

Mandates of the components of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

The following general objectives and principles are common to the mandates of all the programmes and Regional Activity Centres (RACs) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) (hereinafter the "MAP components"):

The general objective of MAP and its components is to further the implementation of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean of 1995 (the amended "Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols. In this context, MAP and its components provide assistance to Mediterranean countries for the implementation of their commitments under the Barcelona Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, such as MAP Phase II and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

In view of developments in the global and regional context, and the conclusions of the external evaluation of MAP and its components, the need has been recognized to update, amend and/or review the mandates, roles and responsibilities of MAP programmes and Regional Activity Centres (RACs). The revised and updated mandates are intended to enable the MAP components to adapt more effectively to prevailing circumstances, enhance their synergy and promote the common objectives set out in the MAP "Strategic Vision and Declaration" (2008).

Basic principles:

Within this context, the following basic principles are common to all MAP components:

- the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities, as adopted by MAP, involving the management of the marine environment in a holistic manner and as an integral whole consisting of the sea area and the adjacent terrestrial coastal area;
- the application of the participatory and holistic approaches, the consistency principle, the management and conservation principle, the preventive, precautionary and anticipatory principles, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, and the principle of assistance, cooperation and partnership, particularly at the regional level, including bilateral and multilateral initiatives;
- public participation and communication as cornerstones for achieving the broadest possible support for MAP policies, principles and action, including the integration of civil society at the regional and national levels, particularly through the involvement of the appropriate non-governmental structures (such as those representing the scientific community, the private sector and local authorities) and other relevant structures of civil society from the onset of all relevant activities, with a view to developing partnerships with the various stakeholders;
- intensified dissemination of information on the problems associated with the Convention area and the mobilization of public support for MAP objectives and activities;
- promote scientific research and data collection and processing, and strive for the strengthening of MAP components capacities to make them able to produce credible scientific-based assessments.

Operating principles:

The activities of each MAP component are governed by the following operating principles:

- all activities are carried out under the direct authority of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, within the legal and policy framework defined by the Convention, the relevant Protocols to the Convention and the decisions of the Parties;
- activities are undertaken in accordance with the guidance provided by the MAP Coordinating Unit to facilitate close coordination and transparency of initiatives, the definition of priorities and communication between the MAP components, with particular reference to cross-cutting issues such as sustainable consumption and production and sustainable resource management, climate change, coastal zone management, sustainable chemical management and governance, involving several MAP components;
- with a view to increasing efficiency, maximizing results and avoiding duplication, activities are implemented as appropriate in consultation and cooperation with other MAP components and relevant international and regional bodies;
- regular participation in the Executive Coordinating Panel (ECP), which is convened once every three months and brings together the Coordinating Unit and the various MAP components with a view to exchanging information, enhancing consultation and coordinating current and planned activities and programmes;
- the convening of regular meetings of the Focal Points of each component, in principle at least once in every biennium, with regular briefing and consultation of the Focal Points between meetings;
- regular technical and financial reports submitted to the Coordinating Unit.

1. Draft Mandate of the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)

Background

The Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL) was established in 1975 by the very first intergovernmental meeting of the Mediterranean coastal States, convened by UNEP to consider the formulation of a broad and complex programme for the protection of the Mediterranean region. MED POL became the first operational programme of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) as its environmental assessment and pollution control component. The Programme went through three phases (Phase I – 1975-1980; Phase II – 1981-1995; and Phase III – 1996-2005), and is now in Phase IV (2006-2013). After giving emphasis to the assessment of pollution, since Phase III MED POL has focussed on pollution control and the implementation of the pollution-related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention.

Objective and mission statement

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, such as MAP Phase II and the MCSDD, the specific objective of MED POL is to contribute to the prevention and elimination of pollution in the Mediterranean, in particular by coordinating and promoting the implementation of the 1995 Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea (the “Dumping Protocol”), the 1996 Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (the amended “LBS Protocol”), and the 1996 Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (the “Hazardous Wastes Protocol”).

In this respect, MED POL’s mission is to coordinate action and provide assistance to Mediterranean countries for the implementation of their commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, with particular reference to the Dumping Protocol, the LBS Protocol and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, especially with a view to: the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-based Sources (SAP), National Action Plans to address land-based pollution and LBS-related programmes and measures; and the assessment of the status and trends of pollution of the Mediterranean eco-regions.

Scope of action and key issues

MED POL’s main fields of action for the coordination of the initiatives and activities envisaged in the Dumping, LBS and Hazardous Wastes Protocols, with particular reference to action for the reduction of pollution from land-based sources, include:

- the assessment of all point and diffuse sources and loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean, and the magnitude of the effects of contaminants on living and non-living resources, including human health, as well as on amenities and the uses of the marine and coastal regions;
- the assessment of the status and trends in the quality of the marine and coastal environment as an early warning system for potential environmental problems caused by pollution and other anthropogenic pressures; and
- the provision of assistance to countries, including capacity building, for the implementation of national action plans, including programmes and measures, for the gradual elimination of pollution, the mitigation of the impacts of pollution and the restoration of systems damaged by pollution, as a contribution to the

achievement of sustainable development, including the monitoring of action plans, programmes and measures to control pollution and the assessment of their effectiveness.

In this context, MED POL has an important contribution to make, in cooperation with other MAP components, in the application throughout the MAP system of the ecosystem approach, which involves treating the marine environment in a holistic manner, or in other words as an integral whole consisting of the sea area and the adjacent coastal area, with emphasis on:

- the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities, including pollution control; and
- intensified collaboration with natural and social scientists, and better use of scientific understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems as a functional basis for sound decision-making.

MED POL's action in these fields is based on a number of principles and assumptions:

- the entry into force of the Dumping Protocol, following that of the LBS Protocol in 2008, and the revitalization of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, so as to provide MED POL activities with the necessary legal and political basis;
- the full integration of monitoring into the SAP and any other pollution control measure adopted by the Contracting Parties so as to ensure the continuous assessment of the status and trends of the quality of the marine and coastal environment and the effects of pollution and to assess the effectiveness of the pollution reduction measures implemented by countries;
- the gradual application, as appropriate, of common and differentiated responsibilities in the process of reducing pollution, as agreed by the Parties, to facilitate the long-term implementation of the SAP;
- the functional harmonization of monitoring, assessment and pollution control activities, as well as data quality assurance, data collection and processing, reporting and data management policies and procedures, with those adopted by regional, international and global bodies and organizations, such as the European Union and other United Nations agencies and programmes;
- the synchronization of MED POL assessment and reporting schedules, and the harmonization of assessment and reporting procedures, with the schedules and procedures adopted for the evolving global assessment of the state of the marine environment;
- the promotion of public participation, based on the integration of regional and national civil society from the onset in all relevant activities through the involvement of appropriate non-governmental structures (scientific communities, private sector, local authorities, NGOs and other relevant civil society structures), with a view to ensuring the broadest possible support for and implementation of MED POL objectives; and
- the harmonization and integration of the EC Marine Strategy within MAP, with MED POL in particular acting as a catalyst and a bridge between Mediterranean non-EU States and the EC Marine Strategy, and the continued involvement of the MED POL pollution control component (with particular reference to the SAP and the NAPs) in the implementation of the EC Horizon 2020 Initiative and, as appropriate, the Union of the Mediterranean.

Principal activities

MED POL, within the context of its Phase IV, continues to assess and control marine and coastal pollution using the approved tools (including monitoring, capacity building, assessment and the formulation of control measures) which have been used successfully since MED POL Phase I. However, based on the results of the evaluation of MED POL Phase III, analysis of the MAP legislative framework and contemporary initiatives and trends in environmental protection, as well as recent policy developments at the regional and international levels, the Contracting Parties, in approving MED POL Phase IV, decided that a number of important issues had not been, or had not adequately been covered by MED POL Phase III and needed to be included in its Phase IV. The key elements of MED POL activities, as defined by the Dumping, LBS and Hazardous Wastes Protocols, the SAP, and other long-term MAP documents, therefore include:

Control and assessment

- the control of sources of pollution in river basins, watersheds and ground waters, as they relate to inputs into the marine environment: initially it may be reasonable to cover only estuaries, particularly if they are declared hot spots, and to move gradually upstream only when the available data show the existence of pollution hot spots;
- the preparation and implementation of plans and programmes to counter the physical alteration and destruction of habitats, in cooperation with the competent regional bodies;
- the inclusion of analysis of relevant social and economic factors, such as the social and economic roots of environmental degradation, into the assessment of the state of the marine environment;
- tighter control over the ecological and health-related impacts of dumping;
- the monitoring of issues related to wastewater management and treatment, as well as the re-use of wastewater; and
- the wider use of preventive and precautionary action in pollution control, especially through the preparation of environmental impact assessments, BATs and BEPs for planned activities that may be a major source of marine pollution.

Application of the ecosystem approach

- the monitoring and assessment of the environmental effects and the implications for ecosystems of fisheries management, including aquaculture, and of sea water desalination activities;
- the monitoring and assessment of the environmental effects associated with energy production and maritime transport, in cooperation with other competent international and regional bodies; and
- the assessment of the health risks associated with the quality of bathing and shellfish-growing waters, tourist establishments and facilities.

Public participation and cooperation

- the meaningful involvement of, and collaboration with, the private sector and other stakeholders in designing and implementing pollution control programmes and the evaluation of their results; and
- the promotion of intensified and well structured programmes to facilitate cooperation for the transfer of technology between countries with a view to reducing existing technological gaps in the pollution reduction process.

Improving the visibility of MAP

The visibility of MAP will be improved through the intensified dissemination of information on problems associated with the Mediterranean, as well as the mobilization of public support for the goals of MAP/MED POL. A regular *State of the Mediterranean* report intended for the general public will be prepared and widely disseminated. Effective use will be made of information technology for the preparation of a MED POL Information System, including a dedicated web site.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The principal funding for MED POL's activities and staff is provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). However, additional funding to supplement and expand the scope of the approved activities is regularly sought through contacts, negotiations and the preparation of projects with national and international stakeholders, donors, organizations and banks, such as the European Commission, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Fond Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM).

2. Draft Mandate of the Cleaner Production Regional Activity Center - (CP/RAC)

Background

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) was established in 1996 by decision of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and is covered by a cooperation agreement between the Department of Environment of the Government of Catalunya and the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain. When CP/RAC was first established, its focus was to promote and disseminate cleaner production (CP) in the industrial sector of Mediterranean countries. However, since 2007, it has embraced the integrated approach applied by UNEP to sustainable consumption and production (SCP), as reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), which endorses SCP as one of the main objectives for the achievement of sustainable development in the region. In February 2008, CP/RAC was also nominated as a regional centre for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Objective and mission statement

The specific objective of CP/RAC is to contribute to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as the Stockholm Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, such as the MSSD and the MCSD, based on the integrated SCP approach as adopted by UNEP. In this task, CP/RAC focusses on the 1996 Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (the amended "LBS Protocol"), the 1996 Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (the "Hazardous Wastes Protocol") and other Protocols for which the shift to SCP is key to the attainment of their objectives.

CP/RAC's mission is to promote mechanisms leading to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and the sound management of chemicals in the Mediterranean.

Scope of action and key issues

In light of the challenges of sustainable development in the regional and global environmental context, especially as economies can only be sustainable if efforts to make economic sectors more environmentally-friendly are accompanied by a society-wide shift to sustainable consumption patterns, the focus of CP/RAC is on the following key issues in order to contribute to achieving the objectives of reducing pollution and hazardous wastes, in accordance with the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention and the MSSD:

- contributing to improving the awareness of decision-makers concerning the links between consumption and production patterns and the environmental degradation of the region;
- providing technical assistance to the public and private sectors in Mediterranean countries for the reduction of land-based pollution, particularly of harmful substances and hazardous wastes, through the application of Best Available Techniques (BATs), Best Environmental Practices (BEPs), Cleaner Production (CP), the IPPC principles and the sound management of chemicals;
- boosting green competitiveness as a tool for Mediterranean small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to achieve success in global markets;
- fostering mechanisms through which sustainable criteria are progressively introduced into the overall consumption-production systems of organizations and enterprises, including: eco-labelling, sustainable procurement, sustainable management of industrial areas and corporate social responsibility;

- promoting sustainable lifestyles that are fully adapted to the specific cultural, natural, economic and social heritage of Mediterranean societies and contributing to the creation of information and education for sustainable consumption;
- bringing MAP closer to the objectives of UNEP and the European Union relating to SCP and building cooperation between MAP components and the relevant agents and initiatives in the Mediterranean.

Principal activities

The key elements of CP/RAC's activities, deriving from the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the MSSD and other long-term MAP documents, as well as the Stockholm Convention, include the following:

Addressing the links between consumption and production patterns and environmental degradation

- assessing general consumption and production patterns and environmental degradation trends in the Mediterranean, as well as opportunities for an integrated approach to consumption-production, and facilitating promising new opportunities and ongoing initiatives for cooperation in the region;
- contributing through innovative approaches to the effective reduction of pollution and waste generation, addressing both consumption and production perspectives;
- raising awareness of the links between consumption and production patterns and environmental degradation, and providing negotiators and policy-makers with key and innovative information for decision-making from an integrated consumption-production perspective; and
- creating partnerships and building networks with institutions, agents and experts at the cutting edge of knowledge for the further dissemination and development of the integrated consumption-production approach.

Following up and assessing trends and challenges relating to SCP

- preparing periodic reports reviewing and monitoring development trends and the progress made by Mediterranean countries in implementing SCP in the business sector and the main initiatives taken by local agencies, consumer associations, NGOs and other civil society actors to promote the shift to sustainable consumption and environmentally sound lifestyles; and
- promoting debates and discussions among experts and representatives of government agencies, consumer organizations, business and industry, civil society and other stakeholders regarding the needs, priorities and challenges relating to SCP in the region.

Involving key SCP players

- creating partnerships with representatives of the private sector, academia and civil society for joint collaboration in the promotion of SCP alternatives; and
- cooperating with international agents dealing with SCP with a view to developing synergies and avoiding duplication.

Promoting tools to facilitate SCP in the business sector

- preparing technical studies on CP and other pollution prevention alternatives (eco-efficiency, BATs, BEPs, etc.) in the main industrial sectors of Mediterranean countries;

- developing plans and methodological guidelines to facilitate the application of SCP alternatives in the public and private sectors, including eco-labelling, green procurement and corporate social responsibility;
- providing capacity building, training and technical support at both the regional and national levels; and
- publishing and disseminating information to raise awareness of successful projects and SCP experiences in Mediterranean countries.

Fostering green competitiveness as a tool for Mediterranean SMEs to succeed in the global market

- enhancing the visibility of the financial opportunities generated by the environment with a view to promoting green competitiveness in the region;
- promoting the green competitiveness of SMEs through private-public partnerships; and
- organizing roadshows and developing other awareness-raising tools to improve understanding of green competitiveness technologies.

Raising the awareness of consumers concerning their role and responsibility in driving change towards sustainable development

- disseminating information among the Mediterranean population on alternatives for sustainable lifestyles;
- capacity building among concerned stakeholders, such as businesses, educators, administrations, local agents and institutions, consumer organizations and NGOs;
- promoting responsible/sensible consumption among young people; and
- creating partnerships and building networks with institutions, agents and civil society agencies for this purpose.

Promoting the sound management of chemicals and the prevention of pollution under the LBS Protocol

- providing advice to developing countries on the sound management of chemicals;
- providing training and technical support to stakeholders; and
- disseminating experience in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Promoting the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals

- providing assistance to developing countries for the creation of their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention;
- identifying priorities in relation to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in developing countries;
- publishing technical studies concerning strategies for heavy metals; and
- contributing to international projects for the management of chemical waste contaminated with PCBs.

Cooperating with regional and international organizations

With a view to ensuring complementarity and synergy with other SCP initiatives relevant to the Mediterranean, CP/RAC will collaborate and promote cooperation by MAP components with: the Marrakech Process and its Task Forces; European, African and Arab SCP regional processes; the European Commission; the European Environmental Agency; the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics; the United Nations Institute for

Training and Research; the Basel Convention; other Centres of the Stockholm Convention; and other bilateral and multilateral organizations and associations and subregional initiatives promoting SCP.

Improving the visibility of MAP

In order to ensure better MAP visibility, CP/RAC will represent MAP at national, regional and international meetings and forums related to its fields of activity and will include the MAP logo in each of its publications. The dissemination of CP/RAC publications, its website and the partnerships that it develops with the private sector, civil society and concerned international and regional organizations, will therefore increase the visibility of MAP, and particularly its efforts to promote SCP in the Mediterranean.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The principal sources of funding for CP/RAC activities and staff are the Spanish Government, through the Ministry of Environment, Marine and Rural Affairs, the Catalan Government, through the Department of Environment and Housing, and international agencies (such as the Global Environment Facility). Funding is regulated on a biannual basis through the signing of specific agreements in accordance with the priorities, recommendations and plans specified by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona and Stockholm Conventions and cooperation agreements between MAP and relevant agencies and institutions (including the EC-MAP Work Cooperation Programme, the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the EEA-MAP Work Cooperation Plan).

3. Draft Mandate of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

Background

The “Regional Oil Combating Centre” (ROCC) was originally established in 1976 by decision of the Contracting Parties with the mandate to strengthen the capacities of coastal States in contingency planning and to establish a regional information system with a view to dealing with emergencies. The Centre’s mandate was extended in 1989, when it was also called upon to consider the risks arising out of the transport of hazardous and noxious substances by sea, and its name was changed to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). In 1993, the Contracting Parties decided to further extend the Centre’s mandate to include the prevention of pollution of the marine environment, with specific reference to the implementation of the action plan concerning the provision of adequate port reception facilities in the Mediterranean region. Finally, with a view to the adoption in 2002 of the new Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (the “Prevention and Emergency Protocol”), the Contracting Parties reaffirmed the involvement of the Centre in prevention and in preparedness and response activities.

The Centre is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under a biennial project concluded between UNEP and IMO, and as such is governed by the United Nations rules and regulations as observed by IMO. The relationship between the Centre and IMO Headquarters is regulated by the 2004 Memorandum on the Standing Arrangements for the Management of REMPEC.

Objective and mission

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the specific objective of REMPEC is to assist the Contracting Parties in implementing their obligations under: Articles 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention respecting pollution from ships and cooperation in dealing with pollution emergencies; the 1976 Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency; the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol; and the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2005 and incorporated into the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

In this respect, REMPEC’s mission is to assist the Contracting Parties by enhancing national capacities and regional cooperation with a view to preventing and reducing the risk of a maritime incident which could result in damaging pollution, and by providing an efficient cooperation framework to respond to such an event.

Scope of action and key issues

The Mediterranean Sea is the world’s third seaborne trade area, with northern Mediterranean countries relying heavily on energy products imported by sea from southern Mediterranean countries or through the Bosphorus Straits or the Suez Canal. The Suez Canal is also a global highway for packaged goods loaded on container ships sailing from Asia to Europe or the East coast of the Americas. The Mediterranean is also a very productive sea which accounts for over 25 per cent of known marine biodiversity. The population of Mediterranean countries depends on a healthy marine environment, and particularly on productive fisheries. Finally, the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal landscape and heritage

attract tourists from the world over, with a large proportion of the Mediterranean population being economically dependent on tourism. For all these reasons, the risk of a maritime incident resulting in major pollution constitutes a common threat that needs to be addressed at the regional level.

In this regard, REMPEC's main fields of action for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships and the development of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and cooperation in case of emergency consist of:

- strengthening the capacities of the coastal States in the region with a view to preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships and ensuring the effective implementation in the region of the rules that are generally recognized at the international level relating to the prevention of pollution from ships, and with a view to abating, combating and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminating pollution of the marine environment irrespective of the source;
- developing regional cooperation in the field of the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships, and facilitating cooperation among Mediterranean coastal States in order to respond to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and which require emergency actions or other immediate response;
- assisting coastal States of the Mediterranean region which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and facilitating the exchange of information, technological cooperation and training; and
- providing a framework for the exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters, and promoting dialogue aimed at conducting coordinated action at the national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

Principal activities

The key elements of REMPEC's activities, as defined in the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and other long-term MAP policy documents, include the following:

Prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships

- assisting the coastal States of the region to reinforce their national capacities with a view to implementing in an efficient manner the international regulations for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships by: collecting and disseminating information concerning the legal and technical aspects of the prevention of pollution from ships, making use of documents prepared by IMO; promoting the transfer of technology; conducting training activities; executing, at the request of the States and within the limits of the available resources, programmes and pilot projects; and providing technical assistance to coastal States which so request; and
- assisting the coastal States of the region to develop regional cooperation with a view to the effective implementation of international regulations for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships by: promoting, at the request of the States, dialogue aimed at conducting coordinated actions at the national, regional and global levels; assisting in the implementation of regional programmes approved by the Contracting Parties; and conducting studies on subjects of regional interest, at the request of the States.

Preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and cooperation in case of emergency

- collecting and disseminating information on: competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties; inventories of experts, equipment and installations in each coastal State for response to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and which might be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of the State which so requests in case of emergency; general indications, plans, methods and techniques for combating pollution by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances in order to assist as far as necessary the countries of the region in the preparation of their national contingency plans; and Mediterranean coastal zones, with particular attention to the zones that are especially sensitive to pollution by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances, for example for use in the preparation of risk predicting models and environmental sensitivity maps;
- establishing, keeping up to date and operating a partially computerized database on chemicals and their properties, risks for human life and the marine environment, response techniques and combating methods;
- progressively developing and operating a marine pollution emergency decision support system with a view to providing rapidly to coastal States information concerning behaviour, risks and different possibilities for action in the case of accidents involving oil and other hazardous and noxious substances;
- preparing, disseminating and keeping up to date operational guides and technical documents;
- developing and maintaining a regional communication/information system appropriate to the needs of the States served by the Centre;
- developing technological cooperation and training programmes for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances, and organizing training courses;
- assisting coastal States of the region, which so request, in the preparation and development of bilateral, multilateral or sub-regional operational agreements between neighbouring coastal States;
- preparing and keeping up to date operational arrangements and guidelines, aimed at facilitating cooperation between coastal States in cases of emergency;
- organizing and activating the Mediterranean Assistance Unit for combating accidental marine pollution, as established by decision of the Contracting Parties in 1993; and
- assisting coastal States of the region, which in cases of emergency so request, to obtain assistance from the other Parties to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, or when possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, to obtain international assistance from outside the region.

In the implementation of these activities, REMPEC collaborates with other MAP components on specific topics, as appropriate. Other stakeholders, particularly NGOs and civil society, are encouraged to participate in the Centre's activities and, where appropriate, memoranda of understanding may be signed between the Centre and other partners regulating such collaboration. In implementing its activities, the Centre benefits from the technical support of IMO.

In conducting its activities, REMPEC relies on its network of Focal Points, particularly for the dissemination of information received from the Centre and the selection of appropriate representatives of the various national authorities, departments and agencies to participate in REMPEC activities.

Improving the visibility of MAP

REMPEC maintains a website accessible to all interested parties, which clearly establishes the Centre's linkage with MAP. In the implementation of its activities at the regional and international levels, the Centre contributes to enhancing the visibility of MAP as a successful regional cooperation framework with the principal aim of reducing and eliminating sea-based pollution.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The core funding for REMPEC's activities is provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). The Centre also liaises with the IMO for the implementation of other activities in Mediterranean countries funded through the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP). Projects which further the implementation of REMPEC's mandate can also be concluded with other intergovernmental bodies or private partners, in consultation with IMO and MAP.

4. Draft mandate of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Center (SPA/RAC)

Background

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established in Tunis in 1985 by decision of the Contracting Parties (UNEP/IG.23/11), which entrusted it with responsibility for assessing the situation of natural and scenic heritage and assisting countries to implement the 1982 Geneva Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. In 1993, the Contracting Parties indicated their determination to make the Mediterranean a pilot region for application of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the amendment of the Barcelona Convention and the adoption of the 1995 Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the "SPA/BD Protocol"), which came into force in 1999, replacing the Geneva Protocol.

Objective and mission

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, such as MAP Phase II and the MCSD, the specific objective of SPA/RAC is to contribute to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol.

In this respect, SPA/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, with particular reference to the SPA/BD Protocol, especially with a view to: developing and promoting Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) in the Mediterranean; and reducing the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Scope of action and key issues

Biodiversity issues are becoming increasingly complex, which means that whereas SPA/RAC's focus was initially limited to the main species and sites, it has now widened to cover habitats, sustainable ecosystem management and taking account of the ecosystem approach.

With a view to furthering the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol, SPA/RAC developed a Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO), which was adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003. The principal objective of the SAP BIO is the establishment of a logical basis for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol by the Contracting Parties, international and national organizations, NGOs, donors, and all other stakeholders in the protection and management of the Mediterranean natural environment, by setting out principles, measures and concrete and coordinated actions at the national, transboundary and regional levels for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity, within the framework of the sustainable use of natural resources.

Within this context, SPA/RAC pursues the following basic objectives:

- fostering improved knowledge of marine and coastal biodiversity;
- improving the management of existing and facilitating the creation of new marine and coastal protected areas;
- enhancing the protection of endangered species and habitats;
- contributing to the reinforcement of relevant national legislation and national and international capacity-building; and
- contributing to fund-raising efforts.

SPA/RAC's main fields of action to pursue the above objectives, as identified in the SAP BIO, are as follows:

- developing research to complete the knowledge base and fill in knowledge gaps on biodiversity;
- inventorying, mapping and monitoring coastal and marine biodiversity;
- assessing and mitigating the impact of threats on biodiversity;
- conserving sensitive habitats, species and sites; and
- coordinating capacity-building and technical support.

In this regard, taking fully into account of the objectives identified by the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), within the context of the principles and approaches identified in the introductory section covering all MAP components, particular emphasis is placed by SPA/RAC in its work on the responsible fisheries principle, the "no adverse effect" principle and the "prevention better than last minute cure" principle.

Principal activities

The key elements of SPA/RAC's activities, as defined by the SPA/BD Protocol and the SAP BIO, and other long-term MAP documents, include the following:

Coordination of initiatives and activities for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol:

- the implementation of scientific and technical research programmes as defined by the SPA/BD Protocol (Article 20), with priority being given to scientific and technical research related to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and the species appearing in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol;
- the preparation of management plans for protected areas and species;
- the preparation of cooperation programmes in order to coordinate the creation, conservation, planning and management of specially protected areas, as well as the choice, management and conservation of protected species;
- the implementation of the tasks with which SPA/RAC is entrusted by the action plans adopted within the framework of the SPA/BD Protocol; and
- the preparation of educational materials designed for various groups.

In this connection, SPA/RAC formulates recommendations for guidelines and common criteria for the selection of marine and coastal protected areas that could be included on the SPAMI List, common criteria for the inclusion of additional species in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol, guidelines for the establishment and management of protected areas and any other technical tool relevant to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol. SPA/RAC creates and updates databases on specially protected areas, protected species, directories of Mediterranean specialists and organizations in various fields covered by the SPA/BD Protocol, bibliographic databases, and databases on other matters of relevance to the Protocol. SPA/RAC also prepares the reports and technical studies that may be required for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol.

Assistance to the Parties

SPA/RAC provides technical assistance to Contracting Parties which so request, in particular to help them:

- identify, establish and manage specially protected areas, including the preparation of management plans for their marine parts, within the context of national, subregional and regional programmes;

- prepare and implement National Action Plans for the protection of endangered species and habitats;
- strengthen their capacities to deal with issues relating to the conservation and management of Mediterranean biodiversity; and
- exchange scientific and technical information concerning current and planned national research and monitoring programmes and the results thereof.

Capacity building

SPA/RAC draws up and implements training programmes, particularly regarding: public environmental education; the training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel; scientific research; the acquisition, utilization, design and development of appropriate equipment; and the transfer of technology on advantageous terms to be agreed among the Parties concerned, through training sessions, courses, study tours, on-the-job training and field missions.

Cooperation with national, regional and international organizations

SPA/RAC is the lead MAP centre for cooperation with the regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the protection of areas and species, in accordance with the specificity of each organization and the need to avoid the duplication of activities. It will also continue to collaborate with the other MAP components and with all relevant partners in the region to ensure synergy and complementarity in relation to action concerning specially protected areas and biodiversity.

In this regard, particular emphasis will be placed on giving effect to specific provisions of the SPA/BD Protocol respecting:

- *Relations with national authorities*, which are provided for by the SPA/BD Protocol through: the appointment of National Focal Points for SPAs, who are the representatives of the Contracting Parties and the point of contact for SPA/RAC (Article 24); the regular organization of meetings which enable the various stakeholders to meet on at least a two-yearly basis (Article 25(b)); and the drafting of regular reports which provide information regarding the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol (Article 23); and
- *Relations with other partners (UN bodies, international and regional conventions and agreements, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector)* (Article 25(g)), which may attend the meetings of the National Focal Points as observers. Some partners are also identified in the Action Plans for the conservation of threatened areas or species adopted within the MAP framework as being "Partners" or "Associates" to these Action Plans. Finally, where appropriate, memoranda of cooperation may be drawn up between SPA/RAC and its partners to promote the implementation of activities under the SPA/BD Protocol.

Improving the visibility of MAP

SPA/RAC represents MAP at national, regional and international meetings and fora related to the fields covered by the SPA/BD Protocol and strives to publicize MAP's programmes and activities at the various meetings. SPA/RAC supports several activities aimed at promoting visibility and raising awareness of MAP action to protect the environment and promote sustainable development in the region. SPA/RAC organizes special events, such as United Nations Day, World Biodiversity Day and World Environment Day, with the aim of promoting the visibility of MAP and increasing awareness of the related issues in the media and among the general public, in collaboration with other MAP components. In this respect, efforts will be made to identify synergies among all MAP components to increase the

visibility of the Barcelona Convention in line with the MSSD Information and Communication Strategy.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The principal recurrent funding for SPA/RAC activities and staffing is provided through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). Additional funding is sought for actions that are clearly defined in space and time, either in response to international calls for proposals or through spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries, international institutions, donor agencies and the private sector.

5. Draft Mandate of the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

Background

The Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) was established in Split in 1980 by decision of the Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/IG.5/7, paragraph 54) of 1977 to assist in the implementation of the Integrated Planning Component of the Mediterranean Action Plan adopted in Barcelona in 1975. Its original mandate was broad in scope and encompassed ten priority actions in six fields of activity that required immediate action. With the development of MAP, and in light of the challenges of the global environmental context, especially those relating to coastal areas, the focus of PAP/RAC's operations was subsequently repositioned to respond to the need for the sustainable development of the region's coastal areas, particularly through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The adoption of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (the "ICZM Protocol") in 2008 formalized the role of PAP/RAC in the region as the centre responsible, on behalf of MAP, for the implementation of the Protocol.

Objective and mission

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, including the related strategies, programmes and decisions, such as MAP Phase II and the MCSD, the specific objective of PAP/RAC is to contribute to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol (2008).

Mission statement

In this respect, PAP/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, with particular reference to the ICZM Protocol, especially with a view to: the sustainable development of coastal zones; the sustainable use of natural resources and the integrity of coastal ecosystems and landscapes; and the coherence of action among coastal stakeholders, in particular public and private actors and the respective authorities at the national, regional and local levels.

Scope of action and key issues

Over the years, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, as elaborated in the White Paper on Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (2002), has become a crucial approach in coping with the constant pressures on the coastal areas of the Mediterranean. Based on the guiding principles of integrating economic, social and environmental systems, with emphasis on their interdependence and complementarity applying the ecosystem approach, the use of appropriate governance mechanisms and the promotion of participation in the decision-making process, ICZM is an approach that offers the capability of coping with persistent problems such as the concentration of coastal activities, urban sprawl, coastal risks, climate change and the unbalanced use of natural resources.

PAP/RAC's main fields of action for the achievement of the sustainable development of coastal zones consist of coordinating the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, the provision of assistance to the Parties for the implementation of their commitments under the Protocol, the implementation of pilot/demonstration projects to demonstrate the feasibility of ICZM and promote replication and capacity building and information dissemination in the field of ICZM.

Within the framework of the application of ICZM, several key sectoral issues with a coastal focus are addressed by PAP/RAC:

- Urban development: linking ICZM to spatial planning (both land and marine) and urban management processes;
- Natural resources: the rational use of water in coastal, and specifically urban coastal areas; coastal fishing and aquaculture; agriculture; industry;
- Sustainable tourism: the assessment of carrying capacity for tourism, spatial planning in tourist areas;
- Landscape and heritage: preventing the degradation of landscapes and heritage;
- Coastal and soil erosion: assessing the vulnerability of coastal areas and coastal planning for risk mitigation;
- Infrastructure and transport: avoiding congestion by ensuring the appropriate integration and location of the various transport systems, including maritime activities;
- Pollution and waste: developing integrated pollution and waste reduction policies, programmes and projects;
- Risks: abating increased vulnerability to natural hazards and the effects of climate change; and
- Specific coastal ecosystems: the integration into ICZM of the conservation, protection and use of wetlands and estuaries, marine habitats, dunes, coastal forests and woods, and islands.

Principal activities

The key elements of PAP/RAC's activities, as defined in the ICZM Protocol and other long-term MAP policy documents, include the following:

Coordination of the initiatives and activities envisaged by the ICZM Protocol, including:

- the definition of a common regional framework for integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean;
- the preparation of regular reports on the state and development of integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean region;
- the exchange of information and the implementation of activities of common interest;
- the implementation of the tasks entrusted to PAP/RAC in action plans adopted within the framework of the ICZM Protocol.

In addition, PAP/RAC will continue to identify and address emerging ICZM thematic issues and will develop methodologies, tools and techniques for ICZM (such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) and land and marine spatial planning, and will prepare guidelines and guides on best practices. Particular attention will be paid to preparing the reports and technical studies needed for the implementation of the Protocol, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, observatories, data and inventories, and indicators.

Assistance to the Parties:

PAP/RAC will continue to provide technical assistance to Contracting parties which so request, in particular to help them:

- participate in a Mediterranean coastal zone network;
- prepare and implement their national strategies for integrated coastal zone management;
- cooperate in training activities and in scientific and technical research programmes;
- coordinate, where appropriate, the management of transboundary coastal zones.

Pilot/demonstration projects

The Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) is one of the longest standing MAP programmes. The objective of the CAMP programme is the implementation of practical coastal management projects in selected local Mediterranean coastal areas to demonstrate the application of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as a major tool. With a view to the implementation of MAP legal instruments, and specifically the ICZM Protocol, CAMP projects have the following goals:

- develop relevant implementation instruments and procedures for sustainable development in project areas;
- identify and apply relevant methodologies and tools;
- contribute to capacity building at the local, national and regional levels; and
- secure the broad use of the results achieved.

After almost 20 years of implementation, a series of recommendations to improve the development and management of CAMP projects have been adopted. In future, CAMP projects will therefore focus more fully on:

- improving governance and participatory approaches;
- establishing permanent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- promoting synergy and cooperation among stakeholders;
- exploring the potential for better financing and co-financing of ICZM activities;
- stimulating public-private-NGO partnerships;
- developing ICZM knowledge and information sharing platforms; and
- improving the CAMP programme and project design.

PAP/RAC will retain a leading and coordinating role in the implementation of the CAMP programme, with particular reference to:

- encouraging the Contracting Parties to develop initiatives for new CAMP projects;
- assisting countries to undertake feasibility studies for CAMP projects;
- developing CAMP project activities and assist national and local authorities in their implementation; and
- assisting the Contracting Parties in the implementation of post-CAMP activities and the dissemination and replication of CAMP results.

In carrying out these activities, PAP/RAC will seek complementary financing and develop synergies with other regional projects, in particular those financed by other sources.

Capacity building

PAP/RAC is the lead centre to coordinate and catalyse activities in support of the implementation of ICZM through the organization of training, education and awareness-raising activities, networking, publications and the dissemination of information. In order to capitalize on existing knowledge to build capacities for the implementation of ICZM, PAP/RAC will support and facilitate communication mechanisms and channels among the Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders by providing clearing-house mechanisms, networking and the sharing of information through the media and over the Internet, among other means.

Cooperation with regional and international organizations

In order to ensure complementarity and synergy of ICZM initiatives within the Mediterranean, PAP/RAC will continue to collaborate with all relevant partners in the region, within and outside the MAP system, including: the MAP components; the MCSD, and particularly its thematic groups on ICZM-related issues; national and local governments;

bilateral and multilateral organizations and associations (and particularly the World Bank, European Union, UNDP, World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission); NGOs; private sector establishments; and subregional initiatives, such as the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, the Northern Adriatic Commission and RAMOGE.

In this regard, particular emphasis will be placed on giving effect to specific provisions of the ICZM Protocol respecting:

- Relations with national authorities: as set out in Article 30 of the Protocol, which calls for the appointment of Focal Points, who are the representatives of the Contracting Parties and serve as liaison with PAP/RAC regarding the technical and scientific aspects of ICZM and for the disseminate of information at the national, regional and local levels. Meetings of Focal Points are held regularly and reports are prepared periodically providing information on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol (Article 31); and
- Relations with other partners (IGOs, NGOs, private sector, ...), covered by Article 14 of the ICZM Protocol, in accordance with which, with a view to ensuring efficient governance throughout the process of the integrated management of coastal zones, PAP/RAC will collaborate with stakeholders, including: the territorial communities and public entities concerned; economic operators; NGOs; social actors; and the public concerned. Such participation may extend to partnerships

Improving the visibility of MAP

In order to ensure MAP's better visibility, PAP/RAC will continue to represent MAP at national, regional and international meetings and forums related to its field of activity.

Sources and mechanisms of financing

The principal funding for the implementation of PAP/RAC's activities and covering its staff is provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). Financing by the host country is regulated by the host country agreement between UNEP and the Government of Croatia (1996) and is limited to the provision of premises and the coverage of some of the operating costs. Additional funding will continue to be sought for actions related to ICZM, either in response to international calls for proposals or through spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries and the private sector.

6. Draft Mandate of the Blue Plan

Background

The Blue Plan was established in 1977 by decision of an Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/IG.5/7) as a regional cooperation program aiming to "putting at the disposal of political leaders and decision-makers all information that will enable them to develop plans likely to ensure sustained optimal socio-economic development without degrading the environment" and to "helping governments of coastal states in the Mediterranean region to increase their knowledge of the joint problems they have to face, both in the Mediterranean Sea and in their coastal areas". Initially the plan was implemented by a non-governmental association-MEDEAS- under French law, at first located in Cannes, then Sophia-Antipolis, with the scientific support of a "Co-ordinating and Overview Group", named by the UNEP's Executive Director. The Contracting Parties effectively launched the exercise in 1979 with MEDEAS' being named as the MAP's regional activities centre. It became Blue Plan Regional activities center in 1984.

With the development of MAP, and in light of the challenges of the global environmental context, especially those relating to sustainable development, the focus of BP/RAC's operations was subsequently repositioned to develop its role as a Mediterranean observatory for the environment and development and to roll out the prospective approach in the coastal regions. After the Johannesburg conference and the creation of a Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, the BP/RAC, at the request of the Contracting Parties, has drawn up the report entitled « A sustainable future for the Mediterranean : the Blue Plan's environment and development outlook ». This, the Blue Plan's 2nd major work, allows the progress made since 1985 to be measured and calls for action towards alternative sustainable development scenarios. This report inspired the elaboration of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable development adopted by the contracting Parties in 2005. The 13th of July 2008, a new analysis of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, which draws on the work conducted by the Blue Plan since 1977, was submitted to all those participating in the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, confirming its role, on behalf of MAP, as a relevant Mediterranean observatory .

Objective and mission

Within the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the objective of the Blue Plan is to ensure, through the collection and dissemination of information, that Mediterranean stakeholders and decision-makers are aware of the environmental and sustainable development issues in the region and that they have at their disposal future scenarios to assist in decision-making.

Mission statement

In this respect, the Blue Plan's mission is to provide the Contracting Parties with a firm basis of information and statistics to guide their action in giving effect to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols through its dual functions as: an observatory of the environment and sustainable development; and a centre for systemic and prospective analysis. The cross-cutting nature of this mission transcends the environment to cover the full range of issues related to sustainable development.

Scope of action and key issues

Effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as the MSSD, requires a long-term approach to decision-making for which a firm basis is needed of reliable, comparable and homogenous data offering a realistic assessment of the state of the environment in the region, including new issues such as climate change. This involves the need to develop tools and methods which clearly demonstrate the interactions between the environment and development, combined with assessments of the nature of current and future developments, based on the construction of indicators, economic modelling and scenarios, which can be powerful factors in collective thinking.

Within this context, the Blue Plan's main fields of action are:

- the on-going identification, collection and processing of environmental, economic and social information for the use to stakeholders and decision-makers;
- assessment of the interaction between the environment and economic and social development, and the use of relevant tools to measure progress towards sustainable development;
- the preparation of analyses and prospective studies to assist in constructing visions of the future as an aid to decision-making; and
- dissemination of the findings of this work in the various appropriate forms and channels.

The core themes and areas covered by the Blue Plan include climate change, water, energy, transport and urban, rural and coastal areas, as well as tourism, which cuts across these various themes and areas and is covered by a specific chapter of the MSSD. In addition, Blue Plan's work also covers ecosystems (particularly forests), the marine environment (especially outside areas of national jurisdiction) and waste (urban in particular), as well as, depending on the means available, both natural and industrial hazards and industrial emissions, which encompass environmental, economic and social concerns.

The Blue Plan's work in these areas is guided by the following principles:

- openness, because although the Blue Plan's links with MAP provide it with a privileged place and status within the Mediterranean institutional context, which should clearly be reinforced, the scale and quality of its output, audience and impact also depend on its capacity to develop relations with other stakeholders (the United Nations, European and bilateral actors, and civil society);
- the existence of a comparative advantage in relation to the themes studied;
- a constant drive for quality in terms of output, organization and communication; and
- a results culture as, in view of its mission, the Blue Plan always has to be in a position to report on its work and findings.

Principal activities

The key elements of Blue Plan's activities are established in the sustainability analysis grid presented in its strategic orientations document as from November 2006. The activities relate to the main sustainable development issues, with particular reference to climate change. The 2007-2015 intervention framework, which was validated by the Blue Plan Focal Points in June 2007, sets out the activities planned for the coming years, which are in line with the requests made by the Contracting Parties and involve in particular:

- continuing, improving and extending systemic and prospective studies on the interaction between population, resources, environment and development;
- exploring the futures of specific coastal regions;
- developing Blue Plan's role as a Mediterranean observatory for the environment and development;

- studying variables, statistics and environmental state and trend indicators,
- providing decision-makers with documentation on sources of information and research on development-environment issues and ensuring that Blue Plan's work and publications are widely circulated;
- building up information which will facilitate the implementation and follow-up of the MSSD and of National Strategies for Sustainable Development;
- documenting indicators, conducting in-depth analyses and identifying good practices in volunteer countries, EU bodies and regional partners and initiatives specially in the areas of water demand, energy and climate change, sustainable tourism, sustainable rural development, sustainable transport ;
- producing and circulating a set of indicators for the follow-up of the MSSD;
- assisting countries to draw up indicators for their National Strategies for Sustainable Development;
- submitting to each session of the MCSD a summary of the developments noted in the implementation of the MSSD, based in particular on Blue Plan priority indicators..

For certain activities, the Blue Plan develops partnerships with other MAP components, which are covered by memoranda of agreement. The Blue Plan also endeavours to build up partnerships with the various stakeholders in sustainable development in the Mediterranean, which are covered by protocols of agreement (French research Institute for exploitation of the sea, International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, Private companies...).

Improving the visibility of MAP

The Blue Plan's output centres on a limited number of regular publications (Blue Plan Papers, Blue Plan Notes and the Newsletter), which are also distributed through the Internet to broaden readership and reduce printing and distribution costs. To meet the demand from the Parties for regular information, in collaboration with the various MAP components, the Blue Plan supervises the preparation of the Report on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean (RESD), which is published every two years in advance of the meetings of the Contracting Parties and has three main sections:

- analysis of the most salient facts and the progress made on environmental and sustainable development issues in Mediterranean coastal States;
- a thematic section assessing in greater depth an issue of importance to the Mediterranean; and
- statistics and indicators.

In addition to its own collections, the Blue Plan is also developing scientific and editorial partnerships for the production and publication of works, atlases and statistical compendia ("Revisit the sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean" in partnership with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies).

Sources and mechanisms of funding

The funding for the Blue Plan's activities is provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund and various other partners, which contribute to its programme of work on the basis of specific agreements (Mediterranean countries, European Commission, European Investment Bank , French Agency for Development, Spanish Agency for Cooperation and Development, World Bank, Private companies...)