

50. PMU has established very close contacts with all the project partners. In addition to almost daily communication via internet and other means, a number of missions have taken place to the partner's offices, or they have visited Athens (PAP/RAC, GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE, CP/RAC, SPA/RAC, WWF MedPO, INFO/RAC). This has served the dual purpose:

- ❖ An efficient model of collaboration and communication among partners was established, and it would be followed and further developed throughout the implementation of the project; and
- ❖ The preparation of the Inception Report has proven to be a real participatory and iterative exercise where project partners have had the opportunity to utilize their full productive potential, while PMU has become really integrated in the implementation of the project's activities. This approach will be further followed and refined in the project's implementation.

51. Two partners deserved special attention during the Inception Phase, because of the changes that took place in the period between the Project Document approval and the start of the implementation of the project:

- ❖ The World Bank: Investment Fund was, initially the second arm of the MedPartnership. Recently, it was replaced by the new WB's initiative in the region – the Sustainable Med (details explained below in this report). This has required more close collaboration with the WB. It took place on a number of occasions, and in particular on 9 November 2009, when a meeting between WB and PMU took place in Marseille. A number of issues were discussed and the results of that meeting are reflected throughout this report.
- ❖ The INFO/RAC: A change of Italian organization exercising this function took place on 1 January 2010. The Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) has been appointed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) to perform the functions of INFO/RAC, replacing INFO/RAC-MAP Spa, formerly managed by the Sicilian Region. Several meetings took place in ISPRA premises in Rome (November 2009, January 2010). All were aimed at development of the Information and Communications Strategy and a revision of the Replication Strategy.

52. Legal agreements with most of the partners have been finalized and signed, and are in force. Two agreements are still outstanding: with FAO, negotiations are still in course because of different interpretations of some articles of the agreement; with INFO/RAC, because of the known institutional issues, the agreement could not be developed before 1 January 2010; it is now in preparation and it will be completed and signed soon. For details see relevant section of the Inception Report.

53. The preparation of the Inception Report was one of the major tasks of PMU during the Inception Phase. PMU established channels of communications with all the partners, and it has been deeply involved in the preparation of their outputs. This is the approach that will be followed for the remaining period of the project implementation. The role of PMU was not simply to integrate partners' outputs, but to check and cross-check all the outputs employing, thus, its own system of quality control. In the next phase of the project implementation PMU will aim to establish, together with partners, an efficient quality control system in order to reduce time needed to do it. Another issue that has drawn increased attention of PMU during the Inception Phase was the need to coordinate objectives and outcomes within the particular component, and a project as a whole. To this respect, several harmonization meeting took place: in mid November 2009 for Component Two in Athens (MEDPOL and CP/RAC), and in mid January 2010 in Paris for Component One (UNESCO-IHP, PAP/RAC and GWP-Med). Similar meetings will become a regular fixture in the forthcoming periods. The first one planned in the near future is an expert meeting in April 2010 to discuss and propose convergence of the objectives, results and outcomes for a project as a whole. The objective will be to create a strong message that the project has to present with regards to its final outputs.

54. The MedPartnership project was presented at several events during the Inception Phase. At the Horizon 2020 Steering Committee meeting in Dubrovnik in October 2009, the Project Manager presented the projects and discussed the synergies with the Horizon 2020, in particular with its two components: the Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP) and Capacity Building. The project representative was present at the GEF IW5 biannual Conference in Cairns, Australia. This was an opportunity to exchange experiences with other similar projects. The next IW conference will be held in the Mediterranean in 2011, and MedPartnership is a co-organiser, together with GWP-Med.

55. PMU was involved in the finalisation of the "Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" project, which ensure the issue of climate variability is addressed within the MedPartnership. The project has been approved by GEF and is about to start its preparation phase in close collaboration with the PMU of the MedPartnership.

56. The WB is assisting UNEP/MAP in the coordination of the MedPartnership, specifically for enhancing of the replication within the Mediterranean basin of WB demonstrations and of pilots conducted as part of the Regional Component; improving of the mobilization of resources for the implementation of SP recommended activities and SAP targets and coordinating with other donors and agencies; facilitating systematic linkages with activities and programs of other donors and agencies aimed at avoiding overlaps; and at capturing opportunities for synergies on the ground. In addition to these three main activities, the WB will ensure their effective participation of the WB to the coordination mechanisms foreseen by the MedPartnership, and the harmonization in the development and updating of the World Bank Investment Fund and sub-project websites, and support the development and dissemination of brochures and other media tools.

57. WB staff and consultants have contributed to the following SP activities in 2009:

- ❖ First Mediterranean MedPartnership Coordination Group Meeting, Athens, 16-18 September 2009;
- ❖ Sustainable Med and MedPartnership Coordination meeting, November 9, 2009, Mediterranean Center for Mediterranean Integration, Marseilles;
- ❖ A Coordination Meeting on Replication and Communication for the MedPartnership, November 13, 2009, ISPRA, Rome, and a meeting INFO/RAC (ISPRA) - PMU, January 11-12, 2010, ISPRA, Rome.

58. MIO-ECSDE responsible for the execution of the MedPartnership NGO involvement in the region carried out a number of activities to facilitate NGO and CBO participation. Regarding information dissemination/visibility: regular announcements about project developments have been sent by e-mail circulars, newsletters and bulletins (electronic and hard versions) to the wider network (NGOs and other stakeholders in the region) MIO-ECSDE supports (beyond its 105 Member organizations); Issue 57 (2/2009) of the quarterly newsletter Sustainable Mediterranean summarized the major capacity building initiatives that MIO-ECSDE has undertaken jointly with other stakeholders active in the region on transboundary water resources management in South Eastern Europe. A description of the MedPartnership as one of the major processes in the region was presented therein; The Mediterranean Arabic version of the UNESCO/UNEP "Youthxchange" guide on sustainable consumption is in its early stages of development, where the MedPartnership will be described and the link to the project's site will be included. CP RAC also collaborates in this endeavour. The Proceedings of the "Regional Conference on Urban Waste Management in the Mediterranean: Strengthening Capacities in Consensus-building and Reaching Sustainable Solutions" that was organized by MIO-ECSDE in December 2008 has just been published with clear reference to the MedPartnership in the preface.

59. In terms of networking, a Mediterranean-wide mailing list of NGOs and other stakeholders is under development and expected to be in an advanced stage by the end of February – beginning of March 2010. This will be linked to the MedPartnership's NGO web page which is also under development. A European Seas Environmental Cooperation (ESEC) meeting is being planned for May 2010 (cooperation between the NGO networks which work for the protection of the marine environment in Europe's regional sea basins: the Baltic, Black and Mediterranean Seas and the North-East Atlantic Ocean, namely Seas At Risk, the Black Sea NGO Network, Coalition Clean Baltic, and MIO-ECSDE). The MedPartnership will be presented there. As concerns the expected support to the components in implementing the related methodologies and guidelines in the "NGO Involvement Plan", the latter is being reviewed in order to be upgraded and made coherent with the revised activities of the project.

60. Activities for the enhanced role of NGOs and Community-based organizations (CBOs) in a number of meetings, events, workshops have been organized. Targeted Capacity Building Workshops on transboundary water resources management in South-eastern Europe were organised in 2008 to enhance the practical capacity of key stakeholders on priority issues of integrated management of shared water bodies, hence assisting in advancing practical application in Southeastern Europe (SEE) (see Project and Complementary list of meetings). A Civil Society Dialogue and the 7th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) and the Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development (COMJESD) were organised back-to-back (Cairo, 1 November 2009) jointly with GWP-Med and Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) and provided a platform for a coordinated input of civil society actors (Parliamentarians, NGOs, media etc) in current processes of high importance for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region, in view of COP 15. In the opening of the meetings particular mention was made to the UNEP-MAP MedPartnership. Through these Circles MIO-ECSDE will keep Members of the Parliaments and journalists of the Mediterranean countries informed about the project and also to facilitate their involvement, whenever this is possible.

61. MIO-ECSDE was one of the co-organisers of the first meeting of the "Drin Core Group" which was organized on 1 December 2009, in Podgorica, Montenegro with the support and collaboration of the: UNECE, GWP-Med and the Government of Montenegro. MIO-ECSDE's role is to support the Drin Dialogue process by contributing to the establishment of a common understanding and shared vision and enhancing the ability and capacity of NGOs to act in such transboundary initiatives in a constructive way. In the frame of its new role in the Drin Core Group, MIO-ECSDE will make the links with the

MedPartnership as well as other important regional programmes it participates in as a catalyst in mobilizing and involving the civil society in the beneficiary countries of South-eastern Europe (e.g. the Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020).

62. Sub-Component 4.2 Information and Communication Strategy and Sub-Component 4.3. Replication Strategy.

63. During the Inception Phase of the MedPartnership Project, ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale) has been appointed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) to perform the functions of INFO/RAC, starting from January 2010. ISPRA has been established on August 2008 as a result of merging of three former Institutions: the Italian Environment Protection and Technical Services Agency (APAT), the Central Institute for Scientific and Technological Research applied to the Sea (ICRAM) and the National Institute for Wildlife (INFS).

64. As an observer, ISPRA has been invited to participate in the First Coordination Group Meeting, which took place in Athens on 16-18 September 2009. During the meeting, ISPRA Representative informed that during 2009 ISPRA prepared the INFO/RAC future mandate, the contribution to the five year Strategic Plan and the 2010-2011 Work Plan and related budget, which also includes all implementation activities to be carried out by INFO/RAC.

65. Since the First Coordination Group Meeting, ISPRA participated in the implementation of the project; during a teleconference between ISPRA and the UNEP/MAP PMU (15 October 2009), short term communication initiatives were agreed and planned until the end of 2009.

66. Agreement was reached on the following activities, as requested by the PMU:

- ❖ Presentation for side event during COP 16: realization of a video of the project, presented in Marrakech (3-5 November 2009);
- ❖ Drafting of the new Information and Communication strategy;
- ❖ Purchasing of the domain name and set up of the MedPartnership web-site; and
- ❖ Revised work-plan, budget and procurement plan.

67. A delegation of ISPRA, appointed by IMELS, attended the COP 16 in Marrakech where the GEF SP-LME launch video was presented in a side event. Subsequently, a coordination meeting on Information, Communication and Replication strategies was held at ISPRA premises (Rome, 13 November 2009), among PMU, WB and ISPRA experts. During the meeting, the Communications and Replication components were further developed for the preparation of the Inception Report. Basis was laid down for future coordination activities between INFO/RAC and WB on such matters. It was agreed to revise the Replication Strategy for the 1st Steering Committee Meeting and to start working on the guidelines for the harmonization and corporate image/brand management and the elements of the revised Information and Communication Strategy.

68. An INFO/RAC (ISPRA) – PMU – WB meeting was held at ISPRA premises (Rome, 11-12 January 2010) to discuss INFO/RAC inputs to the Inception Report (overall work-plan, meetings list, revised Replication Strategy, proposed Information and Communication Plan and I&C Platform of the Medpartnership website). A meeting was held with WWF in Rome, on 4th February 2010, to define the methodology of collaboration for the preparation of communication material to be used during the celebration of International Year of Biodiversity.

Progress report of Investment Fund Projects since April 2008

69. **Investment Fund.** The first tranche of the Investment Fund (IF) in the amount of \$25M was approved by GEF in two installments in 2006 and 2007. The IF projects aim to result in the reduction of transboundary pollution and the conservation of biodiversity in priority hotspots and sensitive areas of the Mediterranean Sea identified through the TDA-SAP process. The IF is also designed to support replication of investments, inclusion of SAP priorities within World Bank country dialogues and promotion of knowledge-sharing and cross-fertilization of project achievements among partners. Projects must conform to key eligibility criteria, including addressing priorities identified by the TDA and the two SAPs, responding to the priorities identified in the National Action Plan (NAP), adequate co-financing, use of innovative methodologies or approaches, demonstrable impact, high potential for replication, and commitment to appropriate policy, legal and institutional reforms. Also, the requesting country must be current on contributions to the Barcelona Convention.

70. Four investment projects were identified for support from the first IF tranche (see Table 1 below):

- ❖ Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina “Neretva and Trebisnjica Management Project”, was approved by the WB Board in May 2008 and became effective in March 2009. The project aims to provide mechanisms for efficient and equitable water allocation amongst the users of the Neretva and Trebisnjica river basin (NTRB) at the transboundary level, and for enhancing the basin ecosystems and biodiversity through improved water resources management.
- ❖ “Croatia Coastal Cities Pollution Control 2 (APL)” project was approved by the World Bank in December 2008 and became effective in June 2009. The project aims to reduce organic pollution and nutrient emissions from point sources in selected Croatian towns located directly at the coast or near it. This requires new construction of waste water treatment plants (WWTPs) designed for the removal of both organics and nutrients. Two sites of the Project, Opuzen and Metkovic, will complement the ongoing GEF Neretva and Trebisnjica Management project which is focusing, amongst others, on the wastewater discharges from several municipalities in Bosnia & Herzegovina. The project will focus on the Croatian portion of the Delta. The net result will be improved environmental conditions in the Neretva Delta. The different technologies applied include the use of activated sludge, constructed wetlands, extended aeration, membrane bio-reactors and trickling filters.
- ❖ Egypt “Alexandria Coastal Zone Management Project” has been negotiated and sent for GEF Chief Executive officer (CEO) endorsement in late January 2010. The planned main activities include development of a Coastal Zone Management Plan; the implementation of pilot scale pollution reduction measures to contribute to reducing the pollution load to Lake Mariout; and the increase in the capacity of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency’s (EEAA’s) Regional Branch Office (RBO) in Alexandria to monitor and manage the pollution in Lake Mariout.
- ❖ Tunisia “Land and Water Optimization Project” is under preparation at appraisal stage. The project aims at reducing, through optimizing the use of Tunisia's water resources, land-based sources of pollution discharging into the Mediterranean Sea, as well as reducing land degradation and climate vulnerability of key productive sectors in arid agricultural lands.

71. **Sustainable MED.** The second tranche of the Investment Fund entitled Mediterranean Environmentally Sustainable Development Program (Sustainable MED) was approved by the GEF Council in June 2008 with a defined pipeline of investment and regional capacity building projects. While the Sustainable MED program serves as a tranche of the Investment Fund of the MedPartnership (with the exception of the “Sustainable MED Governance and Knowledge Center”, which is not included in the MedPartnership as can be seen also in

Figure 1), its goal further emphasizes the need to integrate environment within the economic development agenda of Mediterranean countries, to promote environmentally sound development and to improve livelihoods in communities. While the long-term goal of Sustainable MED is quite expansive, the initial focus is on International Waters related issues. Therefore, in this initial phase the Sustainable MED objective is to "enhance and accelerate the implementation of transboundary pollution reduction, improved water resources management, and biodiversity conservation measures in priority hotspots and sensitive areas of selected countries of the Mediterranean basin that would help achieve the Strategic Action Plans' (SAP MED and SAP BIO) targets".

72. Sustainable MED as the second tranche of the SP IF will support national investment projects selected in accordance with the IF criteria. In addition, Sustainable MED is designed to contribute to an enhanced regional Mediterranean governance structure for sustainable development and water resources management, and to support related capacity building and knowledge management activities to be coordinated by the WB Marseilles Center. Three investment projects and two regional capacity building projects have been approved by the GEF Council and are under preparation. A further four projects (two investment and two regional capacity building) will be submitted on a rolling basis for pipeline entry in 2010. These projects predominantly focus on water and coastal zone management, adaptation to climate change and pollution reduction in the Middle East and North African region (MENA).

73. Investment Fund's 2nd Tranche (Sustainable MED) approved by GEF Council for Pipeline Entry in June 2009 are described below (see also Table 1 below):

- ❖ Tunisia "Greater Tunis Treated Wastewater Reuse Project" The project aims at transferring up to 100 million cubic meters a year of treated wastewater from Greater Tunis to water-scarce areas in the South, where it could be re-use in agriculture and groundwater recharge on the surface of over 25,000 hectares. Wastewater re-use may yield important economic and environmental benefits.
- ❖ Egypt "Improvement of Water Resources Management"
- ❖ Syria "Coastal and Orontes River Basins Water Resources Management"
- ❖ "Regional Coordination on Improved Water Resources Management and Capacity Building" (TA) This project aims to assist water managers in countries around the southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea to better understand local and regional water availability and consumption trends using consistent measures such as cross-country, quantitatively representative data. This understanding will enable decision-makers to improve management of water resources, land and vegetation, as well as better address water scarcity, droughts, floods and the uncertainties associated with climate change. In collaboration with the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and regional and local research organizations, the project will enable Arab Mediterranean countries to benefit from the latest remote sensing and satellite mapping technology to reduce environmental degradation and better manage scarce water resources.
- ❖ Regional "Sustainable MED Governance and Knowledge Center". This project aims to strengthen governance and institutional capacity for management of freshwater, coastal and marine resources at the regional Mediterranean level and at the country levels. This will include: (i) the initiation of a governance structure consisting of a "Higher Council for Environment and Sustainable Development" for renewed and coordinated assistance; and (ii) the initiation of a "Know-MED Center" which will allow for a targeted approach to knowledge generation, capacity building, informed decision making, and overarching technical assistance for new investments; with a focus on sustainability of freshwater, coastal, and marine resources for both communities and environment. The governance and knowledge management activities will be designed to complement and integrate well with interventions supported under the Regional

Component of the SP and other regional initiatives. The details of appropriate coordination mechanisms will be developed in cooperation with the partners during the first half of 2010.

- ❖ Regional “Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean”. This project, to be implemented by UNEP/MAP, aims to support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention’s ICZM Protocol through the development of region wide coordination mechanisms and tools to address climate variability in the Mediterranean Region. This will be achieved through three components: (1) Development of regional climate variability monitoring programme; (2) Strengthening of knowledge base which will assist countries to more precisely calculate the impacts of climate variability to their marine and coastal zone; and (3) Strengthening partnerships, capacity and exchange for implementation of the ICZM protocol and dissemination of project experiences and lessons.

74. In addition to the above, Investment Fund’s 2nd Tranche (Sustainable MED) projects to be submitted soon are as follows:

- ❖ (Regional) Technical Support, Planning and Capacity for Waste Water Treatment and Recycling Technology (Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia)
- ❖ Libya Integrated Coastal Zone Management for Conservation and Economic Development
- ❖ Morocco Integrated Coastal Zone Management for Lake Nador. The proposed project is to support integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) in selected areas of Morocco's Mediterranean coast to reduce pollution and loss of biodiversity, as well as to enhance communities' resilience to climate change.

Table 1. Summary of Investment Fund (Sustainable Med) projects of the MedPartnership.

Country	GEF Title (WB Title)	Info GEF Info WB	Approval Status (WB)	Total cost in \$	GEF Med IF grant in \$	Minimum Co-financing in \$	Status GEF
Tunisia	MED Greater Tunis Treated Wastewater Discharge in the Mediterranean Sea (Tunisia Northern Tunis Wastewater Project)	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?rojID=3974 http://projportal.worldbank.org/servlet/secmain?menuPK=109012&theSitePK=213348&piPK=69345&pagePK=112935&PSID=P117082	Under preparation (PCN stage)	555,000,000	8,000,000	547,000,000	Approved by GEF council for pipeline entry in June 2009
Egypt	MED Enhanced Water Resources Management (Enhanced Water Resources Management)	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?rojID=3991 http://projportal.worldbank.org/servlet/secmain?menuPK=109012&theSitePK=213348&piPK=69345&pagePK=112935&PSID=P118090	Under preparation (PCN stage)	41,050,000	6,750,000	34,300,000	Approved by GEF council for pipeline entry in June 2009

Country	GEF Title (WB Title)	Info GEF Info WB	Approval Status (WB)	Total cost in \$	GEF Med IF grant in \$	Minimum Co-financing in \$	Status GEF
Syria	MED Coastal Rivers and Orontes River Basins Water Resources Management Project (Coastal Rivers and Orontes River Basins Water Resources Management Project)	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?rojID=3970 http://projportal.worldbank.org/servlet/secmain?menuPK=109012&theSitePK=213348&piPK=69345&pagePK=112935&PSID=P118068	Under preparation (PCN stage)	8,010,000	3,060,000	4,950,000	Approved by GEF council for pipeline entry in June 2009
Regional (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, WB&G)	MED Regional Coordination on Natural Resources Management and Capacity Building (TA) (5M- Regional Coordination on Improved Water Resources Management and Capacity Building in Cooperation with NASA)	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?rojID=3978 http://projportal.worldbank.org/servlet/secmain?menuPK=109012&theSitePK=213348&piPK=69345&pagePK=112935&PSID=P117170	Under preparation (PCN stage)	87,644,545	5,644,545	82,000,000	Approved by GEF council for pipeline entry in June 2009
Regional	MED Sustainable MED Governance and Knowledge Generation	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?rojID=4001 http://projportal.worldbank.org/servlet/secmain?menuPK=109012&theSitePK=213348&piPK=69345&pagePK=112935&PSID=P118145	Under preparation (PCN stage)	9,600,000	3,000,000	6,600,000	Approved by GEF council for pipeline entry in June 2009
Regional (Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia)	Regional Technical Assistance and Capacity Building for the Promotion of Treated Wastewater Reuse in the Mediterranean	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?rojID=4205	Under preparation (PCN stage)	11,845,455	4,545,455	7,300,000	Submitted on a rolling basis for pipeline entry
Libya	Integrated Coastal Zone Management for Conservation and Economic Development		Under preparation (PCN stage)	25,000,000	5,000,000	20,000,000	Submitted on a rolling basis for pipeline entry
Morocco	MED Integrated Coastal Zone Management-Mediterranean Coast (Integrated Coastal Zone Mgt)	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?rojID=4198 http://projportal.worldbank.org/servlet/secmain?menuPK=109012&theSitePK=213348&piPK=69345&pagePK=112935&PSID=P121271	Under preparation (PCN stage)	25,181,818	5,181,818	20,000,000	Submitted on a rolling basis for pipeline entry

Country	GEF Title (WB Title)	Info GEF Info WB	Approval Status (WB)	Total cost in \$	GEF Med IF grant in \$	Minimum Co-financing in \$	Status GEF
Regional	MED Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3990		5,454,545	2,454,545	3,000,000	PIF approved Oct 2009
Regional (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia)	Neretva and Trebisnjica Management Project - under Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea LME Partnership (Neretva and Trebisnjica River Basin Management Project)	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=2132 http://projportal.worldbank.org/servlet/secmain?menuPK=109012&theSitePK=213348&piPK=69345&pagePK=112935&PSID=P084608	Lending	21,580,000	8,430,000	13,150,000	CEO Endorsed
Croatia	Coastal Cities Pollution Control (Coastal Cities Pollution Control Project 2)	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3725 http://projportal.worldbank.org/servlet/secmain?menuPK=109012&theSitePK=213348&piPK=69345&pagePK=112935&PSID=P102395	Lending	208,400,000	6,400,000	202,000,000	CEO Endorsed
Egypt	Alexandria Coastal Zone Management Project (Under the Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem)	http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=2602 http://projportal.worldbank.org/servlet/secmain?menuPK=109012&theSitePK=213348&piPK=69345&pagePK=112935&PSID=P095925	Lending	654,503,293	7,150,000	647,003,293	CEO Endorsed

Legal implementation

75. The project was approved on the 8 April 2008 by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GEF, and following this a legal agreement was prepared and signed between UNEP Division of GEF (DGEF) as Implementing agency responsible for the supervision of the project, and reporting to GEF Secretariat on the progress of activities, with UNEP-MAP, the lead executing agency responsible for the coordination of project activities and all partners and stakeholders. This Internal Cooperation Agreement (ICA) was signed on 14 November 2008, which enabled UNEP-MAP to begin the process of recruitment of the staff for the Project Management Unit (PMU) and to begin the process of developing the legal agreements with co-executing partners. This ICA clearly defines the projects financing and reporting requirements to UNEP DGEF for the full duration of the project. The project document

approved by GEF is annex to the legal agreement with all detailed activities and their financing.

Agreements with partners

76. UNEP has legal agreements with nine partners for the execution of project activities. Letters of Agreements (LOA's) with other UN organizations were prepared for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO IHP) and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Project Cooperation agreements (PCA's) were prepared with the MAP regional activity centers for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC), along with the Non-Governmental Organizations, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE). Negotiations for these legal agreements began in May 2008 and the current status of signature is given in Table 3.

77. The templates used for the legal agreements were based on new templates made specifically for UNEP GEF funded projects, which have caused some delays in the negotiation between UNEP and each partner organization, of between 1 and 6 months. It should be noted that these agreements are based on the activities and budget as detailed in the original project document approved by GEF. The revised activities, work-plan and budget as presented in this report can only come into effect once approved by the Steering Committee meeting.

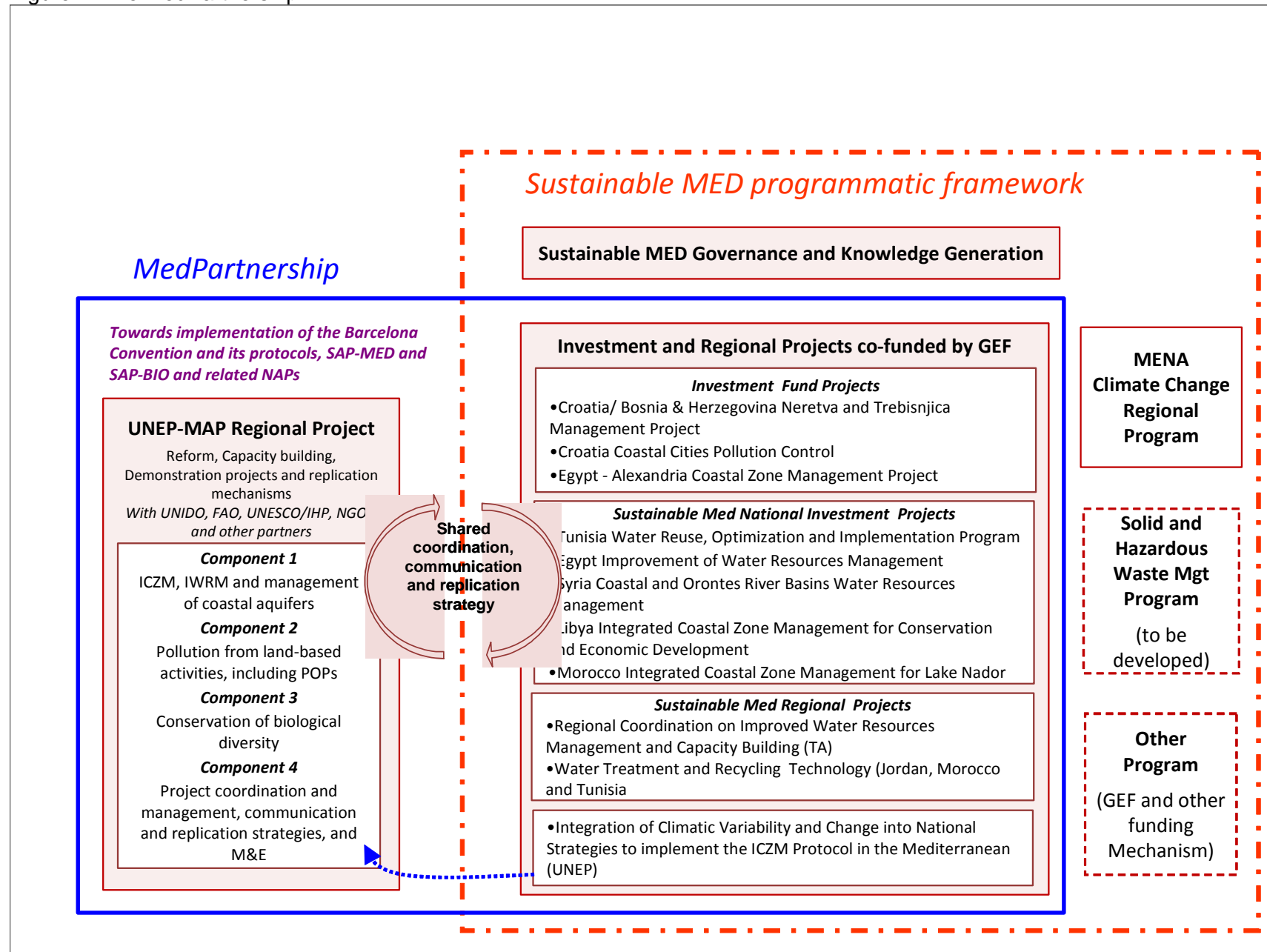
78. There is an agreement between UNEP and the World Bank for UNEP/MAP to administer the World Bank activities related to the overall coordination between the two components of the project, that is the WB Investment Fund (IF) and the UNEP Regional Component. This arrangement was detailed in a formal letter rather than a legal agreement which has been agreed and signed by both parties.

79. UNIDO although part of the MedPartnership is eligible for funds directly from GEF and therefore has a separate project document approved by GEF. However there is an agreement to maintain common progress reports and yearly reports and work-plans for the entire regional component, including UNIDOs activities.

Institutional arrangements

80. It should be noted other than the new relationship established with the WB "Sustainable Med" program there are no changes to the institutional arrangements as fully described in the project document. Figure 1 gives an updated presentation of the projects institutional arrangement.

Figure 1. The MedPartnership



Project financial arrangement

81. The Project's total cost amounts to 47,488,700 USD (49,447,200 USD, including the PDF-B phase). An additional 1,000,000 USD from GEF for this project will be implemented by UNIDO with co-financing of 950,500 USD which brings to the total of **51,397,700 USD**. A detailed breakdown of contribution per donor can be found in Table 3 below.

82. It should be noted that an additional 1,000,000 USD from GEF for this project will be implemented by UNIDO with co-financing of 950,500 USD.

83. Disbursement of funds (which are administered by UNEP: GEF, MTF, EC and AECID) to executing partners take place as follows. Upon signature of the legal instrument, each partner receives within a certain period the amount that is clearly indicated in each legal instrument. Second and subsequent installments to executing partners will follow upon submission of a financial report and other agreed-upon documentation, showing satisfactory progress of activities and adequate management and use of resources. Funds that are not administered by UNEP are disbursed by the Donors directly to the Executing Partners. Relative Co-Finance Reporting is submitted annually to DGEF.

84. Executing Partners that have already received the first advances for funds administered by UNEP are indicated in Table 3.

Table 2. Breakdown of Funding

Cost to GEF	US \$
Project Cost (GEF)	12,591,000
- International Waters	8,991,000
- POPs	2,900,000
- PDF-B	700,000
Co-financing:	
Participating Countries (in kind)	13,100,000
Other Countries (cash):	6,273,000
France/FFEM for Biodiversity	1,820,000
France/FFEM for UNESCO	1,333,000
Government of Spain/Spanish Agency for International Cooperation	2,520,000
Government of Italy, Ministry for the Environment, Land and sea	600,000
Executing Agencies:	5,330,400
UNESCO (cash)	440,000
PAP/RAC (cash and in kind)	152,000
METAP (in kind)	75,200
GWP-Med (cash)	1,000,000
CP/RAC (cash and in kind)	400,000
SPA/RAC (cash and in kind)	600,000
FAO/GFCM (in kind)	800,000
UNEP/MAP (cash and in kind)	1,000,000
INFO/RAC (in kind)	343,200
MIO-ECSDE (cash)	150,000
World Bank (in kind)	370,000
Others:	10,894,300
LUND University, Sweden (in kind)	200,000
IGME, Spain (in kind)	100,000
FAO-TCP (in kind)	300,000
European Space Agency	450,000
Mediterranean Trust Fund (cash)	2,330,000
European Commission (cash)	2,765,000
MAVA Foundation (cash)	2,450,000
Basel Convention (cash)	250,000
Regional Government of Italy, Sicily Region (this amount has been replaced by the equivalent amount from IMELS)	1,049,300
National Authority of Palestinian	1,000,000
	35,597,700
Total co-financing (FSP)	
PDF-B (UNEP in-kind)	966,000
PDF-B Government of Italy, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (cash and in kind)	292,500
Total co-financing, including PDF-B	36,856,200
Total Cost of the Project	47,488,700
Total Cost including PDF-B	49,447,200

Table 3 First advances to partners

Organization	Date of Receipt of 1 st Advances	Date of signature of agreement
UNESCO/HP	27 January 2010	10 December 2009
FAO	-	15 April 2010
CP/RAC	25 November 2009	1 October 2009
SPA/RAC	26 March 2010	1 October 2009
PAP/RAC	25 November 2009	1 October 2009
INFO/RAC	-	Under discussion
WWF-MedPO	4 June 2009	14 April 2009
GWP-Med	1 December 2009	30 September 2009
MIO-ECSDE	25 November 2009	24 September 2009

Status of co-financing: re-confirmation of commitments

85. The Co-financing to the project (excluding the preparation phase) is 36,548,200 USD as indicated in Table 5 below of which currently 50% is cash co-financing. This amount is equal to the co-financing promised at the time of GEF approval. With a total funding of 49,439,200 USD, the ratio of GEF funds to co-financing is 1:2.8. Although the majority of project partners have re-confirmed their related co-financing (and corresponding agreements have been signed where relevant), the Inception Workshop/First Steering Committee provides the ideal opportunity for all members of the Steering Committee to re-confirm co-financing. As during the project preparation phase it was not possible to secure GEF funds for the biodiversity component of the project, specifically Sub-Component 3.1 Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network, significant co-financing was secured, as described below, to allow these activities to remain within the project.

86. In summary, the major co-financing contributions in cash are from:

- ❖ **European Commission (EC).** 2,765,000 USD¹ for SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO's execution of Sub-Component 3.1;
- ❖ **Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID).** 2,520,000 USD² for SPA/RAC's execution of Sub-Component 3.1;
- ❖ **Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)** of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. 2,750,000 USD for UNEP/MAP and MEDPOL's execution of "Sub-Component 2.1 Facilitation of policy and legislative reforms for SAP MED" and "Sub-Component 4.1 Project Co-ordination, Management and M&E";
- ❖ **French Global Environment Facility (FGEF)/ Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM).** 1,820,000 USD³ for SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO's, execution of Sub-Component 3.1 and an additional 1,333,000 USD⁴ for UNESCO IHP's execution of "Sub- component 1.1: Management of Coastal Aquifers and groundwater";
- ❖ **MAVA Foundation for Nature.** 2,450,000⁵ USD for WWF-MedPO's execution of Sub-Component 3.1; and

¹ Agreement for 2,000,000 euros

² Letter states total of 1,750,000 euros to be paid in 350,000 euro yearly contributions.

³ Agreement for 2,000,000 euros but finances available for WWF-MedPO and SPA/RAC are 1,265,000 euros

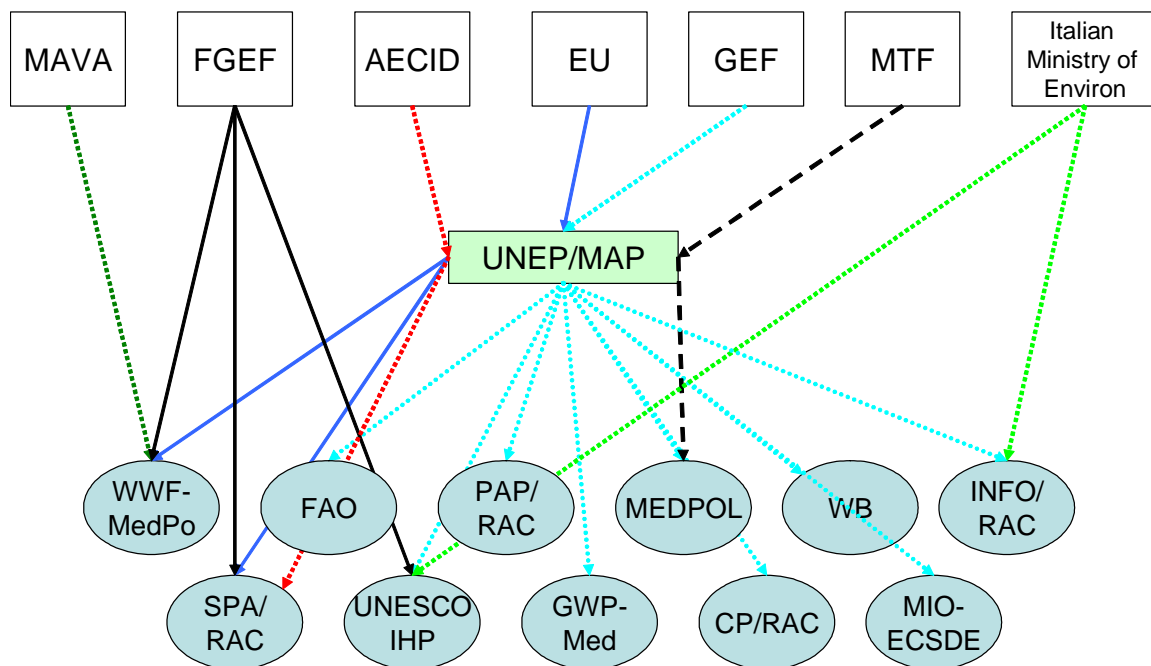
⁴ Letter states 900,000 euros

⁵ Letter states 1,760.100 euros

- ❖ **Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea.** 1,049,300 USD⁶ for INFO/RAC's execution of "Sub-Component 4.2 Information and Communication strategies", 600,000 USD for the UNESCO IHP execution of "Sub- component 1.1: Management of Coastal Aquifers and groundwater" and 600,000 USD for UNIDO's execution of "Sub-Component 2.2. Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology".

87. UNEP will directly administer co-financing from the GEF, MTF, EC and AECID, whereas the other co-financing will be administered directly by the executing partners as indicated in Figure 2. GEF funds were first received in November 2008 (for the advertisement of the PMU), followed by the first funds from AECID in October 2008 and the second dispersed in December 2009. The first allotment of EC funds was received in February 2009.

Figure 2. Distribution of GEF and major cash co-financing within the project



88. FGEF is recorded as contributing 1,820,000 USD (1,265,000 euros) for Component 3.1 in the original project document. However during the course of the development of the FGEF project proposal and agreement, in addition to WWF and SPA/RAC, activities were included for execution by Blue Plan (BP/RAC) and the Conservatoire du Littoral/Coastal protection agency (CEL) with a total of 2,765,000 USD (2,000,000 euros). BP/RAC and CEL were not included originally as executing agencies on the project document, but will be invited to participate in the First Steering Committee in order to discuss their role within the MedPartnership.

⁶ Letter states 800,000 euros

Table 4 Revised status of co-financing

Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Current status Jan 2010
Component 1 Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea/Sub-Component 1.1	Government	Cash	600,000	UNESCO Letters of commitment 08/03/07 and the 12/12/07 Agreement signed 9 Dec 2008
FFEM for Sub-Component 1.1	Government	Cash	1,333,000	UNESCO Letter of interest 17/12/07 FFEM project document prepared and activities underway
European Space Agency/ Sub-Component 1.1	International organization	In kind	450,000	Letter of Commitment 11/12/07 Activities due in 2011
LUND University (Sweden)/ Sub-Component 1.1	National Institution	In kind	200,000	Letters of Commitment from UNESCO 12/12/07 and Lund University 18/9/07 Activities due in 2010 and agreement to be developed
Spanish Geological survey/Component 1.1	National Institution	In-kind	100,000	UNESCO Letters of commitment 12/12/07 and 22/10/07 Activities due in 2010
UNESCO/Sub-Component 1.1	UN Cooperating Agency	Cash	440,000	Letter of Commitment 12/12/07 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
FAO-TCP/ Sub-Component 1.1	UN Cooperating Agency	In kind	300,000	Letter of Commitment 12/12/07 Activities due in 2011
PAP/RAC/ Sub-Component 1.2	Co-executing Agency	In kind	75,200	Letter of Commitment 12/11/07 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
PAP-RAC/ Sub-Component 1.2	Co-executing Agency	Cash/In kind	152,000	Letter of Commitment 07/03/07 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
GWP-Med/Sub-Component 1.3IWRM	NGOs	Cash	1,000,000	Letter of Commitment 05/03/07
Component 2 Mediterranean Trust Fund/Sub-Components 2.1 Policy	Multilateral Agency	Cash (82%) and in kind	910,000	Letter of commitment 02/11/2007 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
Italian Government/ Sub-Components 2.2 TEST	Government	Cash	600,000 ⁷	Letter of commitment 21/11/07
Demonstration enterprises/Counter parts Sub-Components 2.2 TEST	Private sectors/National institutions	In kind	150,500	Final written confirmation still pending
UNIDO/ Sub-Components 2.2TEST	UN Agency / Co-executing Agency and Government	In kind	200,000	Final written confirmation still pending
Mediterranean Trust Fund/Sub-Components 2.3 POPs	Multilateral Agency	Cash	1,300,000	Letter of commitment 02/11/2007
CP/RAC/Sub-Component 2.3 POPs	Co-executing Agency	50% Cash and 50% in kind	400,000	Letter of commitment 24/10/2007 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
Basel Convention//Sub-Component 2.3 POPs	Secretariat	Mainly cash	250,000	Letter of commitment 09/11/07

⁷ 400,000 euros for the "Establishment of an African Investment Monitoring Network: design and test of survey methodology"

Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Current status Jan 2010
Component 3 France/FFEM – Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development/Component 3 “existing MPAs”	Government	Cash	1,820,000	Letters of commitment 05/01/2008 Agreement signed (24 Dec 2008) and WWF European Policy Programme (WWF) has already received the first advance installment for 200.000 EUR (July 2009).
Government of Spain/Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID)/Component 3 “new MPAs”	Government/National Institutions	Cash	2,520,000	Letter of commitment 20/3/2007 First and second installments of 700,000 euros received by UNEP
SPA/RAC - Component 3	Co-executing Agency	Cash and in kind	600,000	Letter of commitment 22/3/2007 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
European Commission – DG Environment – Component 3	EU	Cash	2,765,000	WWF European Policy Programme (WWF) has already received the first advance installment for 140.800 EUR (May 2009). SPA/RAC about to receive first advance of USD 685,085.75
MAVA Foundation/ Component 3	Foundation	Cash	2,450,000	Agreement signed between WWF International and WWF European Policy Programme (WWF) for MAVA funds. WWF has already received the first advance installment for 580.162 EUR (March 2009).
FAO/GFCM/ Sub-Component 3.2	UN Cooperating Agency / Co-executing Agency	In kind	800,000	Letter of commitment 28/3/2007 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
Croatia – Ministry of Culture/Component 3 - BD	Government	In kind	250,000	Letter of commitment 05/4/07
Syria - Ministry of Local Administration and Environment/BD-Component 3	Government	In kind	250,000	Letter of commitment 12/3/07
Albania - Ministry Environment, Forests and Waters Administration/Component 3 -	Government	In kind	100,000	Letter of commitment 03/3/07
Libya - Environmental General Committee/Component3	Government	In kind	250,000	Letter of commitment 20/3/07
Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations//Component3	Government	In kind	250,000	Letter of commitment 19/3/07
Component 4 Mediterranean Trust Fund / Sub-Component 4.1/ Activity 4.1.4 Sustainable Financial Mechanism	Multilateral Agency	Cash (82%) and in-kind	120,000	Letter of commitment 02/11/2007 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
UNEP-MAP/Sub-Component 4.1/Activity 4.1.1	UN Cooperating Agency	In kind	250,000	Letter of commitment 21/03/2007 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
UNEP-MAP/Sub-Component 4.1/ Activities 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.1.8	UN Cooperating Agency	Cash	750,000	Letter of commitment 21/03/2007 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)

Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Current status Jan 2010
World Bank / Sub-Component 4.1/ Activity 4.1.3 Coordination Group	International Organization	In kind	370,000	World Bank letter of commitment 13/11/2007 Activities underway (co-financing report due in August 2010)
MIO-ECSDE/Component 4.1/ Activity 4.1.10	NGO	Cash	150,000	Letter of Commitment 02/03/07
INFO RAC/Sub-Components 4.2 and 4.3	Co-executing Agency	In kind	343,200	
Regional Government of Sicily Region, Italy/Sub-Components 4.2 and 4.3	National Institution	Cash	1,049,300	Letter of commitment 14/03/2007 (these funds were replaced by the equal amount provided by MELS – see above)
Participating countries (whole project)				
Algeria - Ministry for Territory and Environment/Regional Component	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 10/3/2007
Syria - Ministry of Local Administration and Environment/ Regional Component and BD	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 11/3/2007
Morocco - Ministry for Territory, Water and Environment/ Regional Component	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 7/3/2007
Tunisia – Ministry for the Environment and sustainable Development/Regional Component	Government	In kind	1,000,000 ⁸	Letter of commitment 15/3/07
Libya – Environment General Authority/Regional Component and Biodiversity	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letters of commitment 20/3/07
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina - Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations/ Regional Component and Biodiversity</i>	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 19/3/2007
Croatia – Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction/Regional Component	Government	In kind	2,500,000	Letter of commitment 22/3/07
Turkey – Ministry of Environment and Forestry/ Regional Component	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 01/5/07
Montenegro – Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Protection/ Regional Component	Government	In kind	800,000	Letter of commitment 07/5/07 Initial co-financing agreed for hosting the First Steering Committee meeting
Egypt – Ministry of State of Environmental Affairs/ Regional Component	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 3/10/2007
Albania - Ministry Environment, Forestry and Water Administration/Regional Component and BD	Government	In kind	700,000	Letters of commitment 3/3/07

⁸ Includes 100,000 USD committed to Component 1.1 (see UNESCO letter 12/12/07)

Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Current status Jan 2010
Palestinian National Authority – Environment Quality Authority//Regional Component	National Authority	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 23/3/07
Total excluding PDF-B			36,548,200	

89. It should be noted that 950,500 USD of this co-financing will be administered and reported directly by UNIDO to the GEF, as GEF Implementing agency, rather than UNEP.⁹

3. EMERGING ISSUES AND NEW INITIATIVES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

90. The Mediterranean context, i.e. the context where the MedPartnership initiative has evolved, is a rapidly changing one. This doesn't refer only to the environmental conditions, which are changing to the worse or to the better, depending on the efforts being employed in tackling them, but also to institutional arrangements as well as policy measures undertaken at regional and national levels. As one of the most important MedPartnership's goals is to stimulate policy change in tackling the pollution problems in the region, one of the most important tasks of the project is, thus, to monitor institutional and policy changes taking place in the region, and to participate in as many of these as possible, in order to create conditions to adapt to this constantly changing regional context. Until now, this task has been largely left to the partners who have been, during the period covered in the Inception Report, directly and indirectly involved in the development and/or implementation of many of those complementary initiatives. PMU has been closely monitoring the development, and has been always made aware of the character and level of participation of the project partners in these initiatives. The section below is a brief summary of many of these initiatives and of new issues that are deemed important for the implementation of the MedPartnership project. Wherever possible, an effort has been made to explain, for every initiative or project, what is their relevance for the MedPartnership, what synergies could be produced, as well as what are the benefits MedPartnership could gain from participating in these initiatives.

Changes in issues and priorities

91. The project, although approved by GEF in April 2008, was developed in 2006. In the last four years, the Mediterranean had undergone some changes, mainly caused by increasing pressure from human activities. This has been shown with the publication of new studies and assessments on the status of freshwater, marine environment and marine and coastal biodiversity etc., which have indicated that there is a constantly changing situation in the Mediterranean region. New issues and priorities such as climate change are gradually coming to the top of the agendas of decision makers in the region. The latest report "State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean" (2009), published by MAP's Blue Plan on the occasion of the Barcelona Convention's 16th COP, concludes that "...whilst there is undeniable progress over recent years in matters of marine pollution and of ecosystem conservation, considerable efforts are still required to anticipate the impacts of climate change, to more parsimoniously manage rare natural resources, such as water and energy, to curb biodiversity loss, to preserve such coveted landscapes as coastal zones and to promote more sustainable modes of production and consumption (...) The issues under analysis also reveal the Mediterranean as a locus for regional cooperation, in view of the fact that while such issues as wiser water management and waste treatment can be covered by local initiatives, it is regionally, i.e. collectively, that Mediterranean countries will find the solutions to their specific challenges. Whether the issues are adaptation to climate change, fisheries management, marine and coastal ecosystems protection, risk and pollution control,

⁹ Further information available at <http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=7766>

individual efforts will succeed all the more that they benefit from a consistent, shared and regularly upgraded framework.”

92. Climate change and variability is now clearly a priority for the Mediterranean, as flagged in the 4th assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), specific programmes and research in the Mediterranean such as the Mediterranean Climate Variability and Predictability (MedCLIVAR) project, the Climate Change and Impact Research programme (CIRCE), and reports by the European Environment Agency (EAA)¹⁰, and Blue Plan¹¹ amongst several others. During the 20th Century, air temperature in the Mediterranean basin was observed to have risen by 1.4 to 4 °C depending on the sub-region. As such, the countries of the Mediterranean are already witnessing the impacts of climate change/variability in the coastal zone and watersheds of the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem such as decreasing water availability, increasing incidence of flooding and forest fires. According to the above mentioned IPCC report, by the end of the century the rise in temperatures is expected to be between 2.2 °C and 5.1 °C. At the same time overall rainfall is also likely to decrease while the occurrence of extreme climatic events (flooding and drought) ought to intensify by 2100. Sea-level is predicted to rise by between 30-40 cm by 2100, and changes will occur to water mass circulation. Marine acidification is likely to occur with some dramatic consequences to the balance of marine and coastal biodiversity.

93. The year 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity¹². However the degradation and loss of biodiversity is a worldwide trend. Losses are occurring at 100 to 1,000 times the normal rate. More than a third of species assessed are facing extinction and an estimated 60% of the Earth's ecosystems have been degraded in the last 50 years, with consequences for the ecosystems services that depend on them. Marine biodiversity is also under pressure, with approximately 90% of the planet's biomass living in the ocean.¹³ The Mediterranean, a biodiversity hot-spot, is home to 7 % of known marine species, while only representing 0.8% of the planet's ocean surface. Nineteen percent of known Mediterranean species are threatened both locally and worldwide. The Mediterranean emblematic monk seal is classified as a species in critical risk of extinction. This is also the case for cartilaginous fish, with 42% of shark species threatened with extinction. 63 % of the fish and 60% of the mammals listed in the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity have endangered status, from increasing pressures (construction/disappearance of such ecosystems as lagoons, grassbeds), coastal erosion, over-exploited marine resources and expansion of invasive species. The increase in fish catch to the mid 80s (reaching 2 million tonnes) was only possible through a reckless, virtually uncontrolled fishing (estimated as an increase of 48% since 1970) which is reflected in a subsequent 25% drop in landings compared with this period due to a fall in the production of certain species with the result that 65% of all fish stocks in the region are outside safe biological limits¹⁴. The percentage of mature tuna in particular has fallen by 80% over the last 20 years. The valuation of welfare losses in the Mediterranean have not yet been made, but it is a safe bet if they are considered as very large, commensurate to those calculated on the world scale.

¹⁰ EAA Report No 4 2008. Impacts of Europe's changing climate — 2008 indicator-based assessment

¹¹ For example the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean” (2009), Mediterranean agriculture: toward adaptation to climate change, and the Report of the Regional seminar on Climate change in the Mediterranean, Marseille, 22-23 October 2008

¹² see <http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>

¹³ Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010. EC Brussels, COM(2010) 4/4

¹⁴ See <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/oceans/marine-reserves/the-mediterranean/mediterranean-overfishing>

Figure 3 Map of Marine Protected Areas of the Mediterranean¹⁵



94. MPAs are effective tools for providing lasting protection, enabling restoration and ensuring careful use of the natural heritage of the Mediterranean¹⁶. In 2006, the need for a thorough assessment of all the Mediterranean MPAs became apparent, in order to determine their number, the surface areas they cover and the features of their management, by IUCN, WWF and with the support of SPA/RAC. Figure 3 shows the MPA situated in the Mediterranean, and Table 6 the MPA's created since 2004 which have been added to the project. Currently marine protected and managed areas in the Mediterranean cover 97,410 km² or approximately 4% of the Mediterranean, which does not meet the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) target of protection of 10%. Many of the issues remain the same as in 2006, where it was noted that the current MPA system is not representative or coherent, with most of the MPA's located in the northern Mediterranean and only one open ocean MPA (the Pelagos Sanctuary). The management of MPA's in the Mediterranean needs overall to be more effective and there is a need for greater understanding and data on species within MPA's to assess trends. It was observed that the only notable population increase was reported for the dusky grouper, *Epinephelus marginatus* and the brown meagre, *Sciaena umbra*. On the contrary, the Mediterranean lobster, *Palinurus elephas* and the red coral, *Corallium rubrum* were reported by managers to have shown a considerable decrease.

¹⁵ See <http://www.medpan.org/?arbo=aires-marines-protgees-par-pays> for full directory.

¹⁶ Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea, IUCN and WWF report, 2008.

Table 5. Recently established MPAs (from 2004 to 2009) in the Mediterranean Sea

Type	Site name	Country	Marine surface (km ²)	Date of creation
MPA	Plemmirio	Italy	25	2004
MPA	Al Hoceima	Morocco	23.3	2004
MPA	Messolonghi - Aetoliko lagoons, estuaries of Acheloos and Evinos and Echinades islands	Greece	212.35	2006
MPA	Lastovo	Croatia	143.12	2006
MPA	Zona fil-bahar bejn Rdum Majjiesa u Ras ir-Raheb (Marine Area between Rdum Majjiesa and Ras ir-Raheb)	Malta	8.49	2007
MPA	Zona fil-bahar fl-inhawi tad-Dwejra, Ghawdex (Marine area in the limits of Dwejra, Gozo)	Malta	2.57	2007
MPA	Area Marina Protetta Isola di Bergoggi	Italy	0.08	2007
MPA	Area Marina Protetta Regno di Nettuno	Italy	46	2007
Dolphin Reserve	Losinj	Croatia	523.35	2006
Seal Monk sanctuary	Karaburuni	Albania	ND	2005
Fishery reserve	Llevant de Mallorca	Spain	59	2007
Deep Sea site ¹⁷	Chemosynthesis-based ecosystem, offshore from the Nile Delta	International		2006
Deep Sea site	Deep coral reef off Santa Maria di Leuca, Ionian sea	International		2006
Deep Sea site	Eratosthenes seamount	International	15,666** ¹⁸	2006

95. One of the increasingly critical issues is the availability of freshwater. The Mediterranean suffers from conjectural or structural water shortages. One hundred and eighty million inhabitants benefit from less than 1,000 m³ per year per capita and 80 million are facing scarcity (less than 500m³/year/capita). Water deficits are striking in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMCs), justifying recourse to other, non-conventional water resources: reuse of wastewater, desalination, and technical developments to increase exploitable potential of water resources (reloading of underground water in Tunisia). Water demand has doubled over the past 50 years (280km³/year in 2007), with agriculture being the main consumer (64%). Losses, leaks and waste are estimated at 40% of total water demand (particularly in the farming sector). Although countries are beginning to deploy their efforts to limit and reduce these losses and wastages, tensions on water resources remain high, in particular in Egypt, Malta, Syria, Libya and Israel. To satisfy growing domestic demand, countries are increasingly overusing a share of non-renewable resources (16 km³/year), triggering preoccupying salination issues. As a result aquifers are depleted and/or polluted in the majority of southern, and eastern countries.

Changes in policy

96. There have been two significant developments in policy changes within the Barcelona Convention. In 2006, the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)¹⁹ was under development. It was adopted in Madrid on 22 January 2008 and, since then, signed by

¹⁷ General Fishery Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Deep-sea sites of particular ecological interest (GFCM Recommendation 2006/3)

¹⁸ Cumulative km² for the three Deep Sea sites

¹⁹ http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/Protocol_publikacija_May09.pdf

14 Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention. In the meantime three countries - Slovenia France and Albania - have ratified it and in a number of other countries it is in the process of ratification. It is expected that within two years this protocol might be ratified. MedPartnership, in particular through Component 1.2 executed by PAP/RAC, aims to support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. Now that it has been adopted, and probably ratified in the near future, this component is growing in importance, because it is one of the most effective supporting tools aimed at the Protocol's implementation in the countries of the region. The activities of the project should also be aimed at assisting countries in their efforts towards its ratification.

97. The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) was amended and entered into force in 2008. In addition a number of legally binding regional plans have been developed and agreed for specific pollutants. The project is supporting countries in the implementation of these plans.

98. The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), previously known as the "Mediterranean Union", was launched with a Joint Declaration at the end of the Paris Summit on 13th July 2008. Its objective is to re-vitalise efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity. De-pollution of the Mediterranean is one of the six initiatives that is of direct relevance to the project, which is also supported by the Horizon 2020 initiative discussed in further detail below. A significant development under the Union for the Mediterranean has been the expansion of the geographical membership of the Euro-Mediterranean Process to include the coastal states of South East Europe (SEE). This means that all Mediterranean countries are partners in the Euro-Mediterranean Process so that there is now coherence in the geographical coverage of the Euro-Mediterranean Process. The MedPartnership will complement the UfM, and as such has been included as an additional member to the Horizon 2020 Steering Committee.

99. There are a number of new EU directives of relevance, most notably the Marine Framework Strategy Directive. The aim of this Directive (adopted in June 2008) is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2021 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive constitutes the vital environmental component of the Union's future maritime policy, designed to achieve the full economic potential of oceans and seas in harmony with the marine environment.²⁰ Medpartnership is in line with and will contribute to the implementation of this new Directive, and a close relationship will be maintained with UNEP/MAP and the EU for this purpose. In addition, a Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) has been agreed in 2008 and as such countries are collaborating together on the development of a Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM), which is described below under "Overview of regional and national complementary programmes, projects and initiatives complementing the activities".

100. To be effective as of January 2010, the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) assigned to the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA), the role of INFO/RAC replacing INFO/RAC-MAP Spa, formerly managed by the Sicilian Region. As such IMELS also assigned to ISPRA the full responsibility for the implementation of the Sub-components 4.2 and 4.3 Information and Communication and Replication strategies of the Regional Component of the MedPartnership, and secured co-financing of 1,049,284 USD (800,000 Euros) for the execution of these activities. ISPRA has been working on further detailing the outcomes, outputs and activities under these two sub-components.

²⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index_en.htm

The Mediterranean Sustainable Development Programme

Background

101. The World Bank has played an important role in supporting national and regional technical assistance and investment projects by implementing and hosting the secretariat of the multi-donor technical assistance METAP program for over 18 years, since 1990, and coming to closure in 2010. METAP went through 4 phases of implementation, covering similar themes (Integrated water resources management; Solid and hazardous waste management; Chemical pollution; Coastal zone management; Urban environmental mgt; Institutional development and capacity building; Environmental Policy tools), but following different approaches. METAP managed, with an overall budget of US\$ 60 million (partners and donors: EC, EIB, UNDP, Switzerland, Finland, Norway and Holland) to develop a strong pipeline of environmental projects totaling approximately US\$ 2.2 billion (mainly through funding from the WB and the EIB).

102. The Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank has also been engaged with transboundary environmental issues in the Mediterranean through the Global Environment Facility Program: the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystems Partnership, jointly implemented by the MNA and ECA regions of the Bank and by UNEP, and currently under implementation with all the funds committed. It created several specialized centers of knowledge on environmental issues and co-financed pollution related investments primarily in the ECA region countries bordering the Mediterranean.

103. The World Bank and the GEF therefore expressed a mutual interest in collaborating for the preparation and implementation - in cooperation with the beneficiary countries and relevant partners - a follow-up to these programs intended to help mainstream environmental issues in decision-making in key sectors of the economy, and together initiated the preparation of the new Environmentally Sustainable Mediterranean Development Program "Sustainable MED".

Sustainable MED: Program's goal and objectives

104. The goal of "Sustainable MED" is to integrate environment within the economic development agenda of the Mediterranean, while adopting a shared common vision. The program will be designed and implemented following a phased approach. Phase I of the program is 5-year long, and will have a primary focus on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The Technical Secretariat to support the program will be hosted by the Marseille Center for Mediterranean Integration.

Program's Description

105. The objective of Phase I of Sustainable MED remains the objective of the Investment Fund, which is to "enhance and accelerate the implementation of transboundary pollution reduction, improved water resources management, and biodiversity conservation measures in priority hotspots and sensitive areas of selected countries of the Mediterranean basin that would help achieve the Strategic Action Plans' (SAP MED and SAP BIO) targets".

106. The Program will also support projects that address increased occurrence of droughts and floods as a result of climatic variability. Additionally, the Program will give priority to projects that assist countries to meet their obligations towards the new Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol under the Barcelona Convention.

107. Sustainable MED Program has 3 main components:

- ❖ Governance: the objective of this component is to engage governments at highest level to translate the vision into commitments to reforms and investments; to support

the integration of the environmental dimension within and among economic sectors of development (tourism, agriculture, energy, etc...); and to stimulate commitment of financial resources from "key ministries" responsible for budgeting: planning, finance, international cooperation, economy. A one-year consultation is planned, and this process will be implemented in close collaboration with UNEP/MAP in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention and the technical secretariat of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

- ❖ Knowledge Generation and Technical assistance. In addition to regional technical assistance projects, Sustainable MED will set-up a regional hub for knowledge generation and dissemination (Know-MED) within a project co-executed by World Bank and UNEP. Know-MED will capitalize on Sustainable MED's technical assistance projects, promote adoption of policies to achieve common objectives, address the continued need for institutional strengthening, sectoral reforms, capacity building activities and lack of reliable data for informed decision making. Know-MED will support exchanges of information and expertise, transfer of knowledge and sharing of best practices between Sustainable MED investment projects and technical assistance projects, but also between Sustainable MED and other regional programs and specialized centers. Know-MED will also support capacity building activities aiming at identifying appropriate new investments projects.
- ❖ Investments. The Sustainable MED Program will provide financial resources to support investments to meet the overall objective of the program. As explained above, the first investment phase is linked to the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership Investment Fund and focuses on transboundary water management issues of the sea, its coast, and the basins draining to the sea. This investment phase includes nine projects: five which have already been granted GEF financing and four under preparation.

Relationship between Sustainable MED and the MedPartnership

108. The program will be building on and expanding the work carried out under the Investment Fund of the GEF/IWs Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Partnership (MedPartnership), which was approved by the GEF Council in August 2006. The new program has been approved by the GEF Council in its June 2009 meeting, and a grant of US\$50 million was assigned to the Program from the International Waters Program.

109. The MedPartnership can in other words, be considered as the Coastal Zone and Water Pillar of the Sustainable MED Program. A one-year consultation and preparation phase is planned for the new program, which should contribute to the successful implementation of the programmatic nature of the Sustainable MED Program. This preparation phase will also help to precise the articulation between Sustainable MED and the MedPartnership.

110. During the first investment period, Know-MED will work in partnership with the Regional Component of the MedPartnership which will handle knowledge sharing and dissemination for investments financed under the water pillar of Sustainable MED. The Investment Projects of the Investment Fund that are under preparation or implementation, along with the new identified projects under Sustainable MED will provide the necessary inputs to the Regional Component of the MedPartnership to achieve its objective, and mainly to develop its replication and communication strategy. These tasks will be facilitated by coordinated and facilitated by the Technical Secretariat of Sustainable MED.

Overview of regional and national complementary programmes, projects and initiatives

111. Many new programmes and projects have been recently initiated and are underway, bringing additional support to the project, but also creating an increasing need for all partners to coordinate actions in the region, and work towards joint planning for the future. The MedPartnership represents the first project in the region to work in this manner on such a large scale, with twelve regional organizations executing the various projects sub-components, plus the involvement of all main national institutions in GEF beneficiary countries. However, many of these new initiatives involve the partners and donors of the MedPartnership, which has greatly facilitated the process of adaptation of the project during the Inception Phase and coordination with these initiatives. This report will mention only the main programmes, projects and initiatives that complement the MedPartnership, but additional information during consultations with national focal points and experts to gather further information might bring additions to this list.

112. The main change to the project design is that the project is now partnered with the new World Bank Mediterranean Sustainable Development Programme (Sustainable Med) and as such is dealt with in more detail in the preceding section.

Horizon 2020

113. Back in 2005, at the 10th Anniversary Summit of the Euro-Mediterranean Process, leaders of the partnership endorsed the idea of a new push to protect the Mediterranean from the threat of pollution. This initiative has now become known as Horizon 2020²¹. Horizon 2020 aims to tackle the top sources of Mediterranean pollution by the year 2020. The initiative is built around four elements:

- ❖ investment projects to reduce the most significant pollution sources focussing on industrial emissions, municipal waste and urban waste water, responsible for up to 80% of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea;
- ❖ capacity-building measures to help neighbouring countries create environmental administrations that are able to develop and police environmental laws at various levels (national, regional, local);
- ❖ using the Commission's Research budget to develop and share knowledge of environmental issues relevant to the Mediterranean;
- ❖ developing indicators to monitor the success of Horizon 2020.

114. Horizon 2020 is an "umbrella" initiative to enhance and catalyse coordination between the various actors present in the Mediterranean. It aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of environment activities in the region. It was intended from the outset that Horizon 2020 would build on existing institutions and results, filling gaps where it could bring added value. It operates within the framework of existing and developing policy instruments, and supports the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

115. The **Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP)**, implemented by the European Investment Bank (EIB) aims to develop a consolidated pipeline of investment projects. This is based on the original study of the National Action Plans (NAPs) for the reduction of pollution from land-based sources, produced by UNEP/MAP with the support of GEF. By design MeHSIP and the MedPartnership complement each other. Both based on NAP priorities and UNEP/MAP and the World Bank are members of the pollution reduction working group of Horizon 2020. MeHSIP has identified 76 current projects out of which it is

²¹ EC Staff Working Paper: A progress report on the first three years of Horizon 2020. Brussels, 6.8.2009, SEC(2009) 1118 final,

currently looking to secure funding for 28 of these at an estimated cost of €5 billion. The geographical coverage includes North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia), and the Middle East (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syria), although this region may be extended in future. It should be noted that EIB and the WB will work together on several of the WB Investment projects including the “Tunisia: Water Reuse, Optimization and Implementation Program”, the “Syria: Coastal and Orontes River Basins Water Resources Management” and the “Lebanon: Greater Beirut Water Supply Improvement”. The EIB and PMU meet several times a year to discuss ongoing coordination issues between the projects.

116. One of the capacity building activities is the regional support programme under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENPI) for €4.5 million programme (**Regional Programme 'Civil Society'** – ENPI-South 2009) to be implemented by a consortium led by the University of Athens and consisting, amongst others²², of MedPartnership partners MIO-ECSDE, UNEP/MAP and several of its RACs. Its purpose is to support implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative through capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. It will also aim to promote integration of environment issues in the policies of other sectors such as transport and energy. The expected results of this programme include the strengthening of resources dedicated to environment protection at policy, legislation and institutional level, and the mobilisation and sensibilisation of civil society in the partner countries. Beneficiary countries are the ENPI Mediterranean partner countries and territories: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian territory, Syria and Tunisia, while the Contracting Authority is the European Commission on behalf of the beneficiary Southern ENPI countries and territories, partners of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership and of the UfM. The programme will cover the period 2009-2012.

117. MIO-ECSDE, responsible for the execution of the NGO Involvement activities within the MedPartnership, as a partner of the consortium will ensure the flow of information between this project and the MedPartnership and other potential mutually supportive synergies. Apart from the thematic seminars, an important “entry” point is how the ‘civil society involvement and strengthening’ component of the MedPartnership can benefit from the intervention strategy (information and advocacy) that will be set up by the ‘Civil Society’ – ENPI-South 2009 for ensuring the systematic presence of civil society representatives at all levels and in all mechanisms involved in the process of implementing and monitoring the Euromed Partnership, Association Agreements and ENP Action Plans.

Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater

118. The GEF-UNDP Project “Protection and Sustainable Use of the **Dinaric Karst Aquifer System (DIKTAS)** is a regional project with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro as GEF recipient countries. The project is aimed at producing better knowledge of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System as a shared resource, consensus on the causes of its degradation, a consultation mechanism among the countries sharing the aquifer, formal agreement on corrective actions including policy, legal and institutional reforms, and investments, to be taken jointly, and improved awareness and sustained international support. The DIKTAS Project Preparation Phase was finalized in October 2009, the Full Size Project was endorsed by the GEF Secretariat in January 2010. Given the

²² The member of the project’s consortium are: the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) - Leader, UNEP/MAP and its RACs, National Waste Management Agency (ANGed), Austrian Environment Agency (AEA), Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water - the General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources, Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), WWF Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF MedPO), Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+), Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA).

geographic and thematic scope of DIKTAS, there are many interlinkages and synergies with the MedPartnership in particular with the UNESCO-IHP executed subcomponent on coastal aquifers and groundwater. The coordination will be secured through UNESCO-IHP, which is responsible for both activities and between the national ministries and water resources departments involved in the MedPartnership and the DIKTAS projects.

119. The GEF-UNEP project “**Development of a methodology for the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP)**” is a GEF medium-size global project that has started in mid 2009 and will run until the end of 2010. The transboundary groundwater systems, transboundary lakes/reservoirs systems, transboundary river systems, Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and open ocean areas on which the socioeconomic development and well being of a significant part of the world’s population depends, continue to be degraded by anthropogenic and natural pressures, including global climate change. Among the constraints to effective management of transboundary waters is the lack of a systematic and scientifically-robust methodology for assessing the changing conditions of five different types of transboundary water systems resulting from human and natural causes, which would allow the policy makers, Global Environment Facility and international organizations to set science-based priorities for financial resource allocation. Such a methodology also will facilitate identification and assessment of positive changes in the environmental and resources situations in the transboundary water systems resulting from interventions by national authorities and international/regional communities. Linkages are seen in particular between the TWAP groundwater component, which is executed by UNESCO-IHP, and the LME component, executed by UNESCO-IOC. The project is aimed at developing a partnership among organizations and the methodology for assessment /results tracking for each of the five categories of transboundary water systems under the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme. Coordination between the activities will be achieved through UNESCO.

120. GEF International Waters (IW) projects aim at sustainable management of global transboundary water systems. Over one billion dollars of GEF funds, matched by over four billion dollars of cofinancing, have been invested in around 150 projects, which cover an exceptionally broad spectrum of systems – from lake and river basins to groundwater aquifers to near-shore and open ocean ecosystems. This portfolio has created a large amount of new scientific knowledge. The GEF-UNEP global project “**Expanding the Scientific Basis for GEF International Waters Projects (IW:Science)**” is aimed at recognizing, capturing, analyzing and integrating the scientific findings from projects funded by the GEF in its International Waters (IW) Focal Area and to disseminate them across the IW portfolio and beyond. The GEF Medium Size Project started in mid 2009 with duration of 2 years. The scientific knowledge created during the MedPartnership will be captured by the project and be made available across the IW portfolio. To enhance this relationship one of the staff of the PMU is acting as an expert within this project.

121. The projects under the **MENARID - IW:LEARN: "Strengthening IW Portfolio Delivery and Impact"** program, in the Sustainable Land Management Focal Area of GEF are focused on sustainable use of land and water resources for improved socio-economic land productivity for mitigation of rural poverty. The MENARID projects include the coastal countries under the Regional Project, with linkages with the activity on of sustainable land and water resources management under the coastal aquifer Sub-component 1.1 focused on land sustainability to reduce erosion and transportation of sediments with LBS pollutants and nutrients into coastal and marine waters. The demonstrated land areas on sustainable coastal land and water resources management will consider the relevant cases under the MENARID programme. The land-water integrated methodology and references on the assessment and significance of land degradation and coastal and marine water pollution will be assessed and valued for global dissemination under the MENARID IW-LEARN project, in which UNESCO will be responsible for the development of mechanisms for integration of groundwater dimensions within the projects executed under MENARID

122. The UN General Assembly adopted in December 2008 a **Resolution on the law of transboundary aquifers (A/RES/63/124)**. The Resolution encourages the States concerned to make appropriate arrangements for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers, referring to the draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers prepared by the UN International Law Commission that are included in its annex. The Resolution can provide a useful tool and reference for the Mediterranean countries for the proper management of their coastal aquifers, in case they are transboundary, and in addition to the provisions under the Barcelona Convention and relevant protocols.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

123. National activities towards ratification of and harmonization with the **Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)**, are on-going or in preparation. Presently initiatives towards ratification/harmonization are ongoing or initiated in Algeria, Croatia, Montenegro, Syria and Spain. All actions will be assisted by PAP/RAC and monitored, the results to be taken into account, harmonized with the respective ICZM sub-component activity and used as appropriate.

124. **IDDR Protogizc Project** concerning the impacts of the ICZM Protocol, aiming at provision of assistance and support towards the ratification and harmonization of national legislations with the Protocol, is envisaged to start in 2010. The action (supported also by PAP/RAC) includes among others case studies for Croatia, France, Italy and Lebanon. PAP/RAC will participate, monitor and use the project results. The Croatian and Lebanese studies will be included in the respective sub-component activity.

125. **SMAP III Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans of action (regional)**. Following the launching of SMAP III in 2005, a Technical Assistance office was opened in Cairo and eight projects have been selected for implementation. All projects aimed to develop integrated coastal zone management plans for specific regions in the Mediterranean countries, to be implemented in GEF eligible countries. SMAP III project "Promoting Awareness and Enabling a Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with focus on Integrated Coastal Zone Management" was implemented jointly PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and METAP. The project started in 2005 with the overall objective to improve the advocacy and awareness in policy making at national level in SMAP beneficiary countries to engage them into the path towards the environmentally sustainable development. Also, the project has encouraged and supported harmonised co-operative efforts at regional level for a common policy framework for ICZM. Actions in implementation will be monitored by PAP/RAC, to be used if relevant and as appropriate.

126. **PlanCoast - Spatial Planning Systems in the Adriatic**. This recently completed INTERREG IIIB NP CADSES project leads the path towards a completely new spatial development instrument: Marine Spatial Planning. It also enhances ICZM implementation by linking it with the process of statutory spatial planning. The action was implemented by PAP/RAC.

127. **MAP Coastal Area Management Programme (MAP CAMP)**. It is oriented at implementation of practical integrated management projects in selected Mediterranean coastal areas, applying ICZM. A number of CAMP projects have been implemented in GEF eligible countries. From the standpoint of MedPartnership of relevance are in particular those implemented in Algeria and Lebanon, both completed in 2005. In addition, CAMP project for Morocco will be completed in April 2010, while CAMP Montenegro is presently in the pipeline. For CAMP Montenegro a Feasibility study was prepared in 2008. A meeting to harmonize the Bojana/Buna - Skadar lake Sub-component ICZM Plan with the Montenegro CAMP is scheduled for end January 2010. The results of the CAMP Algeria were taken into account when defining the actions for the Reghaia ICZM Plan, also national activities

implemented or on-going as outcomes of the said CAMP. The experiences of CAMP Morocco, will also be used as appropriate.

128. **Capacity building for an early assessment system of drought** in three countries of the south shore of the Mediterranean Sea: Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The project was approved in 2006. The overall objective of the project is to improve the capacities in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to deal with and adapt to drought periods. To this end, the project will identify the regions that are most sensitive to drought and reinforce capacities for regular monitoring in order to predict the level of risk of drought occurrence. The project will be monitored by PAP/RAC, to be used if relevant for the Reghaia ICZM Plan.

129. **Lake Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management** (Albania and Montenegro). The project is on-going, the overall objective being to assist the Governments of Albania and Montenegro in achieving a more sustainable use of the natural resources of the Lake Shkoder and its watershed. The global environmental objective of the project is to reduce pollution and conserve the lake and its biodiversity as an internationally important nature habitat for different flora and fauna species, especially for waterfowl birds. The results of the project are of importance for the Bojana/Buna - Skadar lake Sub-component ICZM Plan. As part of inception activities for the Plan, detailed information on the project were provided by both the Albanian and Montenegro responsible, to be used for harmonization and mutual use of results. Consequently, the project will be monitored by PAP/RAC and national responsible for the ICZM SP sub-component, to be used for the Plan activities.

130. **COAST - Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Dalmatian Coast through Greening Coastal Development** (Croatia). The project is on-going. It aims at making development "greener" across a key area of the Croatian coastal zone by creating an enabling environment. The project also seeks to change the behaviour of economic actors within the area so that key mosaic of habitats and species are secured and they're needs incorporated into economic development of the area. The Project results and experiences might be relevant for the socio-economic aspects of the Bojana/Buna - Skadar lake Sub-component ICZM Plan, and will be monitored by PAP/RAC. .

131. **Plan of Action for an Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the area of Port Said (Egypt)**. This SMAP III project was approved in 2006 and is being carried out in Egypt, in the coastal zone of Port Said. Its aim is to prepare an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the area and to create the basis for its successive concrete implementation through an integrated and interdisciplinary approach and with the direct involvement of the relevant stakeholders.

132. **Reducing conflicts of coastal natural resources use in the Nador area of Morocco (Morocco)**. The SMAP III project was approved in 2006 and is being carried out in the Morocco's province of Nador. The overall goal of the project is to promote sustainable development in the coastal area of the province of Nador through the establishment of an ICZM Plan with civil society participation.

133. **DESTINATIONS**, EU LIFE III project recently completed by the PAP/RAC, involved Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The project deals with sustainable development of tourism in national coastal areas, aiming at introducing updated ICZM tools for decision making, preparing guidelines and provision of capacity building for entrepreneurs, decision makers and other target groups. The results, since relevant for the Reghaia ICZM Plan, and probably for the Bojana/Buna Plan, will be used by PAP/RAC as appropriate.

134. **PEGASO**, People for Ecosystem based Governance on Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and Coast, is a FP7 EU project, aiming at development of a set of user-friendly governance tools for sustainable governance of coastal zones in the Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal areas. The project is directly linked with the aims of

Article 14 of the ICZM Med Protocol. PAP/RAC is one of the partners in the project led by the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and its implementation is planned to start in the 2010-11 biennium. Its main task is to develop an ICZM Governance Platform. The results and experiences of the project, if timely produced will be used as appropriate.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

135. The **Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI)** constitutes an integral part and one of the geographic Components of the overall EUWI. It represents a strategic partnership among all related stakeholders (national, regional and international) in the Mediterranean region, aiming to contribute to the implementation of the water-related MDGs and WSSD targets. It, thus, seeks to make significant progress in poverty eradication and health, in the enhancement of livelihoods, and in sustainable economic development in the Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe, providing a catalyst for peace and security in the region which is a vulnerable and sensitive one from both an environmental and political view point. MED EUWI is led by the government of Greece (Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and it is also supported by the European Commission. The MED EUWI Secretariat within the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean Secretariat provides technical support and day-by-day running. GWP-Med, as partner in both MED EUWI and responsible for the execution of the Integrated Resource Management sub-component of the Med Partnership, has revised activities to ensure close coordination between both projects.

Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants

136. Related to the activity 2.1.5. Assessment of the magnitude of riverine inputs of nutrients into the Mediterranean sea, in the framework of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, DG Environment and JRC joined to develop a study on the expected cumulative impact of existing European Union Environmental legislation on the quality of the marine environment with reference to the case of aquatic discharges from inland-based scenarios (FATE scenarios). The objective of the study is to perform a long term retrospective and prospective analysis (1985-2020) of **land based nutrient loads in European seas** to assess the effectiveness of the EU environmental policies. The project is divided in three phases: The first one focuses on database development and model based assessment of nutrient loading for the year 2000 which was selected as a baseline. The second phase is dedicated to the collection of all relevant data to perform a retrospective assessment including trends analysis. Finally, the third phase consists in the elaboration and evaluation of scenarios of policies implementation. A report is published on the work accomplished in the first phase. It represents first the modeling approach used in the study, then the data collection and DB development and finally the estimated nutrients loads to European seas for the year 2000. The analysis is completed by an assessment of nutrients pressures in European waters, including spatial estimates of nutrients source apportionment.

137. Complementing the activities under sub-Component 2.3: "Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries", the World Bank is implementing a project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Its budget is CAD\$ 250,000. The main objectives of this project are:

- ❖ to complete and update the existing (partial) inventory of PCB oils and PCB-contaminated equipment in Lebanon done during the preparation of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) financed by the GEF. A survey of existing stocks of PCBs in the country is a priority for the government, which will be used in the future to develop and implement a removing and elimination program for these substances; and

- ❖ to pilot a real task in the field to drain out and remove PCB oils contained in the out-of-service PCB transformers from the Zouk and Jieh Power Plants and safely dispose of them along with the transformers in an overseas country in such a way that the PCB content is destroyed.

Marine Protected Areas

138. The **Med-RAS project** is a joint initiative between the Marine and Species Programmes of the IUCN-Med. The aim of Med-RAS is to identify priority habitats and species to be managed and protected in the Mediterranean Sea. This is achieved by defining a science-based standardized methodology to identify and map important ecological and biodiversity areas for establishing a coherent and representative network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas. One of the pilot sites of the MedRAS project is the territorial waters of Libya. Within the framework of the MedPartnership's Pilot Project in Libya contributes to the establishment of the first MPAs in this country. In early 2009, a coordination meeting was organized in Tripoli with the Environmental General Authority (EGA) of Libya, the Marine Biology Research Centre (MBRC) of Tajura, UNEP-MAP SPA/RAC, IUCN-Med and UNDP-Libya to develop a joint 4-year work plan for the identification of a system of MPAs along the Libyan coast. The MPA sub-component of the MedPartnership will refer to the methodology developed by IUCN.

139. The Conservatoire du Littoral (CEL) is implementing **Small Islands of the Mediterranean** programme which is partially funded by the FFEM (see the section on Status of co-financing for further details). The main objective is to facilitate the exchange of expertise among experts and scientists in the region (South-South and North-South) on issues related to the management of these unique ecosystems, run field surveys and provide technical training to scientists. When the projects are related to MPAs, the neighbouring MPAs involved in the MedPartnership Project are informed about and potentially involved in the Conservatoire initiatives. Furthermore, training courses will be held together in full coordination with SPA/RAC. A Memorandum of Agreement will be signed between SPA/RAC and Conservatoire du Littoral on the joint activities to be developed and its calendar updated every year.

140. The newly established work program on Marine Areas of UNEP/MAP's Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC) aims at developing an economic approach to **assess the value of marine ecosystem services in the Mediterranean**. The program entails a regional study (2009) aimed at providing an indication of the value of marine ecosystem services by means of a macro-economic approach (developed by UN), and local studies (2010-2011) on ex-ante and ex-post assessment of different Med MPAs' integrated impacts of ecological and socio-economic activities on the site. Blue Plan is looking for pilot sites to apply the methodology and exploring the possibility to collaborate with the MPAs involved in the MedPartnership..

141. **MedPAN** is the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. The MedPAN Network was originally created in 1990 and since then has been implementing many activities in the form of projects, and in particular the INTERREG IIIC **MedPAN** project coordinated by WWF between 2005 and 2008. The project included the exchange of experience on MPA management issues through the organisation of thematic workshops, the development of methodological tools on MPA management, the funding of field studies and the online publishing of the 1st Mediterranean MPA Directory. More information on the network can be found on www.medpan.org. In late 2008, the MedPAN network was officially institutionalized as a standalone association under the French law. The purpose of the MedPAN Association is to promote the creation, perpetuation and operation of a Mediterranean ecological network of marine protected areas. It thus contributes to achieving the specific objectives fixed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to establish and maintain comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and

regional systems of marine protected areas and those of the Barcelona Convention, and in particular to its protocol relating to Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1995). The members of Association are MPA management entities. The MedPartnership is one of several initiatives that are supporting the MedPAN Association. In the framework of the project, some activities such as the experts' database, web-site, and publications will be co-implemented. A Communication Officer will be recruited by the end of 2009 and he/she will serve all the communication aspects of both MedPAN Association and the MedPartnership. Future activities, such as parallel projects targeting EU MPAs, will be developed in coordination as well.

142. Within the framework of the implementation of the SAP-BIO, SPA/RAC and the countries of the Mediterranean, in consultation with IUCN WWF-MedPo, MedPAN and ACCOBAMS developed a common Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean region. Based on the partners' inputs, this programme has been finalized and submitted for adoption to the Ninth meeting of Focal Points for SPAs, as a platform of collaboration with the aim of helping countries to reach the 2012 target for a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The Programme of work is made of the following four elements:

- ❖ Element 1: To Assess the representativity and effectiveness of the existing Mediterranean network of marine and coastal Protected Areas
- ❖ Element 2: To make the Mediterranean Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas more comprehensive and more representative of the ecological features of the Region.
- ❖ Element 3: To improve the management of the Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas.
- ❖ Element 4: To strengthen the protected area governance systems and further adapt them to national and regional contexts.

143. The Project "**Identification of possible SPAMIs in the Mediterranean Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)**" is implemented by SPA/RAC with the financial support of the EC. It aims to address the lack of protected areas in the open ocean of the Mediterranean. In the first phase, which started in 2008 activities would focus on a general analysis of the existing information on the presence of important elements of marine biodiversity on the Mediterranean High Seas; the definition of operational criteria for the site selection process; the preparation of a shortlist of potential sites on the High Seas which could be protected as SPAMIs and the drafting of a roadmap for the elaboration of further proposals to be presented to the Contracting Parties for adoption. The first phase was finished in 2009 leading to the second phase, which will propose a list SPAMIs in ABNJ that qualify as prospective SPAMIs. This second phase will be fully coordinated with FAO GFCM activities regarding the fisheries restricted areas in the high seas.

144. The **ACCOBAMS** programme of work on Marine Protected Areas aims at launching a coherent and coordinated process for identifying sites of special interest for cetaceans with the view of granting them protection status that will give them long-term protection. The ultimate goal of the programme of work being the setting of a network of MPAs that help the Parties benefit from the potential MPAs offer regarding conservation and in particular help achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area. To this end the programme of work includes activities to be undertaken at national level (inventory of sites of importance for cetaceans and establishment of protected areas) and activities to be implemented at regional level (Training of managers, elaboration of guidelines).

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

145. Major initiatives in the region that are complementary to Sub-component 3.2: Promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources through the application of ecosystem-based management approaches are predominantly the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the suite of the FAO Fisheries Management Support projects for the Mediterranean. These projects have the overall broad aim of supporting the countries in the region by reinforcing their capacity for management of sustainable fisheries. Due to the historical development of the initiatives, and the different levels of development of the participating countries regarding fisheries research, the projects are at different development levels but are all coordinated to ensure a smooth running of the work and the establishment of synergies among them, to achieve the overall goal of contributing to the improvement of management of Mediterranean fisheries according to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. They also all promote regional cooperation on research and management of fisheries, including through providing support to the countries' participation in the activities of the GFCM. There are currently five projects in this suite, most of them sub-regional in scope, but others, more thematic, cover in principle the whole Mediterranean. A summary description of these projects is given below:

146. Adriamed: Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries management compatible with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea, was initiated in 1999 and operates across the whole Adriatic Sea, having Albania, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia as its participating countries. The Project aims to promote cooperation on fisheries management and research among the Adriatic nations, to improve fisheries management and research according to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO 1995). Adriamed aims to contribute decisively to enlarging the scope of information on the Adriatic Sea, related to shared fishery resources, knowledge that is often fragmented and localized to different territories. As biological resources are not limited to geopolitical boundaries, scientific knowledge of resources within a single nation is not adequate for the responsible management of those resources. The project aims to develop a common cognitive basis to support international processes aimed at fishery management, reinforce the scientific coordination among the different institutions interested in fishing activity and to establish a permanent network among the main institutions present in the Adriatic that are involved in fishery management and research activities.

147. CopeMed: Coordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean is the oldest of the FAO-led Mediterranean Fisheries Management projects, and is active in the Western and Central sub-regions of the Mediterranean. Its participating countries are Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain. It aims at supporting the countries in the region increase their cooperation for sustainable fisheries management according to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, including developing their national fisheries research and management capacity to a level allowing full and equal participation of all countries in the management of the living marine resources in the region, preferably through their participation in the activities of the GFCM. In addition, the project is contributing to strengthening regional collaboration by supporting the participation of the countries in regional scientific working groups, such as those of the GFCM. The occurrence in the project's area of shared fishery resources requires the promotion of concerted fisheries management among the coastal countries, in line with the indication set by the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The CopeMed project also manages actively the ArtFiMed project, a project dedicated to improving the knowledge about the small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean, and the living conditions of small-scale fishers, through a suite of small demonstration projects in Morocco and Tunisia. It is likely that these activities will soon be expanded to cover also Algeria and possibly, in a later phase, Libya.

148. **EastMed: Scientific and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean**, develops its activities in the Eastern Mediterranean area with the aim to contribute to the sustainable management of marine fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean, and thereby to supporting national economies and protecting the livelihoods of those involved in the fisheries sector. It is the most recent addition to the FAO suite of Mediterranean fisheries management and research projects, having started in the last quarter of 2009. The project works with the Fisheries Departments and Research Institutes of the Eastern Mediterranean countries to strengthen programmes necessary for the implementation of rational, responsible and participative fisheries management in accordance with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, so as to achieve sustainable use of the marine ecosystems. The project provides training for the staff of the national fisheries administrations and research institutes from the Eastern Mediterranean countries to undertake data collection and analyses required for fisheries management according to EAF. It also supports networking to encourage cooperation among the countries and to ensure the stakeholder involvement in the management process.

149. **MedSudMed: Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and Ecosystems for the application of EAF in the South-Central Mediterranean**, which started in 2001, covers the area of the southern Central Mediterranean, and its participating countries are Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta and Tunisia. Its objectives are to complement the work of other projects in the area by focusing specifically on Fisheries and Marine Research, as a support to achieving the knowledge conditions for the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the area. The overall objective of the MedSudMed Project is the reinforcement of regional scientific cooperation among research Institutions in the south-central Mediterranean as baseline for the monitoring and assessment of fisheries resources and the ecosystem in agreement with the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries (2001) and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. The project supports the process of standardizing sampling procedures and data elaboration, as well as joint data processing and analysis. It also supports fundamental work on data collection at sea at the regional level with international teams of experts, including cooperative oceanographic and acoustic surveys. The Project also contributes to the enhancement of the national capacity of participating countries through a number of on-the-job and dedicated training initiatives and it promotes the development of common basic knowledge on fisheries resources and the ecosystem by activating several lines of applied research (e.g. identification of nursery and spawning areas and description of the main water mass circulation).

150. **MedFisis: Fishery Statistics and Information System in the Mediterranean**, aims at supporting countries in the Mediterranean region in the development of their fisheries statistical systems, including the collection, organisation and analysis of the data for fisheries management purposes. Good quality fisheries data is an important element of any fisheries management system, and even more so as one intends to enhance the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in the Mediterranean. The results of this project will thus contribute to the success of the fisheries component of the MedPartnership, by facilitating the availability of good quality fisheries information for management.

151. The coordination of the activities of these projects with the work of the fisheries component of the MedPartnership for the Mediterranean will be done through two processes: First, they are naturally coordinated by the fact that they share a large part of the same objectives, and are executed through the same FAO unit, the FAO Marine and Inland Fisheries Service of the FAO Department of Fisheries. Second, the planning of the activities of the fisheries component of the MedPartnership, as well as of the other projects will be done mostly jointly, in organised planning sessions that will aim at maximizing the synergies among the different projects, and minimize the overlap or potential conflicts, while optimizing the use of human, technical and financial resources for the common overall goal of sustainable fisheries research and management according to the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Mediterranean.

Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean

152. The MedPartnership project was developed in 2006 and at that time climate change was, not considered an issue to be addressed through a GEF project, as it is now, even though work was already underway since the 1990's on the issue of climate change in the Mediterranean²³. Now GEF has established a focal area for Climate Change and under the focal area of International Waters also addressed issues related to climate variability and the change. Recent research on climate variability and its impacts in the Mediterranean (such as the MEDClivar project²⁴, CIRCE²⁵ among others) along with the findings contained in the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are all in agreement on the broad future trends in climate variability in the Mediterranean, in spite of the complexity of factors controlling Mediterranean climate. SPA/RAC has recently facilitated the task of updating the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP/BIO) on Climate Change Issues, and as a result national and sub-regional reports analysis the risk to coastal zone and marine biodiversity.²⁶ As a result of consultations with countries and experts, a proposal was drafted and approved by GEF in October 2009 (see document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 345/Inf. 4). The preparation phase is due to start within the first quarter of 2010.

153. The project, to be executed by UNEP/MAP, PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and GWP-Med, proposed for a two year duration, is designed as a phase 1 of 2 projects and an additional project to the MedPartnership. As such, it will utilize the management and coordination structure of the UNEP component of the MedPartnership, and will benefit from the replication and communication strategy developed for the project. It's aim is to support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention ICZM Protocol through the development of region wide coordination mechanisms and tools to address climate variability in the Mediterranean Region." The three project components address:

- ❖ Development of regional climate variability monitoring programme, with consensus on objectives, targets, impact indicators and implementation modalities and supported by a web-based regional data platform on climate research which will be linked with other data platforms, including MAP's regional activity center on Information (INFO/RAC).
- ❖ Strengthening of knowledge base by including latest results from programmes and additional assessments, assist countries to more precisely calculate the impacts of climate variability to their marine and coastal zone. It will focus on the coastal watersheds, with emphasis on risks to water availability and quality and marine ecosystems (including agriculture and fisheries), and other risks to be further defined, likely to include coastal erosion and landslides. Ultimately, based on the findings of these studies, the TDA for the Mediterranean Basin will be updated with respect to climate change and climate variability.
- ❖ Strengthening partnerships, capacity and exchange for the implementation of the ICZM protocol and dissemination of project experiences and lessons.

²³ See Climate Change and the Mediterranean: Environmental and Societal Impacts of Climatic Change and Sea-Level rise in the Mediterranean Sea. Volume 1 (Jeftic, Milliman and Sestini) and Volume 2 (Jeftic, Keckes and Pernetta) - 1992

²⁴ The Mediterranean Climate Variability and Predictability. Endorsed by the European Science Foundation and implemented from 2006 to 2011

²⁵ European Commission Climate Change and Research in the Mediterranean project

²⁶ UNEP/MAP reports: UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/13, WG 331/Inf.16, WG.331/Inf.17 and WG.331/Inf.18

Adaptation of the project to changing conditions

154. Due to the changes in environmental conditions, and new context framed by policies, projects and initiatives created since 2006, as presented above, one of the objectives of the Inception Phase of the MedPartnership was to allow some time to modify the initiative accordingly, so as to reach more effectively and efficiently its goals, and also to adapt it to new priorities such as climate change and variability. The majority of above described programmes, projects and initiatives were designed as self standing projects, albeit with a strong potential to complement the MedPartnership. Therefore, the main effort has been to ensure that good mechanisms for coordination and communication between project partners and actors of the new regional context are in place, as well as to address issues in a coordinated approach in communication with national focal points and experts. Thanks to the fact that most of the MedPartnership partners are also partners in the above mentioned projects, it is reasonable to expect that, in the future, the implementation of MedPartnership and the above projects will be highly coordinated, and significant synergies and mutual benefits will be achieved. One of the major tasks of the PMU will be to facilitate this synergy creation and utilization of benefits. The main changes in the MedPartnership are result of the initiation of the Programme for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean by the World Bank ("Sustainable Med"), and the approval of MedPartnership's new component - the GEF funded project "Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean."

4. REVISED OVERALL WORK-PLAN, ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET: SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES WITH JUSTIFICATION

155. This important chapter of the Inception Report deals with two issues: the changes in the programme of activities, and changes to the budget as a result of changes in programme, but also because of other causes. The PMU has requested from partners to delve deeply into the reasons for change and, as a result, every partner has provided detailed justification for programmatic and budgetary changes. The final outcome of this exercise will be the decision of the Steering Committee on the extension of the duration of MedPartnership's activities, changed pattern of activities, and new budget proposal, albeit without the increase of the overall cost to GEF.

Explanation of changes made from the original approved design

156. This Inception Report presents the changes made to the project activities, work-plan and budget, as well as presents amended indicators for measuring the success of project implementation. It should be stressed that no major changes have been made with regards to the initial programme of the project, and all its goals remain the same as when the project was endorsed by GEF. However, the changes that have been made were mainly for the following reasons:

- ❖ To improve on the original project design where certain errors or lack of information was provided;
- ❖ To adjust the project so as to complement and avoid duplication with new programmes and initiatives and ensure mechanisms for coordination with these are in place;
- ❖ To accommodate for important emerging issues such as climate change, which have been a request made by the Contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention.

Component 1: Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer

157. **Sub-Component 1.1 Management of Coastal Aquifer and Groundwater** is executed by UNESCO-IHP. The changes made to activity 1.1.1.2 "Coastal aquifer vulnerability mapping: Pilot Project in one selected country" were:

- ❖ Vulnerability mapping of the Ghar el Melh aquifer, Tunisia was added; and
- ❖ Four case studies to be prepared for: Nador lagoon, Ghar el Melh, and two selected Coastal (Karst) aquifers in Croatia.

158. The justifications for the above are that Ghar el Melh is identified and agreed with Tunisia as a representative priority coastal aquifer system for vulnerability mapping. The accompanying case studies have been added in order to produce reference information for dissemination. The Nador lagoon case study, with research and data collection support from Ca' Foscari University in Venice, is focused on water quality with pollution and salinity hazards in the lagoon and linked with and supporting the Nador lagoon sub-project under the Investment Fund. The Case studies in Croatia have been identified and adopted during the coordination workshop and field visit in June 2007 to produce representative reference cases for the management of coastal karst aquifers. The co-financed activity on sustainable coastal water and land resources management has been planned as an integrated, comprehensive coastal aquifers and land management study focused on a critical coastal section with the Gabes coastal aquifer and oases in the southern coast of Tunisia.

159. Under activity 1.1.2.2 "Integration of groundwater management in ICZM and IWRM planning systems", the two coastal aquifer demonstration sites, as foreseen in the approved project, Reghaia Lake in Algeria and Bojana Bay in Montenegro have been selected. Both sites benefit from the existing wealth of information and institutional arrangements in place as well as from the momentum of planned projects and proposed linkages with the Investment Fund.

160. In the **Sub-component 1.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management**, executed by PAP/RAC, activities were adapted to accommodate the new ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean and to advance ICZM methodologies and tools and their application (see Chapter 3 on Integrated Coastal Zone Management). Taking into account the above the following changes in project activities are considered as needed, enhancing thus harmonization and synergy with other components of the project, and adding to project efficiency. At the same time, the approved programme, objectives and budget of the Project and of its ICZM sub-component have been fully respected:

- ❖ Activity 1.2.1.2 ICZM Strategies and NAPs: regional outputs to start in 2010 instead of 2011; reducing case studies on NAPs from 3 to 2, in order to cope with increased expenditures due to changes of USD rate ;
- ❖ Activity 1.2.1.3. Harmonizing legislations with Protocol: to start in 2010, instead of 2012;
- ❖ Activity 1.2.2.1 and 1.2.2.2. Workplans of the ICZM Plans include consultative initial meetings with respective national authorities, to discuss meanwhile occurred impacts and actions and update needs;
- ❖ Activity 1.2.2.2. on Sustainable financing: to start in 2011 instead of 2012;
- ❖ Activity 1.2.2.3. Reducing harmonization meetings fro 3 to 2, for the same reason of increased cost;
- ❖ Include the municipality of Ain Taya in the Reghaia ICZM Plan boundaries;
- ❖ Activity 1.2.2.1.: amending details of implementation arrangements, activities and ToRs for the Bojana / Skadar lake (Buna / Shkoder lake) ICZM plan, to cope with results of new activities and strengthen/improve the transboundary aspects of the Plan.
- ❖ in addition, amendments and corrections were made of the set of ToRs as presented in the revised part of Annex Q, with the proviso requested by host country partners that the implementation structure and respective arrangements, ToRs included, will

have to be defined and fine-tuned only after the initial phase of respective activities (i.e. after defining activities' Outlines and Operational programmes).

161. **Sub-component 1.3: Integrated Water Resource Management** is executed by GWP-Med. The following changes to activities were made:

- ❖ The Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (under activity 1.3.1) evolved into the process for the elaboration of the new Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean to be agreed at Ministerial level in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean.
- ❖ The case of the Buna/Bojana River (activity 1.3.3) was expanded to involve considerations of the wider Drin River system thus providing new strategic approach for the IRBM of the basin. Following request by the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water, the Litani River case was replaced with the case of the transboundary Orontes River which presents an important opportunity for developing collaboration between Lebanon and Syria.
- ❖ The small activity involving the preparation of short list of transboundary basins suitable for interventions and pilot projects (activity 1.3.4) was canceled since considerable part of such a scoping has been undertaken already by the World Bank, the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and other institutions.

Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: Implementation of SAP-MED

162. **Sub-Component: 2.1. Facilitation of policy and legislative reforms for SAP MED is executed by MEDPOL** (to be completed).

163. **Sub-Component 2.2. Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology**, executed by UNIDO, required no changes to their activities and remain as per the time of GEF endorsement.

164. **Sub-Component 2.3. Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries** is executed jointly by MEDPOL and CP/RAC.

165. Regarding CP/RAC's activities, the changes concern the activity 2.3.4 Technical capacity for ESM of PCBs equipment related to development of a joint PCB awareness workshop and training courses. An inception workshop is now planned to be a half-day PCB awareness workshop in each target country (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, and Syria). It is unknown at the moment if Lebanon and Libya are finally in the project and Croatia will substitute Lebanon and/or Libya. Each PCB awareness workshop (originally called "inception workshop") is planned for about 100 participants from different stakeholder groups such as governmental bodies, power companies, waste management companies, transport companies, consulting firms, academia, local communities, NGOs, other participating international agencies, trainers, etc. It is also planned to carry out, after the development of the PCB awareness workshop, three parallel training courses in the same event: a training course on institutional / policy framework for PCB management for governmental staff and two training courses on ESM of PCBs for the private sector.

166. In terms of timeframe, it should also be mentioned that the CP/RAC subcomponents' timeframe is becoming shorter, going from three (3) years to two (2) years approximately. This timeframe has been shortened as a result of the joint implementation of the PCB awareness workshop (originally called "inception workshop") and the PCB training courses in the same event, reducing the needed time for implementation as well as decreasing human, travel and other associated costs. This will also optimize use of local governments' limited human resources. In terms of target and performance, the number of trained people will

remain the same as planned, but the level and quality of stakeholder's interaction, networking, discussion and potential public-private partnerships will increase significantly. The main reasons for this change are the following:

- ❖ Conducting the awareness workshop and training courses in the same event will save target countries economic and most importantly human resources. The development of multiple events during a longer period might cause additional stress on already scarce target countries human and in-kind resources. Government officials working specifically on PCBs in the target countries might be very few, if not only one person. In addition, they also have to participate in parallel PCB activities developed by MEDPOL as well as in any other PCB related project under development, demanding additional time, economic and other resources.
- ❖ Bringing all PCB-related stakeholders at the same time and in the same event in target countries will clearly promote a greater interaction, richer discussion and exchange of experiences, better networking, potential private-public partnerships and collaboration, etc. The idea behind this is to bring together all relevant PCB stakeholders including the public sector, PCB generators (utilities, industries, etc.), PCB monitoring bodies and companies, PCB manipulators-decontamination (personnel, waste companies, consulting, etc.), PCB waste management companies (including metal scrappers, oil management companies, etc.), PCB transport companies, PCB treatment companies, consulting firms, academia (potential Training of Trainers (ToTs), NGOs, representatives of local communities close to PCB sites, etc.
- ❖ Conducting the awareness workshop and training courses in the same event will also allow CP/RAC to increase needed funding to Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), the ACTA and for technical experts' travel expenses. The last item was clearly under budgeted because as many project meetings as the project currently demands were not envisioned. These meetings include Steering Committee meetings, kick-off project meetings with target countries and other important stakeholders, project subcomponent meetings with MEDPOL, technical policy experts' travel to kick-off project meetings, etc.

167. Regarding the PCB Newspaper ads and other activities, it is proposed to cancel this activity and transfer these resources to the development of a better quality PCB video and its dissemination for the following reasons:

- ❖ CP/RAC considers that developing PCB newspaper ads is not an efficient way to create awareness among, and truly reach, PCB target groups. The reasoning for this change is that PCB target groups might not read a PCB newspaper ad or might get, if any, very limited information from a newspaper ad on PCBs and its risks. The PCB message has to be very clear, broad, directed specifically to each target group (for example, electrical companies) and massively disseminated. Therefore, investing in newspaper ads might produce a waste of resources and create only limited PCB awareness and building capacity.
- ❖ Resources should, instead, be used to produce a good quality PCB video and use some resources for its dissemination among target groups. Besides disseminating the video on CDs/DVDs to target groups, CPRAC plans to place the PCB video online, in the developed PCB national websites, Med Partnership's web site, as well as on You Tube and/or other related "free access" internet websites for better and wider dissemination.

Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs

168. Sub-component 3.1: Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network is jointly executed by WWF-MedPO and

SPA/RAC. A number of activities of the Component 3.1 were merged or modified during the first year of project implementation. In Activity 3.1.1: Establishment of coordination mechanism for regional MPA management, the activities under the responsibility of the project coordination units (PCUs) are better defined and split into “Establish and set operative two Project Coordination Units” (new 3.1.1.1), “Organize the Inception and Final Workshops” (new 3.1.1.2) and “Advisory Committee and National Correspondents meet to supervise and advise the activities” (new 3.1.1.3). The “Development of long-term management arrangements” (original 3.1.1.3) was deleted as, meanwhile, the MedPAN Association was established. However, long term mechanisms are still planned for the Capacity Building programme (subcomponent 3.1.3). A new activity was added: “Raise awareness of key stakeholders on MPAs values and importance” (new 3.1.1.5). This activity aims at promoting the role, the value and the environmental, social and economic benefits of Mediterranean marine protected areas amongst public concerned.

169. Under Activity 3.1.2: Identification and planning of new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representiveness, originally meant to be executed by FAO, was eliminated from the work plan of the component, for two main reasons:

- ❖ The work currently being carried out under the project “Identification of possible Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI’s) in the Mediterranean Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”, under the responsibility of SPA/RAC, already addresses the objectives and most of the planned results of this activity. Therefore, it was considered that the benefits to be obtained from this activity would add relatively little to the overall project objectives, given the other activities started since the formulation of the original project, and that human and financial resources that were originally allocated to it would be more beneficial if allocated to other activities addressing issues insufficiently dealt with by other projects/initiatives;
- ❖ It was considered that the reformulated activity 3.2.3, also dealing with MPA issues, but addressing a problem not included in any of the other activities of the project, and that was highly relevant both for the sustainability of fishing in the Mediterranean and for the success of Mediterranean MPA’s as a tool for fisheries and biodiversity management, would require more human and financial resources than were previously allocated to it. It was also considered that the reformulated activity 3.2.3 was more likely to provide results directly useful for the improvement of fisheries and biodiversity management in the Mediterranean, so transferring the resources previously allocated to activity 3.1.2.6 into this modified activity was assessed to be beneficial for the overall success of component 3.
- ❖ WWF MedPO moved the original 3.1.4.3 “Demonstration Project in Libya: The environmental case for a national network of MPAs in Libya” under this Activity as the new 3.1.2.7 to be implemented in coordination with SPA/RAC.

170. Under Activity 3.1.3: Improved management of marine protected areas, the series of thematic exchange workshops and training sessions (original 3.1.3.1, 2 and 3) among MPA managers, practitioners and relevant authorities of new or existing MPAs were transformed into a region-wide Capacity Building (CB) programme, which comprises three regional training workshops. The experiences and good practices exchange among Mediterranean MPAs will be done through the follow-up programme (new 3.1.3.3). The follow-up programme of the Capacity Building Programme is presented in the activity 3.1.3.3: “Organize specific technical assistance and exchange/twinning programmes to provide on-site assistance to MPAs managers, practitioners and relevant authorities”. Through this programme, participants will be assisted in the implementation of the skills acquired during the CB workshops. The activity “Development of management tools” (original 3.1.3.5) is included in the follow-up programme (new 3.1.3.3). The title and activities included in the Demonstration Projects of Turkey (new 3.1.3.5) and Algeria (new 3.1.3.6) were updated according to the final workplan agreed with the local partners. A Demonstration Project in

Croatia was added (new 3.1.3.7) by extending the goal of this pilot project. Originally the goal focused only on developing “a monitoring system for the network of MPAs in Croatia” (original 3.1.4.4), the project now aims at drafting the management plans for the five MPAs of Croatia (including a monitoring system).

171. Within Activity 3.1.4: Establishment of a regional MPA network monitoring capacity, this subcomponent was removed. Original activities planned here were reallocated under other activities: Activity “Organize training workshops on M&E of MPA management effectiveness” is now part the 1st Regional Training workshop (3.1.3.1). “Establishment of common guidelines for the development of MPA management and M&E plans and development of management and M&E plans for at least 5 existing MPAs” is now part of the Demonstration Project – Croatia (3.1.3.7).

172. Activity (originally 3.1.5, now 3.1.4): Ensure the financial sustainability of regional and national MPA networks, the training activities (originally 3.1.5.2 and 4) on business planning and finance mechanisms are included in the Pilot Projects in Croatia (new 3.1.3.7) and Tunisia (new 3.1.4.2). Activity (originally 3.1.5, now 3.1.6): Improve the legal governance frameworks of marine protected areas has now been removed due to the lack of funds. As above, activity 3.1.4.3. was transformed and transferred to 3.1.2 as activity 3.1.2.7.

173. **Sub-Component 3.2. Promote the Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in the Mediterranean through Ecosystem-based Management Approaches** is executed by FAO. Revised activities to address better complementarity with the sub-regional projects are described in Chapter 3. Overall, all references to “Ecosystem-based Management” have been replaced by “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management”. This change reflects the evolution in the concepts related to sustainable fisheries management operated in the international arena, and particularly in FAO, during the last few years, and is more in line with the current lines of work of the FAO.

174. The name of the main activity 3.2.1 was changed to read “Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management”, because this name was considered to reflect more adequately the description of the activities presented, and also because it was more in line with the explanation given above. The sub-activities under this activity were also changed, for the following reasons:

- ❖ To ensure consistency among the subcomponent's activities, as well as with the overall work plans of the FAO in promoting sustainable fisheries management worldwide and particularly in the Mediterranean;
- ❖ To ensure that the sub-activities provide results that contribute to the actual objective of the overall main activity and of the sub-component, and that they are feasible, i.e. with a high probability of success;
- ❖ To facilitate linking of the activities of the project with the activities already being carried out by FAO sub-regional projects, or by other organizations, in the Mediterranean, avoiding duplication of work and increasing the probability of creating synergies, with positive effects on the relevance of the results obtained.

175. The name of Activity 3.2.2 was changed to read “Addressing bycatch of regionally important species”, especially because the description of the activity, provided in the documents of the project, matched this name more closely than the previous name. Also, this name better corresponded to the results that were assessed to be feasible, within the theme set by the original description. This change was accompanied by modifications also in the sub-activities within this main activity. These are justified by the following considerations:

- ❖ The evolution of the work in this area (bycatch of vulnerable/iconic species) seen in the Mediterranean countries in the period that elapsed since the formulation of the

original project, suggest that concentrating the geographical focus of the activities where it is considered most likely to obtain valid results will increase the probability of achieving demonstration results easier to replicate in other areas;

- ❖ Higher concentration of efforts, avoiding dispersion across many areas, will increase the feasibility of the activities. In fact, when reviewing the lessons learned from other projects, it was concluded that an excessive dispersion of the activities diluted the resources given to any one area/activity, often to a level where the objective of the activity was jeopardized;
- ❖ Need to facilitate linking of the activities of the project with the activities already being carried out by other FAO sub-regional projects, or by other organizations, in the Mediterranean, will help avoiding duplication of work and increasing the probability of creating synergies, with positive effects on the relevance of the results obtained.

176. Activity 3.2.3 was changed due to the fact that the work carried out, since the formulation of the original project, by other FAO projects in the Mediterranean, created the opportunity to adjust the work to one that is considered to address an issue providing more and better opportunities for improving the management of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas. In fact, the issue of participation of local fishing communities in the planning and management of coastal MPA's is considered essential for the success of these fisheries and environmental management tools, as well as for the sustainability of the fishing activity in the Mediterranean, with its social, economic and cultural impact. This activity was also made possible by the decision to reduce the costs associated with activity 3.1.2.6, allowing a higher concentration of the technical and financial support on fewer, but more concentrated and focused, activities.

Component 4: Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E

177. The main change in terms of Component 4 is the new role of INFO/RAC, and their work to further detail the Information, Communication and Replication Strategy as detailed in Section's 8 and 9 of this report. In terms of the Project Coordination, the only minor changes are the original Project Coordination Group has for the time being been expanded to include all executing partners rather than the key ones mentioned in the project document.

178. The main drivers of revision of Sub-Components 4.2 and 4.3, are the following:

- ❖ INFO-RAC centre managed by ISPRA (Institute for Environmental Protection and Research) from January 2010;
- ❖ Re-shaping of the Investment Fund into the Sustainable MED Program;
- ❖ Need for improving and harmonising replication approaches applicable to Regional component and Investment Fund /Sustainable MED initiatives;
- ❖ New strategic guidelines for GEF IW;
- ❖ Time elapsed since initial project design to effective project start.

179. With regards to Sub Component 4.2 – Information and Communication Strategy - the project description has been further detailed. The rationale for the communication strategy has been made clear, as well as the main goals, objectives, key messages, target groups and tools. Moreover, the Information and Communication Contact Points' network and the Publication and Communication Annual Plan have been established as the main instruments to ensure a better coordination among the executing Agencies. Participation in selected events has been clarified and budgeted. The development of the web-based "Knowledge Platform" is proposed for serving information, communication, and replication objectives; built on different modules, the platform will introduce the Web2.0 approach to communication and e-participation among the partnership stakeholders.

180. Regarding sub Component 4.3 - Replication Strategy, the focus of the Replication Strategy has been adjusted from “projects” into “good practices”, to set more realistic objectives and benchmarks to the replication process. A step by step approach has been agreed upon with the PMU and World Bank, resulting in the proposal of a preliminary scoping analysis to focus the implementing activities. Changes have been made to the replication network, to get representatives from the executing Agencies involved since the beginning of the replication process. The Replication Advisory Panel (RAP) consultative group has been added to respond to the need for ensuring technical advice and eligible countries involvement. The role of the WB expert has been reinforced to foster the harmonization of the replication strategy between regional and investment component. Support to local actors (i.e the Local Project Replication Groups) has been strengthened by means of a) visits on the pilot project sites, and b) several seminars on the selected Countries.

Revised Work-plan request for project extension

181. Given the delay in beginning implementation of the project, the schedule of activities has been adjusted for many of the projects. The Project Document states that the project should end on the 31st August 2013, which would mean that activities would need to be completed a minimum of 5 months earlier to allow the time for final dissemination and project closure (by end of March 2013). As many partners have highlighted the need to extend activities until the end of 2013 as indicated in Table 7, as well as in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 345/5. This would mean that a request for a no-cost project extension of one year (end of August 2014) would need to be asked and approved by the Steering Committee. The advantage of requesting for this extension at the beginning of the project's implementation, and adjusting all deliverables of the project accordingly, is that when the mid-term evaluation (according to new schedule, planned for end 2011) of the project is conducted it will not be based on the original unrealistic schedule of deliverables and completion date.

Table 6. Revised Project Activities Timetable

No	Activity	Year					
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sub-component 1.1: Management of Coastal Aquifers and groundwater							
1.1.1	Assessment of coastal aquifer risk and uncertainty and mapping of their vulnerability						
1.1.2	Regional actions for Coastal Aquifer Management						
1.1.3	Legal, Institutional and policy reform for Coastal Aquifer Management						
1.1.4	Spatial technology application - Cross cutting activity						
Sub-component 1.2: Integrated Coastal Zone Management							
1.2.1	Support activities in preparation of National ICZM Strategies and NAPs						
1.2.2	Application of ICZM approach, tools, and techniques in demonstration areas						
Sub-component 1.3: Integrated Water Resource Management							
1.3.1	Contribute to Developing the new Strategy for Water (SWM) in the Mediterranean						
1.3.2	Catalyse Action and Build capacity on National IWRM Planning in 4 target countries						
1.3.3	Develop IRBM in globally important river basin(s) and adjacent coastal area						
Sub-Component: 2.1. Facilitation of policy and legislative reforms for SAP MED							

		Year					
2.1.1	Phosphogypsum slurry management in Lebanon, Tunisia and Syria, including the respective demonstration sites						
2.1.2	Chromium and BOD control of tanneries effluent in target countries, including demonstration sites						
2.1.3	Lubricating oil recycling and regeneration in target countries, including demonstration sites						
2.1.4	Lead batteries recycling in target countries and Pal. Authority, including demonstration sites						
2.1.5	Assessment of the magnitude of riverine inputs of nutrients into the Mediterranean Sea						
2.1.6	Setting ELV in industrial effluents and EQS in all participating countries						
2.1.7	Meetings among agencies responsible for permitting, inspection and enforcement						
2.1.8	Training workshops to provide practical guidance and uniformity on inspecting on the most commonly polluting and industrial facilities of the country						
2.1.9	National final meeting for the assessment and feedback to propose solutions for the formulation of amendments of the existing legislation						
Sub-Component 2.2. Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology							
2.2.1	Set up national focal points						
2.2.2	Introduction of the TEST integrated approach						
2.2.3	Set-up of the information management system						
2.2.4	Identification and selection of demonstration enterprises						
2.2.5	Initial review at demonstration enterprises, incl. market and financial viability						
2.2.6	Implementation of a Cleaner Production Assessment						
2.2.7	Introduction of EMS principles and design of EMS						
2.2.8	Introduction of Environmental Management Accounting						
2.2.9	Preparation and promotion of EST investment projects						
2.2.10	Introduction of basic principles for the preparation of enterprise sustainable strategies (SES)						
2.2.11	Preparation of National publication on the application of the TEST approach						
2.2.12	Organization of national seminars in each country						
2.2.13	Introductory seminars on TEST approach at other enterprises in each country						
2.2.14	Regional Workshop to present the results of TEST-Med projects						
2.2.15	Starting of networking activities						
Sub-Component 2.3. Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies							
2.3.1	Legislative/institutional framework for implementation of ESM of PCBs						
2.3.2	Demo projects in 5 countries to improve the management and disposal programme of PCBs						

		Year					
2.3.3	Raising awareness of importance of ESM of PCBs equipment						
2.3.4	Technical capacity building for ESM of PCBs equipment						
2.3.5	Building national capacity to implement PCBs phase-out and disposal programmes						
Sub-component 3.1: Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network							
3.1.1	Establishment of coordination mechanisms for regional MPA management						
3.1.2	Identification and planning of new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representativeness						
3.1.3	Improved MPA management						
3.1.4	Ensuring financial Sustainability of regional and national MPA networks						
Sub-component 3.2: Promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources through the application of ecosystem-based management approaches							
3.2.1	Application of the Ecos. approach to fisheries management at regional/subregional levels						
3.2.2	Addressing bycatch of regionally important species at a fleet level (Morocco and Tunisia)						
3.2.3	Supporting fishermen participation in monitoring and management of coastal MPA's						
Sub-Component 4.1 Project Co-ordination, Management and M&E							
4.1.1	Project Management Unit						
4.1.2	MedPartnership Project Steering Committee (SPSC)						
4.1.3	MedPartnership Coordination Group (SPCG)						
4.1.4	Sustainable Financial Mechanism for the long term implementation of NAPs						
4.1.5	Long term Sustainability of Activities Beyond the Lifetime of the MedPartnership						
4.1.7	Mid Term Stocktaking Meeting						
4.1.8	Monitoring, Auditing, Evaluation and Reporting						
4.1.9	Country Focal Point Support Program (CFPSP)						
4.1.10	NGOs involvement in the region						
Sub-Component 4.2 Information and Communication strategies							
4.2.1	Coordinating the communication among partners						
4.2.2	Developing and implementing the web-based Knowledge Platform						
4.2.3	Integrating Replication tools into the Knowledge Platform						
4.2.4	Design and preparation of IC campaigns and information materials						
4.2.5	Design, production and updating of news service						
4.2.6	Organisation of, and participation to, selected national/international events						
4.2.7	Planning of "ad hoc" audiovisual campaigns for wide media dissemination						
Sub-Component 4.3. Replication Strategy							
4.3.1	Coordinating the Project Replication						
4.3.2	Information collection and analysis of MedPartnership projects						

		Year				
4.3.3	Design and implementation of the Replication methodology					
4.3.4	Design and implementation of partnership building					
4.3.5	Design and implementation of dissemination mechanism					
4.3.6	Organization of Replication Events					
4.3.7	On-site Replication activities					

Project Financing: Overview of budget until the closure of the project

182. As a general principle the budget has been revised to reflect activities until the year of 2014. Due to the delayed start of the project and so that five-year activities and outputs will be maintained according to the initial work plan, project partners have requested that the project duration will be extended until 2014. Partners will be expected to make their final submissions and reporting by the end of March 2014 whereas the Project Management Unit (PMU) will have to review and provide its corresponding final submission to DGEF by the end of August 2014.

183. The majority of the project partners have revised their overall budgets to reflect their amended/revised work plans accordingly, as a few changes have incurred since the approval of the project document. It has to be noted that a major increase has been observed in administrative/fixed costs whereas funds are mainly deducted from the “Training Component” from the respective budgets, namely, workshops and meetings. Partners have made an effort to cover the decreased budget lines from the respective training components through identifying in kind co-financing or mainly through combining workshops (i.e. back to back) so that economies of scale is achieved, where appropriate.

184. For additional information you may refer to the Table 8. For a detailed breakdown of budget revisions per Executing Partner see document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.345/6.

Table 7 Summary of Budget Revisions (GEF Funding)

Component	Executing Agency	USD	Project Personnel/ Consultants/ Travel	Sub-Contracts	Training (Meetings/ Conferences)	Equipment /Premises	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
1.1	UNESCO/IHP	OLD	529,250	135,100	917,150	20,000	168,500	1,770,000
		NEW	845,500	270,000	461,000	20,000	173,500	1,770,000
		VARIANCE	316,250	134,900	-456,150	0	5,000	0
1.2	PAP/RAC	OLD	725,150	50,000	129,750	0	45,100	950,000
		NEW	714,440	30,000	158,460	0	47,100	950,000
		VARIANCE	-10,710	-20,000	28,710	0	2,000	0
1.3	GWP/MED	OLD	251,000	60,000	185,000	4,000	0	500,000
		NEW	273,000	60,000	165,000	2,000	0	500,000
		VARIANCE	22,000	0	-20,000	-2,000	0	0
2.1	CP/RAC	OLD	200,000	0	100,000	0	100,000	400,000
		NEW	280,000	0	20,000	0	100,000	400,000
		VARIANCE	80,000	0	-80,000	0	0	0
	MEDPOL	OLD	970,000	1,466,000	575,000	75,000	154,000	3,240,000
		NEW	910,000	1,526,000	575,000	75,000	154,000	3,240,000

Component	Executing Agency	USD	Project Personnel/ Consultants/ Travel	Sub-Contracts	Training (Meetings/ Conferences)	Equipment /Premises	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
		VARIANCE	-60,000	60,000	0	0	0	0
3.1 (EC&AEC ID)	WWF MEDPO (EUR)	OLD	461,430	0	225,000	0	193,570	880,000
		NEW	410,585	50,845	225,000	0	193,570	880,000
		VARIANCE	-50,845	50,845	0	0	0	0
	SPARAC (EUR)	OLD	2,086,590	0	353,410	0	148,673	2,588,673
		NEW	1,163,122	900,331	364,830	0	160,390	2,588,673
		VARIANCE	-923,468	900,331	11,420	0	11,717	0
3.2	FAO	OLD	371,127	307,670	79,200	0	42,003	800,000
		NEW	410,115	279,700	72,000	0	38,185	800,000
		VARIANCE	38,988	-27,970	-7,200	0	-3,818	0
4.1	UNEP/MAP (PMU)	OLD	1,710,500	260,000	60,000	0	150,500	2,181,000
		NEW	1,710,500	208,000	112,000	0	150,500	2,181,000
		VARIANCE	0	-52,000	52,000	0	0	0
	WORLD BANK	OLD	280,000	0	0	0	0	280,000
		NEW	280,000	0	0	0	0	280,000
		VARIANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0
	MIO ECSDE	OLD	121,500	0	0	5000	23,500	150,000
		NEW	121,500	0	0	5000	23,500	150,000
		VARIANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.1 & 4.3	INFO/RAC	OLD	1,095,000	370,000	90,000	15,000	50,000	1,620,000
		NEW	1,325,000	0	295,000	0	0	1,620,000
		VARIANCE	230,000	-370,000	205,000	-15,000	-50,000	0

Description of changes to the budget per partner

185. In view of the first steering committee, project partners' have proceeded into revising their respective budgets taking into consideration factors such as exchange rate fluctuations, revisions/changes on project's activities and work plans.

Component 1: Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer

186. Sub-Component 1.1 Management of Coastal Aquifer and Groundwater executed by UNESCO-IHP budget revision whereby the inputs in International, Regional/Sub-regional and National consultants have been renamed to adapt to requirements under the individual activities, including travel and project management of the sub-component. The amount allocated to the Project Personnel Component has been increased however with the scope for and ongoing discussions to revise part of the personnel inputs and costs into subcontracts. This increase is due to the following:

- ❖ Given the importance of a highly qualified project management staff, to guide all project activities throughout the duration of the MedPartnership, an allocation for an international consultant to support management and implementation has been made in the revised budget. (Increase of approx. 80,000 USD)

- ❖ Furthermore, the legal component has been considerably strengthened, both in terms of national and international consultants in view of reaching its ambitious objectives as described in the project document. The component is designed to cover the 13 participating countries and to provide an overview of their national and institutional legal systems regarding groundwater and coastal aquifers. It is therefore necessary to hire an experienced national legal consultant in each of the 13 participating countries to undertake the national assessments and reviews. The national consultants will be supervised by an international consultant, who will also draw a regional report based on the findings in the national reports, including identification of gaps, mainly under the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols, and formulating recommendations. This adjustment is deemed necessary based on recent experience with related, ongoing projects which emphasized the crucial importance of adequate human resources in this key domain of the project. (Increase of approx. 119,000 USD)
- ❖ Finally, the cost of travel for national, regional and international consultants, which had been initially under estimated, has been increased. This is deemed necessary in the light of the increased number of national (refer to (iii), above) as well as regional and international consultants and given the crucial importance of adequate mobility to accomplish their tasks. (Increase of approx. 70,000 USD)

187. The allocation for Sub-contracts under component 2 has been increased due to the fact that, compared to earlier considerations during the preparation of the project document, a greater number of activities will be executed directly by partner organizations in the UNESCO-IHP groundwater component. In particular, this applies for the activities related to the planning of coastal groundwater demonstration sites and their replication potential (Lund Technical University, Sweden) and the implementation of eco-hydrogeology applications for the management and protection of coastal groundwater dependant wetlands in the Mediterranean. These activities will include to a great extent capacity building measures and training workshops, for which, in turn, the allocated resources have been decreased under the respective component (training component).

188. The allocation for component (training) has been decreased. This decrease is due to Training and capacity building measures will be executed to a greater extent than planned during the preparation of the original budget, directly by partner organizations in the UNESCO-IHP groundwater component. This is reflected in the increase of funds allocated for sub-contracts (Accounts for decrease of approx. 100,000 USD). The workshop/meetings/trainings to be organized are the following:

- ❖ Activity 1.1.1.1: Regional workshop on Assessment of risk and uncertainty related to the Mediterranean coastal aquifers with national consultants from participating countries (25,000 USD, BL 3201, co-financed by IMELS)
- ❖ Activity 1.1.1.2: Four workshops including training component on coastal aquifer vulnerability mapping (40,000 USD each, thus 160,000 USD total, BL 3202, co-financing by case study partner countries)
- ❖ Activity 1.1.1.3.: Regional workshop on Development of a Coastal aquifer supplement to TDA-MED (20,000 USD, BL 3203)
- ❖ Activity 1.1.2.1.: Regional workshop Development of a regional Action Plan on Coastal Aquifers (20,000 USD, BL 3204, co-financing by hosting country)
- ❖ Activity 1.1.2.2: 2 workshops & training Integration of groundwater management in ICZM and IWRM planning systems at the sites of the joint demonstration projects (Boyana Bay/Montenegro and Reghaia/Algeria) (15,000 USD each, thus 30,000 USD total, BL 3205, co-financing from partner countries)

- ❖ Activity 1.1.2.3: three sub-regional case studies and workshops on Identification and planning of coastal groundwater demonstrations, organized by Lund Technical University (sub-contract and co-financing)
- ❖ Activity 1.1.2.4: Sustainable Coastal land management, workshops and training undertaken by FFEM – fully on co-financing
- ❖ Activity 1.1.2.5: Workshops and training on Implementation of eco-hydrogeology applications for management and protection of coastal wetlands at selected sites to be organized by IGME (sub-contract and co-financing).
- ❖ Activity 1.1.2.6: Coastal aquifer supplement to SAP MED, SAP BIO and NAPs. Regional meetings and workshops to be organized (70,000 USD, BL 3206)
- ❖ Activity 1.1.3.1. Policy/legal/institutional regional assessment for coastal aquifer management and 1.1.3.2. Policy/legal/institutional reforms, institutional development for coastal aquifer management: One initial regional workshop (30,000 USD, BL 3207); three interim sub-regional workshops and training (12,000 each, thus 36,000 USD total, BL 3208) and one final workshop of the legal component (30,000 USD, BL 3209).
- ❖ Activity 1.1.4: Organization of a regional workshop on spatial technology applications (40,000 USD, BL 3210).

189. Naturally, the necessary increase in components 10 (Project Personnel) and 20 (Sub-Contracts) and the general decrease of the spending power of the provided resources in USD inevitably leads to decrease in other components. UNESCO-IHP is currently trying to leverage additional co-financing, in order to further strengthen the training component.

190. In **Sub-component 1.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management**, executed by PAP/RAC the proposed budget changes are summarized in Table 9 and relate to:

- ❖ changes of timetable for some activities, predominantly anticipating implementation of activities at regional level and delivery of resulting outputs,
- ❖ changes due to increased expenditures as consequence of depreciation of US \$: reduction of the number of parallel case studies or of the number of meetings,
- ❖ changes in details of some activities after updating and consultations with involved countries and/or partners.

191. To identify the resulting impacts on the budget, after revising the Work plan and timetable a detailed review of the entire budget was made, and in particular recalculating each single expenditure with regard to depreciation of US \$ and the actual level/ increase of relevant costs.

Table 8 Revisions of Sub-component 1.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management activities

BL No.	Activity	GEF funding approved USD	GEF funding, revision, USD	Variance % (+), (-)	Justification
1202	Preparation of ICZM NAPs in selected countries	66,000	44,000	- 34%	Reduction of NAPs to be prepared from 4 to 2 countries. In the meantime, Montenegro developed their NSICZM.
1211	Consultants' travel to harmonization meetings	-	49,530	-	New BL. BLs on meetings and conferences used to contain consultants travel costs. Now, all costs are transferred to this new specific BL and costs were updated with actual prices. Expenses for some consultants' travel not defined in initial budget.

BL No.	Activity	GEF funding approved USD	GEF funding, revision, USD	Variance % (+), (-)	Justification
2199	Subcontracts with national institutions	50,000	30,000	-40 %	Reduction: Subcontracts for 1 NAP, No. Of National HC Meetings; Counterpart input will be secured by GEF/PAP FP and national consultants, while difference will be used to fund organization costs of the regional workshops in relative BL.
3300	Meetings: NAP Inception. Meetings, Nat. Conferences, ICZM Plan meetings: HC meetings, Final Present.ation Conferences	19,950	0		These BLs contained consultants travel. Now , new specific BL has been created only for this purpose. (1211)
5300	Bank charges	-	3,000	-	New BL has been introduced in order to provide for bank charges.
5300	Bank charges	-	3,000	-	New BL has been introduced in order to provide for bank charges.
	TOTAL COSTS	950,000	950,000	0	

192. Due to complex procedure in most of beneficiary countries, during the preparation of the sub-component's section of the Inception report it was not possible for the partner to provide for updated information on co-financing aspects of the sub-component's budget.

193. In **Sub-component 1.3: Integrated Water Resource Management**, executed by GWP-Med, the first change is that the BL 1201: "Euro-Med meeting/ regional assessments" has been renamed to "Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean" and the corresponding budget line under the meetings group, BL 3301: "Euro-Med meeting" has been renamed to Meeting for Strategy for water in the Mediterranean. The relative BL 3301 has been decreased by (30,000 USD) Co-financing by GWP-Med as alternative co-financing for the organization of the meeting can be secured by other sources. Alternatively the BL1201 Consultant on "Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean" has been increased (24,000 USD) and the remaining sum (6,000 USD) has been allocated to BL 1602, relative to the travel connected to "Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean", as there is the need to compensate fee rates that are paid in Euro because of the depreciation of USD.

194. All GEF funds foreseen to support activities in 2009 (84,000 USD) were shifted and distributed to years 2010-2014. The reason is that the agreement with GWP-Med was signed towards the end of 2009 and therefore the relative GEF financing was received only in December 2009 while the all reported activities for 2009 were implemented through the co-financing resources. Funds for the full implementation of Activity 1.3.1 (Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean) have been secured through co-financing sources. Thus, the entire GEF contribution foreseen for Personnel costs of Activity 1.3.1 (40,000 USD) was shifted to Personnel costs for Activity 1.3.2 (Catalytic Actions for IWRM). The amount of (1,500 USD) is also shifted from 1.3.1 under 1.3.2. Activity 1.3.4 (Short List of Transboundary Basins Suitable for Interventions) has been canceled. The foreseen GEF contribution (20,000 USD) for Personnel costs for Activity 1.3.4 was shifted to Personnel costs for Activity 1.3.2. (Local Transboundary Actions) and the remaining (1,500 USD) was allocated under 1.3.3. Limited internal shifts up to 10% among categories were also occurred in order to service the objectives of the Sub-Component 1.3. More specifically, these include:

- ❖ 10,000 USD from the Meetings costs of Activity 1.3.2 (Catalytic Actions for IWRM) to Personnel costs of Activity 1.3.2. The main reason is the need to support fee rates that

are paid in Euro despite the depreciation of USD. At the same time, co-financing for organization of meetings can be secured from other sources.

- ❖ 10,000 USD from Meetings costs of Activity 1.3.3 (Local Transboundary Actions) to Personnel costs of Activity 1.3.3. The main reason is the need to support fee rates that are paid in Euro despite the depreciation of USD. At the same time, co-financing for organization of meetings can be secured from other sources.
- ❖ 2,000 USD from Non-Expandable Equipment (for the purchase of one computer) to Travel costs. The main objective is to support costs for missions paid in Euro despite the depreciation of USD.

Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: Implementation of SAP-MED

195. Sub-Component: 2.1. Facilitation of policy and legislative reforms for SAP MED is executed by MEDPOL and Sub-Component 2.3. Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries executed by MEDPOL and CP/RAC.

196. The main change that MEDPOL has implemented in their respective budget is to transfer the value of a BL initially planned to be under Consultancy component under the Sub-Contracts Component. Namely, the BL 1208: Consultant to assess the river inputs (USD 60,000 GEF funding and USD 43,000 MTF funding) has been shifted under 2200: Sub-Contracts component, by introducing the new BL 2215: MOU to assess rivers inputs with the same value as before (103,000 USD)..

197. CP/RAC has changed under 2.3.3 *Awareness of importance of ESM of PCBs equipment*, the Budget Line on "Reporting costs". The expenditure to develop PCB newspaper ads and other activities" (BL 5204) will not be executed. The sum of 15,000 USD will be added used to increase the budget for the "PCB awareness video production" (BL 5202). The subtotal cost will remain the same. Concerning Activity 2.3.4, Technical capacity for ESM of PCBs equipment, Budget Group 1200 on "Consultants" has also been changed. The BL 1201 "Three Technical Policy Training Experts (TPTE)" has been decreased by USD 30,000 at the Co-finance Local portion, in kind and added to USD 30,000 of the BL 1202 "National Technical Advisors (NTA)" at the Co finance Local Portion (in kind). The CP/RAC will increase the "National Technical Advisors (NTA)" budget item with 18,000 USD in cash. Total of BL 1202 allocation is, therefore, USD 48,000. The Inception workshops in each target country are now planned to be a half-day PCB awareness workshops. In addition, three parallel training courses will be conducted in the same event lowering the total cost of implementation as well as of human resources contribution from the different stakeholders as well as travel expenses. The Budget Line Group 3200 "Group training" will, thus, be decreased from 400,000 to 250,000 USD(USD 80,000 GEF, USD 70,000 CP/RAC). Concerning Budget Group 1600 on "Travel on official business", some of the extra funding from "Group training" has been transferred to the "Travel on official business" budget line. These funds have been transferred in order to cover additional CTA, ACTA and TPTE travel expenses. This item was clearly under budgeted, since additional project meetings (kick-off, follow-up and coordination meetings) have been decided upon recently and it has been necessary to implement the project more efficiently. This budget line has been increased from 430,000 to 580,000 USD (resulting difference of USD 132,000 to be: with USD 80,000 from GEF, and 52,000 USD from CP/RAC).

Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs

198. **Sub-component 3.1: Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network** is jointly executed by WWF-MedPO and SPA/RAC. The budget of WWF MEDPO has been developed in Euro as it is co-financed by donors in euros and receives no GEF funds. Changes are summarized in the Table 10 below.

Table 9 Revision of Sub-component 3.1, WWF-MedPO activities

Budget Change	Justification
<p>EC Funds Project Personnel 1101 Project Manager: new amount € 220.588.</p>	The reduction of € 39.675 will be charged against the contribution of MAVA Foundation.
<p>Travel on official business 1601 Project manager and Project Executant: new amount €0.</p>	MAVA Foundation will cover all the travel costs of the Project Manager and Project Executants
<p>1602 Administrator: new amount € 1.237.</p>	The reduction of € 377 will be charged against the contribution of MAVA Foundation (difference between the original amount in the budget € 1.614 and the new 1.237).
<p>Sub-contracts 2203 Fees for the Pilot Project in Tunisia: new amount of € 50.845.</p>	This portion will be deducted by the initial contribution of MAVA and will be charged against the EC contribution
<p>MAVA Contribution Project Personnel: 1101 Project Manager: new amount € 53.699.</p>	Part of this amount (€ 3.322) covers the salary of the period Oct – Dec 2008.
<p>Travel on official business 1601 Project manager and Project Executant: new amount €94.400.</p>	MAVA Foundation will cover all the travel costs of the Project Manager and Project Executant resulting from the relative reduction on the contribution of EC to the subject BL..
<p>1602 Administrator: new amount € 20.363.</p>	MAVA Foundation will cover the difference of € 377 between the original amount in the EC budget of € 1.614 and the new EC budget of €1.237.
<p>Sub-contracts 2203 Fees for the Pilot Project in Tunisia: new amount of € 149.155.</p>	This budget line has been decreased by €50,845 which is the portion that will be covered by the EC contribution as explained above.
<p>Group training 3203 Regional CB Technical Assistance/exchanges: new amount € 27.308.</p>	This activity has been decreased by € 3.322. The new amount is € 133.680 instead of € 128.680..
<p>4202 Equipments: new amount € 4.375</p>	The total amount for the purchase of 3 Notebooks and 1 Mobile was higher than expected. The total amount is € 4.375 instead of € 4.254. Difference of € 121 was transferred from the BL 1101.
<p>FFEM Contribution Project Personnel: 1103 Communication Officer: new amount € 81.730.</p>	A decrease of € 14.270 will take place because the Communication Officer will be hired on January 1, 2010. The total amount for this position for 34 months (1 Jan 2010 – 31 Oct 2012) is € 81.730 instead of € 96.000.
<p>Travel on official business 1603 Travels of the Communication Officer: new amount €18.270.</p>	<p>Reallocation of the above mentioned amount (€ 14.270) takes place to the travels of the Communication officer. The total amount for travels of the communication officer for 34 months (1 Jan 2010 – 31 Oct 2012) is € 18.270 instead of € 4.000</p> <p>The Communication officer is based in Heyres (Marseilles) and has to travel extensively in the Med Countries in order to assure all the communication activities and to assess the communications context and needs. At the beginning € 4.000 was allocated for</p>

Budget Change	Justification
	travels (from FFEM)+ € 3.000 from EC funds for a total amount of € 7.000 for all the project period. Eventually, this proved insufficient. The Communication Officer needs to analyze the targeted audiences, to prepare the communications strategy, identifying the best communications tools together with Med countries and a considerable travel budget is very important
Group Training 3201 Capacity Building Assessment: new amount € 0.	This activity has already been carried out directly by the mentors of the beneficiary countries. This amount (€ 5.000) has been reallocated into the activity 3203 "Regional Capacity Building Technical Assistance/exchanges".
3203 Regional CB Technical Assistance/exchanges: new amount € 133.680.	This activity has been incremented to € 5.000. The new amount is € 133.680 instead of € 128.680 in order to develop implementation agreements with local partners in the framework of the Capacity Building Programme.
3203 Regional CB Technical Assistance/exchanges: new amount € 133.680.	This activity has been incremented to € 5.000. The new amount is € 133.680 instead of € 128.680 in order to develop implementation agreements with local partners in the framework of the Capacity Building Programme.

199. Main changes in the SPA/RAC budget concern two issues. Original budget for external technical services came for the equivalent proposal to the donors AECID and EC, where the unique budget line code for the EC proposals was used. The budget lines for UNEP documents include two codes 1200 (consultants) and 2200 (Memoranda with institutions) while initially we had included all the funds to only the consultants line (1200), so the total amount for external technical services was split among both budget lines to reflect the real allocation of funds to that technical support. The salary allocation for the MPAs project officer was increased to make this international appointment more attractive to applicants, given the difficulties being faced to cover that post with the formerly allocated budget (BL 1101). Related adaptations were done in the salaries, in order to: (i) take into account the actual contractual amount for the technical backstopping officer (BL 1102); and (ii) update the amount related to the 4 SAP BIO programme officers, among SPA/RAC professional staff, involved in the implementation of the project (BL 1103). Finally, some budget allocations have been shifted among donors EC and AECID to have a correct total allocation matching the available funds from each donor.

200. **Sub-Component 3.2. Promote the Sustainable Use of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries** is executed by FAO. The budget remains the same as signed in the legal agreement in April 2010.

Component 4: Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E

201. Sub-Component 4.1 Project Co-ordination, Management and M&E is executed by UNEP/MAP, MIO-ECSDE and the WB.

202. The UNEP/MAP budget is for the Project Management and Coordination of the MedPartnership. The main reason for changes was the currency fluctuation and the depreciation of the USD against the Euro which is the operating currency of the PMU. Budget lines have also been revised in order to accommodate fixed costs and consequently allow and ensure smooth activities of the PMU.

203. Budget line 1301, Administrative Assistant – G6, had to be increased as it was proved that it was initially under budgeted. In order to update the budget to the current funding requirements of the position given the fixed Salary Scale as defined by the United Nations, it was increased by 103,000 USD from Co-financing source (fully funded by the Mediterranean

Trust Fund) over five years and in return Translation Services and Reporting Services were reduced by 103,000 USD. A new Budget line 5208 is introduced - Preparation of Brochures and publications - as these items were not initially included in the budget. The amount of 25,000 USD has been allocated to this BL, by reducing the Reporting Costs. The BL 2214: Country Support Programme SPCSP has been decreased by 52,000 USD and instead the BL 3302: SP Steering Committee has been increased by 52,000 USD, in order to fund the participation of Country project focal points at its meetings. Ensuring the participation of the Country Project focal points is of high importance to the project and acceptance and dissemination of its outputs. The BL 1321 "Conference Staff (Report Writers, Interpreters)" has been newly introduced where conference support staff will be charged against so that a better monitoring of these costs can be effected. The allocation on this BL is comprised by GEF funding 15,691.90 USD and MTF co financing 114,000 USD. The allocation is incurred by reducing respective allocations in reporting costs (BL 5202) and translation costs (BL 1304).

204. Finally, travel budget line has been increased by 14,730 USD as the initial allocation proved to be well under estimated. The amount of travel needed, given the necessity to coordinate and meet with the project partners over the project duration proves to be difficult to be fully covered by the existing allocation. Moreover, the depreciation of the USD has increased the actual cost per mission. The subject Budget line needs to be further revised. Should the USD keeps to the current level or even lower, salary allocations for all three members of the PMU will have to be further revised.

205. There were no changes to the budget of MIO-ECSDE or the World Bank (now administered by UNEP/MAP).

206. Finally regarding the **Sub-Component 4.2 Information and Communication strategies and Sub-Component 4.3. Replication Strategy**, executed by INFO/RAC. The total value of the project, as well as the contribution breakdown among the sources, is not changed from the original project document, i.e.: GEF funding: 1.620.000 USD; National co-financing: 1.049.300 USD INFO-RAC in-kind contribution: 343.200 USD. The national co-financing is now committed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS). However, based on the abovementioned considerations, the distribution of resources among the budget line/object of expenditure is somehow changed. It should be noted that:

- ❖ More emphasis – and budget – is given to the information and communication initiatives;
- ❖ The personnel budget component is almost unchanged, although internal experts are now involved instead of consultants;
- ❖ The training component is more than doubled, mainly to improve the on-site replication activities;
- ❖ Significant spending reduction has been attained in the equipment/premises and miscellaneous components.

Budget issues: currency fluctuations, overall project time-span, completion date of the project

Currency Fluctuations and USD Depreciation

207. During the Inception period of the project the following issues have been observed regarding the project's budget. The majority of the project's partners operate under currencies other than the USD, mostly in Euro. Significant currency fluctuations during the last period and especially those of the USD versus the Euro have led project partners to request for revisions to their corresponding USD fund allocations in their budgets so as to accommodate the resulted variance and to be able to keep to their respective work plans.

Major budget lines that are subject to revision are those of fixed administrative costs, namely, Salaries and Travel.

208. To illustrate the above mentioned impact, a sample variance of 1,000 USD and the equivalent in Euro over the period June – December 2009 can be found in Table 11.

Table 10 Variance in Euro versus USD exchange rate for 2009

2009	
1,000 USD	Euro
June	717
July	711
August	712
September	695
October	688
November	676
December	664

209. The same illustration follows below so as to present the currency fluctuation at the time before the final submissions of the budgets (June 2007), before the Project Document's approval. Table 12

Table 11 Variance in Euro versus USD exchange rate for 2007

2007	
1,000 USD	Euro
Jan	760
Feb	770
March	755
April	750
May	732
June	744

Duration of the Project:

210. Due to the delayed start of the project and following the request of the project partners, in an effort to keep to their initial work plan and to the clearly defined outputs of their respective activities over time, the duration of the project is requested to be expanded. This will allow keeping the initially approved and planned five year duration of the project implementation. Although the project was approved in April 2008, the Project Management Unit was not fully on board until the 1st August 2009. Therefore, as described above, the Steering Committee will be asked to agree to a project extension of one year until the 31st of August 2014 (including the 4 months for the Project Management Unit to close the project administrative and reporting obligations vis-à-vis DGEF).

5. DETAILED FIRST YEAR WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Summary of major outcomes, activities, workshops, reports and other expected deliverables by the end of the first year (2010)

211. The detailed first year Work-plan was prepared by all partners during the Inception phase of the project to, along with the list of meetings, plan in a harmonized manner all activities for 2010 (see UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 345/5, and 345/7 respectively). This will be the critical year for project implementation, where after delays in project start-up and

following the 1st Steering Committee's approval of the projects work-plan and budget, the vast majority of activities, that is 52 out of the 68 (see Table 7), 76% of all activities, will begin implementation including the 30 demonstration projects. In 2010 approximately 80 projects meetings will be held, and over 100 reports generated including assessments, training documents, management plans, investment portfolio's etc.

Overview of revised budget for 2010

212. The budget revision for 2010 captures the revised figures from the partners and reflects the revised work plans since the approval of the project document. Factors such as exchange rate fluctuations have also contributed in the revision of the budgets as explained in section 4.

Co-financing

213. Major amounts from Co-financing resources, mainly from Participating Countries either in cash or in-kind, have neither been reviewed nor included in the most of the partners' budget revisions. These amounts are subject to further confirmation which will take place in the 1st Steering Committee Meeting, as it is also indicated in the legal agreement of each partner. These resources have to be confirmed if they will be eventually made available in total or portions of them.

6. COORDINATING ACTIONS BETWEEN THE REGIONAL PROJECT AND INVESTMENT FUND

Importance of coordination between RC and IF, Current changes in the status of Investment Fund, Procedural linkages between RC and IF

214. There are many lessons to be learned from other similar Strategic partnerships such as the Black Sea Strategic Partnership for Nutrient Reduction. One of the overarching issues raised has been the importance of close coordination between the investment and technical assistance components of such partnerships which has been often limited, to ensure that all stakeholders of the region are fully informed on activities and results of the Partnership, and also importantly, there is a wealth of best-practices, lessons learned, data and analysis that needs to be shared between components to ensure the more efficient design and adaptive management of all actions to ensure greatest impact and sustainability.

215. Since 2008 a number of Coordination meetings have been held between the World Bank and UNEP/MAP, and whilst the process is still ongoing given that only a few of the Investment Fund projects are actually beginning implementation a number of measures have been put into place to ensure coordination between both components of the MedPartnership. This includes:

- ❖ Two to three coordination meetings between UNEP/MAP and the WB conducted every year to address ongoing coordination activities;
- ❖ Three consultants are under recruitment to assist the World Bank in the coordination between both components. Specifically a consultant to guide the replication of investment fund projects, a consultant to assist in the communication strategy for the MedPartnership and a consultant to ensure sustainable financing for both components.
- ❖ The first meeting at the end of May 2010 is scheduled with those Investment Fund projects now under implementation (Neretva and Trebisnjica River Basin Management Project, the Croatia Coastal Cities Pollution Control Project and the Alexandria

Coastal Zone Management Project), to discuss how information, data and analysis generated by each project can feed into the replication and communication strategy of the MedPartnership, and how results can be presented at the MedPartnership Steering Committee meeting. Common templates for reporting to the Steering Committee will also be discussed, such as the template work-plan used by the Regional Component.

7. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Non-Governmental Organisations Involvement Plan

216. One of the main objectives of the NGO involvement plan is to ensure that appropriate NGOs participate in project administration and activities. To this end, individual consultations with the partners are ongoing in an effort to identify the needs and address them accordingly. On the basis of this a fully adapted (yet living document) NGO Involvement Plan for the MedPartnership will be developed and presented at the next Steering Group Meeting.

217. The MedPartnership NGO Webpage, designed to provide information targeted specifically for the NGOs of the region and to support their meaningful participation in project activities and processes, will be developed in close collaboration with INFO/RAC. All of the above will be implemented with an understanding of the existing challenges for effective NGO involvement in the Mediterranean. The first knowledge product to be produced will be web-based and will highlight why it is important for NGOs to participate in the MedPartnership and the ways this can be done.

218. To avoid confusion to stakeholders and add value at regional level, efforts are underway to achieve to the extent possible, streamlined civil society involvement and capacity building activities (meetings, trainings, workshops) with other Mediterranean-wide initiatives (e.g. H2020 CB/MEP). Links will thus be further established with the information and communication components of such initiatives, including the GEF SGP (Small Grants Programme).

Information and Communication Strategy

219. This section outlines some of the elements that will form the basis for the MedPartnership communication strategy. It also describes the web-based Knowledge Platform, the information and communication system that will support the implementation of both the Communication and Replication (dealt with in the following chapter) Strategies. The Information and Communication strategy will be developed in the period between two Steering Committee meetings and will be adopted at the next meeting in early 2011. The implementing activities described under this Sub-Component of the project will be performed under the responsibility of INFO/RAC and the PMU.

Why a communication strategy for the MedPartnership?

220. Investment programmes, capacity building initiatives, environment de-pollution and protection projects implemented in the Mediterranean Basin in the last decades have shown that there is a need for coordinated and innovative approach for the implementation of policy reforms, priority interventions and investments to address transboundary pollution and biodiversity conservation. The **MedPartnership** project - its official name is "The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem" - has been implemented by UNEP and WB and co-funded by GEF and other donors and countries. It responds directly to priorities of the countries of the Mediterranean as identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), and agreed interventions as outlined in the two strategic action plans, SAP

BIO and SAP MED. It also aims at facilitating the implementation of the recently adopted Mediterranean ICZM Protocol. The MedPartnership supports projects that help countries to:

- ❖ Learn to work together on their key transboundary marine and coastal area concerns;
- ❖ Set priorities for joint action to reach the objectives outlined in SAP-BIO, SAP-MED and ICZM Protocol;
- ❖ Implement those actions if a political commitment to sustainability is shown.

221. The Communication Strategy is one of the crosscutting components of the MedPartnership that will serve the achievement of all the project's objectives. Communication initiatives will be conceived ex-ante and integrated in the implementation phase of all the relevant components of the project. For this purpose, MedPartnership's partners will be involved throughout the entire life cycle of each project's component, via the network of Information and Communication Contact Points (I&C CPs) appointed by the executing Agencies. Working together, they will promote the sense of ownership of the partners, which will eventually improve the identity of the MedPartnership initiatives and streamline its focus on most important problems and issues in the region. The communication strategy will be, above all, the critical factor for the success of the MedPartnership's Replication Strategy. For that purpose, it has to be broken down and adapted to specific projects in order to address in a more effective way the different particularities of the projects and the different populations and target groups concerned by each project. Hence every project and/or project replication will benefit from a "personalized" strategy indicating specific messages, target groups, tactics and tools.

222. Once the selection of replicable projects or parts of projects will have been made, it will be possible to proceed to the detailed design of the replication promotion activities, which will consist of four pillars:

- ❖ Awareness Raising;
- ❖ Capacity Building;
- ❖ Stakeholder Involvement; and
- ❖ Information and Communication Technology.

223. The MedPartnership Communication Strategy will be developed along the lines of:

- ❖ Personalised communication: tailored-made messages to specific audiences;
- ❖ Diversified tools: from press articles to radio jingles, through sms, blogs, exhibition, videos and conference presentations; and
- ❖ "Don't reinvent, replicate": the innovative element of the Partnership is its potential to re-use what is developed for one project, and adapt and re-launch within another project/ country.

Communication goals and objectives

224. The project objectives need to be supported by matching communication goals and objectives. As a reminder, the major MedPartnership's objective is to leverage reforms and catalyze investments that address transboundary pollution reduction and marine and coastal biodiversity conservation priorities identified in the SAPs for the Mediterranean basin.

225. Each goal will be developed into a set of operational objectives incorporating messages, target groups and tactics (for example, disseminating success stories; supporting scientific data; blogs; videos; editorials; etc). Since communication goals are generally long-term achievements, the path to success would also include a series of short-term or "quick wins" objectives.

226. The detailed strategy will be tailored to each individual component and project, always having in mind the objective of replicating successful projects and practices. Therefore the “key messages” and “target groups” sections should be developed in detail for each individual component and project. Additionally, messages could be a mix of negative (issues) and positive (solutions) elements. Some of the following messages can work across a selection of components and projects:

- ❖ Don't waste water: Access to water resources is not equitable in the Mediterranean region;
- ❖ Keep the Mediterranean healthy: Tourism, agriculture, industrial plants, human settlements have the strongest negative impact on the preservation of the Mediterranean coasts;
- ❖ Wetlands and Mediterranean marine species such as *Caretta caretta* and *Monachus monachus* are threatened with extinction;
- ❖ Pollution alert: increased industrial development and activities put a heavier burden on a semi-enclosed sea as the Mediterranean.

227. As indicated in the “key messages” chapter, target groups out of the list below will be selected for each individual component and project. Additionally, each of the following target groups will require specific messages (i.e. not all messages are meant for all target groups):

- ❖ Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs);
- ❖ National and local administrations and institutions;
- ❖ Business sectors (primarily industry, agriculture, fishery and tourism);
- ❖ Civil society organisations (e.g. environmental NGOs, consumers' organisations);
- ❖ Scientific community and university level educational institutions;
- ❖ Coastal residents;
- ❖ School children (children are recognised the world over to have a crucial role in changing the society);
- ❖ General public (a successful project will find a place in a local or national newspaper article to reach the general public, which are potential voters for national and local authorities, and so it will also be part of the fund raising strategy).

Communication tools

228. The MedPartnership communication initiatives will encompass a combination of mass and personal communication tools selected among the following, as appropriate:

- ❖ Mass media communication
- ❖ ICT platform, websites, e-mail discussion lists, Web logs (blogs), RSS news feed, information for wikipedia, netiquette (for the use of the website), planner, monthly newsletter, expert corner; the website will be operational throughout 2010, collecting feedback from users on fitness for purpose and indicating how the definitive web-site might be set up. Extend the data communities and infrastructures that have been built up and to progressively develop the mechanisms to examine data coverage, feedback user satisfaction and determine the priorities for extending the observation network.
- ❖ Broadcast SMS messages to mobile phones and personal digital assistance- mobiles are a ubiquitous media technology for the 16-24 age group;

- ❖ Printed materials – for example, brochures, billboards, cartoons, pamphlets, posters and resource books;
- ❖ Audiovisual resources, e.g. documentaries, spots, CDs and DVDs;
- ❖ Mass media interviews and articles in newspapers, magazines and electronic publications accessible via internet - local newspapers;
- ❖ Mass media interviews and news items on radio and television;
- ❖ Celebrity spokespeople.

Personal communication

- ❖ Public meetings presentations;
- ❖ Structured education and training programs in schools, colleges, universities, adult learning centres and libraries;
- ❖ Static and traveling exhibitions and displays - where oral traditions dominate, performances of specially composed stories, songs , dances, plays and poems - word of mouth: one person to another;
- ❖ Awareness raising campaign, aiming at a) alerting the general public that a certain issue exists and should be approached the way the group desires; b) changing individual or community practices/behaviour/believes/attitudes; c) influencing them positively in the achievement of a defined purpose or goal; d) communicating either one central message or a suite of closely related subsidiary messages – usually no more than five – that are linked by a common theme;
- ❖ Information campaigns;
- ❖ Train-the-trainer workshops.

229. Personal communication is a very effective means of selling a good idea, in particular if the approach comes from, or is sponsored by an individual or organisation with recognised credibility, such as a local charismatic star (for the general public) or UNEP, WB, GEF officer (for local politicians, managers and industrials); this helps to make the audience feel more connected with the message of the campaign and understand the significance of that message in relation to their life and work. Political advocacy and lobbying can also be vital to ensuring ongoing support from governments and civil society organisations; the following supporting initiatives could also be envisaged:

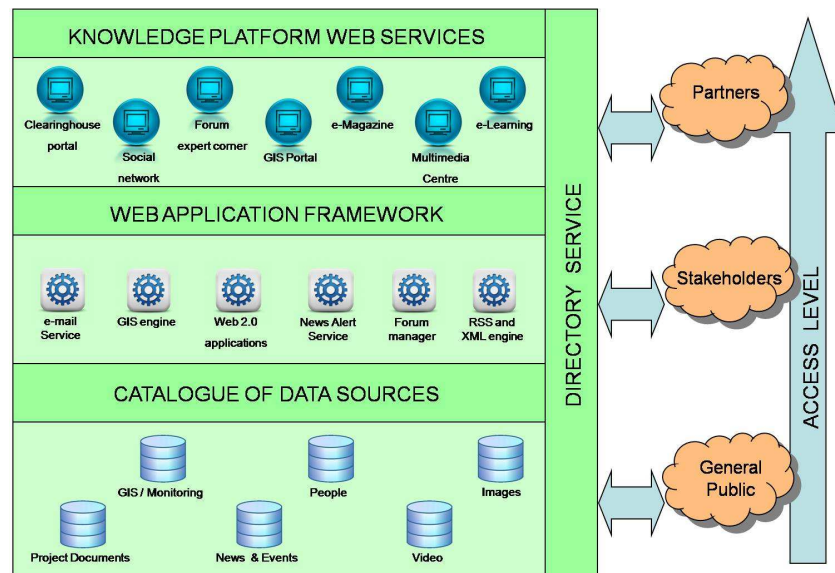
- ❖ Partnerships, campaigns and alliances with other organisations, such as NGOs, schools, civil society, industrial and commercial associations;
- ❖ Meeting with politicians at all levels of government, but focusing on ministers and other officials with the authority and power to provide resources;
- ❖ Cultivating political “champions” (cooperation of an influential community leader may be necessary to ensure the successful communication of our message to a specific target audience).

I&CT to Boost the Partnership: The Knowledge Platform

230. As part of the Sub-Component 4.2. and 4.3, INFO-RAC will provide the necessary I&C Technology to gather, store, share, publish and reuse the information related to the **MedPartnership** project. For this purpose, INFO-RAC will provide the PMU and the Executing Agencies with adequate guidance, assistance, tools and means in order to develop a **web-based knowledge platform** (see Figure 4) for the benefit of all the partners - the inner circle of the project, and the project stakeholders. Having considered the cross-cutting nature of the information and communication activities, INFO-RAC will promote the

networking among the **I&C Contact Points**, to be designated by each executing Agencies. Active co-operation and participation of such network is a critical factor for fulfilling expectations and results of the information and communication strategy. A **CIRCA server** will be operated by INFO-RAC as the groupware solution for networking on the web; the server will perform the function of document repository, who-is-who directory and more.

Figure 4. Flowchart of the Knowledge Platform



231. A **catalogue** of relevant data/information sources will be developed, making use of metadata to allow information search, browse and download as appropriate. Metadata will be given to each source, according to internationally recognized standards (e.g. ISO, Dublin Core). The minimum set of data sources to be considered is the following: organizations, people, projects, documents (e.g. strategies, plans, technical specifications), assessment tools (e.g. codes, methodologies), datasets (including monitoring and geographical data). The project information repository will be indexed to allow easy and fast “search & browse” function throughout the knowledge base. A **GIS database platform** will be developed and implemented to ensure the integration of different thematic GIS layers developed by both the regional and the Sustainable MED components. **Web portal toolkits**, based on open source application (i.e. Zope, Plone, Naiia), will be made available to the partners for the publication on the web; INFO-RAC will also promote the use of portals for enhancing the stakeholders’ **e-participation**, engaging them in dialogue through web consultation, internet discussion fora, and Youtube channel.

232. Based on the users’ needs, INFO-RAC will provide the project partners with **different levels of assistance**: a) full hosting, b) I&CT deployment and helpdesk, c) technical guidance. The web-based knowledge platform will also provide the necessary knowledge support for the implementation of the **replication strategy**. The ultimate objective is to develop an *ad-hoc* **Clearinghouse** portal, taking into account good practices already developed in this field (e.g. the IW-Learn portal and the SMAP-RMSU Clearinghouse). This platform would also support the **e-learning** function, for the benefit of training activities. As for the Information and Communication, a network of designated **Replication Contact Points** will be established to work together towards the common goals of the MedPartnership project (see Replication Strategy for more details).

8. REPLICATION

233. The Replication Strategy is an innovative element developed to amplify the results of the projects realized in the framework of MedPartnership. The main goal of the Replication Strategy is a widespread dissemination and sharing of the knowledge, and learned lessons from pilots, demonstration and investment projects at regional and national scale. This innovative approach is based on the maximum effort to obtain promotion and dissemination of the best practices that have been demonstrated and successfully tested, being the decision to replicate exclusive prerogative of governments/local authorities.

234. The Replication Strategy will apply to the existing portfolio of Investment Fund and Sustainable MED sub-projects (as listed in Section 2) and to all activities and demonstration projects to be implemented as part of the various components of the Regional Project (coastal aquifers, TEST, POPs, MPAs, ICZM and others). This strategy will require a high level of flexibility and adaptation to the different MedPartnership Project components, in particular with respect to the replication mechanisms to be adequately refined and contextualized when used for other initiatives, other countries, other areas/sites. It means that Replicable Practices once identified will be developed and reshaped to fit with the new context. Choosing a similar matching area to start the replication doesn't mean to find the same replication parameters. Every aspect of the replicable practice selected will be adapted to new reality.

235. In order to obtain full success of the process, replication has to be considered as an integral part of the MedPartnership Project, involving all its components at different level in each phase of the Project, from the beginning to the end. The replication process has to be considered as a guided process in which every single step is scheduled and planned from the early stage of the project and monitored all the time.

236. The replication process has to be conceived as a networking process in which the following different components are tightly joined. The replication network is composed of the Project Replication Team (PRT) with technical and coordination role, a Replication Advisory Panel (RAP) with consultative functions, and several Local Project Replication Groups (LPRG) with local operative functions. A great contribute is expected from NGOs network at local level.

237. Replication will be guided and monitored throughout the lifespan of the MedPartnership Project and will be articulated into phases that will be defined in details at the end of 2010.

238. Given the complexity and the wide spectrum of the components of the MedPartnership Project, the first year (2010) program will be concentrated on the scoping analysis, with the objective – inter alia – of developing and agreeing upon the methodology of the replication. Hence, as a first step, the investment/demonstration/pilot project portfolio will be analyzed as a whole, then each sub-project individually, in order to provide an Overall Portfolio Review that will allow to identify those project elements/components that could represent potential Replicable Practices (RPs), as a basis for the selection of those on which replication facilitation work will be concentrated starting 2011. The results of the scoping phase and the detailed work-plan for the remainder of the project will be presented for approval at the next Steering Committee meeting in 2011.

239. After the completion of the scoping analysis, and building on the agreed methodology and preliminary results, the replication will move into the implementation phases. All the steps will be carried out in close cooperation with the WB/Sustainable Med Program, that will play a key role in the implementation of the Replication Strategy. WB/Sustainable Med Program experts participating in the PRT are expected to provide periodic updates on sub-

project execution, including timely information on project events that might be of interest for capacity building, replication and communication activity at regional level.

240. It is outlined that the success of the replication strategy is strongly connected to the information and communication initiatives, throughout the entire replication process. The dissemination of best Replicable Practices is key to the success of the replication component and therefore the Communication Strategy should clearly serve replication. As observed from other projects, it is not enough to produce proposals in order to achieve replication, but it is necessary to ensure also really high visibility of each investment/demonstration/pilot project and their best Replicable Practices to promote successful replication. The web-based knowledge platform developed under the Information and Communication Strategy will provide the necessary knowledge support for the implementation of the replication strategy. The objective is to develop an ad-hoc Clearinghouse portal, taking into account good practices in this field (e.g. the IW-Learn portal and the SMAP-RMSU Clearinghouse). This platform would also support the e learning function, for the benefit of training activities. More details on the I&C relevant activities can be found in the Information and Communication Strategy.

9. DETAILED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

241. The MedPartnership consists of the Regional Component and the Investment Fund. Both components will be monitored and evaluated throughout project implementation. The M&E Plan for the Regional Component is based on the original version approved by GEF with some minor adjustments in line with the changes in activities described above (see Annex I and II). The main elements of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan are presented below. The M&E plan for the IF is described in a separate Project Brief submitted by the WB.

Objectives, outcomes and indicators of the Med Partnership

242. As described in the original project documents, the long-term goal of the MedPartnership with its two components the Investment Fund and Regional Component is a) to facilitate countries for the full implementation of the SAPs and NAPs thus reducing pollution from land-based sources and preserving the biodiversity and ecosystems of the Mediterranean from degradation, in line with MDG/WSSD Environmental targets, b) the leveraging of long-term financing, and c) to ensure through the Barcelona Convention and MAP systems the sustainability of activities initiated within the project beyond its specific lifetime.

243. The objective of the Med Partnership project is to leverage reforms and catalyze investments that address transboundary pollution reduction and marine and coastal biodiversity conservation priorities identified in the SAPs for the Mediterranean basin.

244. The objective of the Investment Fund is to accelerate the implementation of transboundary pollution reduction and biodiversity conservation measures in priority hotspots and sensitive areas of selected countries of the Mediterranean basin that would help achieve the SAP MED and SAP BIO targets, and is further detailed in the Investment Fund project documentation.

245. The objective of the proposed Regional Component is to promote and induce harmonized policy, legal and institutional reforms and fill the knowledge gap aimed at reversing marine and coastal degradation trends and living resources depletion, in accordance with priorities agreed by the countries in the SAP MED and SAP BIO and to prepare the ground for the future implementation of the ICZM Protocol. Accordingly, the Regional Component focuses on:

- ❖ i) the facilitation of policy, institutional and legal reforms for the protection of biodiversity and reducing pollution from land based sources consistent with the provisions of the two SAPs;
- ❖ ii) providing assistance to countries in advancing their ICZM and IWRM plans (and including the management of aquifers) with emphasis on the protection of biodiversity and the prevention of pollution from land based sources,
- ❖ iii) ensuring the effective involvement of all stakeholders in the Regional Component and NAP implementation;
- ❖ iv) executing a number of demonstration projects that address biodiversity protection, pollution from land-based sources and enhanced application of ICZM, IWRM and management of aquifers.

246. Annex II presents the detailed outcomes, outputs and indicators of the 4 components of the project. The indicators are clearly indicated where baseline and target information where relevant and available and the partners responsible for their measurement. Out of the three types of indicators used in GEF projects, Process, Stress reduction and Environmental status indicators²⁷, it was not possible to develop Environmental status indicators during the preparation phase of the project. This would require an expensive monitoring programme and database on all the sites where project activities are to be implemented, and should be linked to MEDPOL's monitoring database and other Mediterranean regional and national databases. This issue was discussed during the Coordination Group meeting in September 2009 and one suggestion was for the project to apply for additional funds to establish a long term monitoring programme for the MedPartnership. The Project Management Unit will work with the executing partners to establish the framework for such a programme and its cost during 2010, for presentation at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Monitoring the progress of the project

247. The progress towards achievement of the targets as described in Annex II will be reported on in a Half-Yearly Progress Report (HYR) and yearly Project Implementation Review (PIR), along with the half-yearly financial report of the project. These documents will be submitted to UNEP DGEF as Implementing Agency as well as shared with all Steering Committee members. As with the Inception phase a yearly detailed Work-plan and budget will be shared with the Steering Committee for review and adoption at the Steering Committee meeting, along with a detailed yearly progress report. Thematic and other publications generated as indicated in the work-plan will also be shared with all SC members. During the last three months of the project the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, achievements and outputs of the Project, lessons learnt, objectives met, or not achieved, structures and systems implemented, etc. and will be the definitive statement of the Project's activities during its lifetime. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the Project's activities.

Independent Evaluation of the Project

248. An independent Mid-Term Evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the second year of implementation. The Mid-Term Evaluation will determine progress being made towards the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design,

²⁷ For detailed description of each indicator type see <http://www.gefweb.org/MonitoringandEvaluation/MEPoliciesProcedures/MEPIndicators/mepindicators.html>

implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term evaluation will be prepared by UNEP Evaluation and Oversight Unit. It is therefore important that if the project is to be extended by one year, that this extension is agreed during the first year of implementation before the date of the mid-term evaluation is fixed.

249. An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the end of the project, and will focus on the same issues as the mid-term evaluation. The final evaluation will also look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals. The Final Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term evaluation will be prepared by UNEP-Evaluation and Oversight Unit in line with the GEF evaluation requirements.

10. NEXT STEPS

Next immediate steps, Principal issues arising from the Inception Workshop, First expected results

250. The Inception phase has resulted in a revision of activities and budget by taking into consideration new complementary initiatives and projects and changes in policies and institutions and also considering the new emerging issues such as climate change. This will enable the project to better reach its long-term goal and provides more targeted support to the participating countries.

251. In addition to this report there are several documents to assist in the implementation of the Regional Component of the MedPartnership which will also be available on the UNEP/MAP and project web-site.

- ❖ Overall work-plan, showing major outcomes/outputs for each year and detailed work-plan for 2010, all adopted by the Steering Committee meeting in February 2010;
- ❖ Overall budget and detailed budget for 2010, all adopted by the Steering Committee meeting in February 2010;
- ❖ A Complete listing of all meetings to be held up to the end of 2010; and
- ❖ A detailed list of contacts, to be continually updated and built-upon.

252. The approved work-plan for 2010 is now under implementation. The activities under Sub-Component 4.2 and 4.3 are currently on hold, pending clarification on the role of INFO/RAC, though it is agreed that the fully developed Replication and Communication actions will be presented for comments and approval at the next 2011 Steering Committee meeting. However, in the meantime necessary communication and replication activities will be carried out. The next Coordination Group meeting is provisionally scheduled for October 2010 (exact date and venue will be announced later). As a result of this meeting, inputs will be requested for the annual report, 2011 detailed work-plan and budget revisions, all of which will be finalized before the end of 2010 for approval by the Steering Committee to be held in the beginning of 2011 in Damascus (dates and venue to be confirmed).

253. The July 2009 to June 2010 yearly Project Implementation Form (PIR), reporting on the progress of the project will be completed in July 2010 and shared with all members of the Steering Committee meeting in August 2010. This will be coupled with a six-monthly newsletter.

ANNEXES

Available in separate document

- I. Log-frame Matrix for the MedPartnership²⁸
- II. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan²⁹
- III. Country participation in activities and demonstration/pilot projects³⁰
- IV. Description of Component activities, including demonstrations and relevant supporting information³¹
- V. Project Work-plan and detailed work-plan for 2010
- VI. List of meetings for 2009 and 2010
- VII. List of Contacts

²⁸ Annex B of the original project document.

²⁹ Annex E of the original project document.

³⁰ Annex G of the original project document

³¹ Annex F of the original project document