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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN



BP/RAC



INFO/RAC



PAP/RAC

Joint Meeting of the Focal Points
of BP/RAC, INFO/RAC and PAP/RAC
Zagreb, Croatia, 25-27 May 2009

**Report of the Joint Focal Points Meeting
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Introduction

1. Following the decision of the Contracting Parties at their Fifteenth Ordinary Meeting (Almeria, Spain, January 2008) to continue the practice of convening joint meetings of the Focal Points of the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) and the Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre (INFO/RAC), the fifth Joint Focal Points Meeting of the three RACs was held at the Hotel Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Croatia, with PAP/RAC taking care of the logistical aspects of the meeting and the MAP Coordinating Unit and the three RACs (BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC) sharing the costs.

Participation

2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, European Commission, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey; and of the following bodies: European Environment Agency (EEA), European Topic Centre on Land Use and Spatial Information (ETC/LUSI), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), and SPA/RAC. A number of experts attended as observers. Ms T. Hema, MAP Programme Officer, participated in the Meeting as representative of the Coordinating Unit of MAP. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

Opening of the Meeting and welcome addresses

3. Mr I. Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC, opened the Meeting at 9 a.m. on Monday, 25 May 2009. He welcomed the participants to Zagreb, and wished every success to this important meeting of the three Regional Activity Centres (RACs). Referring to the Governance Paper adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, which had called for the three centres to work together more, he pointed out that the Meeting was to remain in plenary throughout in order to permit the requisite synergy for that purpose. The last afternoon would also provide an opportunity to discuss integrated activities. He wished participants a pleasant stay in Zagreb.

4. Mr H-L. Thibault, Director, BP/RAC, expressed gratitude for the organization of the Meeting, pointing out that it was special for several reasons. First, the regional environment had changed considerably over the intersessional period because of the financial crisis, which posed many problems in budgeting activities. The next period would not only reflect those difficulties but would require deep changes to be made, some of which had been proposed but not always fully taken into account, particularly the disparities between resource use in the various countries. Second, institutional changes were taking place whereby the Mediterranean Sea was being seen as a major factor in establishing environmental peace, in which MAP had a major role. And third, MAP was currently without a coordinator following the early retirement of Mr. P. Mifsud, procedures for whose replacement were under way. He stressed that the MAP components were continuing to cooperate as before and meetings were scheduled which would determine the future of MAP.

5 On behalf of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction of Croatia, the representative of Croatia warmly welcomed the participants. Croatia was traditionally oriented towards the sea and was fully aware of its value and the need to protect it. It was therefore an honour to host that important event. She congratulated the RACs on their commitment and achievements despite the continuous pressures on the coastal zones of the Mediterranean, especially irrational coastal urbanization and related economic activities. She welcomed the opportunity to work together to help direct Mediterranean development towards greater sustainability, for the benefit of everyone and for future generations.

Election of officers

6. Following consultations and as proposed by the Secretariat, the Meeting elected the following officers:

- Chair: Ms M. Mance Kowalsky (Croatia)
- Vice Chairs: Mr Z. Bensebbane (Algeria)
Mr O. Montanaro (Italy)
- Rapporteur: Ms M. Borg (Malta)

Adoption of the agenda

7. The participants unanimously adopted the agenda as amended by the Chair. The agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.

PAP/RAC

PAP/RAC progress report for the biennium 2008-2009

8. Introducing document UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.336/1, Mr Trumbic made a few general comments about the work done by PAP/RAC since the beginning of 2008. He highlighted the breakthrough in coastal zone management made by the adoption of the new Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and urged all Parties to ratify the instrument. He also emphasized the continued interest in the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP), one of MAP's longest-running initiatives. Such projects were on the whole being implemented – and increasingly financed by – the countries themselves, with MAP providing technical support and guidance. He also explained that PAP/RAC was expanding its project partnership base by taking part in more joint ventures and enhancing its cooperation with other international organizations. Despite all those successes, however, he drew attention to the limited funds available to PAP/RAC. Contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund had been steadily decreasing in recent years and with the present financial crisis they are appeared to be even scarcer.

9. Presenting the document in more detail, Mr Trumbic said that the activities of PAP/RAC were organized into two major groups: sustainable management of coastal zones, and integration of development and the environment. Regarding the sustainable management of coastal zones, PAP/RAC's objectives had been to work on developing the relevant legal framework and on assisting Parties in implementing ICZM through the development and implementation of appropriate ICZM tools, improved information exchange, increased capacity building and implementation of concrete projects, such as CAMP. With respect to integration of development and the environment, the centre's objective had been to assist Parties in implementing the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), in particular Chapter 2.7 relating to coastal zones, and to help them develop tools

for the integration of priority sectoral objectives into development policies. He outlined the work undertaken in each area, the achievements and the lessons learned.

10. Mr Trumbic expressed his sadness at the death of his colleague, PAP/RAC Financial Officer Mr Aleksandar Bjelica, who had passed away at the age of 46. He paid tribute to his work and to his contribution to the success of PAP/RAC.

11. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives provided an update on their countries' progress towards ratification of the ICZM Protocol. The process was under way in Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia and Spain. Furthermore, several representatives informed the Meeting of other related initiatives in their countries, such as: adoption of a national ICZM plan, replication of the CAMP in 14 other areas and the establishment of local coastal management committees (Algeria); preparation of an impact assessment study on the ICZM Protocol and creation of an interministerial committee (Croatia); implementation of a national ICZM strategy and of spatial plans (Greece); adoption of a national policy on coastal erosion (Israel); and preparation of a national strategy for ICZM (Italy). In contrast, the Moroccan CAMP was experiencing some setbacks owing to natural disaster and delays in the assistance to be provided as per the agreement between Morocco and MAP.

12. Several representatives also spoke of progress in their CAMP implementation (Italy, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia and Spain), with the representative of Italy informing that the overall cost of the CAMP in his country ranges from EUR 4 to 5 million. The CAMP was seen as a means of strengthening ICZM and remained a useful tool for implementing the Protocol.

13. It was pointed out that the need to meet the challenges of ICZM remained, despite the lack of resources. One suggestion was to ensure closer synergy and greater cooperation with initiatives undertaken to implement other Protocols to the Barcelona Convention. Another suggestion was greater cooperation among subregional initiatives. It was important to ensure that implementation of ICZM was consistent with other initiatives and other tools with similar aims in order to ensure best use of resources and maximum benefit for the Mediterranean.

14. The representative of EEA offered the expertise of his organization in helping countries to set up monitoring mechanisms for the ICZM Protocol once the instrument had entered into force.

15. The representative of ETC/LUSI informed the Meeting that the proposal for the project People for Ecosystem-Based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and Coast (PEGASO), on which PAP/RAC had been working as part of a 24-member consortium, had been approved for financing and was due to start at the beginning of 2010.

16. In response to a question about transparency in terms of how PAP/RAC funding was used, Mr Trumbic explained that the progress report had been written as per the format prescribed by the MAP Secretariat and detailed the activities undertaken using money from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), i.e. funds contributed by Parties to the Barcelona Convention. He agreed, however, that funding from host countries and other sources should also be shown in the reports and proposed to the Secretariat that such an approach be used in future progress reports.

Reporting format for the ICZM Protocol: Information and initial discussion

17. Mr M. Prem, Deputy Director of PAP/RAC, introduced document UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.336.4, highlighting the fact that PAP/RAC had prepared the reporting format for the ICZM Protocol as a preliminary activity pending the Protocol's entry into force. It could continue to do so, on the basis of proposals from countries on content and

prioritization of issues in order to rationalize completion of reports once the Protocol was in force. Countries should decide on which questions they should report on regarding the Protocol's implementation, indicating any problems encountered in order to ensure assistance from MAP in the future. He then requested general guidelines from the Meeting regarding development of the format.

18. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of several countries expressed appreciation for the preparatory work carried out by PAP/RAC on the format. It was a crucial tool to encourage countries to sign the Protocol as well as being a means of checking progress on implementation. Individual questions should preferably be covered in distinct items as different ministries would be required to respond in some cases. The layout should therefore be as simple as possible because of the proliferation of reporting mechanisms which the various ministries had to respond to and because time was better spent on field work than on the reporting as such. Implementation of the Protocol should nevertheless be monitored to see how it was being applied.

19. One proposal was made to hold a meeting about reporting at a later stage to see whether ICZM performance indicators were being met. Any reporting format should have detailed, operational items so that the Protocol itself would have operational value. Another was to set a deadline for comments to be submitted to PAP/RAC, with a working group or thematic groups set up to develop the format. There were further, more detailed suggestions for the format to be aligned with the Action Plan for Implementation of the ICZM Protocol with a compliance committee assessing how each country implemented the Protocol. As Part I was longer and more detailed than the other parts, the format could be rebalanced by merging Parts II and III, so that a new Part I would cover governance and policies, Part II a more general, less detailed, legal framework (including both legal tools and legislation) and Part III technical measures.

20. A suggestion was made to take the format adopted for the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) as a basis because the format would be useful to show what ICZM legislation already existed. Indeed, there was a question as to the possibility of bringing together all Protocols in a reporting process to ensure effective coordination and assist countries in responding. In reply, the Chair pointed out that the ICZM Protocol was not only new but also integrated in that the different RACs would be working together on it. Consequently, the reporting format's effectiveness indicators should be discussed in thematic groups which could prepare a simple reporting format integrating those indicators. A meeting of experts could prove necessary to cover aspects of policy, implementation and efficiency, given that all RACs were concerned and consistency of presentation would be helpful, as was also the case with the presentation of financial matters.

21. It was concluded that PAP/RAC should continue developing the format which countries could comment on via Internet to facilitate the process. The Meeting's constructive suggestions would be taken into account by PAP/RAC in designing the format with the MAP Secretariat and further meetings would be held to validate it in due course, as had already been scheduled for the next biennium. A working group was also to be set up as soon as possible, for which purpose the various countries would be solicited nominations by autumn 2009.

PAP/RAC mandate

22. Introducing document UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.336/3, Mr Trumbic recalled that the Governance Paper adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties had requested each RAC to define or clarify its mandate. Recalling the background to PAP/RAC, its establishment and its initial focus, he went on to outline the various sections of the document, starting with the objective and mission of PAP/RAC, which, since adoption of the ICZM Protocol, had been principally to contribute to implementation of that instrument. Next

came a draft mission statement and an explanation of the scope of action of PAP/RAC and related key issues. The following section outlined the principal activities of the RAC: coordination of the initiatives and activities envisaged by the ICZM Protocol; technical assistance to Parties; implementation of pilot/demonstration projects and capacity building. Other activities included cooperation with regional and international organizations, efforts to improve the visibility of MAP and efforts to secure funding.

23. Following the presentation, a number of representatives commented on the draft mandate, with several calling it inspiring. A number of amendments were nevertheless proposed with a view to improving the document. Rather than the objective of PAP/RAC being to “contribute to implementation of the ICZM Protocol”, it was suggested that the aim be wider, for example “to help achieve sustainable development of the regional coastal area, mainly through integrated coastal zone management”. Other proposals included mentioning: the preservation of biodiversity in the particular concerns enumerated in the mission statement; climate change in the section on scope of action and key issues; and ecosystem goods and services, and the link between science and policy, wherever appropriate.

24. A proposal to restructure the section “Principal activities” involved ordering the activities into three groups: (i) general governance issues, such as coordination; (ii) implementation issues, such as the legal framework and specific plans and programmes; and (iii) support activities, such as awareness raising. It was also highlighted that there were four main activities and three subsidiary activities (cooperation, visibility and funding) and that their relative importance should be made clear from the structure of the document.

25. Regarding one the latter topics, “Cooperation”, it was suggested that the subtitle “Cooperation with regional and international organizations” was too restrictive, as the ensuing paragraph referred also to relations with the private sector. Moreover, the need for continuous cooperation among the RACs (particularly BP/RAC, SPA/RAC and Info/RAC) and at all levels was stressed; it should be driven from the bottom up as well as the top down. The focus should be on strengthening cooperation among existing bodies and on making them more effective rather than on establishing new ones.

26. Regarding the matter of funding, a proposal was made to restructure the relevant paragraph to show how different sources of funding might relate to the main activities of PAP/RAC.

27. Finally, given that the historical reasoning for the name of PAP/RAC was no longer valid, it was suggested that the centre consider adopting another title. Although he did not rule it out, Mr Trumbic said that it would be a shame not to be able to capitalize on the good reputation associated with the centre under its current name.

28. Representatives with proposals for amendments to the draft document were asked to send in their comments in writing, regardless of whether they had shared them in the Meeting, to assist PAP/RAC in preparation of a revised draft.

Programme for the biennium 2010-1011

29. Mr Prem introduced document UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.336.2, pointing out that its structure was as requested by the previous joint meeting of focal points, with the proposed budget aligned against the various activities. The sections on “Sustainable management of coastal zones” and “Integrating development and environment” covered their objectives, expected outputs and midterm prospects.

30. The document was well received as an example of how the MTF, voluntary contributions and external funding could be brought together for the benefit of all countries,

with realistic, measurable outcomes. It showed that implementation of the CAMPs helped support ICZM as a whole.

31. There were several suggestions for the programme from participants. Under “Objective 2 Expected Outputs”, a training workshop on standards for coastal management administration structures could be added to help countries start implementing the Protocol and a training workshop each year related to Coast Day could be held in different countries which could allocate resources and involve the national media. As resources for the event were limited, the representative of Turkey offered to cover some of the expenses by organizing the 2009 celebrations in his country. Further, a methodology was needed as a model to implement all projects in the same way and integrate them under the same objective. In some cases, funding was provided for regional and cross-cutting activities rather than for PAP/RAC specifically; consequently, clarification was needed.

32. It was proposed that climate change be highlighted as it was a priority for coastal areas and should be included in the programme for the next biennium. CP/RAC had already made climate change impact studies, but they required coordination and should be a major future topic of MAP to which all MAP components could contribute. Climate change adaptation measures were often taken at local, business level, whereas coordination and guidance would be extremely beneficial. In this context, the representative of IDDRI mentioned a forthcoming project which would make a legal analysis of the Protocol and its future implementation in the various countries. In response, Mr Prem said that climate change would be included but that funding would have to be sought.

33. The various activities under the CAMPs would facilitate implementation of the Protocol even before it came into effect and all the CAMPs reflected the Protocol in their activities. The main thrust for the programme was the support for implementation in the various countries, while a governance mechanism led by PAP/RAC would ensure consistency with other strategies. Since CAMPs had the bulk of the budget indicated in the document, an explanation of how the allocations had been made would be given insofar as agreements had been signed with specific figures in some cases while in others an estimate would be given pending agreement. CAMPs were largely implemented at local, subnational level, with financing and coordination at national level. The programme could be adjusted to reflect how the CAMPs worked as demonstrations for the Protocol, as there was a need to convince countries in that critical period of the need for coordination of ICZM, for which the CAMPs and Protocol were tools.

34. The PAP/RAC mandate was an ambitious one, but was not completely reflected in the programme; consistency between the two should be ensured with clear links showing the follow-up from the previous programme and its outcomes. The gap between what was planned and what remained to be done would bring out where resources were needed. Ideally, sufficient resources would be available to cover the entire mandate and a direct relationship would be possible, but that was not always the case and activities had to be prioritized as regards funding. On the other hand, everything in the programme had to be in the mandate, as had been ensured. Any discrepancy should be mentioned and linkages with the previous programme should also be brought to the attention of PAP/RAC also to highlight the bridge between past and future activities. It was proposed to make a table showing the mandate with a list of activities relevant to each aspect. Links with other MAP components should be mentioned in the programme table where relevant. Any unachieved action could then be indicated to promote pledges of further funding from countries. Participants were requested to send written proposals for relevant activities, though it was pointed out that the budget had been based on zero growth. If an increase were subsequently approved by the Contracting Parties, the programme would be expanded accordingly.

Midterm programme of PAP (2010-2014)

35. Mr Trumbic presented the indicative five-year programme of PAP/RAC, which had been produced pursuant to a recommendation in the Governance Paper adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties. He explained that the MAP Coordinator and the Directors of the RACs had decided to present to the Contracting Parties at their next meeting a five-year programme relating only to the issue of climate change, as that was considered to be the most pressing and prominent cross-cutting issue at present. Nevertheless, he proposed that the present Meeting discuss the orientation of the work of PAP/RAC over the next five years in a broader sense. He went on to explain that PAP/RAC aimed not only to stimulate implementation of the ICZM Protocol, but also to continue its work in traditional areas of activity.

36. He said that the ICZM Protocol was a crucial tool for achieving sustainable development. As defined in the Protocol, ICZM involved social, economic, natural and physical components and thus affected a multitude of stakeholders across a variety of disciplines. It could therefore be considered as a cross-cutting issue. The activities in the indicative programme of PAP/RAC had been devised on the basis of a number of sources related mainly to the ICZM Protocol, the MSSD and their corresponding action plans; lateral influences included the European Union (EU) recommendation on ICZM, the Framework Directive on a Marine Strategy, the Integrated Maritime Policy and implementation of the Ecosystem Approach. Specific articles in the Protocol explained exactly what needed to be done, from practical measures on the ground right through to awareness raising and marketing of the instrument.

37. He then shared with the Meeting a table summarising the above sources and showing the main areas on which PAP/RAC was proposing to work over the coming years and, by way of reasoning, their relation to the Protocol or to other instruments, documents or policies.

38. The general view of the Meeting was that PAP/RAC should concentrate mainly on the ICZM and not waste efforts or resources on other matters. There were plenty of concrete activities that could be undertaken, such as the development of the reporting format and indicators, the establishment of common structures for ICZM, and designing and supporting the conduct of CAMP-type projects to implement the Protocol, at national and local level, and even spanning international borders.

39. It was even suggested that concentrating on implementation of the entire Protocol was too broad a proposition and that PAP/RAC should be identifying specific articles of the Protocol on which to focus. For example, Articles 17 and 18 of the Protocol (the Mediterranean Strategy for ICZM, and national coastal strategies, plans and programmes, respectively) provided specific guidance regarding areas on which PAP/RAC should be concentrating. Even if the Protocol had not yet entered into force, preparations needed to get under way.

40. Although it had been proposed that only activities relating to climate change would be presented to the Contracting Parties, it was pointed out that climate change was linked to a vast range of issues. There was in fact overlap with ICZM with regard to issues such as mitigation and adaptation efforts and biodiversity. ICZM was an extremely flexible tool which could be used to meet a variety of challenges over the coming years.

BP/RAC

BP/RAC 8 years after the audit carried out by MAP

41. Mr Thibault said that the current financial crisis required all stakeholders to reinforce the foundations on which development was based. It also called for MAP to re-evaluate its collective capacity to influence decision-makers and to secure a reduction in non-sustainable trends and to ask itself whether the tools it was using – legal, institutional and financial – were still relevant in the face of the challenges ahead. International cooperation was crucial in that respect and the Mediterranean had the potential to be an exemplary region in terms of sustainable development.

42. Over the years, BP/RAC, like the other RACs, had been the subject of numerous recommendations. The documents to be presented during the present session on BP/RAC would aim to show how the centre was endeavouring to follow those recommendations.

Reminder of the general outlines of the BP/RAC 2007-2015 intervention framework

43. Mr Thibault gave a brief overview of the BP/RAC 2007-2015 intervention framework, which had four strategic objectives: (i) to analyse, collect and process environmental, economic and social information useful to stakeholders and decision makers; (ii) to analyse the interaction between the environment and economic and social development in order to measure progress towards sustainable development; (iii) to carry out analyses and prospective studies to assist with decision-making; and (iv) to disseminate the results in ways suited to target groups. The end year, 2015, coincided with the deadline for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as there was a relationship between those goals and the work of BP/RAC in areas such as the environment and water issues. The framework dealt with existing and emerging issues, such as climate change, urban, rural and coastal areas, wastewater, energy and transport.

44. In response to the presentation, the question was raised of whether the fact that BP/RAC's intervention framework covered the period 2007-2015 might mean that the latest environmental, political and technological issues had not been taken into account. BP/RAC was asked to consider revisiting it in that light.

45. In a related comment about the decision to present to the Contracting Parties at their next meeting a MAP-wide indicative five-year programme that related only to the issue of climate change, a number of representatives pointed out that the Governance Paper adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties requested an indicative programme for all aspects of the work of MAP. That was what they expected to see.

BP/RAC progress report for the biennium 2008-2009

46. Introducing the progress report, Mr Thibault outlined some of BP/RAC's main achievements during the period under review. It had actively participated in a variety of meetings, including the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean and the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, and had produced numerous studies, publications and awareness-raising tools. It had continued its work on environmental and economic statistics and on assessment of progress towards sustainable development and had concentrated on the setting up of a Mediterranean Information System on the Environment and Sustainable Development (SIMEDD). Other work had focused on the topics of: climate change; water demand management; energy and climate; urban areas and mobility, tourism; coastal areas and the marine environment; marine ecosystems; rural areas, including forests; and waste.

47. In the discussion, the importance of strengthening national data-collection and statistical capacities was underlined. Much still needed to be done, particularly regarding the setting up of the Mediterranean observatory, but representatives warned of being too ambitious given the limited or underdeveloped capacities of the national-level data providers. Efforts should be directed towards boosting their capacities in order to ensure the success of any wider initiative. The RACs' efforts in that connection also needed to be harmonized so that workshops could be scheduled at different times. One representative called into question the credibility of any data collected with a view to establishing emission inventories for studying climate change, stating that strict rules needed to be observed in order to make them credible and therefore useful. In response, the representatives of BP/RAC recalled that BP/RAC did not generate data but rather worked with existing data. In that regard, there clearly was a need to boost national statistical capacities. To ensure the success of any regional initiative or collective database, it would be essential for data from different countries to be directly comparable. BP/RAC had published a certain number of publications, some in Arabic, English and French, to facilitate the technical analysis done by the countries.

48. Questions were raised regarding the extent to which BP/RAC worked with other entities, be they MAP components or other bodies, and whether there were overlaps or duplication that could be avoided. It was clear that regular coordination meetings took place, at least within the framework of MAP but it was not so obvious what was done in concrete terms on the ground. The representatives of BP/RAC acknowledged that the centre was embarking on a number of new ventures, in the areas of waste or marine ecosystems, for example. It was not, however, duplicating the work of other components such as MEDPOL, CP/RAC, or SPA/RAC, but was working very closely with those components after finding that BP/RAC could assist in their efforts or fill gaps in their activities. In some cross-cutting areas such as tourism, which affected all aspects of MAP, all RACs had to participate in studies relevant to them. On the other hand, as regards climate change, 18 of the largest cities, mostly on the coast, had made impact studies and BP/RAC could help combine the outputs on such issues, particularly by setting indicators for progress and facilitating consistency between different countries' databases by proposing a database architecture.

49. Countries that had been involved in the pilot testing of indicators said that they had had no feedback after submission of their reporting. They asked for an update on the progress in the development of the indicators. It was confirmed that further work on the indicators was planned for the next biennium. As regards data collection, many countries could not take part if they did not have the necessary data centres. A specialized data centre was needed for sectoral studies to combine existing data as well as data from studies. It was emphasized that BP/RAC was not a research centre as such but could help by proposing ways of accessing data in the various countries. A network of national centres could thus be set up, but to process and access the data, external experts would be needed as BP/RAC did not have the necessary resources.

50. One representative said that, given the levelling off of resources or even their decline, BP/RAC should perhaps reconsider its activities and not take on so many new activities. Actions like prospective studies required extensive resources and were labour intensive. It had to be clear what the added value of BP/RAC's involvement was in order to justify the use of the resources at its disposal. BP/RAC produced information and data of great value, but they had to be exchanged to avoid compartmentalization of the work. Sharing of the results of studies carried out would take place at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

51. It was also stressed that BP/RAC, and indeed all the focal points, had to expand their network of contacts, going outside the spheres of influence traditionally frequented by MAP in order to ensure that they had access to all possible data and to all people capable of exerting an influence. The representatives of BP/RAC agreed that there was such a need and acknowledged that it was necessary to tailor the message to the audience to ensure that

it got through. They had begun to think about that and were considering the possibility of integrating into its teams or calling on experts from those circles in order to forge closer links.

52. The representative of Montenegro informed the Meeting that a conference on climate change in the Mediterranean region and south-eastern Europe, hosted by the Government of Montenegro, supported by the Government of Italy, would be held in her country from 15 to 17 October and she invited BP/RAC to become involved in that endeavour.

53. Regarding assistance outstanding for the Moroccan CAMP, it was pledged that BP/RAC would fulfil its commitments.

54. Mr Thibault pointed out that the last audit of BP/RAC had taken place in 2001 and that, although positive assessments had been made, another audit would help make an evaluation of the data available.

BP/RAC mandate

55. Mr Thibault presented the draft mandate document, whose structure had been aligned with that of PAP/RAC. He highlighted BP/RAC's dual functions as an observatory of the environment and sustainable development and as a centre for systemic and prospective analysis. In response to a question about overlapping with the mandates of the other RACs, he said that every effort had been made to avoid such duplication, but that any comments in that respect would be welcome.

56. Several representatives made suggestions to amend the draft mandate document. One representative pointed out the need to distinguish between BP/RAC's role of producing information and INFO/RAC's role concerning the techniques for accessing and disseminating the information. Under the first of the guiding principles in the section "Scope of action and key issues", an addition should reflect the need to deal with stakeholders in other sectors, and under the section "Principal activities", it was important to mention that the work and publications of BP/RAC should not only be widely circulated, but to the right people with a view to obtaining results. Similarly, the heading "Improving the visibility of MAP" should be amended as the focus was not on mere publicity but on effectiveness. A clarification should also be made regarding the current lead role of BP/RAC in MSSD implementation and the preparation of national development strategies in the future.

57. Following other suggestions for amendments, Mr Thibault said that they had been noted down and would be incorporated in the online version within about two weeks. Further written comments would be welcome and would also be taken into account in the document to be prepared for the meeting of MAP focal points in July 2009, which would discuss the mandates.

BP/RAC programme for the biennium 2010-2011

58. Mr Thibault introduced the document, highlighting the main cross-cutting activities and the main thematic activities planned by BP/RAC in the next biennium. The floor was then opened for comments.

59. Given that ICZM was one of the main tools for achieving sustainable development of coastal zones, support for implementation of the Protocol should be one of the main tasks of BP/RAC, yet that did not come across clearly in the programme. One of the challenges of ICZM would be the mobilization of all the RACs so that they worked together to create added value. Mr Thibault explained that certain issues of relevance to BP/RAC went beyond the coastal zone, so the document had been structured by theme not by area.

60. It was suggested that, rather than cross-referencing in the programmes initiatives that would be carried out jointly by more than one RAC or MAP component, it might be better to

produce a completely integrated work programme for the entire MAP system. That would also be useful to show the relative apportioning of resources, both human and financial, to initiatives. As a related point, the Meeting returned to the issue of the MAP-wide indicative five-year programme, required by the Governance Paper. Representatives were adamant that the programme needed to deal with all issues, not just climate change. Ms T. Hema, MEDU Programme Officer, said that although time was short, she would report to MEDU on the comments made at the present Meeting and would make sure that the indicative five-year programme dealt with all aspects of MAP's work. She also explained that the Secretariat was preparing draft decisions for consideration at the upcoming meeting of MAP focal points in a way that presented the mandates and work programmes of the RACs each in one decision, albeit consecutively, united by a common chapeau. The aim was to show the concerted efforts of the centres. She also said that the Secretariat would work to produce a document specifying the individual tasks of each centre in terms of implementation of the ICZM Protocol. One representative said that it would be a useful tool in helping countries ensure that their own national bodies and institutions at their various levels worked effectively together towards common goals.

61. A variety of comments on biodiversity were made: the relationship between climate change mitigation/adaption and biodiversity/ecosystems should be clearer; coastal biodiversity should be mentioned whenever marine biodiversity was mentioned in order to ensure that all aspects were covered; and reference to the global study "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity", being prepared by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and the European Commission, with the support of several other partners, should be included as it was an extremely important initiative.

62. Further clarification was sought regarding indicators, including the orientation of work on the matter after Horizon 2010 and the development of indicators relating to Millennium Development Goal 7 on the environment and sustainable development.

63. Concerns about overlaps resurfaced, but Mr Thibault explained that everything in the programme had been thoroughly thought through and a substantial amount of research and analysis conducted, in collaboration with other stakeholders involved in a given initiative, before its inclusion in the programme.

64. It was also thought that some of the objectives in the programme were too ambitious and beyond the capabilities of BP/RAC, or even MAP, alone, and certainly not achievable in the short or medium term. It was necessary to ensure that the goals in the programme were feasible either with existing resources, or by seeking additional resources via, for example, the World Bank or the Global Environment Facility.

65. Other questions raised related to: the specific timing of activities within the two-year period; the appropriateness of referring to the impact of the rise in sea level in the annex on energy rather than in the annex on climate change; and the possibility of adding a reference to the generation of renewable energy in coastal areas.

66. Mr Thibault said that he would take on board the comments made during the meeting and produce a new version of the programme, which would be posted on the centre's website for comment by the national focal points.

Strengthening of BP/RAC means of action

67. Mr Thibault indicated that the purpose of that agenda item, for which there was no background document, was to inform participants of BP/RAC's interest in and need for competencies in certain of its thematic areas. It particularly aimed to attract human resources from Mediterranean countries, rather than from outside the region.

Proposed recommendations for the period 2010-2011

68. Mr Thibault presented the document containing the proposals, which was divided into two sections with recommendations to the Contracting Parties and to BP/RAC. He added that suggestions for amendments to other BP/RAC documents presented at the Meeting would be taken into account in that document as well, where appropriate. As to the absence of equivalent documents for other RACs, he explained that that document had been prepared for use by BP/RAC pending finalization of the Programme of Activities for all the components. The structure was different in the Programme of Activities and some activities were already contained in the MSSD, so could be deleted in that document, but they should remain in the programme.

69. Several representatives proposed amendments. One indicated the need to clarify who had the lead in supporting countries in MSSD implementation and to invite countries to examine ways of involving other sectoral actors in MAP, which could be facilitated by the Contracting Parties. The various recommendations should be adapted to the new version of the programme, which meant that the recommendations about adoption of the budget and building up teams could be deleted. Clarification was needed about which biennium was referred to and the reference to the Union for the Mediterranean could be deleted to allow the Contracting Parties to decide about it. Once finalized, the recommendations should also be listed in order of priority and should include a mention of the work on indicators as a core activity of BP/RAC. It was further agreed to add those recommendations that had not yet been completely realised, such as capacity building, as well as ensuring a subregional approach to ecosystems.

70. Mr Thibault again pointed out that further written comments would be welcome and would also be taken into account in the online version of the recommendations, which would be posted on the centre's website within about two weeks.

INFO/RAC

INFO/RAC progress report for the biennium 2008-2009

71. Ms Hema informed participants that neither the Director of INFO/RAC nor any other representative of the centre had attended the Meeting. Furthermore, although INFO/RAC had submitted a 2008-2009 progress report to the Bureau of the Meeting of Contracting Parties, it had not submitted such a report to the present Meeting.

72. Ms Hema therefore provided a brief overview of the main activities undertaken by the centre during the 2008-2009 biennium: development of a MAP online reporting system; development of information systems for SPA/RAC, REMPEC and MEDPOL; support for a photo database for the MAP website; and management and updating of the MCSD website. She said that the MAP Secretariat had been following closely the work of INFO/RAC and was confident that, despite a temporary problem relating to the transfer of funds to the centre, all the activities in the work programme adopted at the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties would be completed by the end of the biennium.

73. The meeting pointed out that INFO/RAC activities were crucial to the success of MAP and the cohesion of its network of components. The lack of progress in a number of the projects was deemed unacceptable. Work on the MAP information system had been going on for more than a decade and it was high time it was completed.

74. In response to a question related to the MAP website and coordination of information by the MAP Secretariat, Ms Luisa Colasimone, MAP Information Officer, explained that the new website was up and running, was updated regularly and was available in Arabic, English

and French. As for other activities, she said that it was necessary to make a distinction between the work entrusted to the Secretariat and that under the responsibility of the RACs.

75. Ms Hema recalled that the functions of INFO/RAC would be taken over by the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) as of 1 January 2010, as proposed by the Italian Government. By way of further explanation, the representative of Italy recalled that, at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea had announced its decision to transfer the functions of INFO/RAC to the Italian Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM). ICRAM had now merged into ISPRA. That merger and the change of government in Italy, which had both occurred in 2008, had affected the timely handover of the responsibility for the functions of INFO/RAC. Nevertheless, the total 2009 funds had been disbursed and the funding for the next biennium, some EUR 2 million, had been allocated by the Italian Government. He apologized for the lack of a progress report from INFO/RAC and stated that the current INFO/RAC would endeavour to produce such a report for the upcoming meeting of MAP focal points in July 2009. He also hoped that the discussions on the INFO/RAC programme for the 2010-2011 biennium to be held at the present Meeting would help the centre prioritize its work for that period.

76. In response to a question about the impartiality of a MAP centre run by an Italian governmental institution, Ms Hema explained that the establishment of the centre was subject to a host country agreement to be negotiated between UNEP and the Government of Italy. The present Meeting objective was to discuss the pertinence of the centre's activities and its programme of work, and to ensure a strong ICT component for MAP.

INFO/RAC mandate

73. The representative of ISPRA, Mr Claudio Maricchiolo, introduced the draft mandate document, highlighting that the main objective of the centre was to help the entire MAP family – components and Parties – in achieving their policy goals throughout the decision-making cycle, through the provision of information and communication services, the dissemination and sharing of environmental information and the strengthening of information and communication capacities in the Mediterranean region.

74. He introduced the three key pillars of the proposed mandate. The first two were mainly based on a continuation of the mandate of the current INFO/RAC. The third one was based partly on the scope of the previous RAC for Environmental Remote Sensing but mostly on the need for the Barcelona Convention Parties and institutions to take advantage of the huge opportunities stemming from existing research and development programmes producing data and information relevant to the marine and coastal environments.

75. In the ensuing discussion, there was appreciation of the overall structure but also concern that the objective and mission of the centre was very broad, particularly “the strengthening of the communication capabilities... of the key stakeholders in the Mediterranean region...” Mr Maricchiolo agreed that the scope was large, but recalled that the document before the Meeting was the proposed *mandate* of the centre, not a work programme containing specific activities. It would of course be necessary to identify the most urgent issues to be addressed, but that would be done when considering the proposed programme of work for the next biennium.

76. Information sharing was not only the domain of INFO/RAC; in order to achieve a two-way flow, the cooperation of all Parties was required. Furthermore, when developing information and communication tools, the focus should be on their usability to ensure that they were employed by the greatest number of stakeholders. A bottom-up approach to information dissemination and communication was the preferred option in general.

Mr Maricchiolo confirmed that dissemination techniques had to overcome technical, linguistic and cultural barriers to ensure that the information was passed on effectively.

77. Efforts to link up with other information networks such as those of the EU Topic Centres, UNEP Life or the Group on Earth Observations were considered important, not only to enable MAP to have at its disposal a wider array of information, but also to open up more avenues for promulgating information produced by MAP itself. It would be the responsibility of the RACs to identify such possibilities for linkages.

78. The creation of networks of experts across the Mediterranean region was discussed. Questions raised included whether such networks already existed in the form of MAP focal points, or whether they should be wider-reaching. The issue of possible overlap between the work and therefore expert networks of BP/RAC and INFO/RAC was highlighted. Mr Maricchiolo clarified his vision, stating that he foresaw a series of regional expert networks linked to specific topics, such as biodiversity, or wastewater, across the work of the various RACs.

79. Remote sensing was put forward by one representative as a relatively cheap way of obtaining homogenous information regarding all the countries in the Mediterranean region. It was also an ideal means of ensuring cooperation among countries. The Meeting was informed that the GlobCorine project, a joint EEA/European Space Agency initiative, was planning to use remote sensing to produce a complete map of the Mediterranean basin.

80. As in the discussion of the other RACs, a proposal was made to restructure the relevant paragraph to show how different sources of funding might relate to the main activities of INFO/RAC.

81. One representative expressed the view that, as no independent evaluation of INFO/RAC's activities to date had been carried out and there was no funding breakdown, it was not possible to pronounce on the pertinence of the draft mandate.

INFO/RAC programme for the biennium 2010-2011

82. Mr Maricchiolo introduced the document by saying that it had been drafted in consultation with the MAP Secretariat and other RACs and had been approved by the Italian Ministry of the Environment. It comprised an introductory section covering the institutional shift to ISPRA, policy background, goals and objectives as well as key references, then listed the activities to be carried out over the next biennium in three groups corresponding to the strategic objectives: (i) information and communication tools/technologies; (ii) reporting, communication and awareness-raising; and (iii) Dissemination of results from environmental research and from innovative observation and monitoring tools/technology.

83. The budget was not indicated but it should be no less than in the past. Depending on the Contracting Parties' comments on the 2010-2011 work programme, INFO/RAC could use available resources for in-depth work on some priority activities or spread them more thinly for a larger number of facilitating actions. The budget would in any case include some contributions in kind from ISPRA. An updated draft, incorporating a budget and breakdown by year, with corresponding achievement indicators, would be submitted to the MAP Secretariat as soon as possible, but as yet, given that it was difficult to know how much of the current programme would be accomplished by the current INFO/RAC by the end of 2009, flexibility was needed in planning the future.

84. In general, the document was well received, albeit as an ambitious programme, particularly as the next biennium could be viewed as a transitional, building stage for the RAC. Participants made several proposals for amendments. In particular, since the budget

and staffing were not included, it was difficult to judge how much of the programme was feasible. One participant suggested that, as for BP/RAC, human resources from Mediterranean countries could be sought, possibly on an exchange basis in addition to the Italian staff in place. Moreover, if the budget were to be spread too thinly, it might be better to drop the lower-priority activities. It was important to indicate the body responsible for carrying out each activity, in particular the respective roles of MEDPOL and INFO/RAC should be clear in order to avoid inaction, and appropriate cooperation with INFO/RAC should be included for all countries.

85. However, participants made several proposals about prioritizing the activities. Some urgent issues had been pending for several years already, such as: the provision of easy, consistent access to the information available in the various MAP centres; further development of data on the state of the environment; indicators; and accessibility and ownership of data. Another priority was the preparation of public information material, using such media as YouTube, in languages relevant to the target groups, including Arabic.

86. It was in particular suggested that the activity "Initiate platform module for the REMPEC information system" should be moved from objective (iii) to (i). The draft should include a mention of the Ecosystem Approach, with an indication of how it fitted into the MAP information system. An activity concerning training in sustainable development could be added to ensure dissemination of the relevant methodology. Under "Policy background", other relevant European initiatives should be indicated, under "Main objectives", "impact" should replace "visibility" and in the table, under 2.5, reference should be made to relevant UN days opposite "Celebration days". One suggestion was for MAP documents to be produced as an educational tool in accordance with each Protocol's field for public information purposes. A question was raised about the preparation by INFO/RAC of material for children, since some kits were already available and could be translated into other languages and distributed via Internet to the MAP countries. Thematic kits were actually being prepared for the Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Morocco as were youth-oriented side events. Environment Days could also be celebrated by children if thus encouraged.

87. The representative of ETC/LUSI drew attention to the PEGASO project which had a data and information package for the ICZM Protocol. She proposed that two to four countries wishing to participate in remote sensing work could cooperate, as European funding could be sought for that purpose and it was an inexpensive means of monitoring and was in line with the bottom-up communication strategy.

88. Ms Colasimone pointed out that the MAP Secretariat was already working on the MAP information and communication strategy in collaboration with ISPRA. UNEP was also working on its own information and communication strategy so the MAP strategy should be aligned with that.

89. Mr Maricchiolo concluded the discussion by underlining the fact that the document reflected the transitional nature of the next biennium and was an ongoing framework for planning purposes, as priorities could only be determined when the information and communication strategy was in force. That should occur by 2010 and would facilitate prioritization and setting of timelines. An updated document would be prepared for the MAP focal points meeting in July 2009 taking into account all the participants' suggestions. Mr Maricchiolo invited participants to send him any proposals in writing so that he could incorporate them in the revised version.

Ways and means of strengthening cooperation and joint activities among the RACs

90. The Directors of PAP/RAC and BP/RAC and the representative of ISPRA, on behalf of the future INFO/RAC, introduced the agenda item.

91. Mr Trumbic said that cooperation was not just the concern of the three RACs under consideration at the present Meeting: it was necessary to improve cooperation across the entire MAP system, as per the Governance Paper. There were many opportunities to ensure such cooperation, such as the CAMPs. ICZM demanded greater cooperation among components and PAP/RAC would definitely do its utmost to ensure that it happened.

92. Mr Thibault said that over the past year or so he had noticed increased cooperation among MAP components and better integration of their work, as evidenced by the adoption of the Governance Paper, regular meetings among components and closer contacts among them. The components were heading in the right direction and their efforts were gathering momentum.

93. Mr Maricchiolo agreed with the Directors and shared their optimism regarding the possibilities for the RACs to work together, underlining that it was a common scope that made alliances and not vice versa.

94. During the discussion that followed, it was emphasized that the focus of the MAP system should be the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the MSSD. MAP components should not be distracted from that seminal work. In terms of improving cooperation in that respect, it was time to move from discussions to concrete actions. As well as producing a five-year indicative programme for all MAP components, on all topics, the MAP Secretariat could produce an actual joint work programme for the 2010-2011 biennium showing the work of all components arranged by theme. Such an exercise should not entail much extra work as it was in effect simply a reworking of the existing individual draft programmes for each centre. The related funding level and source for each activity should also appear, along with a tentative timeline for implementation and the expected outputs. Ms Hema confirmed that the MAP Secretariat would endeavour to produce the requested document in time for the upcoming meeting of the MAP focal points meeting in July. It was suggested that, as part of the new MAP information system, progress in implementing the work programme of a given biennium could be shared with all Parties in order to give them an insight into how they might be able to contribute, thus enhancing cooperation even further.

95. Other suggestions for improving cooperation and integration included: combining the systems for applying for, approving and evaluating RAC assistance to Parties; and enhancing technical dialogue among Parties. The representative of Spain said that ETC/LUSI wished to contribute to the latter goal and offered to hold a meeting on the issue within the framework of INFO/RAC.

96. There were various reactions to a question from Ms Hema about the current meeting set-up and whether the organisation of such joint meetings of RAC focal points should be continued or other institutional arrangements could better fit the needs of MAP. Some representatives considered the meetings indispensable and even suggested organizing one large meeting of focal points of all the RACs. They also called for a stronger role of the Coordinating Unit with regard to the organisation of such meetings. Others proposed maintaining the current set-up, with the three RACs, but requesting INFO/RAC also to attend the meetings of other RAC focal points in order to ensure effective dissemination of information throughout the system; the possibility of INFO/RAC focal points holding virtual meetings was mooted too. In the debate about whether it was necessary to have a different

focal point for each RAC, it was thought that those centres that carry important functions with regard to the implementation of the Protocols should continue holding separate meetings of their focal points. If the national focal point for BP/RAC and INFO/RAC are the same person and, particularly if it is the MAP focal point, other institutional arrangements can be put in place. Instead of holding a joint meeting of INFO/RAC and BP focal points, it would be more effective to transfer the functions of such a meeting to the meeting of MAP focal points. If joint meetings were to continue, however, it was imperative that all RACs produce their meeting documents according to a standard template to ensure homogeneity. Budgetary information should also be included. Furthermore, documents for all focal points meetings, be they of the RACs or of MAP, needed to be available to participants in sufficient time for them to be able to examine them thoroughly and provide feedback where appropriate.

Conclusions and recommendations

PAP/RAC

97. Mr Trumbic summarized the Meeting's input to the PAP/RAC documents. He had understood that the Contracting Parties had been largely satisfied with progress as described in the Progress report for the biennium 2008-2009 and that transparency in the financial reporting was a priority. The biennium's major achievement was undoubtedly the development of the ICZM Protocol, which was well under way towards ratification and would hopefully be in force by the next joint meeting of the BP/INFO/PAP national focal points in two years' time. The PAP/RAC mandate was ambitious but was to be seen as a long-term vision for future activities, while the Midterm programme (2010-2014) would provide a substantive framework for planning the biennial programme, that will be reconsidered for the approval after the requested revision. All contributions from participants, including those to be made after the Meeting in writing, would be taken into account in preparing a final version that would be forwarded to the Coordinating Unit in Athens for onward dissemination to the Contracting Parties.

BP/RAC

98. Mr Thibault said that the Meeting had been intensive and very useful. He underlined the value of BP/RAC activities during the current biennium, which had not yet ended, so some of the planned activities could still progress further before conclusions could be drawn. The quality of BP/RAC's outputs should ultimately be assessed in the light of their capacity to influence stakeholders and have an impact on sustainable development in the countries, for which indicators were being developed. MAP could well find new partnerships in the fields of sustainable development, environment and economics, for example, which would facilitate its work so that, step by step, budgets could be aligned for the benefit of the whole of MAP. It was important for MAP components to see MAP as a whole before focusing on the individual Protocols and centres. The current complex international circumstances, including in MAP with the early retirement of the MAP Coordinator and the transitional stage of INFO/RAC, gave an opportunity to take stock and implied that the MAP institutions could be further improved to fulfil all expectations. But MAP had a great future if it placed in the forefront of its activities three qualities: ambition in setting its programme of activities and related funding; determination to obtain high-quality results; and consistency in the synergy between the RACs, as well as in the governance of MAP in general and the means given to each RAC. BP/RAC would for its part join efforts to implement the ICZM Protocol, continue to focus on ecosystems and biodiversity, assist countries in integrating the provisions of the MSSD into their national strategies and strengthen its role in capacity building.

INFO/RAC

99. Mr Maricchiolo said that it had been a pleasure to take part in the Meeting. The INFO/RAC mandate was indeed ambitious but had been well received, with greater emphasis being placed in future on a MAP corporate approach. The overall MAP information

and communication strategy as well as the Midterm programme would be valuable guides in determining INFO/RAC priorities, while the respective roles and responsibilities of INFO/RAC and the MAP Secretariat should be defined once the host country agreement was signed. As to the proposed Programme for the biennium 2010-2011, it would be finalized with figures and timelines. The Meeting had clearly supported a focus on young people and junior events, which would be added. During the current transitional phase of INFO/RAC, much of the work done previously would be continued: development of INFOMAP and publication of fact sheets, for example. Cooperation between the RACs and between RACs and Contracting Parties would be enhanced in future as would a sense of ownership in the system, with participation by all countries in sharing data and results.

Closure of the Meeting

100. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 27 May 2009.

ANNEX I

List of participants Liste des participants

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms. Edlira DERSHA
Communication Expert
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration
Rruga e Dureshit No. 27
Tirana

Tel: ++355 42267 341
Fax: ++355 42270 627
E-mail: edersha@moe.gov.al

ALGERIA / ALGERIE

M. Zoubair BENSABBANE
Directeur de la Conservation de la Diversité Biologique
du Littoral, des Sites et Paysages et des Milieux

Mme. Samira NATECHE
Sous Directrice

Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de
l'Environnement et du Tourisme
1, rue des Quatre Canons
16000 Alger

Tel: ++213 7 90672691
Fax: ++213 21 432892
E-mail:

Tel: ++213 21 432875
Fax: ++213 21 432875
E-mail: natechesamira@yahoo.fr

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE ET HERZEGOVINE

Mr. Tarik KUPUSOVIC
National Co-ordinator for MAP B&H
Hydro-Engineering Institute
Stjepana Tomica 1
71000 Sarajevo

Tel/Fax: ++387 33 207949
E-mail: tarik.kupusovic@heis.com.ba

CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms. Marina GRŠKOVIC
Advisor

Tel: ++385 1 3782194
Fax: ++385 1 3717122
E-mail: marina.grskovic@mzopu.hr

Ms. Marijana MANCE KOWALSKY
Head of Sector for International Co-operation,
Sustainable Development and Promotion of
Environmental Protection

Tel: ++385 1 3782452
Fax: ++385 1 3717149
E-mail: marijana.mance@mzopu.hr

Ms. Martina SORSA
Junior Legal Advisor
International Relations Department

Tel: ++385 1 3782 186
Fax: ++385 1 3782149
E-mail: martina.sorsa@mzopu.hr

Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning
and Construction
Ulica Republike Austrije 14
10000 Zagreb

EGYPT / EGYPTE

Mr. Mohamed Farouk OSMAN
General Manager
Coastal Zone Management and Lakes Department

Tel: ++20 2 52526452
Fax: ++20 2 5256475
E-mail: m_f_osman@hotmail.com

Ms. Mona KAMAL
Head of the Environmental Indicators and Reporting
Unit

Tel: ++20 2 52526465
Fax: ++20 2 25256459
E-mail: yamanoon@yahoo.com

Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)
30 Misr-Helwan El-Zyrae Road
P.O. Box 11728
Maadi, Cairo

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPEENNE

Ms. Anne BURRILL
Deputy Head of Unit "Enlargement and Neighbouring
Countries"
DG Environment (BU9 05/151)

Tel: ++32 2 2954388
Fax: ++32 2 2994123
E-mail: anne.burrill@ec.europa.eu

Ms. Birgit SNOEREN
Policy Officer
Unit D3 "Cohesion Policy and Environmental Impact
Assessments"
DG Environment (BU5 04/128)

Tel: ++32 2 2994053
Fax: ++32 2 2995809
E-mail: birgit.snoeren@ec.europa.eu

European Commission
1049 Brussels

FRANCE / FRANCE

M. Pierre BOUGEANT
Chargé de mission international
Conservatoire du littoral
27 Rue Blanche
75009 Paris

Tel: ++33 1 44635660
Fax: ++33 1 44635676
E-mail: p.bougeant@conservatoire-du-littoral.fr

M. Thierry LAVOUX
Inspecteur Général de l'Environnement
Ministère de l'Écologie, de l'Énergie, du Développement
durable et de l'Aménagement du territoire
Tour Pascal B
92055 La Défense Cedex

Tel: ++33 1 40812190
Fax: ++33 1 40812395
E-mail: Thierry.Lavoux@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

GREECE / GRÈCE

Mr. Ilias MAVROIDIS
Senior Expert
Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and
Public Works
15 Amaliados Str.
11523 Athens

Tel: ++30 210 6426531
Fax: ++30 210 6434470
E-mail: i.mavroidis@tmeok.minenv.gr

ISRAEL / ISRAËL

Mr. Gideon BRESLER
Environmental Planner
Ministry of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 811
31007 Haifa

Tel: ++972 4 8633500
Fax: ++972 4 8633520
E-mail: gidi@sviva.gov.il

Ms. Sigalit RACHMAN
Sustainable Development Co-ordinator
Ministry of Environment
5 Kanfey Nesharim St.
95464 Jerusalem

Tel: ++972 2 6553862
Fax: ++972 2 6553853
E-mail: sigalit@sviva.gov.il

ITALY / ITALIE

Ms. Maria DALLA COSTA
Head
International Relations Service
Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
(ISPRA)
Via Curtatone, 3
00185 Rome

Tel: ++39 06 50074201
Fax: ++39 06 50074276
E-mail: maria.dallacosta@isprambiente.it

Mr. Oliviero MONTANARO
Head of Unit
Department for Nature Protection
Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea
Via C. Colombo, 44
Rome

Tel. ++39 06 57223441
Fax ++39 06 57228424
E-mail: montanaro.oliviero@minambiente.it

LEBANON / LIBAN

Mr. Marwan MOUDALLAL
Head of IT Unit

Tel: ++961 1 976555
Fax: ++961 1 976530
E-mail: m.moudallal@moe.gov.lb

Ms. Sanaa SIRAWAN
Head of the Planning and Programmes Service

Tel: ++961 1 976514
Fax: ++961 1 976530
E-mail: s.sairawan@moe.gov.lb

Ministry of Environment
Beirut Central District
Azarieh Building - Bloc A4 New - 8th Floor
P.O.Box 11-2727
Beirut

LIBYA / LIBYE

Mr. Nuri M. ALMEZUGHU
Director of Technical Co-operation Office
Environment General Authority
P.O.Box 83618
Algieran, Tripoli

Tel: ++218 21 4871303 (ext.121)
Fax: ++218 21 4872188
E-mail: kildaw@yahoo.com

Mr. Saleh AMNISSI
Director
Environment General Authority in the Green Mountain
P.O.Box 554

Tel: ++218 84 4632395
Fax: ++218 84 4636867
E-mail: salehamnissi@yahoo.com

MALTA / MALTE

Ms. Michelle BORG
Unit Manager
Resource Management Unit
Malta Environment and Planning Authority
P.O. Box 200
Marsa MRS 1000

Tel: ++356 22907215
Fax: ++356 22902295
E-mail: michelle.borg@mepa.org.mt

Mr. Louis VELLA
Assistant Director
Environment Directorate
Malta Environment and Planning Authority
St. Francis Ravelin
Floriana, FRN1230

Tel: ++356 22900000
Fax: ++356 22902295
E-mail: louis.vella@mepa.org.mt

MOROCCO / MAROC

Mme Aziza BENNANI

Tel: ++212 537 734732
Fax:
E-mail: azizebennani@yahoo.fr

M. Mohammed CHAOUI
Chef du Service de l'Eau

Tel: ++212 537 570656
Fax: ++212 537 576645
E-mail: mohamedchaoui2@yahoo.fr
chaoui@environnement.gov.ma

Département de l'Environnement
9, avenue Al Araar
Hay Ryad, Rabat

MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO

Ms. Aleksandra IVANOVIC
Advisor
Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management of
Montenegro
Ul. Popa Jola Zeca bb
85310 Budva

Tel: ++382 33 452709
Fax: ++382 33 452685
E-mail: aleksandra.ivanovic@morskodobro.com

Ms. Jelena KNEZEVIC
Senior Advisor
Head of Division for Strategic and Integration Processes
Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Montenegro
Rimski trg 46
81000 Podgorica

Tel: ++382 20 228 516
Fax: ++382 20 234 168
E-mail: jelena.knezevic@gov.me

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE

Mr. Mitja BRICELJ
Secretary
Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
Dunajska cesta 48
1000 Ljubljana

Tel: ++386 1 4787464
Fax: ++386 1 4787425
E-mail: mitja.bricelj@gov.si

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Mr. Antonio AROZARENA VILLAR
Assistant Deputy Director
Instituto Geográfico Nacional
General Ibañez de Ibero, 3
28003 Madrid

Tel: ++34 91 5979575
Fax: ++34 91 5979770
E-mail: aarozarena@fomento.es

Mr. Jordi GALOFRE SAUMMELL
Head of Tarragona Coastal Services
Directorate of Coastal and Sea Sustainability
Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine
Affairs
Plaza Imperial Tarraco, 4-4
43005 Tarragona

Tel. ++34 977 216469
Fax ++34 977 230563
E-mail: jgalofre@mma.es

SYRIA / SYRIE

Ms. Rula JABBOUR
Environmental Engineer - Water Safety Directorate

Tel: ++963 933 883920
Fax: ++963 11 2140761
E-mail: engrula_jab@yahoo.com

Ms. Ghinwa KANGE
Environmental Engineer

Tel: ++963 955 755846
Fax: ++963 11 2140761
E-mail: ghinwa1@yahoo.com

Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs
Kafer Souseh - 17 Nissan St.
Damascus

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

M. Abdallah MACHA
Directeur Général
Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral
2, rue Mohamed Rachid Ridha
B.P. 280
Le Belvédère
1002 Tunis

Tel: ++216 71 842907
Fax: ++216 71 848660
E-mail: directeur.general@apal.nat.tn

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Mr. Mustafa AYDIN
Environmental Expert
General Directorate of Environmental Impact
Assessment and Planning

Tel: ++90 312 2076182
Fax: ++90 312 2076151
E-mail: mustafaaydin76@yahoo.com

Mr. Fevzi ISBILIR
General Director

Tel: ++90 312 2076348
Fax: ++90 312 2076151
E-mail: fevisbilir@yahoo.com

Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Sogutozu Cd. 14/E Besevler
06560 Ankara

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT / PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA
MEDITERRANEE (PNUE/PAM)**

Ms. Luisa COLASIMONE
MAP Information Officer

Tel: ++30 210 7273148
Fax: +30 210 7253196/7
E-mail: luisa.colasimone@unepmap.gr

Ms. Tatjana HEMA
Programme Officer

Tel: ++30 210 7273115
Fax: +30 210 7253196/7
E-mail: thema@unepmap.gr

UNEP/MAP
48, Vassileos Konstantinou Ave.
116 35 Athens
Greece

**BLUE PLAN REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (BP/RAC)
CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES / PLAN BLEU (CAR/PB)**

M. Luc DASSONVILLE
Responsable de l'Unité stratégique

Tel: ++33 492 388612
Fax: 33 492 387131
E-mail: ldassonville@planbleu.org

M. Pierre ICARD
Responsable de l'Unité thématique

Tel : ++33 492 388619
Fax: ++33 492 387131
E-mail: picard@planbleu.org

M. Henri-Luc THIBAUT
Directeur

Tel: ++33 492 387130
Fax: ++33 492 387131
E-mail: hthibault@planbleu.org

PLAN
15, rue Beethoven
Sophia
06560 Valbonne
France

BLEU
Antipolis

**PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)
CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES / PROGRAMME D' ACTIONS PRIORITAIRES (CAR/PAP)**

Ms. Lada JAKELIC
Secretary

Tel: ++385 21 340472
E-mail: lada.jakelic@ppa.t-com.hr

Mr. Marko PREM
Deputy Director

Tel: ++385 21 340475
E-mail: marko.prem@ppa.hetnet.hr

Ms. Zeljka SKARICIC
Project Officer

Tel: ++385 21 340476
E-mail: zeljka.skaricic@ppa.htnet.hr

Mr. Neven STIPICA
Project Officer

Tel: ++385 21 340478
E-mail: neven.stipica@ppa.htnet.hr

Mr. Ivica TRUMBIC
Director

Tel: ++385 21 340471
E-mail: ivica.trumbic@ppa.htnet.hr

Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
(PAP/RAC)
Kraj. sv. Ivana 11
21000 Split
Croatia

Tel: ++385 21 340470
Fax: ++385 21 340490

**ITALIAN INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESEARCH (ISPRA)
INSTITUT ITALIEN POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LA RECHERCHE (ISPRA)**

Mr. Claudio MARICCHIOLO
Head
National Environmental Information system Network
ISPRA - Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca
Ambientale
Via Vitaliano Brancati, 48
Rome
Italy

Tel: ++39 06 50072177
Fax: ++39 06 50072221
E-mail: claudio.maricchiolo@isprambiente.it

INVITED EXPERTS - OBSERVERS / EXPERTS INVITES - OBSERVATEURS

Mme Claire BERGE
Adjointe chef bureau
Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement
durable et de l'Aménagement du territoire
Tour Pascal A
92055 La Défense CEDEX
France

Tel: ++33 1 40817613
E-mail: Claire.Berge@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Mr. Raphaël BILLE
Programme Director - Biodiversity and Adaptation to
Climate Change
Institute for Sustainable Development and International
Relations (IDDRI)
27, rue Saint Guillaume
75337 Paris Cedex 07
France

Tel : +33 1 45497 64
Fax : +33 1 45497685
E-mail: raphael.bille@iddri.org

Ms. Françoise BRETON
European Topic Centre on Land Use and Spatial
Information (ETC/LUSI)
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Facultat de Ciències
Edifici C, Torre C5, 4a planta
08193 – Bellaterra (Barcelona)
Spain

Tel: ++34 93 5813549
Fax: ++34 93 5813545
E-mail: francoise.breton@uab.cat

Mr. Abderrahmen GANNOUN
Director
Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
(SPA/RAC)
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat
B.P. 337 - La Charguia
1080 Tunis Cedex
Tunisia

Tel: + 216 71 206785 / 206649
Fax: + 216 71206490
E-mail: gannoun.abderrahmen@rac-spa.org

Ms. Christine HAFNER-SIFAKIS
Synergies with Horizon 2020 - Expert for the EC
Commission DG ENV
Milieu for the EC Commission DG ENV
Ierolohiton 4
Athens
Greece

Tel: ++30-693-7082863
E-mail: chaffner@gmx.net

Ms. Irena HORAK
Project Co-ordinator
Integrated Coastal Zone Management
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
(GTZ) GmbH
German Development Co-operation
Andrije Hebranga 4
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

Tel: ++385 1 4882988
Fax: ++385 1 4882981
E-mail: irena.horak@gtz.de

Mr. Ulrich KUNZEL
Project Manager
ICZM and Local Climate Change Initiative
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
(GTZ) GmbH
German Development Co-operation
Andrije Hebranga 4
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

Tel: ++385 1 4882987
Fax: ++385 1 4882981
E-mail: ulrich.kuenzel@gtz.de

Mr. Andrus MEINER
Project Manager - Regional Assessments and
Geospatial Data
Natural Systems and Vulnerability, Land (NSV3)
European Environment Agency
Kongens Nytorv 6
1050 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Tel: ++45 33 367182
Fax: ++45 33 367293
E-mail: Andrus.Meiner@eea.europa.eu

Mr. Nenad STARC
Head of Department
The Institute of Economics
Kenedijev trg 7
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

Tel: ++385 1 2362219
Fax: ++385 1 2335165
E-mail: nstarc@eizg-hr

INTERPRETERS AND REPORT WRITERS / INTERPRÈTES ET RAPPORTEURS

Ms. Natalie BARKER
Switzerland

E-mail: barker_translation@yahoo.co.uk

Ms. Marija MARUSIC
Croatia

E-mail: marija.marusic@zg.t-com.hr

Ms. Valerie MITCHELL
Switzerland

E-mail: vmitchell75@hotmail.com

Ms. Andreja MONTANI
France

E-mail: andrejamontani@hotmail.com

Ms. Gabrijela VIDAN
Croatia

E-mail: ivo.vidan@zg.htnet.hr

Ms. Tanja ZAKULA
Croatia

E-mail: tanjazakula@yahoo.com

Annex II

Agenda

Monday, May 25

- 08:30 - 09:00 - Registration of participants
- 09:00 - 09:30 - Opening of the Meeting by Mr. Ivica Trumbic, PAP/RAC Director
 - Welcome addresses
 - Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work
- 09:30 - 11:00 - PAP/RAC Progress Report for the biennium 2008-2009
 - Discussion on and adoption of the Progress Report
- 11:30 - 13:30 - Reporting format for the ICZM Protocol: Information and initial discussion
 - Presentation of the PAP mandate and discussion
- 15:00 - 16:30 - Programme for the biennium 2010-2011
 - Discussion and adoption of the Programme
- 17:00 - 18:15 - Mid-term Programme of PAP (2010-2014)

Tuesday, May 26

- 09:00 - 09:15 - Opening of the BP/RAC session by Mr. Henri-Luc Thibault, BP/RAC Director
- 09:15 - 11:00 - BP/RAC 8 years after the audit carried out by MAP
 - Discussion
 - Reminder of the general outlines of the BP/RAC 2007-2015 intervention framework
- 11:30 - 13:00 - BP/RAC Progress Report for the biennium 2008-2009
 - Discussion
- 14:30 - 16:40 - Presentation of the BP/RAC mandate and discussion
 - Programme for the biennium 2010-2011
 - Discussion
 - Strengthening BP/RAC means of action
 - Discussion
- 17:00 - 18:00 - Proposed recommendations for the period 2010-2011

Wednesday, May 27

- 09:00 - 11:15 - Info/RAC Progress Report for the biennium 2008-2009
 - Discussion
 - Presentation of the INFO/RAC mandate and discussion
- 11:45 - 13:30 - Programme for the biennium 2010-2011
 - Discussion

15:00 - 16:00

- Ways and means for RACs co-operation and joint activities strengthening
- Conclusions and recommendations

16:00

- Closure of the meeting