

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

I. COORDINATION

I.A. Legal Framework

- I.A.1 Status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocols
 - I.A.1.1 Entry into force of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol
 - I.A.1.2 Judgment by the European Court of Justice
- I.A.2 New legal instrument on ICZM
- I.A.3 Reporting
- I.A.4 Compliance and implementation
- I.A.5 Liability and compensation
- I.A.6 Minor discrepancies in the Arabic version of the text of the Barcelona Convention
- I.A.7 Support to countries on legal matters

I.B Institutional framework

- I.B.1 MAP Evaluation
- I.B.2 MED POL evaluation
- I.B.3 CP/RAC evaluation
- I.B.4 ERS/RAC evaluation

I.C. Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

- I.C.1 Programme on Historic Sites

I.D. Cooperation and partnership

- I.D.1 Diplomatic missions
- I.D.2 Accreditation to ECOSOC and UNCSD
- I.D.3 Cooperation with the European Commission
- I.D.4 New GEF Strategic Partnership
- I.D.5 Cooperation with other United Nations agencies
- I.D.6 Synergy and cooperation with other programmes and initiatives in the region
- I.D.7 Cooperation with MAP/NGO Partners and public participation

I.E. Meetings and conferences organized within the MAP framework

I.F. Information and public awareness

- I.F.1 Renovation of the MAP website
- I.F.2 Integration of the participatory approach into MAP programmes and activities
- I.F.3 Relations with the media
- I.F.4 MAP publications
- I.F.5 MAP's 30th anniversary
- I.F.6 Library

I.G. Financial, personnel and administrative matters

- I.G.1 Financial matters
 - I.G.1.1 Remittance of contributions
 - I.G.1.2 Additional funds

- I.G.2 Personnel matters
 - I.G.2.1 Coordinating Unit
 - I.G.2.2 REMPEC
 - I.G.2.3 PAP/RAC
- I.G.3 Administrative matters
 - I.G.3.1 Security in Greece
 - I.G.3.2 REMPEC

II. COMPONENTS

II.A. Pollution Prevention and Control

- II.A.1 Prevention and control of pollution from land-based sources
 - II.A.1.1 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP MED)
 - II.A.1.2 Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol
 - II.A.1.3 Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol
- II.A.2 Marine pollution prevention and control (REMPEC)
 - II.A.2.1 Development of national and subregional response systems
 - II.A.2.2 Capacity building, including training
 - II.A.2.3 Cooperation and mutual assistance in case of emergency
 - II.A.2.4 Assistance in the field of prevention of pollution from ships
 - II.A.2.5 Extension of REMPEC correspondents to the national authorities responsible for maritime affairs
 - II.A.2.6 Preparation of the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships
 - II.A.2.7 Prevention of marine pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea
 - II.A.2.8 Dissemination of information
- II.A.3 Cleaner production (CP/RAC)

II.B. Biological diversity and Specially Protected Areas

- II.B.1 Implementation of the Action Plans
 - II.B.1.1 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal
 - II.B.1.2 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles
 - II.B.1.3 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea
 - II.B.1.4 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea
 - II.B.1.5 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea
 - II.B.1.6 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
 - II.B.1.7 Implementation of the Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea

- II.B.2 Assistance to countries in selecting, establishing and managing Specially Protected Areas
 - II.B.2.1 Implementing the Regional Project for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region (MedMPA project)
 - II.B.2.2 Support for Parties' requests for certain SPAMIs to be included as PSSAs
 - II.B.2.3 Exchange of information
- II.B.3 Activities linked to processing and managing biodiversity data
 - II.B.3.1 Data collection and management
- II.B.4 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)
- II.B.5 Other activities
 - II.B.5.1 Common criteria for the choice of species that could be included in or excluded from Annexes II and III to the SPA Protocol
 - II.B.5.2 Mediterranean initiative on taxonomy
 - II.B.5.3 Using marine and coastal biodiversity indicators
 - II.B.5.4 Information and awareness

II.C. Sustainable management of coastal zones

- II.C.1 Assistance on the sustainable management of coastal zones
- II.C.2 Implementation of CAMPs
- II.C.3 The future of coastal zone management and CAMPs within MAP activities
- II.C.4 Capacity building and training
- II.C.5 Information dissemination and awareness

II.D. Integrating environment and development

- II.D.1 Environment and development report
- II.D.2 MSSD
- II.D.3 Sustainable development indicators, statistics and databases
- II.D.4 Specific themes
 - II.D.4.1 Funding and cooperation for sustainable development
 - II.D.4.2 Sustainable rural development, the *Silva Mediterranea* Project
- II.D.5 Follow-up in other thematic areas
 - II.D.5.1 Free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context
 - II.D.5.2 Water
 - II.D.5.3 Tourism
 - II.D.5.4 Transport
 - II.D.5.5 Soil erosion and desertification
 - II.D.5.6 Local management and sustainable development
- II.D.6 Communications and information

II.E. Environment Remote Sensing - Information (ERS/RAC)

III. Annexes

- Annex I Status of signatures and ratifications
- Annex II Meetings within MAP framework during the biennium 2004-2005
- Annex III Trust fund for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution – Status of contributions

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
AEWA	African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement
BOD	Biological oxygen demand
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Project
CCA	Capacity Carrying Assessment
CEDARE	Centre For Environment & Development For The Arab Region & Europe
CIHEAM	Centre international de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes
CIHEAM/IAMM	Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CITET	Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CoPEAM	Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators
CP/RAC	Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre
DG JRC	Directorate General Joint Research Centre
EEA	European Environment Agency
ERS/RAC	Environment Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre
FFEM	Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GSP	Geographic Positioning System
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GPA	Global Programme of Action
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA-MEL	International Atomic Energy Agency Marine Environment Laboratory
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICARM	Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management
ICRAM	Central Institute for Research Applied to the Sea
ICE	International Chemical Environment
ICS/UNIDO	International Centre for Science and High Technology of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INDEMER	Institut du droit économique de la mer
INTSM	<i>Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer</i>
IOC	International Oceanographic commission
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
ITCP	Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme
IUCN	International Union for the conservation of Nature
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocols of 1978 and 1997 relating thereto
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MEDA	Mediterranean Development Agreement
MedGOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
MEDASSET	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
MEDU	Mediterranean Unit
MedWet	Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
METAP	Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
NAPs	National Action Plan

NBB	National Baseline Budget
NCMR	Hellenic National Centre for Marine Research
NDA	National Diagnostic Analysis
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OME	Mediterranean Observatory Energy
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PCB	Poly Chlorinated Byphenyl
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RACs	Regional activity Centres
RAMOGE	Accord St-Raphael - Monaco – Gênes
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SMAP	Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme
SPAMIs	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
SP	Sectoral Plans
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas
TRIX index	Eutrophication index
UNESCO/IOC	International Oceanographic commission
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GPA	UN Environment Programme / Global Programme for action
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WHO/MZCC	To be completed by MED POL
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MOSS	Minimum Operating Security Standards
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security (Formerly UNSECOORD)
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

Introduction

This report gives an account of the actions taken by the Secretariat as well as the MAP components to implement the recommendations of the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Catania on the 11 – 14 November, 2003. During the implementation of its programme the Secretariat benefited from the guidance of the Bureau.

For the first time in September 2003, the Secretariat submitted two reports to the MAP Focal Points, one dealing with the implementation of the activities carried out during the biennium and the other featuring the programme budget and recommendations for the following biennium. Since this approach seems to have been well received by the Focal Points, the same procedure is being followed in respect of the current biennium.

The attention of the MAP Focal Points is drawn to the following points in the progress report:

1. During the current biennium, the amendments to the Barcelona Convention have entered into force, thus bringing into effect a number obligations arising out of the new provisions. The Prevention and Emergency Protocol has also entered into force. At the same time, the process of ratification in respect of the other Protocols has been very slow and needs to be addressed.
2. The comparative analysis between the MAP and other reporting systems and a first draft of an updated reporting format have been finalized.
3. Progress has been made in the development of an implementation and compliance mechanism to the extent that a recommendation is being made to the Contracting Parties calling for the formulation of a full implementation and compliance mechanism under the Barcelona Convention.
4. The external evaluation of MAP has been finalized and a report submitted. A number of recommendations, some of them with strong implications, have been made and deserve to be examined further. The evaluations of MEDPOL, ERS/RAC and CP/RAC have also been finalized.
5. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development has been approved by the MSCD and will be submitted for final approval and adoption by the Contracting Parties. Moreover, the MSCD programme of work for the next six years has also been approved.
6. Cooperation between MAP and the EC continued to be strengthened. This cooperation is expected to improve further with the approval of the Joint Work Programme, which has been requested by the Contracting Parties. Moreover, contacts have been established with the Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs for MAP to be involved in the consultation process for the development of an EU Maritime Policy.
7. Following the success of the current GEF project, a Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem has been proposed to the GEF Council and is awaiting approval.
8. REMPEC has finalized the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships and the final draft is being submitted to the meeting of the Focal Points and then to the Contracting Parties for adoption. Following the entry into force of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol in March 2004, the implementation of the strategy has assumed greater importance.

9. A draft ICZM Protocol has been prepared. A decision has to be taken with respect to the next step in this process.
10. MEDPOL will be embarking on a new initiative regarding the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities. MEDPOL has taken the lead in this initiative. However, the intention is for this ecosystem approach to be applied by MAP as a whole.
11. Action needs to be taken by the countries to protect the monk seal which, according to a scientifically prepared status report, is in danger of extinction in the Mediterranean region. This explains the reason behind the Declaration on the Monk Seal, which will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption.
12. Following years of preparation, the Environment and Development report has been finalized and will be published in the coming months. It is important for BP and MAP to publicize this extensive and detailed publication through a series of press events in the countries.
13. Following an evaluation exercise, a recommendation is being made to refocus ERS/RAC towards information and communication activities and to name the centre INFO/RAC.
14. On the occasion of the 30 years of MAP a number of initiatives have been taken with a view to increase the visibility of MAP.

I. COORDINATION

I.A. Legal Framework

I.A.1 Status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocols

I.A.1.1 Entry into force of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol

1. Since the last meeting of the MAP National Focal Points in September 2003, the major legal development has been the entry into force of the amended Barcelona Convention with effect from 9 July 2004, 30 days after the deposit of the 16th instrument of acceptance by Algeria. The other Contracting Parties to accept the amendments to the Convention since the last meeting of the MAP National Focal Points are the Syrian Arab Republic (on 10 October 2003) and Morocco (on 7 December 2004). The official title of the Convention is now the "Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean".

2. Another significant development was the entry into force, on 17 March 2004, of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol following its ratification by Slovenia on 16 February 2004. In total, seven Contracting Parties have so far ratified this Protocol including, during the period covered by this report, Croatia and the European Commission, on 1 October 2003 and 25 June 2004, respectively.

3. Three more countries still need to accept the amendments to the revised Land-Based Sources Protocol for it to enter into force, as no further Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Protocol since the last meeting of the MAP Focal Points in 2003.

4. It should be noted that, since September 2003, Turkey has ratified the new Hazardous Wastes Protocol (on 3 April 2004), bringing the total number of ratifications to five. One additional ratification is therefore needed for the Protocol to enter into force.

5. With respect to the other new and revised legal instruments, as at July 2005, 14 Contracting Parties had accepted the amendments to the revised Dumping protocol, 14 had ratified the new Specially Protected Areas (SPA) and Biodiversity Protocol and four the new Offshore Protocol.

6. It should be recalled in this respect that six ratifications are required for the entry into force of a new instrument and that 16 Contracting Parties have to accept the amendments to a revised instrument for it to enter into force.

7. A detailed table of the status of ratification of the various instruments is attached as **Annex I** to this report. In line with United Nations practice, a new column entitled 'Status' has been inserted in the table in addition to "Adoption" and 'Entry into Force'.

8. The last Meeting of the Contracting Parties requested the Depositary country (Spain) and the Bureau to take an active role in encouraging the Parties to speed up the ratification process. In accordance with this decision, the need to identify appropriate measures with regard to those Contracting Parties that have not yet signed, ratified or accepted the revised or new MAP legal instruments was thoroughly discussed during the meetings of the Bureau.

9. As decided by the Bureau at its meeting in Genoa in June 2004, a joint letter, signed by the Minister of Environment and Territory of Italy in his capacity as the President of the Bureau, the Minister of Environment of the Depositary country (Spain) and the MAP

Coordinator, was sent to all concerned Contracting Parties to encourage countries which had not yet done so to sign, accept or ratify the new and revised instruments. The countries concerned were also requested to provide information on the ratification processes of the various instruments. Following this letter, communications were received from Albania, Morocco and Slovenia providing information on the steps taken in this regard.

I.A.1.2 Judgment by the European Court of Justice

10. The Secretariat would like to draw the attention of the MAP National Focal Points to a judgment by the European Court of Justice (Case No. C-213/03, of 15 July 2004) relating to Article 6(3) of the LBS Protocol, which is in force, and Article 6(1) of the amended LBS Protocol, which is not yet in force, although the amendments have been accepted by the European Community. These provisions refer to the obligation for prior authorization by the competent authorities for discharges and releases into waters that reach and may affect the Mediterranean Sea. The question raised was whether these provisions have direct effect, so that any interested party is entitled to rely on them before the national courts in an action to halt discharges which are not authorized in accordance with the procedure and criteria envisaged by these provisions, or whether no system of authorization for discharges can legitimately and usefully be applied on the basis of these provisions until an EU Member State has defined the applicable technical criteria.

11. In its judgment, the European Court found that:

“1) Article 6(3) of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources, signed in Athens on 17 May 1980, approved by Council Decision 83/101/EEC of 28 February 1983 and, following its entry into force, Article 6(1) of the Protocol as amended at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Syracuse on 7 and 8 March 1996, which amendments were approved by Council Decision 1999/801/EC of 22 October 1999, have direct effect, so that any interested party is entitled to rely on these provisions before the national courts.

2) Those same provisions must be interpreted as prohibiting, without an authorization issued by the national competent authorities, the discharge into a saltwater marsh communicating with the Mediterranean Sea of substances which, although not toxic, have an adverse effect on the oxygen content of the marine environment.”

I.A.2 New legal instrument on ICZM

12. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted a recommendation at the 13th Meeting in Catania (November 2003) requesting the Secretariat to “prepare a draft text of the regional protocol on integrated coastal area management, on the basis of a broad process of consultation among experts and all other interested parties in view of its consideration” by the Contracting Parties.

13. For this purpose, a Regional Stakeholders’ Forum on ICAM was held on 28-29 May 2004 in Cagliari, Italy. Representatives of the following stakeholder groups were invited: Ministries of the Environment, Physical Planning, Tourism, Infrastructure, Public Works and/or Development; coastal local and regional authorities; international organizations; other regional seas; the scientific community; NGOs; professional associations (Chambers of Commerce, tourism operators and/or industry; associations of architects and planners; juridical associations; and others); financial institutions (IBRD, EBRD, EIB, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Arab Development Bank); and other experts.

14. In accordance with the recommendations of the Regional Stakeholders’ Forum, a Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts was set up by PAP/RAC to draft the Protocol.

The first meeting of the Working Group took place on 1-2 October 2004 in Split and a first draft was prepared by mid-December 2004. The second meeting of the Working Group was held in Athens on 4-5 January 2005, where the text of the Protocol was presented in draft form. Legal and technical experts, as well as representatives of MEDU, discussed the general structure of the draft Protocol and made comments and suggestions on the content of individual articles and provisions.

15. The Working Group prepared a second version of the draft Protocol by February 2005. This improved version was discussed at the third meeting of the Working Group, held on 17-18 February in Paris. Soon after that meeting, a third version of draft text of the Protocol, together with commentary, was prepared. Both texts were translated into English by mid-April and placed on the PAP/RAC website.

16. This draft text was presented at the Joint Meeting of the National Focal Points of BP/RAC, ERS/RAC and PAP/RAC (Nice, 12-15 May, 2005). As part of the consultation process to improve the draft of the Protocol, PAP/RAC organized a consultative workshop in Oristano (Italy) on 24-25 June 2005. The draft of the ICZM Protocol is submitted for discussion to the Meeting of MAP National Focal Points (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/5), together with the proposals made by the Oristano workshop (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.3).

I.A.3 Reporting

17. At the 13th Ordinary Meeting in Catania in November 2003, the Contracting Parties decided to commence the implementation of Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention starting from the 2002-2003 biennium on the basis of the reporting format, as agreed in Monaco in 2001.

18. For this purpose, the Secretariat has provided assistance to the countries to strengthen their reporting capacities and systems and enable them to submit national reports on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention by February 2005. The following countries have been provided with financial and technical assistance for the preparation of national reports: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Morocco, Israel, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey. The approach adopted by the Secretariat has been not only to assist countries in the preparation of their first national reports, but also to strengthen their national reporting systems so that they can benefit from the experience by establishing a system for the collection, processing and updating of data, thereby ensuring sustainability by reinforcing their capacity to meet reporting obligations effectively and on a long-term basis.

19. Based on experience at the national level, input has been provided by some countries with a view to the harmonization of the reporting format under the Barcelona Convention with other reporting formats at the regional and global levels, as well as for the improvement and simplification of reporting, with a preference for indicators rather than narrative text, and the promotion of compatibility with the respective national reporting systems.

20. With a view to further assisting countries in relation to their reporting requirements, a Meeting on Reporting under the Barcelona Convention was convened in Tunisia on 10-11 May 2004, with the participation of 32 national experts from 17 Contracting Parties. The Meeting was intended for MAP National Focal Points or national focal points on reporting and national experts from developing countries to assess the work carried out, identify national needs and review and discuss the legal, administrative and technical aspects of the reporting process.

21. The Meeting reviewed issues related to the national reporting process, work plans for the formulation of reports and potential problems and bottlenecks, with a view to facilitating the process and meeting the target of preparing national reports by the end of January 2005. As a follow-up to the Tunis Meeting, the Secretariat sent a letter to all Ministries of the Environment seeking support for the process of the preparation of national reports, with emphasis on the involvement of stakeholders from different sectors at the national and local levels.

22. National biennial reports on the legal and administrative implementation of the Convention and its Protocols have been received from 19 Contracting Parties (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, European Community, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Monaco, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey) and on the technical implementation of the Protocols from 17 Contracting Parties (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, France, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Monaco, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey).

23. The regional assessment report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols has been prepared (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/6). The results show considerable progress, not only in reporting on the legal and administrative implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, but also, to a slightly lesser extent, on the technical implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and on official environmental policies in general. This progress is not evenly spread on all issues and between all Contracting Parties.

24. In accordance with the recommendation made by the Contracting Parties in Catania in relation to the harmonization of reporting procedures with other multilateral environmental agreements and the respective European Union directives, a comparative analysis between MAP and other reporting systems and a first draft of an updated reporting format have been finalized (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.6), (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.7).

25. In addition, the Fifth Meeting on Reporting under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was held in Morocco on 13-14 June 2005, with the participation of 22 representatives from 17 Contracting Parties, to discuss the above documents and provide the Secretariat with guidance on their content and on the activities to be carried out during the next biennium.

I.A.4 Compliance and implementation

26. In Catania, the Contracting Parties decided to establish a Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts responsible for the elaboration of a "platform to promote the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention" for consideration at their Fourteenth Meeting in 2005.

27. In accordance with the above decision, and in order to ensure diversity of experience, views and representation from both developing and developed countries and from different geographic sub-regions, a Working Group on Compliance and Implementation under the Barcelona Convention was established consisting of six Government-designated experts, nominated on the basis of their legal or technical expertise, and one member representing NGOs/MAP Partners. The Working Group has been assisted in its work by an international legal expert.

28. Five countries volunteered to participate in the Working Group, and their offers were accepted, at the Meeting in Catania. These were Croatia, Greece, Israel, Spain and Syrian

Arab Republic. France subsequently expressed the wish to join the Working Group and was accepted.

29. In conformity with the decision of the Catania meeting, the progress achieved by the Working Group has been regularly shared with all the Contracting Parties. Furthermore, the meetings of the Working Group are open to other Contracting Parties or MAP Partners wishing to participate, provided that their participation is self-financed. Nevertheless, with a view to ensuring the full participation of developing countries, and due to the importance of the matter, the Secretariat, as approved by the Bureau, has covered the expenses for the participation of one expert from each developing country which has expressed an interest in being involved in the process.

30. The first meeting of the Working Group was held in Athens on 8-9 November 2004. In response to an invitation by the Secretariat, in addition to the six member countries of the Working Group selected in Catania and France, representatives of the European Community and Slovenia also participated in the meeting. The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- Analysis of the structure and content of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols *vis à vis* a possible compliance mechanism and a non-compliance procedure;
- Description, comparison and analysis of compliance mechanisms and non-compliance procedures of a certain number of multilateral environmental agreements;
- Definition of a road map for the setting up a compliance mechanism and a non-compliance procedure under the Barcelona Convention.

31. In accordance with the recommendation of the first meeting of the Working Group, a second meeting was held on 11-12 April 2005 in Athens, Greece. In addition to the members of the Working Group, representatives of Albania, the European Community, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro and Tunisia also participated in the meeting.

32. The Working Group agreed to submit a recommendation to the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia calling for the formulation of a full implementation and compliance mechanism under the Barcelona Convention for adoption by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007. The Working Group discussed the main principles that should be incorporated in the mechanism and agreed on the content of an outline document on the main elements of a possible compliance mechanism under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/7).

I.A.5 Liability and compensation

33. At the 13th Meeting in Catania, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a feasibility study on liability and compensation. With a view to the implementation of this recommendation, the Secretariat has focused on achieving and ensuring synergy, to the extent possible, with past and ongoing legal developments in this field. Also, particularly in view of the sensitivity of the issue, it followed a fully participatory consultation process through the involvement of all Contracting Parties and concerned socio-economic actors at an early stage in the preparation process.

34. During the period covered by this report, the steps taken have included the selection and recruitment of a regional expert and the elaboration of a clear methodological approach. The work has involved research, information gathering, consultation, data analysis and the review and validation of previous work carried out by MAP. Existing national, international and regional liability and compensation regimes have also been examined and a feasibility study prepared.

35. With regard to synergy with existing regimes, the feasibility study has considered the following options:

- making use of international legal instruments in force which are of relevance to liability for environmental damage in the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal area;
- evaluating the relevant agreements already in force and considering whether they should be amended to address questions of civil liability for environmental damage in marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean;
- promoting the entry into force of existing international agreements containing provisions which, *inter alia*, cover civil liability for environmental damage in marine and coastal areas and identify the reasons why they have not yet entered into force; in this regard, the possibility of amendments or adjustments to these agreements might be considered;
- developing a new legal instrument providing for civil liability, *inter alia*, for environmental damage in marine and coastal areas under the Barcelona Convention, including the main elements for such a legal instrument or regime, justifying the need;
- developing a code of conduct, guidelines and recommendations concerning liability, for damage resulting from environmental damage to the marine and coastal environment under the Barcelona Convention.

36. The participatory process has been based on technical questionnaires sent to the MAP National Focal Points and to MAP Partners. One questionnaire was meant to be a general consultation platform, while the other addressed the insurance dimension. Six Contracting Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, European Community, France, Malta and Morocco), NGOs and socio-economic actors (Environnement et Développement au Maghreb, Environmental Perception, Amici per la Vita ONLUS, IOI, MEDCITIES, UNADEP/UNASD, IJOED) responded to the questionnaires.

37. The feasibility study reviews the current situation in the area of liability and compensation at the global, regional and, to some extent, national levels. The draft study was submitted for discussion to a meeting of legal experts held in Athens on 17 June 2005. Some of the Contracting Parties that replied to the questionnaire were invited to participate in the meeting, which reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the draft study and provided guidance for its improvement.

38. It should be recalled in this respect that, since the coming into force of the amendments to the Convention, the development of the appropriate rules and procedures on liability and compensation is a binding obligation for the Contracting Parties. The outcome of the meeting and the final draft of the feasibility study are contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.4.

I.A.6 Minor discrepancies in the Arabic version of the text of the Barcelona Convention

39. On 30 December 2003, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria submitted a *Note verbale* to the Depositary country (Spain) concerning certain discrepancies between the Arabic and French texts of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention, as contained in the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, held in Barcelona on 9-10 June in 1995. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria requested the opinion of the competent legal services of the Depositary country on its observations concerning these discrepancies with a view to ensuring the uniformity of all the language versions of the Convention and at the same time helping to speed up the process of ratification by Algeria. The Depositary country referred the *Note verbale* to UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, accompanied by its own

comments. UNEP Headquarters in turn referred the *Note Verbale* to the attention of the Secretariat for the necessary action.

40. A careful examination has shown that minor discrepancies exist in the Arabic version of the text, which have to be corrected through a procedure to be discussed with the Depository country. The Coordinator is expected to raise the issue with the Depository country, suggesting that these minor discrepancies could be rectified by means of a *Proces Verbal* to be circulated to the Parties through diplomatic channels. It should be noted that Algeria has since accepted the amendments to the Convention.

I.A.7 Support to countries on legal matters

41. The 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Catania 2003, requested the Secretariat to assist Contracting Parties in their efforts to adhere to the MAP legal instruments and to incorporate the main requirements of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols into national legislation.

42. During the period covered by the report, both the Secretariat and the various MAP components have provided assistance to a number of Contracting Parties for the incorporation into national legislation of the provisions of the Convention and its Protocols. Further requests for assistance are under consideration.

I.B Institutional framework

I.B.1 MAP Evaluation

43. In accordance with the recommendation adopted by the Contracting Parties in Catania, an external overall evaluation of MAP was carried out with a view to its presentation to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005 (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/8) and doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.9).

44. The evaluation exercise was carried out as an integral part of the ongoing evaluations of MAP components and was based on past performance, planned objectives and the international and regional context, including legal and political developments in the region. An open and participative approach was adopted, involving a desk review and in-depth analysis of relevant documents; meetings and interviews with MAP National Focal Points and MAP Partners; and the sharing of information with all the Contracting Parties.

45. Based on the terms of reference, including the profile of the evaluators, submitted to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, a team of three evaluators was recruited, headed by Mr Delmar Blasco, former Executive Secretary of the Ramsar Convention, and including Mr. Tarek Genena and Mr Thymio Papayannis. An evaluation methodology and a questionnaire were formulated, with 19 of the 22 Contracting Parties responding to the questionnaire. A number of consultations with MAP Focal Points, MAP Partners and other international agencies were held by the team of evaluators. Two consultation meetings, one of them supported by Italy, of the MAP Focal Points or their representatives were held for this purpose on 9-10 December 2004 and 31 March 2005.

I.B.2 MED POL evaluation

46. The evaluation of MED POL Phase III, prepared by three independent experts, was submitted to the MAP Secretariat in April 2005 and reviewed by the Meeting of MED POL

National Coordinators held in Barcelona on 24-27 May 2005 (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.10). The evaluation of MED POL III was a lengthy process, in view of the great variety of issues and activities to be covered, but its findings and recommendations will provide a good basis for the planning and implementation of MED POL Phase IV.

47. The evaluation contained a number of proposals and suggestions made in the light of the findings and relating to management responsibility, realization of work programmes, the monitoring of work programmes and resource management. One other important observation made during the discussions on MED POL Phase III evaluation during the National Coordinators' meeting was that MED POL lacks visibility in Mediterranean countries.

I.B.3 CP/RAC evaluation

48. The terms of reference for the evaluation of CP/RAC were prepared on the basis of earlier evaluations, namely of SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and BP/RAC. Due to its broad experience of evaluating management activities, the contract for the evaluation was awarded to the consultancy firm SGS Tecnos, which fielded a multidisciplinary team of four experts to carry out the evaluation. The objective of the evaluation was to assess the mission and performance of CP/RAC in the framework of MAP. The evaluation was based on an assessment of the management of the centre, with emphasis on planning, performance, follow-up and review, and on an analysis of responses to questionnaires from various actors and partners. The evaluation calls for a clear definition of the role of the centre and the formalization of its mission. The evaluation report was submitted to the Secretariat in April 2005 (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.11).

I.B.4 ERS/RAC evaluation

49. A meeting to launch the evaluation of ERS/RAC was held in Catania in December 2004. Two consultants were engaged to carry out the evaluation and, following revisions and updating, involving also consultations with the countries and a review by another consultant, the draft report was discussed during the Joint Meeting of BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and ERS/RAC Focal Points, held in Nice in May 2005. The ERS/RAC evaluation report is submitted as doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.12.

50. The main lessons to be drawn from the evaluation are that, while ERS/RAC has undertaken many activities, its effectiveness has been hindered by a number of basic factors, including problems related to its original mandate. On the basis of the evaluation report, it is recommended that ERS/RAC should be refocused to address the needs of MAP and its components in the field of information and communication so as to improve the dissemination of the vast amount of valuable information in MAP's possession, improve its public image and visibility and promote issues relating to the environment and sustainable development. However, some remote sensing activities would continue to be carried out, if so requested by the countries. It is also recommended that the Centre should be renamed as INFO/RAC.

I.C. Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

51. During the biennium, most of the activities of the MCSD were related to the process of preparing the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), including the closely related activity of supporting the preparation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs).

52. Following the decision by the Contracting Parties in Catania to take note of the *Vision and Framework Orientations* for sustainable development in the Mediterranean, the Secretariat requested additional comments from the Parties. These important reference documents were then finalized, in close coordination with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and its President, the MCSD and its Steering Committee. These documents were finally endorsed by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and the 9th Meeting of the MCSD, which were both held in Genoa, Italy, in June 2004. The 9th Meeting of the MCSD also discussed the process to be followed for the preparation of the MSSD, which was launched in July 2004.

53. Under the supervision of the MAP Coordinator, the technical preparation of the MSSD draft report was carried out by the Blue Plan (BP/RAC), in cooperation with other MAP components. The draft versions of the MSSD were discussed and reviewed at the national and regional levels, based on a process of broad consultations, in working sessions and workshops organized by MAP and its NGO Partners, resulting in the preparation of a final draft of the MSSD, which was submitted to the 10th Meeting of the MCSD held in Athens, Greece, in June 2005. The MSSD is a framework strategy with specific indicators. Based on the principal strategic information available within and outside MAP, it recalls the major challenges, defines four objectives, proposes a limited set of orientations and actions for seven priority fields of action and identifies the necessary human, technical and financial measures and means for its implementation.

54. Although not binding, the MSSD will enable and assist the Contracting Parties in preparing and updating their respective NSSD in line with the objectives, orientations and actions outlined in the strategy.

55. As reviewed and finalized by the MCSD in June 2005, the MSSD will be submitted for final consideration and adoption by the Contracting Parties in November in Slovenia. It is presented to the Meeting of MAP National Focal Points as an information document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.13). Meanwhile, information campaigns and consultation processes have been continued with a view to ensuring greater ownership of the MSSD by the concerned parties and stronger political support.

56. During the biennium, the MAP Secretariat has also undertaken the following activities:

- Preparation of *Strategic thematic notes* as a follow up to the *Framework orientations*, with a view to defining specific objectives and actions in relation to the proposed priority fields of action, once again based on a broad process of consultation with and within the Contracting Parties and the active participation of civil society and all MAP components. The *Thematic notes* were used for the preparation of the MSSD.
- A regional review and assessment of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs) was undertaken, based on information provided by the countries concerned and through other sources. The review provided useful information for the preparation of NSSDs in various countries. Taking into account the methodologies developed by the UNCSD, UNDP and OECD, and drawing lessons from the Mediterranean context and experience, guidelines for the preparation of NSSDs were also formulated. The review, the approach adopted by MAP/MCSD to the preparation of NSSDs and the first achievements at regional and national levels were found to be of great interest by a regional workshop on NSSDs in Arab countries, held in Cairo, Egypt from 11 to 15 December 2004 organized by UNCSD with the technical support of UNEP/MAP.
- In conformity with the recommendation of the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Monaco, the Secretariat has undertaken activities to catalyse the preparation of

NSSDs in various countries. Technical and financial support is currently being provided to Egypt, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro and Syrian Arab Republic with the financial assistance of Italy and Monaco. Encouraging discussions are ongoing with Spain, through the Azahar Programme, for support to four other countries and the organization of a regional workshop on NSSDs.

- During the course of the biennium, the Secretariat has organized two MCSD meetings, two meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee, two regional workshops on the *Thematic notes* and the draft MSSD. It has also contributed to several national and regional workshops on issues related to the MSSD and NSSDs.
- In conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties in Catania, a Junior Officer was appointed to assist in the development of the strategy using resources allocated from the Revolving Fund. A French national was appointed for one year and joined the Coordinating Unit as of 1 March 2005.

57. Moreover, in accordance with the recommendations approved by the Contracting Parties in Catania, a new programme of work for the MCSD covering the next six years was prepared and approved by the 10th Meeting of the MCSD (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.14). The new programme of work is based principally on the content and proposals of the MSSD, in particular taking the priority fields of action as thematic issues for the MCSD working groups, as well as elements related to the implementation of overall cross-cutting issues. The MCSD programme of work is to be implemented with the technical and financial support of the concerned MAP components and other Partners, which should consider MAP MTF funds as seed money and seek additional resources elsewhere.

I.C.1 Programme on Historic Sites

58. In accordance with the recommendation adopted by the Contracting Parties in Catania on the 100 Historic Sites Programme, two experts were recruited by the MAP to formulate an updated programme that is expected to focus on sustainable development and cultural heritage. A meeting of Government-designated experts is planned to be held in France, with a view to discussing the proposed new programme. The proposal for the new programme has been sent out to a number of potential partners, including several Mediterranean municipalities, with a view to exchanging views and preparing for the holding of the meeting of experts.

59. The records on the 100 Historic Sites included in the list have also been updated.

I.D. Cooperation and partnership

I.D.1 Diplomatic missions

60. During the period under review, the MAP Coordinator undertook a number of diplomatic missions to reinforce direct contacts with the authorities of the countries concerned, discuss future bilateral cooperation and, where appropriate, promote the ratification of the MAP legal instruments.

61. In most cases, the MAP Coordinator had meetings with the Ministers of the Environment, senior officials in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and with the MAP Focal Points. Contracting Parties visited by the MAP Coordinator since his appointment include the European Commission, Tunisia, France, Slovenia, Israel and Croatia.

62. More diplomatic missions are planned during the next biennium.

Meeting with the Executive Director of UNEP

63. Following his appointment in May 2004, the Coordinator had a formal meeting with the Executive Director of UNEP in October 2004 during which he informed him of the major issues being addressed by the MAP Secretariat in relation to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, in conformity with the decisions of the Contracting Parties. The Executive Director reiterated UNEP's support to MAP and his great interest in the work carried out for the benefit of the environment in the region within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

I.D.2 Accreditation to ECOSOC and UNCSD

64. In accordance with the recommendation adopted by the Contracting Parties in Catania for the Secretariat "to undertake the necessary steps to request the accreditation of the Barcelona Convention with UN-ECOSOC, so as to improve the visibility of MAP and be able to participate directly in UNCSD as an observer, with a view to increasing its involvement in the implementation of UNCSD decisions at the regional level", the Secretariat contacted the appropriate services of the United Nations. As a Regional Seas Programme in the context of UNEP, the Secretariat was informed that the Barcelona Convention does not come under any of the major group categories and that the issue should therefore be settled through UNEP.

65. The Coordinator raised the issue with Nairobi and was advised that the UNEP delegation to the UNCSD should represent MAP as one of the Regional Seas Programmes. According to Nairobi, by joining forces, the Regional Seas Programmes would benefit from a stronger and more unified voice at the UNCSD.

I.D.3 Cooperation with the European Commission

66. The Contracting Parties in Catania called for the strengthening of partnership and cooperation between MAP and the European Commission and requested the Secretariat to elaborate a work programme for cooperation with the European Commission based on the following priorities:

- "strengthening the cooperation between MAP and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in conformity with the Athens Declaration, 2002;
- association of the European Commission with the implementation of the SAP MED and SAP BIO;
- participation of the European Commission in the process for the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;
- involvement of MAP in the process of implementing the European Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management;
- cooperation with the European Commission for the development of the strategy for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol;
- involvement of MAP in the process of preparing and implementing the European Marine Strategy as confirmed in the Catania Declaration adopted at the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, with a view to providing a holistic framework to deal with the protection and conservation of the marine environment."

Joint Work Programme

67. Discussions have been held with the European Commission for the development of a Joint Work Programme, which is currently under consideration by the various Directorates

of the European Commission. The Secretariat is awaiting the submission of an approved Joint Work Programme by the Commission with a view to its referral to the Meeting of the MAP National Focal Points for information (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.30). The joint Work Programme is expected to be signed in the coming months.

Meeting with the EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

68. On 21 May 2005, Dr Joe Borg, EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, visited MAP's offices at the invitation of the MAP Coordinator to exchange views on how MAP could best be involved in the process of the development of an EU Maritime Policy. The Commissioner briefed the MAP Coordinator and other senior MAP officials on the EC's initiative to draw up a Green Paper on future options for a possible EU Maritime Policy. The Commissioner agreed that the Head of the Green Paper Task Force should visit MAP's offices to consult on Mediterranean issues. The Commissioner was informed of the various initiatives and programmes that are being carried out by the Secretariat and MAP components, and particularly on the progress achieved in the development of the MSSD.

European Environment Agency

69. In conformity with the recommendation made by the Contracting Parties in Catania, the Secretariat has held consultations with the European Environment Agency (EEA) with a view to resuming discussions on the strengthening of cooperation and the preparation of a joint programme of work. These discussions are still in progress.

70. Meanwhile, MED POL has started working with EEA on the preparation of an updated report on the state of the marine environment in the Mediterranean, with a view to finalizing it by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia.

European Marine Strategy

71. As called upon by the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat has closely followed and contributed to the process of the preparation of the European Marine Strategy, which is being undertaken by the European Commission. All the related technical meetings were attended by MED POL representatives, who participated actively in the discussions on the technical and policy documents proposed by the European Union to ensure that Mediterranean needs and objectives are reflected in them.

72. A comparative analysis was carried out by MED POL of the measures contained in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and EU policy and legislation relating to the reduction of land-based pollution. The analysis takes into account the targets and objectives of the SAP and existing EU Directives, including the Water Framework Directive and the European Marine Strategy that is now being finalized. The comparative analysis, which has been reviewed informally by the European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment, was published with the aim of facilitating the implementation of the SAP by European Mediterranean countries (doc UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 262/6).

I.D.4 New GEF Strategic Partnership

73. On the basis of the achievements made in the region in the field of the reduction of land-based pollution and the protection of biodiversity, as highlighted by the implementation of the SAP MED, the adoption of the SAP BIO and the prospects for a new Protocol on ICZM, a strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem has been proposed by UNEP and the World Bank to Mediterranean countries and to the GEF Council for financing as a collective initiative for the protection of Mediterranean environmental resources. The main objective of the Partnership, in which UNEP/MAP is proposed to be the

main executing Agency, together with FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO, ICS-UNIDO and METAP/World Bank, is to assist countries in the region to implement reforms and make investments in key areas to reduce transboundary pollution, reverse the decline in biodiversity and habitat degradation, and protect living resources, as set out in the SAP MED and SAP BIO.

74. The Strategic Partnership consists of two main components. The first is a Regional Component, to be managed by UNEP, covering the implementation of activities arising directly from the requirements of the SAP MED and the SAP BIO. The second, to be managed by the World Bank, consists of the establishment of an Investment Fund to assist countries make the necessary investments to achieve the SAP targets and carry out other priority actions identified in the recently updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA).

75. At the invitation of the Government of Italy, a Stocktaking Meeting on the initiative was held in Trieste on 11-12 October 2004. At the Meeting, which was attended by all the proposed executing agencies for the Partnership, the content and objectives of the Partnership were presented to the countries of the region and consensus sought before its formal submission to the GEF Council. The participants at the Meeting expressed unanimous appreciation of the proposed Partnership and welcomed the integrated approach adopted. In view of the very early stage of the implementation of the SAP BIO, they emphasized that the biodiversity component should receive special attention so that the related activities could be launched effectively at both the regional and national levels.

I.D.5 Cooperation with other United Nations agencies

Cooperation with the Regional Seas Programme

76. During the biennium the MAP Secretariat continued to receive support from the Division of Environmental Conventions of UNEP and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based sources (GPA). MAP Secretariat has participated in a number of activities organized by GPA, bringing together representatives from other regional seas conventions and programmes to exchange experiences and strengthen their cooperation.

77. The Division of Environmental Conventions together with GPA and MAP are currently working on a new project on how to address the problem of marine litter which is ever on the increase.

78. During the current biennium, UNEP renewed its financial contribution to the Mediterranean Trust Fund, which this year is being used to finance a special issue of UNEP's Our Planet Magazine dedicated to MAP on the occasion of the 30th anniversary.

Cooperation with UNECE

79. In cooperation with the Secretariat of the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context, a joint seminar on reporting issues was held in Tunis on 10-11 May 2004. The seminar focused on the advantages of closer interaction and synergy between the Espoo and Barcelona Conventions in the region for the implementation of Article 4(3) of the Barcelona Convention, especially if south Mediterranean countries participate in the activities of or adhere to the Espoo Convention.

80. Contacts are also being pursued with the Secretariats of the Aarhus and Ramsar Conventions and the UNECE Helsinki Water Convention and the Industrial Accidents Convention with a view to promoting synergy with their activities for the establishment of

compliance mechanisms, the mobilization of civil society and on liability and compensation issues.

I.D.6 Synergy and cooperation with other programmes and initiatives in the region

81. More programmes and initiatives in the region are now showing an interest in establishing or strengthening cooperation with MAP. Contacts have been established with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) concerning the possibility of organizing joint activities. Prospects for cooperation are also opening up with the Euro-Arab Management School in Spain, and with the Baltic 21 and MedWet programmes. Cooperation with NGOs is on the increase, with a number of NGOs taking an active part in several activities and working groups organized by MAP and its components. Civil society is quite well developed in the Mediterranean and is capable of rallying major resources and abilities.

82. Two joint activities have been carried out with REC. One involved participation in an international seminar in Tirana on the implementation of environmental agreements in Albania. The seminar was funded in the context of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South-East Europe (REReP), which is designed to assist EU pre-accession and accession countries to achieve progress towards sustainable development, stability and environmental reconstruction in the region. The secretariats of several other environmental Conventions were invited to participate in the seminar. Recommendations were adopted for each Convention, including the Barcelona Convention, and subsequently officially submitted to the competent authorities in Albania. Within the context of the REReP programme, MAP was invited by REC to hold a seminar in Croatia on legal issues relating to the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

I.D.7 Cooperation with MAP/NGO Partners and public participation

83. Following the first meeting of the MAP/NGO Partners on the eve of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania, several activities have been undertaken in relation to MAP Partners. The Secretariat has kept them informed regularly of MAP activities, encouraged their participation in these events and organized consultation meetings with them in relation to the preparation of the MSSD. Members of the Secretariat have participated in activities organized by MAP/NGO Partners, or undertaken in collaboration with the Secretariat, in Egypt, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia.

84. In conformity with the recommendation of the Contracting Parties in Catania, assistance has been provided to a number of MAP/NGO Partners to strengthen their capacities and for the implementation of activities relevant to MAP objectives.

85. With respect to the principle on public participation in the process of decision-making at the regional level, the Secretariat has encouraged and facilitated the direct involvement of the MAP/NGO Partners and the representatives of civil society in the process of developing important policy and legal documents in such areas as the development of a compliance mechanism under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the formulation of National Action Plans to combat pollution from land-based sources and activities, the MSSD, the feasibility study for a liability and compensation regime in the Mediterranean and the draft protocol on ICZM.

86. In 2004, two NGOs, one Albanian the "Society of Chemists", and the other Syrian the "Fund for Integrated Rural Development" submitted their applications to become MAP Partners. In accordance with the recommendation adopted in Catania, the Secretariat has informed all the Contracting Parties of these applications before submitting them for approval

by the Bureau in Genoa, June 2004. The updated Directory of MAP Partners is submitted in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.15.

I.E. Meetings and conferences organized within the MAP framework

87. During the biennium 2003-2004, a full programme of meetings was organized in the framework of MAP. In addition to the main institutional meetings of MAP, namely meetings of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and the meetings of Focal Points of the various MAP components, a series of meetings were organized as part of the process of formulating major documents and instruments, including the MSSD and its indicators, proposals for a compliance mechanism, the regional assessment on the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, the draft Protocol on ICZM, the issue of liability and compensation and the use of the ecosystem approach. Moreover, the innovative feature during the biennium was the emphasis placed on the holding of meetings at the national level to strengthen processes of participation and ownership in relation, among others, to the MSSD, NSSDs, NAPs and CAMPs. The schedule of meetings is attached as **Annex II** to this report.

I.F. Information and public awareness

I.F.1 Renovation of the MAP website

88. The development of the new MAP website has been entrusted to ERS/RAC instead of to a private firm, at a great saving to the Secretariat. The MAP website, in its new structure and presentation, is now on-line in both English and French. The Arabic version has also been prepared by MEDU and will soon be online. Italian and Spanish versions of the site have also been prepared with financing from the respective countries. The site is updated regularly and new sections are added as appropriate like for example the window to provide information on the preparations for the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia. The Intranet section has been introduced to facilitate access, among others, to meeting documents.

I.F.2 Integration of the participatory approach into MAP programmes and activities

89. In accordance with the recommendation adopted by the Contracting Parties in Catania on information, public awareness and public participation, a document has been prepared explaining the concept of the participatory approach, its relevance to the whole process of decision-making, together with proposed guidelines for its integration into plans and activities aimed at reducing pollution from land based sources.

90. The document and the proposed guidelines were presented during a regional training course for the preparation of Sectoral Plans and National Action Plans in the framework of Strategic Action Plan (SAP), held in Izmit, Turkey, on 4-6 March 2004. In the presentation of the guidelines, it was emphasized that the involvement of the concerned stakeholders is a key factor in reaching consensus among all the parties concerned, which is essential if the stakeholders are to have a sense of ownership, increased trust in institutions and provide their input in an effective manner, as well as contributing decisively to the resolution of problems and the effective implementation of NAPs.

91. As a follow-up to the Izmit training course, a workshop on the integration of the participatory approach was organized in Catania, Italy, on 14-16 December 2004 as part of the implementation of the SAP.

I.F.3 Relations with the media

92. Over the biennium, MAP's increased efforts to develop its relations with Mediterranean media professionals have achieved positive results. For the first time, a good number of journalists from over a dozen Mediterranean countries were accredited to cover the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania, representing daily newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines, television and radio stations and national news agencies. Media professionals interviewed Ministers and delegates attending the Meeting, resulting in the publication of around 250 articles, and the production of several television and radio programmes. A folder of press cuttings illustrating this broad media coverage was prepared and disseminated to the Contracting Parties.

93. Two workshops for Mediterranean media professionals were held during the biennium. The first, on biodiversity in the Mediterranean, was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 11–13 March 2004, in collaboration with SPA/RAC, and was attended by 20 journalists representing major newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations in 13 Mediterranean countries. Participants were briefed on the state of the Mediterranean Sea, the main sources of pollution, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and the activities of MAP and its components. NGOs were also invited to attend the workshop, which was given broad coverage in the print media and on television and radio. A press folder of this coverage was prepared and disseminated.

94. A second workshop for Mediterranean media professionals, covering land-based and sea-based sources of pollution, was held in Malta on 7–9 April 2005 with the active support of the Maltese authorities. The Workshop was attended by 18 journalists representing newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations in many Mediterranean countries. The MAP Coordinator, staff members from MED POL and REMPEC and an expert on cleaner production made presentations. The workshop was also addressed by the Maltese Minister of Tourism and Culture (former Minister of Environment and former President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties).

95. To mark World Environment Day, which in 2005 was dedicated to oceans and seas, seven feature articles were prepared by MAP for dissemination to Mediterranean print and broadcast media, with a specific focus on Mediterranean issues.

I.F.4 MAP publications

96. Over the past two years, a total of 13 MAP Technical Reports (MTS) were published and distributed to interested parties. Four issues of *MedWaves* in Arabic, French and English have been published or are under preparation. Each issue of *MedWaves* contains insights on key subjects of interest to the Mediterranean, such as biodiversity, water, coastal management and pollution control, as well as regular contributions from MAP components and NGO Partners.

I.F.5 MAP's 30th anniversary

97. UNEP's *Our planet* magazine will feature a special issue on MAP on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. The issue is expected to include contributions by the UNEP Executive Director and important public figures who have been associated with MAP for many years.

98. A special issue of *MedWaves* was devoted entirely to the MAP's 30th anniversary. It features key MAP activities carried out since it was established as well as preparations for the MSSD, the new Protocol on ICZM and the Blue Plan's *Environment and Development Report*. It also presents the views of several NGOs on MAP activities.

99. A video presentation is being prepared on the occasion of the 14th CoP. The production of this video was discussed in Algeria in January this year with CoPeAM (Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators) and ERS/RAC. The video will be a joint production by different Mediterranean audiovisual operators, under the umbrella of CoPeAM, and will focus on images, sounds and music from the whole region.

100. Printed material bearing a logo commemorating MAP's 30th anniversary was widely disseminated during the course of MAP activities, including events targeted at the media and the general public. They include a 2005 diary, notebooks and notepads.

I.F.6 Library

101. The MAP Library continued to be an active centre for research and access to information. During the biennium, several enquiries were received from external users with an increase in the members of the public using the library. This indicates an awareness of the library facilities. There was also an increase in new information resources added to the collection.

102. New online services were implemented to provide staff with newly available information, including an online European Union information service, Oxford reference tools, and scientific online databases.

103. Over 200 MAP publications and documents were also sent out in response to requests for information, while nearly 1000 new documents, including meeting reports, were added to the library database, which is available on the MAP website.

104. The development of a network of Mediterranean libraries dealing with environmental issues is under consideration. Following a meeting of a Mediterranean interest group, over 30 positive responses have been received to join the network and discussions are being held over the next phase for the establishment of the network.

105. A major part of the library's work has been directed at the redevelopment of the Documents and E-Directory sections for the new English and French versions of the MAP web site, with work also progressing on the Arabic version. Work is ongoing on the Intranet, which will soon provide access to pre-session meeting documents for external users.

106. The MEDU internal Intranet system, which is used in the Athens office, was upgraded, providing easier access to MAP documents and online services for MEDU staff.

I.G. Financial, personnel and administrative matters

I.G.1 Financial matters

I.G.1.1 Remittance of contributions

107. The status of the Mediterranean Trust Fund as at July, 2005 stood as follows:

- total pledges of ordinary contributions for 2005 : € 6.617,844;
- total receipts during 2005 for 2005 : € 5,148,311 (77.79 % of 2005 pledges);
- total of unpaid pledges for 2004 and prior years € 742,991;
- total collections during 2005 for prior years: € 177,453 (23.88 % of prior years' outstanding pledges).

108. Details of payments and outstanding contributions are contained in **Annex III** to this report.

I.G.1.2 Additional Funds

109. Other in-cash voluntary contributions for specific activities, other than those given to the Regional Activity Centres, have been received as follows:

110. From Greece:

- €45,000 as cost-sharing to the organization of the 10th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, held in Athens 20-22 June 2005.

111. From Israel:

- €19,060 donated as support to the MAP activities.

112. From Italy:

- €50,000 for the overall evaluation process of UNEP/MAP;
- €145,000 for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, out of which €45,000 as cost-sharing to the organization of the "Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development" meeting, held in Rome 5-7 April 2005;
- €50,000 as cost-sharing to the organization of the 9th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, held in Genoa 17-19 June 2004;
- €65,000 to the preparation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (Egypt, Montenegro and Syria);
- €20,000 to assist the Italian government in the preparation of the MEDPOL National Action Plan and Baseline Budget;
- €49,215 for MEDPOL's Stocktaking Meeting for the Development of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem, held in Trieste on 11 –12 October 2004.

The total additional funds received from Italy amounted to €379,215.

113. From Monaco:

- €10,000 for National Strategies for Sustainable Development (Morocco)

114. In addition to the above, USD 20,000 were given from the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP in support of MAP for SPA/RAC and REMPEC activities.

I.G.2 Personnel matters

I.G.2.1 Coordinating Unit

115. Mr Paul Mifsud (Malta) was appointed MAP Coordinator with effect from 10 May 2004.

116. Following the reclassification of the post of MED POL Programme Officer from P.3 to P.4 level, the post was advertised and the incumbent, Mr. Fouad Abousamra (a Syrian national), was reappointed and promoted to P.4 level, with effect from 1st July 2004.

117. A temporary post of Security Assistant has been established to carry out security-related activities and respond to the reporting requirements of the UN Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) in New York. The post is being funded by UNEP for 12 months and will be reviewed towards the end of 2005.

118. In conformity with the decision of the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania regarding the recruitment of a Sustainable Development Officer at MEDU, the incumbent, Mr. Frederic Teboul, a French national, was appointed at the P.3 level as of 1 March 2005 for one year to assist the MCSD in its activities, and particularly in the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

119. A recruitment process to fill two secretarial positions with MED POL was launched in January 2005. One vacancy has been filled and the process to fill the other is ongoing.

120. On 30 April 2005, Mr Baher Kamal, Information Officer, and Ms Evangelia Zaimis, Administrative Clerk, both retired. The vacancy announcement for the post of Information Officer was advertised on the UNON "Galaxy" website on 1 April 2005, with a closing date of 31 May 2005. The vacancy announcement for the General Service post vacated by Mrs Zaïmis has not yet been issued.

I.G.2.2 REMPEC

121. Correspondence has been exchanged between the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and the International Maritime Organization regarding the appointment of the new Director of REMPEC to replace Adm. Roberto Patruno, who is due to retire at the end of the year. IMO have already issued a call for applications to fill the post. The Secretariat has also been invited to sit on the selection panel.

122. In the Professional category:

- Programme Officer Cdr. Elias Sampatakakis terminated his mandate on 2 March 2005. His replacement at the P.4 level is in progress.
- Mr. François Leotoing, a chemical engineer specialized in environmental sciences was seconded to REMPEC, between November 2003 and April 2004, by the French national oil company TOTAL under the French mechanism *Volontariat International Scientifique*.
- Ms. Cristina Farchi, a biologist, was seconded to REMPEC, between June 2004 and April 2005, by the ICRAM under an agreement with the project managers of the CLEOPATRA project on the satellite monitoring of oil pollution from ships.
- Ms. Lilia Khodjet El Khil worked at REMPEC until December 2004 as a Technical Officer within the framework of the EC-MEDA project on port reception facilities. Between January and June 2005, Ms. Khodjet El Khil was employed by REMPEC as Temporary Technical Officer under two short-term contracts for the follow-up of activities related to port reception facilities.

123. In the General Service category:

- a G.7 level post has been vacant since 28 February 2005.
- a G.4 level post, which has become vacant was filled by Mr Mario Bonello on 10 May 2005.
- Ms. Michaela Tabone resigned from her position as the Assistant to the Director in October 2004, and was subsequently replaced, between December 2004 and February 2005, by Mrs. Jacqueline England. The post of the Assistant to the Director is at present vacant.
- Ms. Ruth Mizzi, who was employed as bilingual secretary in September 2003, utilizing the voluntary contribution of the Italian Government, resigned in June 2005.
- Ms. Brigid Galea, who was employed by REMPEC as clerk/secretary on a temporary basis until June 2004 under the MEDA project on port reception facilities, was replaced by Ms. Maria Woodward (August–December 2004).

124. The additional Professional and General Service staff who were seconded to REMPEC, paid by voluntary contributions or from external sources of financing, contributed a great deal to the implementation of the activities that were carried out by the Centre between the two Meetings of Focal Points. Their contribution greatly assisted the permanent REMPEC staff to achieve results that could not otherwise have been accomplished.

I.G.2.3 PAP/RAC

125. In the General Service category, two posts were filled, one by Ms Nada Giljanovic and the other by Ms Lada Jakelic.

I.G.3 Administrative matters

I.G.3.1 Security in Greece

126. Although, according with United Nations criteria, Greece is not considered as a risk country in terms of security, at a time when the United Nations is facing new threats and its offices worldwide are being instructed to improve their level of security to safeguard buildings and staff, it was considered advisable to appoint a Security Assistant on a permanent basis.

127. Following mandatory instructions from UNSECOORD in New York to ensure that the UNEP/MEDU office in Athens is MOSS (Minimum Operating Security Standards) compliant, additional security measures have been put in place in order to ensure the safety of the staff and premises. These measures include: the installation and maintenance of additional security cameras and video surveillance, security guard and police presence, strict access control for staff and visitors using ID and proximity cards and the purchase of a satellite phone. As the lead United Nations agency in Greece, and following the appointment of the MAP Coordinator as the Designated Official for Security, the UNEP/MAP office has also been assisting the other United Nations Agencies in the country (UNHCR, UNIDO, WHO/MZCC, UNDESSA and IOM) to become MOSS compliant. A detailed security plan for all these offices has been established and approved by UNSECOORD. Regular reporting to UNSECOORD on the security situation within the country, the offices and staff working in all these offices is mandatory and ongoing process. A Security Management Team meets on an ad hoc basis under the presidency of the MAP Coordinator.

I.G.3.2 REMPEC

128. Following extensive discussions concerning the relocation of REMPEC, involving the Government of Malta, REMPEC and IMO, on 6 August 2004 the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially informed the Centre and IMO that the Government of Malta had approved the relocation of REMPEC's offices to the Maritime House, currently occupied by the Merchant Shipping Directorate of the Malta Maritime Authority (MMA). The relocation will take place once the Merchant Shipping Directorate moves to a new MMA one-stop-shop building.

129. Pending relocation, and with a view to improving the working conditions of REMPEC's staff, certain renovation work has been carried out on the building currently occupied by the Centre, the cost which has been entirely covered by the Government of Malta. The security of the Centre's premises, which used to be a matter of concern, has significantly improved since the private consortium that is responsible for the development of Manoel Island, where REMPEC's current premises are located, installed fences and a gate, which is permanently manned by security personnel.

130. With a view to recording and streamlining management procedures related to the administration of the Centre, the Marine Environment Division of IMO, in close liaison with

REMPEC, prepared in early 2004 a set of “Standing arrangements for the management of REMPEC – Malta”. In May 2004 the “Standing arrangements” were agreed upon and became effective. The new arrangements greatly facilitate the day-to-day contacts between REMPEC and IMO and the administration of REMPEC in general.

II. COMPONENTS

II.A. Pollution Prevention and Control

II.A.1 Prevention and control of pollution from land-based sources

Policy and coordination

131. During the biennium, a draft MED POL Phase IV Programme (2006-2013) was prepared, taking into account the results and recommendations of the evaluation of MED POL Phase III. After being reviewed by a small group of experts, the draft was submitted to the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators, held in Barcelona on 24-27 May 2005. After further reviewing the draft Programme, the National Coordinators recommended its transmission to the Meeting of MAP National Focal Points and subsequently to the Contracting Parties for adoption (doc UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 270.9). MED POL Phase III will continue to be implemented during the course of the next biennium, with the gradual adoption of elements of MED POL Phase IV. The operational details of the new programme will be prepared, tested and presented for approval in 2007.

132. One of the innovative aspects of the European Marine Strategy is the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities. This initiative, which has been taken up by MED POL in the draft of MED POL Phase IV, needs to be applied by MAP as a whole. Within the MAP system, MED POL could play a fundamental role in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the ecosystem approach. With this in mind, a document has been prepared outlining the principles of the ecosystem approach and proposing a step-by-step process to test its application in the region (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.20). In this connection, the European Commission, based on its positive experience of cooperation with MED POL in relation to the preparation of the Marine Strategy, is proposing to finance a project to be implemented by MED POL to assist in the gradual application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the region.

Cooperation

133. In addition to its long-standing cooperation with WHO in relation to the sanitary aspects of the SAP MED and the LBS Protocol, and compliance and enforcement, MED POL continued to collaborate with IAEA/MEL in the field of data quality assurance for chemical analyses through activities in the areas of training, inter-calibration, scientific visits, the purchase of instruments and advice on monitoring issues. Cooperation with UNESCO/IOC was maintained through its study group on benthic indicators and through the NEWS-Med project. ICS-UNIDO continued to be involved in relation to the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and in the preparation a pre-investment study in the context of the GEF Project.

134. Close contacts were maintained with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA). In particular, the GPA Office in the Hague made its substantial experience available in the framework of the preparation of NAPs. Cooperation with MedGOOS (Mediterranean Global Ocean Observing System) continued through an informal working group to discuss possible future joint activities. The Agreement with the Universities of Genoa and Alessandria (Italy) to ensure data quality assurance in relation to biological effects monitoring was also maintained through the organization of training and intercalibration exercises.

135. MED POL also continued to work closely with MAP's Regional Activity Centres (RACs). In addition to the work carried out by PAP/RAC on economic instruments in the framework of the GEF Project, MED POL also worked closely with the Blue Plan for the preparation of marine pollution indicators and the *Environment and development report*. MED

POL's relations with CP/RAC were strengthened in the context of the GEF Project, particularly in activities related to industrial pollution, and the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators was held in parallel with that of the CP/RAC Focal Points. As ERS/RAC is refocusing its activities on the promotion of information and communication, its collaboration with MED POL has intensified and a number of joint activities are being launched, including the preparation of an information system (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.21), the creation of a MED POL website and a research project on the integration of remote sensing techniques and in situ data.

II.A.1.1 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP MED)

National Action Plans (NAPs)

136. On the basis of the work plan for the implementation of the SAP MED, which has received substantial financial support from the GEF Project, Mediterranean countries are expected to have formulated their National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based activities and for them to be fully operational by the year 2005. During the biennium 2004-2005, MED POL has therefore made every effort and deployed all the resources available to assist national authorities to achieve this ambitious target.

137. For this purpose, a regional workshop and training course was held in March 2004 in Izmit, Turkey, to review and discuss the implementation in practice of the MED POL Guidelines for the preparation of NAPs (UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/3). The workshop was designed as a fully interactive process and highlighted how to make use of the National Diagnostic Analyses (NDAs) and the data and information contained in the National Baseline Budgets (NBBs) to formulate Sectoral Plans (SPs) and NAPs, including the major topics to be covered by the NAPs.

138. In addition, MED POL, with the assistance of GEF, contracted a regional expert to assist the Secretariat to follow up the process of the preparation of SPs and NAPs. With the assistance of GEF, a meeting was organized in Catania in December 2004 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.262/7) to review the progress achieved by countries in the preparation of SPs and NAPs and to further identify gaps and capacity-building needs. The meeting constituted a milestone in the process of the preparation of NAPs and an excellent opportunity for National Coordinators and experts to pinpoint difficulties and barriers and to propose solutions.

139. As a result of these efforts, as of June 2005 only two Mediterranean countries had not finalized their NDAs and NBBs, while all of the countries had successfully advanced the process of preparing SPs and NAPs.

140. In view of the importance of NAPs being fully harmonized and consistent with national development or any other plan for the reduction of pollution, the Secretariat is actively following up and monitoring the finalization of consistent and realistic SPs and NAPs based on a strict and continuous process of review. All of the drafts received are subject to exhaustive evaluations to ensure the consistency of the final outputs. The evaluations undertaken so far have shown a number of bottlenecks, including:

- SPs are often not consistent with NDAs and BBs (i.e. the reduction of emissions and releases of pollutants is often not related to the national BBs that have been prepared or SAP targets and deadlines);
- economic instruments have not been well prepared; and
- investment portfolios are omitted.

Transfer of technology

141. One of the pillars of the implementation of NAPs is integrated pollution control, with emphasis on cleaner production. While the technical aspects of this approach have already been addressed by MED POL and CP/RAC in the framework of the GEF Project, the issue of the acquisition of the necessary technology by national SAP stakeholders to achieve pollution reduction is critical. Pollution reduction technology is generally controlled by the private sector, but stakeholders in developing countries in most cases do not have adequate human, institutional, legal and financial resources to acquire such technology. There is therefore a need to develop policy and mechanisms to ensure the transfer of technology and know how, and consequently to facilitate the implementation of NAPs in Mediterranean countries.

142. During the 2004-2005 biennium, the MED POL Secretariat has prepared a document on this subject which could act as a guide for future initiatives in the region. The document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.18), which was reviewed by the MED POL National Coordinators at their meeting in May, presents options for mechanisms through which Mediterranean countries could facilitate the South-South and North-South transfer of technology and know how, as well as reviewing instruments of an institutional, legal and technical nature which are compatible with the proposed mechanisms.

Municipal sewage

143. In accordance with the recommendations made by the MED POL National Coordinators at their previous meeting in 2003, when they reviewed the regional *Guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal and wastewater use*, the following documents were prepared: *Environmental and health impacts of wastewater treatment plants*, *Natural wastewater treatment systems for the Mediterranean region*, *Cost aspects of wastewater treatment*, *Guidelines for sludge treatment, disposal and use*, *Environmental impacts of wastewater use practices*, *Guidelines on physical and chemical parameters for water reuse in irrigation and Guidance for wastewater use in irrigation* (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.264/Inf. 5 to Inf. 11). All these documents were reviewed at a consultation meeting convened by WHO/MED POL in Athens from 30 March to 1 April 2005 and were presented to the MED POL National Coordinators at their Meeting in May 2005.

144. The above documents, that support the preparation and mainly the implementation of the sectoral plans for municipal sewage, form the basis for the *Guidelines for treated wastewater use*, which were prepared by WHO/MED POL and were presented to the MED POL national Coordinators at their meeting in May (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.19).

145. An updated version of *Wastewater treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities* (MAP Technical Report Series No. 157) was prepared with the assistance of MED POL National Coordinators and national experts. The document provides in-depth information on sewage treatment plants in coastal cities with over 10,000 inhabitants and includes a comparison with the data published in the 2000 report.

Solid waste

146. Following the preparation during the previous biennium of the *Guidelines on coastal urban solid wastes management*, every effort was made during the 2004-2005 biennium to promote the dissemination and application of the Guidelines with a view to contributing to the achievement of SAP and NAP targets. MED POL presented a paper on the status of coastal solid waste management in relation to the marine environment in the region at the first METAP solid waste management regional workshop, held in Algeria in December 2004. Moreover, the *Guidelines* will be used as an input for a global policy instrument on coastal litter management to be prepared by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

147. As a means of furthering the application of the *Guidelines* in the region, MED POL, in cooperation with RAMOGE, has launched a pilot project for coastal litter management in Lebanon in the metropolitan area of Tripoli. The project is being implemented by UNADEP under the supervision of the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and the MED POL National Coordinator. A meeting of stakeholders was organized to launch the project and two experts have been contracted by MEDPOL to assist in the implementation of the pilot project. Brochures and a kit for school children have been prepared. RAMOGE, in cooperation with the University of Balamand in Tripoli, is currently developing a GIS system for the quantification and characterization of coastal litter lying on the seabed.

Air pollution

148. With regard to estimated releases of pollutants into the atmosphere, the data and information submitted by countries through the preparation of Baseline Budgets of emissions show that, in addition to mobile sources, most releases of pollutants into the atmosphere are generated by the energy sector and energy production plants associated with industrial processes. The development and implementation of initiatives in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy could therefore play a major role in the reduction and control of pollution in the framework of the SAP MED. In this connection, MED POL, in cooperation with the UNEP GPA Office and the Italian Government, reviewed this issue and presented to the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators a tentative list of issues in this field that could be addressed by MED POL during the next biennium in cooperation with appropriate partners. The MED POL National Coordinators reviewed the proposal and agreed that it should be transmitted to the MAP National Focal Points for consideration.

Industrial pollution

149. During the biennium, MED POL established a *database on industrial pollution* classified by administrative region, sector, sub-sector and process. The database also includes information on wastewater treatment plants.

150. In view of the decision by the Contracting Parties to consider sea water desalination as an industrial activity falling under the provisions of the LBS Protocol, MED POL has disseminated the information available on the environmental risks associated with desalination and on good management practices. MED POL staff also participated in the international symposium on sea water desalination organized by the European Desalination Society in Marrakech in May 2004.

151. Special attention was also paid during the biennium to substances that are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate (TPBs), and particularly to the twelve priority POPs. Considering the proposed targets for POPs included in the SAP MED, a document was prepared on substitutes to be used as alternatives to POPs, as well as guidelines on the subject (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.13).

Monitoring

152. Three new national monitoring programmes have been signed, with the Syrian Arab Republic (December 2003), Morocco (July 2004) and Algeria (November 2004), respectively, bringing to 11 the total number of countries with finalized and current monitoring agreements with MED POL (Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey). The monitoring agreements with Greece and Slovenia were also revised in 2004. In 2005, it is planned to revise the agreements with Croatia, Cyprus, Israel and Tunisia and negotiations have already commenced for this purpose.

153. Financial assistance was provided to all participating countries and two instruments, an atomic absorption spectrophotometer (AAS-GF) and a microwave digestion system, were provided to Albania and Tunisia, respectively, in 2004.

154. Efforts were made by the Secretariat to involve additional countries in monitoring activities. Negotiations with Egypt, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Malta were positive. However, despite clear expressions of interest during contacts and visits, a number of countries have not yet formulated any programmes. This lack of participation leaves a very large gap in the coverage of MED POL's monitoring component and seriously undermines its credibility. It also represents a major impediment for the proper implementation of the SAP MED, particularly in terms of evaluating the effectiveness of the measures taken to reduce pollution.

155. The first evaluation of MED POL Phase III data was carried out during the second review meeting of monitoring activities, held in December 2003 (UNEP(DEC)/MED 243/3). The third review meeting is planned for December 2005.

156. Following the approval of the new eutrophication monitoring strategy in 2003 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/14), Government-designated experts identified a number of hot spots and sensitive areas related to eutrophication in coastal waters (UNEP(DEC)/MED 243/4). Based on this information, the Secretariat started negotiating with a number of countries in 2004-2005 for the extension of their programmes to include eutrophication. As a result, specific programmes for the monitoring of eutrophication were initiated in Cyprus, Morocco, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey.

157. As recommended by the second review meeting (UNEP(DEC)/MED 243/4), an expert meeting was organized in Athens on 14-15 April 2005 to revise the MED POL sediment monitoring strategies of status and trends in relation to hot spots and coastal waters. Mediterranean experts, with an expert from OSPAR, revised the current strategies and advised MED POL on certain issues. The report of the meeting (UNEP(DEC)/MED 273/4) makes recommendations on how to achieve a reliable sediment monitoring programme.

158. In the case of the monitoring of pollutant loads from point and non-point sources, efforts were made to include as many discharge points and river inputs as possible. However, problems were encountered in the transmission of data and the initiative was only moderately effective.

159. With regard to compliance monitoring activities, countries were asked to complete their compliance reports specifically for bathing waters and effluents. However, responses were only received from a very limited number of countries.

160. A consultation meeting on criteria and standards for health-related monitoring of coastal recreational waters was held in Athens in December 2003. The objectives of the meeting were to review WHO's *Guidelines for safe recreational water environments* and the preliminary elements of the draft EC Directive for Bathing Waters, and to develop and formulate appropriate recommendations on Mediterranean quality criteria and standards for monitoring coastal bathing waters. In addition, a pilot study to identify the physical and chemical characteristics of bathing waters was launched in five countries which had expressed an interest in participating in the exercise.

161. After the finalization of the MED POL database and its web version (<http://195.97.36.231/medpol/>), all the available information for the period 1999-2003 was loaded onto the database and a data verification/validation procedure was established in cooperation with the data owners. A considerable number of data records were verified and all the data flagged. Moreover, in accordance with the agreement between MED POL and

the European Environment Agency (EEA) in 2003-2004, the available data was exchanged between the two bodies.

162. With regard to research and assistance on emerging issues, partial support was provided by MED POL in 2003 and 2004 for a joint research project on invading bio-indicators in the Mediterranean. The project involves institutes from Greece, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia. Another research activity, which was finalized in 2004, was carried out by Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research (OLR) on the atmospheric inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus in connection with dust events in the eastern Mediterranean. MED POL also contributed to the work of UNESCO-IOC NEWS for the Mediterranean component of the estimation of diffuse inputs of nutrients from the watersheds of the globe. MED POL also planned to initiate a study to test the TRIX index (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/14) in areas other than the northern Adriatic (where the index has been tested with data for several decades). For that purpose, a proposal was made in 2005 to the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (Greece) to use its national database to test the TRIX index. Research on biological effects was also carried out in 2005 by UoTA (Israel).

163. With regard to EU projects covering the Mediterranean, MED POL participated actively in the Mediterranean network to Assess and upgrade Monitoring and forecasting Activity (MAMA) project, which was completed in 2005. MED POL has now also become a partner in the International Action for Sustainability of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Environment (IASON) project, which will continue until June 2006.

Capacity building

164. During the current biennium, financial support has been provided to a number of researchers and young scientists to enable them to attend international conferences, workshops, and training programmes. Priority has been given to candidates with qualifications that are relevant to MED POL's activities, and those needing training on advanced techniques for the improved implementation of MED POL programmes. Training courses have been held in the following areas:

- quantification of releases from rivers in the Mediterranean;
- the measurement of chlorinated pesticides and PCBs in marine samples;
- analysis of metals in marine samples;
- quality assurance for eutrophication monitoring;
- biological effects studies;
- environmental inspection systems;
- water reclamation and use in the Mediterranean.

165. In the framework of the implementation of monitoring programmes, IAEA's Marine Environment Laboratory in Monaco (IAEA-MEL) continued to assist MAP in the implementation of a comprehensive data quality assurance programme based on the holding of training courses and the improvement of the comparability of data through intercalibration exercises involving laboratories in the countries in the region. Two training courses were held in Monaco, one on the measurement of chlorinated pesticides and PCBs in marine samples (5-21 July 2004) and the other on the analysis of metals in marine samples (27 September to 8 October 2004).

166. The expertise of IAEA-MEL has also been called upon to assist MED POL in a number of ways during the current biennium, including the compilation of a reference method for the analyses of nutrients in seawater and for quality assurance missions.

Public participation

167. The Guidelines prepared by MED POL for the formulation of NAPs are based on a bottom up approach that promotes the full involvement and participation of all the stakeholders in the implementation of the SAP MED. On this basis, the public, civil society (including NGOs), the private sector and the other stakeholders have been mobilized in all Mediterranean countries in the process of reviewing the NDAs, BBs, SPs and NAPs at the local and national levels. The national meetings of stakeholders that have been organized in many countries with the assistance of GEF with a view to achieving consensus on all the above documents have been based on the document containing guidelines for public participation in the framework of the SAP MED and NAPs (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/7). This process is considered to be an indispensable step for the future implementation of the NAPs and will continue to be promoted and supported by MED POL throughout the long-term implementation of the SAP MED.

Reporting

168. Reporting on the application of the SAP MED has not yet been included in the MAP reporting system covering the Convention and its Protocols in view of the complexity and the obvious differences in the nature of the programme. Considering that the SAP MED should eventually be included in the overall reporting system, in 2003 the Contracting Parties adopted a document prepared by MED POL entitled *Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean region* (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/16). To improve the prospects for the success of the SAP MED reporting system, MED POL has organized a pilot exercise that is currently being tested in Croatia, Greece, Israel and Turkey. A final reporting system will be prepared and will be ready for incorporation into the overall MAP reporting system, if so decided by the Contracting Parties.

169. As a follow up to the implementation of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), in the context of a pilot project in Egypt, carried out in cooperation with and with the financial support of ICS/UNIDO, a PRTR unit in Alexandria has continued the collection of data from six industrial partners according to agreed formats. A request to extend the coverage of the PRTR system to additional small and medium-sized enterprises in the Alexandria district is under consideration and external funds are being sought. In September 2004, also in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO, MED POL launched a PRTR pilot project in the coastal area of the Syrian Arab Republic. Seven industrial sites are participating in the pilot project, which is expected to be completed in November 2005. Moreover, a third Mediterranean PRTR pilot project has been negotiated and agreed with the national authorities of Turkey. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has also recently expressed interest in the launching of a PRTR pilot project during the biennium 2006-2007.

170. As requested by the MED POL National Coordinators at their meeting in Venice in 2001, the Secretariat has developed a concept paper for Marine Pollution Indicators (MRIs) as a tool for national reporting on the effectiveness of the implementation of Dumping, Hazardous Wastes and LBS Protocols and the SAP MED. The paper (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/17) proposes the application of the DPSIR (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impacts, Responses) framework for reporting on environmental issues. As a follow up to this activity, with the assistance of regional experts, MED POL developed fact sheets (FSs) for core sets of indicators on the basis of the data and information available at the Secretariat and in Mediterranean countries. The fact sheets were reviewed by a meeting of experts held on 4-5 April 2005 (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.14).

The GEF Project

171. The GEF Project is in its final stage of implementation and will be closed by 31 October 2005. During the past biennium, project activities have focused mainly on two important areas: assistance to countries for the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) to address marine pollution from land-based activities and sources, and the preparation of pre-investment studies for selected pollution hot spots. Activities on the development of economic instruments for the sustainability of the SAP MED are also nearing completion.

172. The GEF Project has contributed substantially to the preparation of NAPs by financing most of the related activities in the twelve GEF-eligible countries and by assisting MED POL in the coordination of the overall activities. The preparation of the NAPs, which consists of several steps, involves various stakeholders in a sensitive political process. As a result, its completion has taken longer than planned. In accordance with the last project revision, the deadline was 31 December 2004 for completing the preparation of Sectoral Plans (SPs) and 31 March 2005 for the NAPs.

173. The first step of the process, the preparation of NDAs and BBs, was successfully completed in all countries during the previous biennium. The second and third steps, the preparation of SPs and NAPs, were initiated at the beginning of 2004. In support of the process, a wide-ranging training course was added to the initial programme and held on 4-7 March 2004 in Izmit, Turkey, where all the experts hired and the GEF National Coordinators were invited to review the technical, financial, political and organizational aspects of the preparation of SPs and NAPs.

174. With a view to assisting activities at the country level, a regional expert was hired to help the national experts and evaluate their outputs. So far, the expert has visited five countries. The countries were offered financial support for the organization of meetings of stakeholders. So far, nine countries have received support for this purpose.

175. The process of preparing pre-investment studies was initiated in mid-2002. However, the progress achieved in all the countries in this respect was much slower than planned for reasons specific to each country. ICS/UNIDO provided direct support for the preparation of a pre-investment study in Croatia, which was completed in September 2003. FFEM, as the main partner for this activity, has decided to provide direct support for the preparation of pre-investment studies in four countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia), applying the same procedure as in other countries and with technical assistance from MAP. So far, such support has been provided to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

176. A donor meeting is planned for the first week of October 2005, when at least seven out of ten planned pre-investment studies will have been finalized and will be presented to potential partners/donors. In addition, it is planned to hold a regional forum for civil society and the private sector before the end of 2005 to provide information on and stimulate participation in the process of preparing and implementing the NAPs.

177. With regard to capacity building during the biennium 2004-2005, fifteen training courses were organized, as planned. The materials for the training courses, which were originally prepared in English, were translated into Albanian, Arabic, Croatian, French and Turkish to allow the preparation of subregional/national training courses in the various countries. An additional training course on river monitoring in Albania was added to the four courses originally planned so as to ensure that training on this subject has been provided to all GEF-eligible countries with large rivers.

178. The updated trans-boundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) report, which was finalized as part of the GEF Project, has been produced on CD-ROM and widely distributed. In addition, it will be made available on the MAP Web Site and is being edited for publication.

II.A.1.2 Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

179. Under the provisions of the 1976 Dumping Protocol, national authorities are required to keep records of dumping activities by issuing permits and informing the Secretariat accordingly. However, as has been reported on several occasions since the entry into force of the Protocol, few countries have reported regularly to the Secretariat on the permits issued. In this context, and in view of the expected entry into force of the revised Dumping Protocol, the Secretariat prepared an assessment of dumping activities for the period of 1995-2001 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.4), based on the information provided by countries and on information available from other organizations, such as the Secretariat to the London Dumping Convention.

180. In accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, the Secretariat has prepared draft *Guidelines for the dumping of inert uncontaminated geological materials*, based on similar guidelines that are being developed within the framework of the London Dumping Convention and on the work of Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP). The draft guidelines, which were reviewed by the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators in May 2005, are submitted to the present Meeting as document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 270/11).

181. As recommended by the Contracting Parties in 2003, MED POL has also prepared *Guidelines for the placement at sea of matters for purposes other than mere disposal (construction of artificial reefs)* as an important contribution to the environmentally sound management of a practice that is widely diffused in the region. The draft guidelines, which were reviewed by the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators in May 2005, are submitted to the present Meeting as document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 270/10).

182. To assist in planning its future activities to help countries improve their management of dumping activities, MED POL, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the London Convention and the authorities of Cyprus, organized a regional workshop in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 15-16 February 2005. The workshop reviewed dumping activities in Mediterranean countries, including the implementation of the dumping guidelines. It also informed the national representatives of the situation with regard to the management of different types of materials referred to in Article 4 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and identified national needs for assistance and support.

II.A.1.3 Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

183. During the biennium 2002-2003, MED POL and CP/RAC formulated regional plans for the management of hazardous wastes, for the reduction by 20 per cent of hazardous wastes generated by industrial activities and for the management of PCBs and nine pesticides, including an inventory. While it is assumed that these regional plans will play a major role in the national processes for the reduction of pollution in the context of the NAPs, the information contained in the inventory is being updated on the basis of the information provided for the recently prepared national reports (BBs, NDAs and SPs).

184. In addition, MED POL has strengthened cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and has launched a pilot project to establish national inventories of lubricating oils and assess their impacts. The project, which is coordinated jointly with the Regional Office of the Basel Convention in Bratislava, Slovakia, and the national authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is expected to constitute a model to be followed in future by other Mediterranean countries. The project is expected to be finalized in March 2006 and its outputs disseminated widely throughout the region.

II.A.2 Marine pollution prevention and control (REMPEC)

185. During the period under review, a considerable number of activities have been implemented, financed both through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and by various external sources. These have included an EC-funded MEDA project on port reception facilities. A project for the preparation of a sub-regional contingency plan for the South-Western Mediterranean, covering Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and the training of response personnel from Arabic-speaking Mediterranean countries, was financed by IMO through its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP).

186. These projects contributed to the general goals of further promoting regional cooperation for prevention of pollution from ships and increasing the level of preparedness to respond to accidental marine pollution in the region. The additional personnel assigned to work with REMPEC, thanks to the voluntary contributions of certain Contracting Parties, contributed towards the success of these projects.

II.A.2.1 Development of national and sub-regional response systems

187. During the biennium 2004-2005, REMPEC provided assistance to the competent authorities of Algeria, Croatia, Italy, Morocco, Slovenia and Tunisia for the development of preparedness and response systems, and particularly for the preparation and adoption of sub-regional contingency plans and agreements for the implementation of these systems.

188. Following a request by the Algerian National Focal Point, REMPEC organized a mission by an external consultant to audit the Algerian national TELBAHR system for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution. The consultant also took part in the national seminar organized by the Algerian authorities to coincide with the mission. The consultant's report, including detailed recommendations for the completion and improvement of the national system, was submitted to the Algerian National Focal Point at the beginning of 2005.

Sub-regional operational agreement for the South-Western Mediterranean

189. The preparation of the sub-regional system for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution in the South-Western Mediterranean, comprising Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, was finalized in 2004 and the trilateral agreement for its implementation was signed in Algiers on 20 June 2005. Financial support for this challenging activity was provided by the Technical Cooperation Division of IMO, supplemented by REMPEC's own resources. Algeria coordinated the editing of the Arabic texts provided by REMPEC, and is depositary of the Agreement.

190. With a view to strengthening cooperation between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia within the framework of the subregional contingency plan, REMPEC financed the participation of two Tunisian representatives in the SIMULEX 2004 exercise organized by the Moroccan authorities in June 2004.

Subregional operational agreement for the Adriatic

191. The development of a subregional contingency plan for the Adriatic Sea, involving Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, and the agreement for its implementation, have been completed. The agreement on the implementation of the subregional contingency plan is due to be signed during the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2005.

192. The representatives of Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Albania, have indicated that they would also like to join the subregional system for the Adriatic. Following a proposal prepared by REMPEC, it has been agreed that as soon as these two countries have

developed their national preparedness and response systems, the preparation of a similar subregional system for the southern part of the Adriatic, with the possible participation of Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy and Serbia and Montenegro, will be considered.

Sensitivity mapping in the Mediterranean region

193. Following an initiative by the Government of Monaco within the framework of the RAMOGE Agreement, concerning the use of electronic navigational charts in spill response operations, and in view of the experience and positive results of REMPEC activities related to sensitivity mapping in Slovenia and the Syrian Arab Republic, the Centre convened a meeting of an ad hoc working group of experts on sensitivity mapping on 8-9 March 2004. The overall goal of the meeting was to examine the use of electronic navigational charts (ENC), and cartographic aids in general, as tools for planning, directing and controlling marine pollution response operations. A proposal on sensitivity mapping made by the meeting (REMPEC/WG.22/1) was submitted to the REMPEC National Focal Points for consideration and endorsement. Although replies and comments have only been received from a few countries in the region, these have all been favorable.

II.A.2.2 Capacity building, including training

194. Over 200 participants from the Contracting Parties participated in courses and similar activities organized by REMPEC during the period under review. In addition to strengthening the capacities of national administrations, these activities enabled countries to plan future actions, particularly in relation to the Regional Strategy.

195. Two national training courses were organized in Turkey in 2004. One addressed the use of simplified methodology for risk assessment and emergency response in cases of accidents involving hazardous and noxious substances in the port areas of Mersin and Iskenderun, and the other dealt with Annex I to MARPOL for ship inspectors. A National Training Course on MARPOL Annex I for marine pollution inspectors and Port State inspectors will be organized in Haifa on 4-6 July 2005 in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Israel. Following the agreement reached with the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), REMPEC organized a subregional training course on accidental marine pollution preparedness and response in Alexandria, Egypt, on 3-7 July 2005. Funds for this course, aimed at trainees from the Arabic-speaking Mediterranean countries and delivered in Arabic language, have been provided by the IMO Technical Cooperation Division.

196. During the biennium, REMPEC organized communication and alert exercises aimed at testing the regional preparedness and response system. The communication exercise (Sophisticated Test), prepared within the framework of the European Chemical Industry's Responsible Care Programme ICE and organized jointly with the Spanish Civil Protection Unit in Madrid, was held in May 2004. A regional alert exercise MEDIPOLEX 2004 was organized in December 2004 in close collaboration with the national authorities of Cyprus. All Contracting Parties participated in the exercise, together with the two national meteorological services designated by WMO as Area Meteorological Coordinators. REMPEC also took part in alert and communication exercises organized by the national authorities of Algeria, Israel and Morocco, and attended a full-scale spill response exercise organized by Spain in May 2005.

197. A number of LIFE Third Country projects implemented so far by REMPEC (Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Syria) also contributed significantly to capacity building at both the national and subregional levels, not only in the countries directly benefiting from these projects, but also in other parts of the region with similar needs. In the context of these activities, the Syrian Arab Republic established in 2004 a National Marine Pollution Response Centre in Baniyas, and acquired emergency response equipment for it.

II.A.2.3 Cooperation and mutual assistance in case of emergency

198. Between December 2003 and the end of May 2005, several marine pollution accidents occurred in the Mediterranean region which called for response at the local or national levels. However, none of these necessitated the activation of the regional system for mutual assistance in case of emergency. On the other hand, the national authorities of coastal States affected by such accidents consulted REMPEC regarding response options or requested advice and other information required to organize and conduct spill response operations. On several occasions, REMPEC transmitted to its National Focal Points information concerning pollution events that were affecting or were likely to affect more than a single country. When so requested, the Centre also facilitated the exchange of information between the national authorities of various countries in cases where direct communication was not possible.

199. There were no requests for the activation of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) during the period under consideration. However, the Centre continued to extend the range of expertise available through the services of the Unit. In June 2004, REMPEC and the Italian National Federation of the Chemical Industry (FEDERCHIMICA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the participation in MAU of experts from nine companies affiliated to the Federation, thereby enabling MAU to offer expert advice in case of accidents involving a much wider range of hazardous and noxious substances. The Memorandum of Understanding for the participation in the MAU of the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (CEDRE) was extended for another two years in October 2004.

II.A.2.4 Assistance in the field of prevention of pollution from ships

Port reception facilities

200. Since 2002, REMPEC has been implementing the EC-funded MEDA project for port reception facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily wastes in the Mediterranean coastal States participating in the Euro-Med Partnership, namely Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey. With a view to extending participation in similar activities to coastal States that are not Euro-Med partners, REMPEC utilized funds from its MTF allocation, together with additional funds from the IMO Technical Cooperation Division, enabling the Centre to carry out the same type of activities in Albania, Croatia, GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Slovenia. In addition, IMO provided funds for the inclusion of Jordan in MEDA project activities.

201. The first phase of the project, which included the assessment of capacities for the collection and treatment of solid and liquid wastes from ships (garbage, bilge waters, oily wastes, oily ballast waters), was completed by the end of 2003. Similar activities were carried out in Albania, Croatia and Slovenia during the second half of 2003. Financed by the IMO Technical Cooperation Division, a mission for the assessment of needs regarding port reception facilities in the port of Aqaba, Jordan, took place in November 2003. Finally, the report on the capacities and needs of certain ports in GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was submitted in August 2004.

202. The second phase of the MEDA project comprised the preparation by consultants of a study on the optimum solutions for the collection, treatment and disposal of the relevant types of solid and liquid ship-generated wastes. The study concerning the ten MEDA countries was completed in April 2004, and an equivalent study covering Albania, Croatia and Slovenia in May 2004.

203. The third phase of the MEDA project involved the preparation of a study on standard designs for oily wastes reception, treatment, storage and dewatering facilities; and for garbage collection, treatment and disposal facilities. The studies were finalized and submitted to the national authorities of all Mediterranean coastal States in November 2004.

204. The MEDA project and its related projects was completed with the holding of a regional seminar on port reception facilities in the Mediterranean. The seminar endorsed the results of the projects and outlined further actions for their implementation at the national, bilateral, multilateral and regional levels.

Prosecution of offenders of illegal oil discharges: The CLEANMED project proposal

205. With a view to addressing the problem of operational oil pollution, or illicit discharges of oil and oily residues from ships into the Mediterranean Sea, REMPEC formulated in 2003 and further developed in 2004 a project which aims to improve the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (the MARPOL Convention) and of the new International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments. The project, known as CLEANMED, is a comprehensive exercise for the prosecution of offenders responsible for illegal oil discharges in the Mediterranean region. Taking into consideration the gaps identified in the fields of the detection of operational oil pollution and the prosecution of offenders in the Mediterranean, the project focuses on three main issues: improvement of the legislative framework; the reinforcement of human resources; and aerial surveillance and remote sensing in the Mediterranean.

206. The CLEANMED project has been formulated within the legal framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol. It addresses the commitments agreed to by the Contracting Parties in the "Catania Declaration", and is compatible with the Regional Strategy. Its expected result is the establishment in the Mediterranean of a regional operational network and a dedicated database, together with bilateral and/or subregional agreements for cooperation in the field of the prevention of operational pollution through the surveillance of illicit discharges, the sharing of evidence and the prosecution of offenders.

207. In view of the complexity of the proposed project and its related costs, several financing mechanisms have been explored to fund its various components. These include GEF, EC financial instruments and possible partnerships between REMPEC and individual countries and/or organizations. Several of these have already expressed their intention of participating as partners in the project, while other coastal States have expressed support for the project.

208. A regional workshop on prevention and control of operational pollution in the Mediterranean region (Ancona, Italy, 3-5 November 2004) was organized by REMPEC, with the financial and logistical support of Italian regional and local authorities. Its main objectives were to increase the awareness of Mediterranean countries concerning the problem of operational pollution from ships, inform them of ongoing activities in other regional seas and within the EU, provide inputs for the completion of REMPEC's CLEANMED project proposal and start enforcing specific recommendations of the Contracting Parties, as well as of the relevant provisions of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the Catania Declaration. Over 90 participants from all the Contracting Parties attended the workshop and actively participated in the deliberations of the three working groups, which provided important inputs for the completion and improvement of the CLEANMED. Two side events organized as part of the workshop by the Italian regional and local authorities specifically addressed issues related to the sustainable development of the Adriatic region in a wider Mediterranean context.

AESOP pilot project

209. With a view to launching activities in the field of surveillance and detection of illicit pollution of the sea by ships in the Mediterranean region, at the beginning of 2005 REMPEC prepared a project proposal under the name of AESOP (Aerial and Satellite surveillance of Operational Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea: a comparative analysis). It was conceived as a short-term pilot project and as a preliminary activity for the CLEANMED project, corresponding to a specific objective of the proposed Regional Strategy. AESOP is based on the experience gained by REMPEC through its involvement in various European projects (RAMSES, GAIANET, VASCO and CLEOPATRA) and studies carried out by the European Commission Directorate General Joint Research Centre (DG JRC). The Adriatic Sea was selected for this initial exercise because of its oceanographic and ecological characteristics and its relatively high density of maritime traffic, also taking into consideration the existence of the different forms of cooperation already in place within the basin, which should facilitate project implementation (the subregional contingency plan covering Italy, Croatia and Slovenia, the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and the DAMAC project). ERS/RAC, the Italian Ministry of Environment, the Italian Coast Guard, the Italian Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM), and DG JRC have agreed to be partners in the implementation of AESOP.

210. AESOP is intended to define the possibility of introducing in the Mediterranean region a service to detect oil pollution and monitor the main shipping routes by means of remote sensing from satellites, supplemented by aircraft surveillance. The principal objectives of the project are the assessment of the current reliability of the system and its capacity to provide a near-real-time (NRT) service. In order to achieve these objectives, the project envisages the simultaneous detection of oil slicks by satellites and dedicated aircraft over the same areas and, if the reliability of satellite detection systems is proven, a NRT campaign for the detection of offenders. The first phase of the project is expected to start in the summer of 2005.

Development and application of earth observation (EO) techniques in the field of marine pollution from sea-based sources

211. Following the involvement of REMPEC in 2003 in the validation and evaluation phase of the EC-funded VASCO project on oil spill monitoring by means of remote sensing satellites, the Centre has been involved since the beginning of 2004 in the implementation of the EC-financed CLEOPATRA project. The objective of this project was to achieve an integrated chain, covering research on input data, modeling and output interface, which is able to feed an advanced service in support of the prevention, mitigation and assessment of oil pollution (and its possible extension to other pollutants). The participation of REMPEC in the CLEOPATRA project has been made possible through a contract signed with the Italian Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM), which has seconded one of its researchers to REMPEC under the contract.

Implementation of marine pollution prevention policies

212. Several activities that REMPEC had to carry out during the 2004-2005 biennium were included in a major project proposal for Euro Med cooperation on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships, named SAFEMED, which was submitted for approval and financing to the EC Directorate General for Energy and Transport in October 2004. The project is expected to be implemented by REMPEC during the period 2005-2008. When the project proposal was prepared, particular attention was paid to its compatibility with the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Pollution from Ships in the Mediterranean. The finalization and signing by the EC and IMO, on behalf of REMPEC, of the agreement for the implementation of the project is still pending.

II.A.2.5 Extension of REMPEC correspondents to the national authorities responsible for maritime affairs

213. In accordance with the recommendation by the Contracting Parties in Catania, REMPEC invited its National Focal Points in February 2004 to nominate Focal Points dealing specifically with the prevention of pollution from ships, emphasizing that they should be from national authorities responsible for maritime affairs. By mid-2004, 20 Contracting Parties had duly nominated "Prevention Focal Points", who started attending REMPEC meetings and other activities related to the prevention of pollution from ships on a regular basis. The remaining two Contracting Parties are expected to comply with the request before the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2005.

II.A.2.6 Preparation of the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships

214. In line with the recommendation of the Contracting Parties, as expressed in the Catania Declaration, the preparation of the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, to be proposed for adoption at the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, was one of the main activities of the Centre over the biennium.

215. On the basis of the priority issues identified in the Catania Declaration and the comments received from the Contracting Parties, and taking into consideration new developments at the global and regional levels, as well as within the European Union, the Centre prepared a revised second draft Regional Strategy and disseminated it in May 2004 to its Focal Points, IMO, UNEP/MAP and other partners.

216. A first meeting of national experts was held on 8-10 July 2004 in Castelgandolfo (Rome), Italy, to examine the draft Strategy. Based on the comments made by the meeting, a revised draft text was produced and circulated in October 2004 to the Contracting Parties and to other relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations for consideration and further comments.

217. Following this process, a consolidated text was reviewed by a second meeting of national experts, held in Malta on 21-23 April 2005, immediately prior to the 7th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points. In addition, in accordance with the request of the first meeting of national experts, a consultant was engaged at the beginning of 2005 to prepare an assessment of the cost of the implementation of the proposed Regional Strategy.

218. In April 2005, the second meeting of national experts agreed upon, and the 7th Meeting of Focal Points subsequently examined and endorsed, the final draft Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (doc. UNEP(DEC)MED WG.270/12).

II.A.2.7 Prevention of marine pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea

219. In accordance with the recommendation made by the Contracting Parties in Catania, and in collaboration with other interested parties, REMPEC undertook preliminary work for the preparation of a draft regional legal instrument on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea. Monaco hosted a meeting of national experts on the feasibility of a legal regional instrument on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean on 8-10 December 2004, which agreed on a draft resolution to be proposed for adoption by the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The 7th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points endorsed the proposed draft resolution, as well as a set of principles for the development of specific guidelines on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities (doc. UNEP(DEC)MED WG.270/13).

II.A.2.8 Dissemination of information

220. The English version of the REMPEC website was completely revised and restructured by the end of 2003. The French version was launched in early 2005. In addition to information on the Centre's activities, the website now features individual "country pages", which can be regularly updated by the Focal Points. REMPEC has also reviewed several sections of the Regional Information System and made them available to the competent national authorities.

221. Following an agreement between REMPEC and the Helsinki Commission, information included in HELCOM Manual on Chemical Pollution was integrated into the MIDSIS-TROC (Mediterranean Integrated Decisions Support Information System-Transport oriented Database on Chemical Substances) in order to activate the decision making process in cases of emergency. REMPEC also distributed to its Focal Points several documents issued by other organizations or institutions, which were considered to be of interest to the national authorities of Mediterranean coastal States.

II.A.3 Cleaner production (CP/RAC)

222. During the biennium, the Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC) continued to cooperate with MED POL in the context of the implementation of the components of the SAP MED related to the prevention and control of industrial pollution. The main activities carried out by the CP/RAC included the dissemination of information and publications; the preparation of studies on cleaner technologies and the prevention of pollution; and capacity building.

Publications

223. During the period covered by the report, four issues of the CP Newsletter were produced in English, French and Spanish containing information on activities carried out in the region in the field of cleaner production. In addition, 12 Med Clean case studies have been prepared covering Mediterranean companies which have identified and introduced pollution prevention initiatives. CP/RAC produced in 2004 the fourth edition of its annual technical publication, entitled *Mediterranean enterprises and sustainability*, containing articles on the prevention and handling of waste, the implementation in practice of pollution prevention initiatives and the transfer of technology.

224. The CP/RAC website was updated. The CVs of Mediterranean experts in pollution prevention have been compiled and a database on cleaner technology is being prepared.

225. A series of brochures, manuals and studies on various aspects of cleaner technology and pollution prevention have continued to be published or are under preparation covering the following subjects:

- Good environmental practices in logistical services.
- How to introduce best available techniques (BATs), best environmental practices (BEPs) and cleaner technologies (CTs) in Mediterranean industries.
- Pollution prevention in the paper sector.
- Pollution prevention in the metal sector.
- Pollution prevention in the printing and allied industries.
- Module for the introduction of pollution prevention in university curricula.
- Manual of good environmental practices in the logistics sector.
- State of cleaner production in the Mediterranean countries (second edition).
- Organization of the industrial sectors and business in the Mediterranean region.

Seminars, workshops and training activities

226. Many of CP/RAC's activities involve the promotion of cleaner production practices and techniques through the organization of training activities. In this context, the following workshops were organized during the biennium:

- Five training courses for engineers, consulting firms and experts on the Minimization Opportunities Environmental Diagnosis (MOED) methodology: one in Zaragoza on 27-28 May 2004; two in Catalonia on 14-15 July 2004 for the Catalan Federation of Labour Companies (FESALC) and 8 September for the Catalan Association of Industrial Engineers; one in Galicia on 21 September 2004; and another in Vilanova i la Geltrú, Catalonia, on 12-14 April 2005.
- An advanced seminar on pollution prevention in the tanning industry, held in Barcelona on 4-8 October 2004, with the support of the Azahar cooperation programme (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation) and the Catalan Agency on Cooperation for Development (ACCD), intended for representatives of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia working directly with the tanning industry in their countries.
- A regional seminar on best available techniques (BATs) and best environmental practices (BEPs), held in Barcelona on 22-23 November 2004, for civil servants and staff of the public authorities of Mediterranean countries, with a view to presenting the methodology prepared by the CP/RAC for the application of BATs and BEPs, exchanging experiences between Mediterranean countries on this subject and launching an initiative for the application of BATs and BEPs within the legal and institutional framework.
- A national seminar on pollution prevention in the food sector, focussing on alternatives for pollution prevention in abattoirs, held in Sarajevo on 15-17 December 2004.

227. Several projects were also undertaken. One of these was a LIFE-Third Countries project on capacity building in cleaner production, the objective of which was to establish a cleaner production center in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project was completed during the biennium and a project closure meeting was held on 14 December 2004 in Sarajevo to present the results achieved.

228. A Project for the dissemination of good environmental practices in the Maghreb tanning sector has been launched and a training seminar for trainers was held in June 2005. The project was the result of the advanced seminar described above and consists of theoretical and practical meetings, including demonstrations and technical visits, the preparation of a guide on the subject in the Maghreb and the organization of meetings to disseminate the guide in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

II.B. Biological diversity and Specially Protected Areas

II.B.1 Implementation of the Action Plans

II.B.1.1 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal

229. Efforts have been focused on activities linked to the updating of information and capacity-building through the training of national experts and the identification of habitats in countries such as Algeria, Cyprus, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Syrian Arab Republic, where knowledge of the status of the monk seal is still limited.

230. Within the framework of the MedMPA project (Project for the Development of the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean region), a survey of the Syrian

coast (from its northern frontier to Lathakia) was undertaken with a view to locating monk seal habitats. The information collected during the survey, together with a study carried out by the Syrian Institute of Marine Research, showed only the sporadic presence of monk seals, probably dispersed individuals from nearby Turkey which is known to have a resident monk seal population.

231. SPA/RAC carried out an expedition to northern Morocco with a local team to train them on monk seal population monitoring and evaluate habitats in the area between the Al Hoceima National Park and Cap de l'Eau, a historical area for seal distribution in northern Morocco. Well preserved breeding caves were identified both within the Park and in the still untouched area of Cap des Trois Fourches. The activity was coordinated with a project financed by Monaco to collect information and increase public awareness. A poster on the monk seal, designed by ICRAM and printed in Arabic by SPA/RAC was distributed during both missions.

232. The existence of monk seals in western Cyprus was confirmed by field work in the autumn of 2003 by a SPA/RAC, University of Alicante and MedMPA project team working in collaboration with the local authorities. A similar expedition to the one designed for Morocco is being set up in collaboration with the Cypriot authorities for the Akamas area in 2005.

233. After a field mission in 2002 had identified the presence of the monk seal in the Cyrenaica coastal region in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SPA/RAC, the Libyan authorities (EGA Libya) and the Italian Institute ICRAM was extended to define the necessary activities for monk seal conservation along the Libyan coast. A training expedition to Libya to identify habitats was organized in July 2005, with the collaboration of the Tajura Marine Biology Research Centre.

234. With regard to the general status and future chances for the survival of the species, a monk seal status report was prepared to scientifically determine the risk of the species becoming extinct in the Mediterranean region. The results show that, in the present situation, the population will become extinct within a few decades unless firm measures are taken to deal with fisheries and habitats. More international cooperation is necessary to deal with this problem. An overview of the status of the monk seal is presented in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.22.

II.B.1.2 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles

Increasing scientific knowledge

235. Following a request by Tunisia, SPA/RAC gave its backing to a scientific study begun in 1996 to carry out monitoring, management and research activities on the Kuriat Islands in 2003 and 2004. In response to a request by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia, SPA/RAC supported a programme to monitor the migration of turtles by satellite transmitter in collaboration with the Naples Zoological Station "Anton Dohm" in March 2005. In both cases, the programmes included awareness activities for fishermen.

236. A network for stranded turtles, with standardized data collection and reporting procedures, was established in Tunisia following the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding with the INSTM (*Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer*). The network collaborates with the Monastir Turtle Rescue Centre.

237. In order to address key points identified by the first Mediterranean Conference on Turtles, support for scientific research has been focused on genetics, in cooperation with the University of Barcelona, with a view to evaluating the size and structure of populations addressing also the impact of fisheries by identifying critical habitats.

238. DNA analysis revealed distinct genetic structuring in the western Mediterranean: the feeding grounds of the North African coast and the Balearic Islands (Majorca, Minorca) are inhabited mainly by turtles of Atlantic stock; feeding grounds off European coasts are inhabited by turtles of eastern Mediterranean stock; and feeding grounds off the small Balearic Islands (Ibiza and Formentera) and Lampedusa are inhabited by turtles of both origins.

239. In the framework of projects aimed at reducing mortality caused by accidental netting during fishing activities, priority must be given to the areas containing highly endangered turtles from the eastern Mediterranean.

Dissemination of information, awareness and training

240. SPA/RAC funded the participation of trainees from Albania, Israel, Malta and Tunisia in training courses on turtle conservation that took place in Cyprus in 2003 and 2004. This initiative was carried out with the cooperation of the Cyprus Wildlife Society and the support of the Fishery and Marine Research Department (DFMR) of Cyprus.

241. At the request of the Contracting Parties, the Sea turtle handling guidebook for fishermen was translated into Croatian, Greek and Turkish. Maltese and Spanish versions are currently being printed. An information and awareness day on marine turtle conservation was organized in Tunisia on 29 July 2004. At this event, the Arabic version of the guidebook was presented and distributed to fishermen.

242. SPA/RAC published the following documents (which can be downloaded from the SPA/RAC website at the following address: www.rac-spa.org):

- *Guidelines to design legislation and regulations relative to the conservation and management of marine turtles populations and their habitats*, in English and French; and
- *Guidelines to improve the involvement of Marine Rescue Centres for marine turtles*, in English.

Cooperation and exchange of experience

243. SPA/RAC participated in a workshop on the standardization of scientific tagging of turtles (Malaga, 31 March - 1 April 2004) which made the following recommendations: turtles measuring under 20 cms will not be tagged; titanium tags will be used on the forelimbs, and microchips placed under the skin of the neck; plastic tags should be avoided in the Mediterranean, because they can become entangled in nets and are only suitable for short-term use; and tags should always show the address of the tagging country.

244. Following the success of the First Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, SPA/RAC organized jointly with the Secretariats of the Bonn and Berne Conventions the Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles (Antalya, 4-7 May 2005). The Turkish Government and the WWF Turkey provided the logistical requirements for the Conference (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG270/Inf.23).

245. In accordance with the recommendation made by the Contracting Parties in Catania, and bearing in mind the results of the workshop, in Malaga, Spain, SPA/RAC also organized a workshop on the standardization of tagging and centralizing information in the Mediterranean region (Antalya, Turkey, 2-3 May 2005) (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG270/Inf.24).

246. In accordance with the priority actions set out in the SAP BIO, SPA/RAC decided to address the question of the impact of fishing on turtles as a problem affecting marine and

coastal biodiversity in general (all species taken together) as part of the Action Plan. This work will be carried out in partnership with the FAO/GFCM.

II.B.1.3 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

Increasing scientific knowledge

247. In order to clarify and address the situation with regard to Mediterranean cetaceans and the commercial exploitation of Mediterranean resources by the fishing industry, an expert was recruited to draw up a report on the exploitation of Mediterranean trophic chains by cetaceans and its encroachment on target fishery.

248. To fill the gaps on priority cetacean species in the Aegean Sea, which is an important area for such animals in the Mediterranean, SPA/RAC has given its support to ARION (Cetacean Rescue Rehabilitation and Research Centre, Greece) to identify the most critical areas by updating information about endangered species, such as the common dolphin and the bottlenose dolphin in the northern Aegean Sea, and in particular to ascertain whether the rare common porpoise still inhabits that part of the Mediterranean.

249. Support was also provided to the Tethys Research Institute (Milan, Italy), which together with local institutions, several universities and cetacean conservation NGOs is leading the following initiatives:

- data on the Amvrakikos Lagoon dolphin community collected since 2003 will be analysed and the results published to provide the first information on local dolphin communities in order to address their conservation;
- damage and destruction due to fishing gear will be evaluated through field observations and interviews with fishermen;
- tissue samples will be taken in an appropriate manner, stored and sent to Mediterranean tissue banks to allow pollution levels and health status to be assessed.

250. Assistance, including financial support for the development of National Action Plans for the Conservation of Cetaceans and networks for beached cetaceans, was provided by SPA/RAC to several countries on the Mediterranean coast including Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia. Other countries have begun to set up networks with the support of ACCOBAMS.

251. SPA/RAC supported the Fifth European Seminar on Marine Mammals: Biology and Conservation, organized by the Menendez Playo International University and the University of Valencia, from 13 to 17 September 2004.

252. The Mediterranean Database on Cetacean Strandings (MEDACES), set up at the University of Valencia through an agreement with SPA/RAC, receives support from the Spanish Ministry of the Environment. The existing MEDACES website <http://medaces.uv.es> (English version) has been translated into French. Data input from Mediterranean countries has been promoted by SPA/RAC. Data from Greece, Tunisia and Turkey is still being gathered. The linking of the MEDACES GIS module with the Dynamic Atlas of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, which is being finalized, will allow spatial data on cetaceans to be integrated with other biological and anthropic data collected in the framework of MedGIS.

Collaboration with ACCOBAMS

253. The illustrated guidelines on developing cetacean stranding networks were printed and distributed in collaboration with ACCOBAMS. An exhaustive review document on whale-watching, elaborated by SPA/RAC in the previous biennium, was coordinated with the whale-

watching guidelines, finalized by ACCOBAMS, and published jointly. SPA/RAC participated in ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Meetings and in the second Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS as the Mediterranean Sub-regional Coordinating Unit (Palma de Mallorca, 9 -12 November 2004).

254. An international meeting on cetacean conservation was organized in Tajura, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in collaboration with ACCOBAMS and the Environmental General Authority of Libya (EGA), with a view to activating conservation activity in the country. A CD-ROM on marine mammal tissue banks was made by SPA/RAC and the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and distributed during the meeting. SPA/RAC also helped to organize a workshop to prepare the project on the assessment and mitigation of cetacean by-catch in the ACCOBAMS area in April 2004.

255. A scientific workshop on harassing acoustic devices was held in Rome on 28 June 2004, with RAC/SPA and ACCOBAMS contribution. The meeting was based on the conclusions and recommendations of the ICRAM workshop on the problems of conflict between dolphins and fishermen on the Mediterranean coast (4–5 May 2001). With regard to Mediterranean fin whale populations, SPA/RAC intends to organize a meeting to develop a programme to identify and protect feeding areas, both on the high seas and in territorial waters in the southern Mediterranean, in collaboration with ICRAM.

II.B.1.4 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea

Mapping and monitoring

256. SPA/RAC provided assistance to Greece to carry out a study on the mapping of *Posidonia* meadows in the Zakynthos National Park. SPA/RAC also provided support for the creation of a *Posidonia* monitoring network along the Zarzis coastline (south of Tunisia). Albanian experts were provided with technical and scientific advice on mapping *Posidonia* meadows in the Sarranda Bay and the Durres area, in the framework of the implementation of a project financed by GEF/micro-projects.

257. In order to help the Mediterranean countries comply with the objectives of the Action Plan, and in particular with the mapping of meadows and all other plant formations that are significant for the marine environment, SPA/RAC has elaborated guidelines for the implementation of projects to map the *Posidonia* meadows.

258. In the framework of the Interreg IIIB, MEDOCC programme (Mediterranean Occidental) SPA/RAC has signed an agreement involving eight partners from the western Mediterranean to implement an EC-funded project on consistency, development, coordination and validation of methods of evaluating the quality of the coastal environment by monitoring the *Posidonia oceanica* meadow.

Cooperation, exchange of experience and training

259. SPA/RAC, with the collaboration of the Action Plan Associates and support from the Hellenic National Centre for Marine Research (NCMR), organized the Second Symposium on Marine Vegetation (Athens, 12-13 December 2003). The main themes of the Symposium were: Inventorying species and communities; anthropic impacts on Mediterranean marine vegetation; and mapping marine vegetation.

260. In the context of capacity-building, as provided for in the Action Plan, a training workshop on techniques of mapping *Posidonia* meadows was organized at Vibo Valentia (Italy) from 28 September to 5 October 2003.

Evaluation of the Action Plan

261. In accordance with the recommendation of the Contracting Parties in Catania, SPA/RAC carried out an evaluation study to enable national focus groups to examine the progress achieved in the Action Plan's implementation (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.25).

II.B.1.5 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea

262. In accordance with the recommendations made by the Contracting parties, a number of activities were implemented:

- Establishment of a network and directory of collaborators: a regional list of scientists and institutions devoted to research on and conservation of elasmobranchs in the Mediterranean has been prepared and will be made available in electronic form to facilitate updating.
- Support for defining protocols for monitoring commercial landings and discards by species and recording data on rarely observed, endangered and protected species. The protocols were prepared in English to be distributed to fishing fleets. Versions in other languages will also be made available.
- Contribution to information campaigns and publication of public awareness materials: a poster on threatened elasmobranchs, their problems and possible solutions has been prepared. An identification chart for the various elasmobranchs species has also been drawn up and will be printed in collaboration with FAO.
- Elaboration of guidelines for reducing the presence of susceptible species in by-catch and facilitating their release.
- Support for the setting up of centralized databases: an existing database (which records catches, species, active fleets, efforts related to such captures, rare catches, etc.) has been identified. The Secretariat is negotiating the preparation of a simplified module to be used only for elasmobranchs.

II.B.1.6 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

263. In line with the implementation of the Action Plan, as adopted by the Contracting parties, SPA/RAC initiated the following actions:

- Preparation of a directory of national and international organizations and experts dealing with threatened and/or endangered bird species in the Mediterranean.
- Organization of the first Mediterranean symposium on the ecology and conservation of bird species appearing in Annex II of the Protocol, in collaboration with SEO/BirdLife and MEDMARAVIS (Barcelona, November 2005).

264. In order to fill in any gaps in knowledge of threatened species in some Mediterranean countries, two field surveys were carried out on the coasts and wetlands of Albania and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to list wintering waterbirds and recommend conservation measures for the sites visited. These assignments were carried out in the context of two Tripartite Collaboration Memoranda between SPA/RAC, the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Libyan Environmental General Authority (EGA) and the Albanian Ministry of the Environment, respectively.

265. As regards the implementation of other actions planned for 2005, particularly the setting up of a regional network to monitor the populations and distribution of bird species that are threatened in the Mediterranean and the elaboration of guidelines for monitoring and

the presentation of management plans, SPA/RAC called upon the expertise of SEO/BirdLife in the context of a Memorandum of Collaboration.

266. SPA/RAC also contributed to the organization of the 11th Pan-African Ornithological Congress and the 3rd International workshop on Great Flamingoes in the Mediterranean Region and North-West Africa (20-26 November 2004, Djerba, Tunisia).

II.B.1.7 Implementation of the Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea

267. SPA/RAC worked on the guidelines and phases that were necessary to draw up a regional project on fouling and ballast water and sediment in consultation with IMO and REMPEC.

268. SPA/RAC is working on making target groups aware of the risks associated with the introduction of non-indigenous marine species into the Mediterranean. It has also started work on guidelines for the setting up of a regional mechanism to gather, compile and circulate information on invasive non-indigenous species.

II.B.2 Assistance to countries in selecting, establishing and managing Specially Protected Areas

II.B.2.1 Implementing the Regional Project for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region (MedMPA project)

269. SPA/RAC's activities in the field of developing and managing protected areas have been mainly directed towards the implementation of the MedMPA project between 2002 and January 2005. The project covered Algeria, Cyprus, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

270. Participants from these countries attended a regional training seminar on planning for marine protected area management, held in the south of France and Catalonia (Spain) from 19 to 29 January 2004.

271. SPA/RAC's partners in implementing the project were:

- Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica Applicata al Mare (ICRAM), Italy;
- Unidad de Biología Marina (UBM) of the Instituto Universitario del Agua y de las Ciencias Ambientales, University of Alicante, Spain;
- Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels (ATEN), France.

Elaborating management plans for marine areas

272. The main activities carried out in the context of the project were the elaboration of management plans for marine areas in the following parks and other locations:

- Al Hoceima National Park (Morocco). A management plan of the marine part of the Al Hoceima National Park was drawn up and validated at a meeting on 14 July 2004. In order to be able to start implementing the management plan, a study on promoting public access, information and environmental education in the Park was carried out and a brochure prepared indicating the Park's main features.
- The protected area between Rđum Majjiesa and Ras ir-Raheb (Malta). The elaboration of the management plan for the marine area between Rđum Majjiesa and Ras ir-Raheb was based on a field study and the recommendations made by CAMP

Malta. To initiate the implementation of the management plan, SPA/RAC provided help to the Maltese authorities to undertake actions to raise awareness (preparation of a leaflet, a CD-ROM and a promotional video). The project also helped to finance signposting equipment on dry land (signposting boards) and out at sea (mooring buoys).

- The National Park of Zembra and Zembretta (Tunisia). Based on the zoning plan which was drawn up after the field surveys and the socio-economic study, a provisional management plan was prepared and discussed at a public meeting in Tunis on 30 March 2004.
- The Rosh Haniqra Nature Reserve (Israel). The results of the field surveys and a socio-economic study enabled a provisional management plan to be drawn up, which was discussed at a presentation and consultation meeting, leading to the development of a final management plan for the marine part of the Rosh Haniqra Nature Reserve. As an activity to initiate the implementation of the management plan, a strategy was also developed to promote public access to the reserve. Posters and brochures were also prepared.
- Marine part of the protected area between Oum Toyour and Ras El Bassit (Syrian Arab Republic). Previous surveys had shown that Ras El Bassit Bay has great underwater bed wealth. As the Oum Toyour nature reserve has no governing body, it was not thought necessary to draw up a classic management plan, but to set out detailed recommendations for the management of the marine areas concerned.
- Marine part of the El Kala National Park (Algeria). Based on three marine surveys and a socio-economic study of the El Kala region, a management plan for the El Kala National Park marine area was drawn up in consultation with the relevant Algerian bodies and national experts. A strategy was also prepared to promote public access, information and public awareness.

Elaborating National Plans for the development of marine protected areas

273. This activity is intended to identify marine sites of conservation interest, which will later be proposed as Specially Protected Areas in the context of a National Plan. Two national plans were developed, one on the Cypriot coast and another on the Syrian coast.

274. One of the project's main aims is to produce the technical tools that are necessary to help the managers and authorities responsible for protected areas to improve the conservation of natural sites and species, including guidelines for setting up and developing Specially Protected Areas, a practical guide of species in need of special care in the Mediterranean coastal area (identification, population and habitat management, monitoring) and audio-visual materials.

II.B.2.2 Support for Parties' requests for certain SPAMIs to be included as PSSAs

275. With a view to helping the interested Parties draw up applications for certain SPAMIs to be listed as PSSAs (Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas) with the IMO (International Maritime Organization), a consultant was recruited to assess the eligibility of existing SPAMIs. This first phase, aimed at making a preliminary assessment, is being carried out with IMO. It will be followed by a second phase in which the SPAMI application files (which have been deemed eligible during the first phase) are submitted for inclusion as PSSAs.

Proposing new sites for inclusion on the SPAMI list

276. Following a request from Algeria, SPA/RAC provided technical support to help prepare the presentation reports for four Algerian sites to be proposed for inclusion on the SPAMI list namely:

- the Banc des Kabyles marine reserve;
- the Cap de Garde marine reserve;
- the Habibas Islands;
- Rachgoun Island.

277. A presentation report was also received on the marine protected area of Portofino, Italy, proposing it for inclusion on the SPAMI list.

278. Following a request made by the National Focal Points for the Specially Protected Areas during the meeting in Seville (31 May – 3 June 2005), an analysis of the proposals was prepared by a RAC/SPA consultant. This analysis shows that two sites (Cap de Garde marine reserve and Rachgoun Island) do not have yet a legal status. If this situation is not regularized before the next meeting of the Contracting Parties, they will not be eligible to be included in the SPAMIs list.

279. The analysis and the five presentation reports appear in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/15.

II.B.2.3 Exchange of information

Reviving the MedPAN network (Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Managers' Network)

280. SPA/RAC, which acts as MedPAN General Secretariat, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with WWF-France, the body which has operational responsibility for the network. The Network was relaunched in January 2005 and will be run as a project until the end of 2007 with EC funding (INTERREG III).

Elaborating the Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Managers Directory

281. SPA/RAC, in collaboration with WWF-France, has compiled a directory of managers of marine protected areas around the Mediterranean. After it has been validated, the directory will be posted on the SPA/RAC website to encourage exchanges between managers. A more elaborate version of this directory, including descriptive charts for each protected area, is being completed.

Elaboration of technical documents

282. A document on marine specially protected areas and international law has been prepared in collaboration with the University of Nantes, synthesizing all the information available and as a tool for countries wishing to develop conservation plans for protected areas. A document on the economic principles for managing protected areas is being prepared as a guide for managers to help them deal with the economic issues that affect their sites.

II.B.3 Activities linked to processing and managing biodiversity data

II.B.3.1 *Data collection and management*

283. In accordance with the recommendations made by the Contracting Parties, the reference list of coastal habitat types (terrestrial and wetlands) for the selection of sites to be included in national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest was integrated into the Standard Data-Entry form (SDF), which was computerized. Three case studies were carried out in Spain, Tunisia and Turkey to compare the SPA/RAC and MedWet classification. The handbook for interpreting marine habitats was translated into English.

284. Following a request by Greece, SPA/RAC provided support for a case study on *Posidonia* meadows in the Zakynthos National Marine Park using the Standard Data-Entry Form (SDF), as a result of which it was possible to: a) map the main populations and bed types in Laganas Bay by optimizing the NATURA 2000 document; b) characterize *Posidonia oceanica* meadows by their vitality and response to anthropization phenomena; and c) set up a monitoring system.

285. In accordance with the recommendation made by the Contracting Parties in Catania, SPA/RAC, in collaboration with the RAMOGE Agreement and the Portofino Marine Reserve (Italy), organized a training session on the use of the Standard Data-entry Form in November 2004.

Setting up a clearing-house mechanism (CHM)

286. SPA/RAC carried out the necessary studies to set up a clearing-house mechanism (CHM), exchange information and promote scientific and technical cooperation for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean. The CHM will be the focal point of a Mediterranean network of national CHMs, in close collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.29).

Dynamic atlas

287. Following an agreement with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, a Mediterranean Dynamic Atlas was launched based on a web map server to allow the preparation of maps based on the inputs to the Geographic Information System for the Mediterranean (MedGIS). These maps can display MedGIS data shared with other data on a remote server (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.27).

The SPA/RAC website

288. In accordance with the recommendation made by the Contracting Parties in Catania, SPA/RAC began a total overhaul of its website to adopt a new format and new graphics. The new site will be ready at the end of 2005 and will include technical facilities for its updating and the downloading of resources. SPA/RAC publications can be downloaded at the following address: www.rac-spa.org.

II.B.4 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)

Implementation of the SAP BIO

289. Following the adoption of the SAP BIO by the Contracting Parties in Catania, and in accordance with their recommendations, a concept paper for the launching of the SAP BIO

and the implementation of its preparatory phase was prepared by SPA/RAC and sent to MEDU and GEF Nairobi in March 2004.

290. Following the launching of the GEF project "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems" SPA/RAC took an active part in drawing up proposals related to marine biodiversity and coastal conservation. As it was proposed that the implementation of the SAP BIO should be supported with additional funding from UNEP/GEF, SPA/RAC prepared the request for funding based on two elements which are considered to be priorities: sustainable management of living marine resources; and the development of marine protected areas (in collaboration with WWF and FAO).

291. Five other requests for funding were also prepared focusing on practical national and regional activities, which will be submitted to other funding agencies for consideration, including FFEM and the Total Foundation.

292. In response to a request from Serbia and Montenegro during the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, SPA/RAC provided technical and financial support for the preparation of the national report and the action plans.

II.B.5 Other activities

II.B.5.1 Common criteria for the choice of species that could be included in or excluded from Annexes II and III to the SPA Protocol

293. Taking into account the changes which have occurred in the status of populations and in taxonomy since the adoption of Annexes II and III to the SPA Protocol in 1996, SPA/RAC has set out some common criteria for the choice of species to be included in, or excluded from these annexes. In this respect, the procedures set out in the Barcelona Convention, as well as similar procedures in the framework of other international conventions and/or organizations, were taken into account in establishing and amending the list of endangered and/or threatened species (doc. UNEP (DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.28).

II.B.5.2 Mediterranean initiative on taxonomy

294. The need to develop taxonomy as a tool in support of the biodiversity conservation programme has been emphasized at the global level on many occasions. In the context of inventorying national requirements, SPA/RAC has prepared an analysis of gaps in the knowledge and requirements of Mediterranean countries in the field of taxonomy.

295. SPA/RAC is acting as a catalyst for the implementation of the Mediterranean initiative on taxonomy and has launched two practical activities at the regional level. The first is a national taxonomy workshop with NAFRINET (the North African Taxonomy Network), held in Tunis on 9-10 December 2003, which enabled the evaluation of human resources (taxonomists) and the state of existing collections. The second is the provision of financial support to the Lebanese National Centre for Marine Sciences for the publication of a catalogue on loricate Ciliata (*tintinnidae*) in Lebanese coastal waters.

II.B.5.3 Using marine and coastal biodiversity indicators

296. With a view to promoting the use of marine and coastal biodiversity indicators at the regional and national levels, and based on the work and methods developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity, SPA/RAC has begun to undertake a bibliographical analysis to validate these indicators in the Mediterranean region.

II.B.5.4 Information and awareness

297. SPA/RAC published three posters produced by ICRAM (Italy) on the monk seal, turtles and cetaceans in three languages (Arabic, English and French). These posters are intended for the general public and present species, threats, conservation status and the international legal instruments that guarantee their protection.

298. SPA/RAC contributed to the printing of the Arabic version of the *Mediterranean Sea: Source of life kit* in collaboration with MEDASSET (Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles, Greece). The kit is intended to raise awareness among schoolchildren aged between 6 and 12.

II.C. Sustainable management of coastal zones

299. During the period 2004-2005, PAP/RAC undertook five groups of activities related to the sustainable management of coastal zones. These covered:

- The provision of guidance on the sustainable management of coastal zones;
- The implementation of coastal area management projects (CAMPs);
- The future of coastal zone management and CAMPs within MAP activities;
- Capacity building and training; and
- Information dissemination and awareness.

II.C.1 Assistance on the sustainable management of coastal zones

300. PAP/RAC was requested by the Contracting Parties in Catania to support and assist countries in the implementation of ICZM methodologies and to undertake thematic studies with a view to developing relevant guidelines and action plans on the issue of the coastal land and sea environment and the utilization of its resources, and on the sustainable financing of ICZM activities.

301. The thematic study which has been launched by PAP/RAC is *Landscape management in Mediterranean coastal areas*. Two position papers have been prepared with a view to proposing actions related to landscape management in Mediterranean coastal areas. The first paper is a policy document intended to guide PAP/RAC in dealing with the issue of coastal landscape management as a component of integrated coastal area management. The paper presents long-term ideas on how to integrate landscape management into PAP/RAC activities and reviews the state of the art of this discipline in the Mediterranean. The second paper identifies current landscape management practices in the Mediterranean and the main landscape types in order to provide an overview of the situation in Mediterranean coastal areas.

302. The position papers were due to be completed by the end of July 2005. An expert meeting is planned before the end of 2005 to review and discuss the position papers and agree on proposed future actions.

National reports on ICZM

303. In accordance with the recommendation of the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties to assist countries in preparing national reports on integrated coastal management, three national reports on ICZM were prepared by national consultants with the assistance of the Centre covering Malta, Tunisia and Turkey. All three reports were published and widely disseminated among the concerned partners. The national reports describe the characteristics of the coastal areas in the countries, the pressures to which they are exposed

and the activities that the country is undertaking to manage its coastal areas. They also evaluate the possibilities for more efficient ICZM.

Coastal erosion

304. Another task entrusted by the Contracting Parties to PAP/RAC was to undertake the necessary analyses, prepare a report on the state of Mediterranean beaches and develop a plan to combat coastal erosion.

305. During the biennium 2002-2003, PAP/RAC prepared a position paper on coastal erosion problems and on the state of the art of coastal erosion management in the Mediterranean. An expert workshop was held in Split to discuss the report and propose future actions. In the meantime, the EU has implemented the EUROSION project, which has investigated the practices adopted to combat coastal erosion in EU countries and proposed measures to improve coastal erosion management. Before the end of 2005, a regional expert workshop will be organized by PAP/RAC in which EU practices will be described and possibilities explored of applying the EUROSION proposals in the wider Mediterranean region.

Beach management in the Mediterranean

306. Experts have been engaged to prepare a pilot study to evaluate the state of beach management in the Mediterranean. Based on missions to the countries concerned, the pilot study investigates a number of Mediterranean beaches in Croatia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. A workshop on the application of the Bathing Area Registration and Evaluation (BARE) system in Mediterranean coastal States was organized in Malta on 10-11 June 2005.

Guidelines for ICZM

307. The main objective of the revision of the *Guidelines for integrated management of coastal and marine areas with particular reference to Mediterranean basin* is to build on the experience that MAP and PAP/RAC have acquired over the past 15 years, particularly through the implementation of CAMP projects to introduce the methodological improvements, new principles and approaches in ICZM that have occurred since then and to reflect the recommendations adopted by the MCSD, MAP and WSSD. The revised guidelines will be published in the coming months.

Sustainability of SAP MED

308. In the context of the implementation of the SAP MED, PAP/RAC has taken the lead on ensuring the sustainability of the SAP MED through the development of appropriate economic instruments. As part of this exercise, it participated in the training course for the preparation of Sectoral Plans and National Action Plans (NAP) in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme held in Izmit, Turkey, on 4-6 March 2004. National teams had prepared proposals for economic instruments for NAPs, based on the guidelines which had been developed for the preparation of economic instruments in the 12 GEF-eligible countries. These proposals served as inputs for the national teams preparing the NAPs. The overall task of preparing NAPs was discussed at the meeting, where a NAP was drafted based on a simulation study.

309. PAP/RAC presented the work carried out within the context of this component of the GEF project at a meeting held in Rome on 2-3 February 2004 on enhancing public/private partnerships for new financial arrangements to eliminate land-based pollution promoting the transfer of best available techniques (BATs). The achievements and problems that had emerged regarding the application and development of economic instruments were reviewed

at a meeting of Government-designated experts to review the process of preparation of National Action Plans, held in Catania, 14-16 December 2004.

310. In the context of this component of the GEF Project, pilot projects on economic instruments were launched in four countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia). Final evaluation reports for the pilot projects will be completed by the end of 2005. A simulation of the implementation of economic instruments was commenced in May 2004 and policy guidelines on economic instruments have been prepared. The project website (<http://www.pap-sapei.org>) on the development of economic instruments for the sustainable implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Address Marine Pollution From Land-based Activities in the Mediterranean (SAP MED) has been updated regularly.

Subregional initiatives and the dissemination of ICZM experiences

311. PAP/RAC has increasingly been requested to participate in subregional activities and to present its experiences on ICZM. These activities have contributed enormously to increasing the visibility of PAP/RAC and MAP in relation to ICZM. In addition, a large number of PAP/RAC publications have been referenced in scientific journals. PAP/RAC has been active in the implementation of activities in the context of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and has participated in a number of regional projects, including the NATURE-GIS and ECO-IMAGINE projects (managed by GISIG, Italy), MIRIAD 21 (managed by ECOMAIRES, France) and the Nostrum-DSS project (managed by FEEM, Italy).

II.C.2 Implementation of CAMPs

312. Another recommendation of the Contracting Parties in Catania was for PAP/RAC to coordinate MAP activities in relation to CAMP projects under the overall responsibility of MEDU, including the development of new types of CAMP projects, such as transboundary projects. PAP/RAC was also requested to prepare CAMP feasibility studies, CAMP programmes and agreements and to continue to implement ongoing CAMP projects and projects whose implementation has been decided upon. Furthermore, in countries where CAMP projects have been completed, PAP/RAC was requested to propose the introduction of new and/or the adaptation of existing instruments for environmental management as a follow-up to the CAMPs and to assist the countries prepare viable projects to continue completed MAP CAMP projects.

313. Systemic and Prospective Sustainability Analysis (SPSA) has been implemented by the Blue Plan in the framework of the coastal areas management programmes. This participatory method leads to the choice of priority indicators by local teams with the assistance of the Blue Plan and in thinking prospectively about trend evolutions and desirable improvements. The Blue Plan and PAP/RAC organized workshops in Malta and Algeria to present their experiences about using the method. With these first experiences, the Blue Plan is preparing a user's guide that will be available in 2005.

CAMP "Algerian Coastal Zone"

314. During the biennium, CAMP Algeria continued to be implemented and the various activities were reported on regularly by the CAMP Algeria national coordinator. A number of consultation meetings were organized to examine the progress of the project and a diagnostic of all thematic activities was submitted to PAP/RAC and the Ministry of Physical Planning and the Environment in May 2004. The Ministry established a website on the CAMP project ([http://www.mate-dz.org/Dossiers thématiques/littoral/PAC/PAC-PAM](http://www.mate-dz.org/Dossiers_thématiques/littoral/PAC/PAC-PAM)). Inventory and diagnostic studies were carried out to put forward protection scenarios. Two pilot areas were chosen to develop preliminary management plans (the Chenoua marine area and the

Reghaia marine reserve). Two documentaries, each lasting 26 minutes, were made to present the pilot areas.

315. The Blue Plan contributed to preparing and running the 5 workshops using SPSA. With the ANAT (the French National Planning Agency), it also implemented the "information system" activity. The Algiers CAMP is in the process of being finalised and an official handing over meeting should be organized in 2005 with the Algerian authorities.

316. The final documents for the second phase of the project have been prepared and presented to the Ministry. A more detailed report proposing activities for the post-CAMP period is now being prepared for submission to the Government for approval. Once the new project is approved, a meeting will be organized with national and international donors.

CAMP "Lebanon"

317. All the activities for CAMP Lebanon were completed by the beginning of 2004, including the reports covering individual activities and the final integrated report, with the exception of the report on marine protected areas. In addition, specific reports were prepared for each of the three municipalities involved in the project, namely, Damour, Naqoura and Sarafand, which have shown great interest in developing their local documents on the basis of CAMP outputs.

318. Even before the conclusion of the CAMP Lebanon project, a number of recommendations had been put into practice. For example, in March 2004, as a result of one of the recommendations on tourism and sustainable development activities, addressing the development of alternative or eco-tourism in the CAMP area, a private firm developed a project, known as the "Oceana" project, in cooperation with the municipality of Damour. It is for the first time in Damour that this sort of partnership has been developed and it is important for CAMP projects because, even before the formal conclusion of the project, much interest has been expressed in the replication of its results.

319. The relevant national authorities identified the NGO Amwaj el Biaa as SPA/RAC's partner for implementing the marine conservation area CAMP activity. The activity was aimed at inventorying marine biotopes in order to assess the situation in the zone and put forward management measures for the two pilot sites, Damur and Naqoura.

CAMP "Cyprus"

320. CAMP Cyprus Project Agreement was signed in June 2005 in Athens on the occasion of the meeting of the MCSD. CAMP Cyprus is innovative in that it is strongly focused on the institutional aspect of ICZM through the creation of a body to secure the integration of ICZM into the decision-making process. The Government of Cyprus is providing funds to match the MAP contribution, which will significantly improve the quality of the project and offers a model for future projects.

CAMP "Slovenia"

321. CAMP Slovenia has now entered its implementation phase. Details of the project were presented and discussed at the inception workshop held in Koper on 18-19 March 2004. The main project activity is the Regional Concept of Spatial Development, around which other activities will take place, including those relating to protected areas, the development of tourism, water resources and coastal strip development, as well as horizontal activities in such areas as SPSA, training, public participation and awareness. The SPSA has been launched as part of the Slovenia CAMP and should be finalised by September 2005.

322. Following the signing of contracts for specific activities, the outputs for the first phase were submitted and reviewed, and recommendations made for their acceptance or further improvement. In relation to the main project activity, a spatial development conference was held on 23 September 2004, as required by national spatial planning legislation, to involve stakeholders and the public in the preparation of the spatial planning documents.

323. As part of CAMP Slovenia, a database on types of habitat has been set up to improve knowledge of and thus conservation of the marine and coastal biodiversity of the area concerned. The activity is being carried out in close collaboration with the Institute for Nature Conservation and the Geodesy Institute of Slovenia.

CAMP "Morocco"

324. A feasibility study for CAMP Morocco, covering the political and institutional background of the country, its Mediterranean coast and the CAMP area, and describing the CAMP structure, management and possible activities, has been prepared and reviewed. Prior to the preparation of the CAMP agreement, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Water and the Environment is proposing to hold a workshop in the CAMP area to present the study and inform local stakeholders of the envisaged activities. Negotiations for the preparation of the project agreement will be based on the results of the workshop.

CAMP "Levante de Almeria", Spain

325. Following the presentation and adoption of the feasibility study for the CAMP "Mar Menor" by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania, a start was made on drafting the CAMP Mar Menor Agreement. However, during the negotiation of the project agreement, the national and regional authorities changed their priorities and identified the whole coastal area of Levante de Almeria in the region of Andalusia as the CAMP area.

326. A meeting was held with the authorities in Seville on 17 February 2005 to discuss the CAMP project and the preparation of the feasibility study. The final draft of the feasibility study is due to be completed in September 2005 and should lead to the preparation and signing of the project agreement in October 2005.

Follow-up of CAMPs

327. CAMP "Albania", which was implemented in 1992-96 with emphasis on the central coastal region (Durrës-Vlorë), achieved a number of significant results. To follow up the project, PAP/RAC has obtained funds from World Bank/METAP to prepare a coastal zone management plan for the northern and southern coastal regions. In August 2004, METAP approached PAP/RAC to carry out an assessment study for the southern coastal region with a view to carrying out a project to prepare an integrated coastal development study and plan for the southern coastal region. Following the preparation of a mission report indicating the measures to be taken for the sustainable coastal development of the southern Albanian region, PAP/RAC won the tender to prepare the study and plan. The implementation of the project will provide PAP/RAC with significant insight into the post-CAMP period, as well as offering the opportunity to intervene and propose actions to be adopted by the Albanian Government. The project is financed by the Albanian Government (Ministry for Territorial Adjustment and Tourism) and the World Bank.

II.C.3 The future of coastal zone management and CAMPs within MAP activities

328. In a recommendation adopted in Catania, the Contracting Parties requested PAP/RAC to prepare, in consultation with regional stakeholders and in coordination with

MEDU and the concerned MAP components, a regional strategy for integrated coastal zone management and CAMP, ensuring strong synergy with the MSSD. The preparation of the Operational Strategic Action Plan for ICAM in the Mediterranean was initiated by the organization of an expert workshop, held on 17-19 March 2005 in Split, where the structure and contents of the strategy were discussed.

329. Rather than preparing an overall framework strategy for coastal zone management in the region, PAP/RAC decided to propose an operational strategic action plan to assist and guide MAP and PAP/RAC in the long term in carrying out coastal management activities. Major objectives and actions related to the long-term programming of ICZM activities in the region are proposed in the MSSD. In order to strengthen synergy, the regional ICAM strategy is closely linked to the MSSD. An outline of this document was presented to the Joint Meeting of BP/RAC, ERS/RAC and PAP/RAC Focal Points held in Nice on 12-15 May 2005. The Operational Strategic Action Plan for ICAM in the Mediterranean is submitted as document (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.270/14).

II.C.4 Capacity building and training

330. Another recommendation made by the Contracting Parties in Catania to PAP/RAC was to continue institutional strengthening and capacity building for national and local institutions through traditional and internet-based training courses, regional conferences and workshops on strategic and thematic issues relating to ICZM.

MedOpen: An internet-based open training course on ICZM

331. A two-level (basic and advanced) internet-based open training course on ICZM in the Mediterranean (MedOpen; <http://www.medopen.org/>) has been prepared. The first virtual training course started in April 2004, for which only 21 candidates were selected for the advanced course. Priority was given to candidates from the Mediterranean and to those selected by the MedOpen selection committee. The remaining candidates were advised to participate in the course planned for the second half of 2005.

332. Interest has been expressed by the SMAP Regional Management Support Unit and by CEDARE in translating MedOpen into Arabic. Several other countries in the region have also expressed interest in translating the course into their languages (Italy and Croatia).

CoastLearn

333. PAP/RAC is a partner in the EU-funded CoastLearn project, in which the experience of MedOpen is used in order to exchange experience with other non-Mediterranean countries. Modules on integrated coastal zone management, biodiversity, public participation and tourism have been developed. In the framework of the CoastLearn project course documents have been translated into several Eastern European languages and Turkish.

Educom@Med

334. PAP/RAC is also a partner in the Education in Coastal Management for the Mediterranean (Educom@Med) project, founded by the EU under a Tempus Joint European Project. The four other consortium members are also from Mediterranean countries. The overall objective of the Educom@Med project is to create and implement a new curriculum for a postgraduate course in coastal management for the Mediterranean region. The main focus is to create a Mediterranean network to share teaching resources and capabilities in line with the principles and practice of the EU's European Credit Transfer System.

II.C.5 Information dissemination and awareness

335. The recommendation of the Contracting Parties in Catania with regard to information dissemination and awareness was for PAP/RAC to continue the exchange of information on ICZM through a clearing-house mechanism, assist countries to prepare their own national clearing-houses for ICZM, maintain its informative website and publish and disseminate guidelines, thematic papers, programme results and other achievements.

Regional clearing house on ICZM

336. The website of the Mediterranean ICZM clearing house project (<http://www.pap-medclearinghouse.org/>) has been updated regularly with new ICZM-related information and data.

PAP/RAC website

337. PAP/RAC's bilingual website (<http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org>), has been updated regularly and provides information on all current PAP/RAC activities, as well as links to other institutions and projects. Statistics show that there are between 7,500 to 8,500 visitors to the site every month.

FAO and PAP/RAC website on soil erosion

338. A new web site and a CD ROM on soil erosion have been launched recently by FAO in close co-operation with PAP/RAC (http://www.fao.org/landandwater/agll/photolib/index_e.htm). PAP/RAC and the FAO AGL Department have a long history of successful cooperation, including the preparation in the late 1990s of the Guidelines for mapping and measurement of rainfall-induced erosion processes in the Mediterranean coastal areas and the Guidelines for erosion and desertification control management. In addition, a photo-library (in English, French and Spanish) has been published on soil erosion processes as a pictorial annex.

Library

339. The PAP/RAC library has been updated regularly with relevant publications and other documents. Leaflets to promote PAP/RAC projects have been reprinted and a bookmark was produced to facilitate the dissemination and exchange of information on the web.

Internships

340. PAP/RAC is receiving an increasing number of requests for internships for Mediterranean students. During the biennium, several students were granted internships with PAP/RAC and others are expected before the end of the year.

II.D. Integrating environment and development

341. The work of the Blue Plan during the 2004-2005 biennium was largely focussed on finalizing the *Report on environment and development in the Mediterranean region* (the "Environment and development report"). The Centre also devoted considerable resources to preparing the draft MSSD, holding a workshop on sustainable development indicators, the MCSD thematic area of funding and cooperation for sustainable development and the implementation of Euro-Mediterranean programmes on statistics (MEDSTAT) and *Silva Mediterranea* activities (in partnership with FAO). Blue Plan was also involved in the

preparations for the assessment study of the effects of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area launched by the European Commission.

II.D.1 Environment and development report

342. The report on environment and development in the region was finalized on the basis of an intensive process of consultation and peer reviews. This process provided an opportunity to mobilize Mediterranean experts in different fields, particularly in the areas of demography, economics and geopolitical sciences and climate change, high-ranking persons (economists, technological experts and environmentalists), the members of the steering committee who participated throughout the whole exercise, the topical experts who participated in the steering committees established for each chapter, MAP components and others who contributed to the improvement of the publication. As the drafting and expert meetings were conducted in French, those invited to participate were mostly French-speaking. Nevertheless, the report is based on a broad analysis of the available documentation (in French and English), including documents from numerous workshops organized over the past few years and attended by experts from all countries.

343. Several publishers have expressed interest in publishing the report, which will be launched in the autumn in English by Earthscan and in French by *Editions de l'Aube*.

344. The report makes it possible to assess the changes that have occurred since the preparation of the previous Blue Plan environment and development report. Confirming the analyses made in 1989, it again warns of the dangers inherent in the trends identified (up to 2025). Using case studies and expert assessments, it develops important long-term analyses in the six major thematic chapters (water, energy, transport, urban development, rural and coastal areas). It highlights the obstacles encountered and certain of the responses adopted. The costs of degradation and the benefits that may be derived from the solutions available through alternative scenarios are documented in certain cases. In the absence of existing analyses, some of the chapters required in-depth reflection and the gathering and organization of data. The "national" chapters on coastal areas, towns and cities and rural areas represent an improvement on previous MAP/Blue Plan documents. The chapter on coastal zones draws attention to several important areas, including specific features, delimitation, the various pressures imposed and their dynamics, the responses adopted and the obstacles encountered. The report also shows the importance of taking action at the national level in all economic sectors (including water and agriculture, energy, transport, tourism, regional development) if the forecast pressures are to be reduced on coasts and the sea. Experts have made innovative contributions in the sections on rural and urban areas, in which certain aspects of a social and cultural nature, which are less manifest in the other chapters, had to be taken into account. The chapter on transport required considerable painstaking work to gather the necessary statistical data.

345. The production of the report also offered an opportunity to develop very positive partnerships with other institutions. Reference should be made in this respect to the support received from the European Environment Agency (EEA), which accompanied the report throughout the process from its inception and participated in the steering committee, the European Commission (Europ Aid), which contributed to the funding of the report and has shown interest in its findings, CIHEAM/IAMM, which helped to mobilize both external and in-house experts for the chapter on rural areas, and the OME (the Mediterranean Energy Observatory) for the chapter on energy. Blue Plan is also grateful for the contributions from energy-efficiency agencies in several countries. The chapter on coastal areas offered the opportunity to link up the other MAP components and institutions such as the CGPM.

346. Clearly, the Blue Plan now needs to concentrate on the dissemination of this work with a view to raising awareness of the needs and possible directions that can be taken to integrate environment and development and to strengthen in-house policies and cooperation.

II.D.2 MSSD

347. In early July 2004, the Blue Plan was assigned the task by the MAP Coordinator of the technical coordination for the preparation of the draft MSSD under his direction and with support from all the MAP components (MED POL and the other Centres). The task was added to Blue Plan's already very full work schedule and required considerable additional effort to produce a draft text in a very short period of time. The resulting work overload led to a certain postponement of other activities in the areas of transport and urbanization, rural development, which the Centre will endeavour to complete by the end of the biennium.

348. The process of the drafting of the MSSD required many documents to be taken into account, the integration of other strategy documents planned or implemented at the level of MAP and the incorporation of a significant marine and coastal dimension, with a broader approach to the issues of sustainable development, without being limited to the issue of integrating environment with development. The process of preparing the draft Strategy involved the organization of several meetings for review by MAP components, NGOs and top level experts, and several consultations with countries, culminating in the holding of a regional workshop in Rome in April 2005 and the submission of the draft to the MCSD in June 2005. Each stage involved considerable redrafting, editing and translation work. The MSSD, as adopted by the MCSD in June, will finally be submitted for adoption by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2005 (UNEP(DEC) MED WG.270/Inf.13).

II.D.3 Sustainable development indicators, statistics and databases

Sustainable development indicators

349. The Blue Plan used the main indicators available for the production of the *Environment and development report*. These indicators have been entered into the Blue Plan database.

350. During the course of 2004, the Blue Plan's activities on indicators were mainly related to coastal indicators through its participation in the EEA's working group on the subject. The Blue Plan also participated in an international symposium on sustainable development indicators organized by OTED (the Tunisian Office for Environment and Development) in Tunis in June 2004 and continued to assist Mediterranean countries, such as Morocco, in the formulation of sustainable development indicators.

351. In accordance with the recommendation of the Contracting Parties, the Blue Plan, with the support from the EEA and ERS/RAC, convened a workshop in May 2005 on indicators, strategies and policies for sustainable development. The objectives of the workshop were to make a preliminary assessment of the manner in which the recommendations adopted by the MCSD in 1999 have been implemented, discuss the usefulness of compound indicators in the region and make proposals for monitoring the MSSD. In preparation for the workshop, a specific study was undertaken in the water sector.

352. Preparations for the workshop included the establishment of a technical committee and the sending out of a questionnaire. The replies to the questionnaire demonstrated the usefulness of the input and support provided by MAP/Blue Plan in this field over the past ten years. The current initiatives for the adoption of indicators described/reported by several countries and the European Commission show a fundamental evolution of activities relating to indicators, with a progressive shift from a list-based approach to the adoption of Agenda 21s as a means of setting quantifiable objectives against which the implementation of sustainable development policies and strategies can be assessed. The workshop spent a

considerable amount of time on a joint brainstorming exercise to propose a limited set of priority indicators to monitor the implementation of the MSSD.

Statistics (the MEDSTAT-Environment Project)

353. Phase II of the Euro-Mediterranean Project (MED-Environment, which runs from 2003 to mid-2006 and is entirely funded by MEDA) is devoted to new priority themes, including emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere, biodiversity and environmental indicators of sustainable development based on the list approved in 1999 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. All the other statistical sectors covered by Phase I of the project have been maintained (water, soil, waste, woodlands, the marine environment and the costs of environmental protection). The new goals of Phase II were intended to be based on synergy with the other sectors covered by MEDSTAT, especially transport, tourism, agriculture and national accounts, with the information provided by the main users being integrated more effectively. However, the suspension of the other MEDSTAT subprogrammes has made the creation of such synergies difficult (only the MEDSTAT-Environment project has not been interrupted).

354. In this context, the first of three training courses, on emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere, was held in February 2004. The second, on biodiversity, was held in October 2004. The third, on environmental indicators of sustainable development, took place in June, 2005.

355. It is not yet known whether there will be a follow-up to the MEDSTAT-Environment project. However, it should be noted that a call for tenders was issued by the European Commission in late 2004. The call for tenders covers two groups, one relating to horizontal activities and the second for the thematic activities (external trade statistics, national accounts, transport, tourism, agriculture and social statistics). In January 2005, the Blue Plan responded to the call for tenders for the group on thematic activities as part of a consortium led by GIP-ADETEF, in which the statistical bureaux of France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, and Landsis participated.

The database

356. The ECHEMS software tool, devised by the Blue Plan and first used within the MEDSTAT framework, makes it possible to manage data from multiple sources. This tool was installed in the twelve statistical bureaux of the MEDA countries and has proven successful. The Blue Plan hopes to be able to offer this tool to environmental ministries and agencies that are interested in it. For this purpose, it organized a training course in 2004 for four national environmental observatories.

Contribution to the coastal area management programmes (CAMPs)

357. During 2004 and 2005, the Systemic and Prospective Sustainability Analysis (SPSA) methodology implemented by the Blue Plan in MAP coastal area management programmes was further refined. This participatory method involves the choice of priority indicators by local teams, with assistance from the Blue Plan, with the choice being made according to the priority issues selected, and promotes prospective analysis of trend evolutions and desirable improvements. With a view to enhancing the application of this methodology, a workshop was organized in which Algeria and Malta described their experience of the application of the methodology. Based on these first experiences, a user's guide is being prepared and will be available in 2005.

358. Five workshops on the application of SPSA were organized in the context of CAMP Algeria, which is in the process of finalizing the introduction of the methodology. SPSA has

also been introduced as part of CAMP Slovenia and its application should be finalized by September 2005.

II.D.4 Specific themes

359. Blue Plan's thematic analyses constituted an essential part of the *Environment and development report*. In addition to the thematic analyses developed in relation to the report, Blue Plan's main thematic focus in 2004 was to carry out an analysis and help the MCSD produce a report and highlight approaches to the hitherto seldom considered issue of cooperation and funding for sustainable development. Blue Plan also endeavoured to follow up or continue work on the recommendations adopted previously in such areas as free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context, water, tourism, towns and cities and urbanization.

360. Finally, the Blue Plan has been engaged in activities in relation to woodlands and sustainable rural development. At the request of FAO and the member countries of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, and with external funding (FAO and France), a cooperation project on woodlands and sustainable development has been conducted since 2003. Blue Plan has also been requested by the MCSD to begin work on sustainable rural development following the finalization of the *Environment and development report*.

II.D.4.1 *Funding and cooperation for sustainable development*

361. The Blue Plan has been requested by the Contracting Parties to focus on the issue of funding and cooperation for sustainable development, which is considered a priority by the MCSD. As a complex and not very well documented topic, it has required analysis and innovative expertise, involving a detailed examination of international financial flows (origins, nature and destination) based on OECD data and the preparation of two national studies (on Croatia and Morocco) and an important regional study.

362. With a view to developing proposals on this issue, a regional workshop was organized in June 2004, bringing together representatives of the European Commission, countries and other bodies, NGOs and experts. The conclusions of the workshop, which were presented to the MCSD, focused on the main weaknesses of the region, especially the low level of mobilization of actors for sustainable development and their accountability, and the inadequacy of national and international cooperative financing systems. A few ways forward were highlighted for the more effective mobilization of capital and actors around these goals. The outputs of this work (the regional study, the national studies and the report of the workshop) will be published in the MAP Technical Reports Series.

II.D.4.2 *Sustainable rural development, the Silva Mediterranea Project*

363. In the context of Blue Plan's partnership with FAO to restart the activities of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, a forum will be held in Morocco in November 2005 to undertake shared analysis of the conditions under which the forest sector can make a more effective contribution to sustainable development and the local development methods applicable.

364. Several countries and regional institutions have been involved in activities to launch this initiative, which includes the preparation of case studies on France, Morocco and Turkey. In these activities, emphasis is placed on sustainable rural development and participatory national approaches, particularly for the reduction of poverty and desertification, which will require a reformulation of the role played by forestry administrations. Further case studies are being undertaken in 2005.

365. A working seminar with the CIHEAM, experts from the FAO and a number of countries is also planned for the end of the year to engage in a forward-looking debate on rural areas and policies for sustainable rural development, and also to discuss a set of priority indicators and specify activities that could be undertaken in 2006-2007. An important but hitherto little documented point concerns perspectives for the development of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). An initial study by the Blue Plan shows that there is insufficient capacity for the development of GMOs in northern African countries and insufficient reflection in trade agreements on the risks involved. It also confirms the existence of considerable opportunities for organic and high quality products (quality labels, protected geographical production areas, certificates of authenticity).

II.D.5 Follow-up in other thematic areas

II.D.5.1 Free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context

366. The impact study on the sustainability of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area was assigned in early 2004 to the University of Manchester, in association with other institutions. The Blue Plan held an in-depth working session with the project director and a representative of the European Environment Agency, which focussed on analysing the various environmental issues related to free trade, as highlighted in various works prepared by the Blue Plan. A study carried out jointly with World Bank/METAP and ESCWA on the possible impact of free trade on SMEs and SMIs in the textile sector was finalized in late 2004.

II.D.5.2 Water

367. Important analytical documents were finalized in 2004 including a MAP technical report and the atlas on water prepared in partnership with UNESCO, which describe the situation and trends in the Mediterranean, illustrated by a broad range of maps and data. A synthesis version of the MAP technical report is being prepared for publication in 2005.

368. With the secondment in March 2004 of an engineer by Morocco and funding from France, four volunteer countries have undertaken to prepare what may well become model national analyses based on some ten MCSD indicators and prioritizing water demand management. Draft analyses on France, Tunisia and Turkey were prepared and presented to a regional workshop in May 2005. A meeting of experts will be held towards the end of 2005 with a view to establishing a draft model analysis that can be used by countries, with support from the Blue Plan, to help them establish the efficiency plans called for by the Johannesburg Summit. A third regional workshop on water demand management will be planned for 2007 in synergy with the European water initiative in the Mediterranean.

369. Draft Guidelines for Integrated Urban Water System Management in Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean: Volume 1 – Principles and Planning; and Volume 2 – Instruments and Tools were prepared in June 2004 and sent for review to external experts. The review was completed and comments to the author given during the expert meeting that was held in Split in June 2004. The Guidelines were edited and will soon be printed. The Guidelines is being translated into French. The preparatory activities have started for the regional training course.

II.D.5.3 Tourism

370. The Blue Plan attaches importance to the continued follow-up of the recommendations on tourism and sustainable development adopted in 1999. The team of

experts met once again in September 2004 to help finalize the file on tourism in the Mediterranean and contribute to the reflection on the tourism section of the MSSD. The file reviews recent developments and has benefited from valuable contributions from several national experts. It was published in the MAP Technical Reports Series in 2005. A study has also been prepared on the type of regional cooperation mechanisms in this field that could be conceived for the Mediterranean.

371. A second printing, including some corrections, of the Guide to Good Practice in Tourism Carrying Capacity Assessment was prepared and disseminated to institutions and experts in the Mediterranean dealing with tourism issues. The Guide includes experiences of CCA in CAMP areas, as well as recent experiences of the CCA methodology being applied to the Island of Malta and in the Rimini Province of Italy. The document was translated into French, printed and disseminated. The document was also translated into Croatian and will soon be published.

II.D.5.4 Transport

372. Because of the work overload, activities planned by Blue Plan on urbanization and transport have been delayed. Nevertheless, a summary on car engines, mobility and transport systems in the southern and eastern Mediterranean cities was produced in the context of the *Environment and development report*. More detailed case studies on developments in urbanization/transport will be prepared during the next biennium on several cities (Sfax, Cairo, Istanbul and Aix-Marseilles).

II.D.5.5 Soil erosion and desertification control management

Sub-regional project in Maghreb countries

373. The objective of the project is to formulate the erosion combating programmes in the pilot watersheds in the Maghreb countries. After a successful completion of the first phase of the sub-regional project related to erosion mapping, PAP/RAC launched the second phase by organizing a workshop on the subject in Tunis on June 30 - July 2, 2004. The main objective of the workshop was to train the national teams on the formulation of "technological packages" (preventive, protective and remedial measures) for erosion management in the watersheds mapped in the previous phase (Valley of Bas Isser in Algeria, Oued Beni Boufrah in Morocco, Oued Ermel in Tunisia).

II.D.5.6 Local management and sustainable development

374. As part of MCSD activities, PAP/RAC was requested to explore the possibility for establishment of a working group on local management and sustainable development. An Expert Meeting on Local Management and Sustainable Development was organized in Rome on December 21, 2004, to discuss a position paper on local management and sustainable development prepared by CEDARE, and to prepare a proposal of relevant future activities to be submitted to the MCSD.

375. A Position paper "Local Management and Sustainable Development", has been published in December 2004 in English.

II.D.6 Communications and information

376. The main weaknesses of the Blue Plan still lie in communication and dissemination of information, as emphasized in successive evaluations. Yet progress began to be made four years ago with the development of a website containing extensive information that can be downloaded. Monitoring of the number of hits reveals a strong growth, demonstrating the

interest generated in the Blue Plan's work. The website began to be restructured in 2005 with a view to making information more accessible by simplifying menus. The website's graphics will also be improved.

377. Even before its release, the *Environment and development report* has already given rise to significant interest. The Blue Plan has been asked to present its initial findings and thematic elements at several international meetings, particularly in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Environment Programme (SMAP). Several of the Blue Plan's partners have emphasized the need to promote the report as widely as possible over the coming years and to strengthen synergies with other partners. A joint project with the PAP/RAC and METAP has been proposed to accompany the implementation of SMAP 3.

378. By the end of 2005, depending on the funding available and the mobilization of other partners, the Blue Plan intends to ensure the initial broad distribution of the report; prepare the first short summary documents and PowerPoint presentations on the main themes; disseminate the report in the context of meetings held in collaboration with other partners (meetings are planned in Brussels with the European Environment Agency and in Paris, as well as in the Maghreb and Machrek countries); and, depending on demand, participate in national (particularly in SMAP national workshops) and international events.

379. The Centre is also endeavouring to improve the structure of its information base, with particular reference to its maps and graphics library.

II.E. Environment Remote Sensing – Information (ERS/RAC)

II.E.1. New MAP website

380. In accordance with the recommendation by the Contracting Parties calling for the promotion of public awareness and access to information on environmental and sustainable development issues in the region and in MAP's fields of activities, ERS/RAC, at the request of the MAP Secretariat, created a new MAP website in English and French. Italian and Spanish have been added with the support of the respective Governments. The site will also soon be available in Arabic. The new version of the UNEP/MAP website has improved MAP's visibility. Positive feedback has been received by the MAP Secretariat since the new website went on line.

381. The concept behind the website is to use modern technology to help stakeholders, including MAP Focal Points, scientists, students and civil society to gain access to a wealth of information online regarding the environmental and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean. The new technological platform will serve as a tool for managing, monitoring and updating the available information. It will also facilitate the exchange of information, and hence improve collaboration between MAP components.

382. A pop-up window is currently being prepared for inclusion in the new MAP website to promote and provide access on-line to information relating to the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia. It is intended to use the website to disseminate the documents for the meeting and to facilitate the registration of participants to the meeting.

383. The first Mediterranean Forum on the preliminary process of a Mediterranean e-education, e-training community initiative was held in Catania on 17 December 2004. The second meeting was held in Rome on 1-5 June 2005.

II.E.2 Promotional events

384. At its Meeting in Cairo in November 2004, the Bureau called upon the Contracting Parties to organize events at the national level to mark the entry into force of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and the 30th anniversary of MAP. In this context, ERS/RAC, in close cooperation with the MAP Secretariat and SPA/RAC, took part in the MEDITERRE exhibition, which is an important annual event covering natural parks and protected areas in the Mediterranean. MEDITERRE was created to promote collaboration and the exchange of information between the various stakeholders involved in conservation management and offers an ideal opportunity to learn about and share experience on conservation management and environmental protection in the region. During the exhibition, held in Brindisi on 3-6 March 2005, ERS/RAC and SPA/RAC set up a stand to promote MAP's activities to safeguard biodiversity in the Mediterranean. The UNEP/MAP website was used extensively during the exhibition by the general public.

385. MAP was also invited to participate in Park Life, the new exhibition on protected areas and natural living. The exhibition was held in Rome during the European Week of Parks from 26 to 29 May 2005. ERS/RAC, together with SPA/RAC and the MAP Secretariat, took part in this event and promoted the new MAP website.

386. ERS/RAC promoted the Environment Award, which is being organized to mark the 30th anniversary of MAP. A window on the Award has been included on the new website and colourful leaflets have been produced and handed out at exhibitions and fairs. A number of entries have already been received from various countries. The Award was formally launched during a special ceremony to commemorate World Environment Day, held in Rome on 1 June 2005 with the participation of the Italian authorities and under the patronage of the President of the Republic. As Italy currently holds the Presidency of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, it was felt appropriate to launch the Environment Award in Rome. The Award will be presented in Slovenia next November on the occasion of the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

387. To mark the 30th Anniversary of MAP, a short video is being produced and will be shown during the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia. The video is being produced by COPEAM (Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators) and ERS/RAC, in close cooperation with the MAP Secretariat. It is a collective effort with the participation of the main Mediterranean national television stations and Mediterranean journalists, who can play an active role in promoting the objectives of the Barcelona Convention.

II.E.3 Remote sensing

388. A project on improving coastal land degradation monitoring in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic (CoLD) was carried out to improve Lebanese and Syrian national capacities to make use of advanced tools for environmental management and the planning of coastal zones, based on the principles of sustainable development and the ICAM approach. The project was supported by the EU LIFE Third Countries fund. ERS/RAC carried out this activity in cooperation with PAP/RAC and national teams from the Syrian Arab Republic (General Organization for Remote Sensing - GORS) and Lebanon (National Centre for Remote Sensing - NCRS). The results of the project were presented and discussed at the Final Presentation Conference (1-2 December 2004) in Damascus. A website (<http://www.coldproject.net/>) has been launched containing project details, objectives, activities, partners and the documents produced.

ANNEX I

STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

as of July 2005

Contracting Parties	Barcelona Convention 1/			Dumping Protocol 2/			Emergency Protocol 3/		New Emergency Protocol 4/	
	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	-	-
Algeria	-	16.02.81/AC	09.06-04	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	25.01.02	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-
Croatia	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	25.01.02	01.10.03
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	15.10.01	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	25.01.02	-
European Commission	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	25.01.02	25.06.04
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	-	-
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	25.01.02	02.07.03
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	25.01.02	-
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	-	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	22.01.03	-
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	25.01.02	-
Lebanon	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	-
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	25.01.02	-
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	25.01.02	18.02.03
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	25.01.02	03.04.02
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	07.12.2004	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	25.01.02	-
Serbia & Montenegro	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-
Slovenia	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	25.01.02	16.02.04
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	25.01.02	-
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	10.10.03	-	26.12.78/AC	-	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.02	-
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	25.01.02	-
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	-	04.06.03

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

Contracting Parties	Land-Based Sources Protocol 5/			Specially Protected Areas Protocol 6/		SPA & Biodiversity Protocol 7/		Offshore Protocol 8/		Hazardous Wastes Protocol 9/	
	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	10.06.95	26.07.01	-	26.07.01	-	26.07.01
Algeria	-	02.05.83/AC	-	-	16.05.85/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	12.06.92/SUC	-	-	12.06.92/SUC	10.06.95	12.04.02	14.10.94	-	-	-
Cyprus	17.05.80	28.06.88	12.10.01	-	28.06.88/AC	10.06.95	15.10.01	14.10.94	15.10.01	-	-
European Community	17.05.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	10.06.95	12.11.99	-	-	-	-
Egypt	-	18.05.83/AC	-	16.02.83	08.07.83	10.06.95	11.02.00	-	-	01.10.96	-
France	17.05.80	13.07.82/AP	16.04.01	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	10.06.95	16.04.01	-	-	-	-
Greece	17.05.80	26.01.87	10.03.03	03.04.82	26.01.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Israel	17.05.80	21.02.91	-	03.04.82	28.10.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	-	-
Italy	17.05.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	03.04.82	04.07.85	10.06.95	07.09.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Lebanon	17.05.80	27.12.94	-	-	27.12.94/AC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	17.05.80	06.06.89/AP	-	-	06.06.89/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Malta	17.05.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.06.95	28.10.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	28.10.99
Monaco	17.05.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	03.04.82	29.05.89	10.06.95	03.06.97	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Morocco	17.05.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	02.04.83	22.06.90	10.06.95	-	-	01.07.99	20.03.97	01.07.99
Serbia & Montenegro	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	-	16.09.93/AC	-	08.01.03	10.10.95	-	-	-
Spain	17.05.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	03.04.82	22.12.87	10.06.95	23.12.98	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Syria	-	01.12.93/AC	-	-	11.09.92/AC	-	10.10.03	20.09.95	-	-	-
Tunisia	17.05.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	03.04.82	26.05.83	10.06.95	01.06.98	14.10.94	01.06.98	01.10.96	01.06.98
Turkey	-	21.02.83/AC	18.05.02	-	06.11.86/AC	10.06.95	18.09.02	-	-	01.10.96	03.04.04

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

1/ Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976
Entry into force*: 12 February 1978
Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

The 1995 Amendments (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean)

Adoption (Barcelona) 10 June 1995
Entry into force 9 July 2004
Status: Parties to the Amendments: 16

2/ The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol)

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976
Entry into force*: 12 February 1978
Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

The 1995 Amendments (The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea)

Adoption (Barcelona) 10 June 1995
Not Yet in Force
Status: Parties to the Amendments: 14

3/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol)

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976
Entry into force*: 12 February 1978
Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

4/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol)

Adoption (Malta): 25 January 2002
Entry into force*: 17 March 2004, replacing the 1976 Emergency Protocol in accordance with Article 25(2)
Status: Signatories: 16, Parties: 7

5/ The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources (LBS Protocol)

Adoption (Athens): 17 May 1980
Entry into force*: 17 June 1983
Status: Signatories: 22, Parties: 22

The 1996 Amendments (The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol))

Adoption (Syracuse): 7 March 1996

Not Yet in Force

Status: Parties to the Amendments: 13

6/ The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPA Protocol)

Adoption (Geneva): 3 April 1982

Entry into force*: 23 March 1986

Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 22

7/ The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)

Adoption (Barcelona): 10 June 1995

Entry into force*: 12 December 1999, replacing the 1980 SPA Protocol in accordance with Article 32

Status: Signatories: 17, Parties: 14

8/ Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol)

Adoption (Madrid): 14 October 1994

Not Yet in Force

Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 4

9/ Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol)

Adoption (Izmir): 1 October 1996

Not Yet in Force

Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 5

ANNEX II

MEETINGS WITHIN MAP FRAMEWORK DURING THE BIENNIUM 2004-2005

Part I: List of Meetings held in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan

January 2004 to June 2005

2004	Place	Meeting	Oorganiser	Contact
17–18 January	Madrid Spain	NGOs and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)	MEDU	A. Hoballah E. Clancy
23–24 January	Sophia Antipolis, France	Silva Mediterranean Steering Committee	MEDU	L. Dassonville
26–27 February	Tunis Tunisia	Regional Activity Centre Directors' meeting	MEDU	T. Hema
4–6 March	Izmit, Turkey	Training course on the preparation of Strategic Action Programme/National Action Plan	MED POL / GEF	A. Baric F. Abousamra
8–9 March	Malta	Technical Experts Meeting on harmonization of sensitivity mapping (marine pollution) in the Mediterranean region	REMPEC	D. Domovic
10–14 March	Nicosia, Cyprus	Workshop for Mediterranean Media professionals on Biodiversity	MEDU	B. Kamal
18–19 March	Koper, Slovenia	Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) Slovenia Inception Workshop	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
22–23 March	Lattakia, Syria	Kick off meeting of PRTR pilot project	MED POL	F. Abousamra
29–30 March	Portoroz, Slovenia	Technical Meeting on SRCP in Adriatic within All	REMPEC	R. Patruno D. Domovic
7 April	Split, Croatia	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) Steering Committee	MEDU	A. Hoballah
7–8 May	Rabat, Morocco	Workshop on preparation of Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)	MEDU	A. Hoballah M. Ibrahim
9–11 May	Algiers, Algeria	National Training course on Environmental inspectors	MED POL / WHO	G. Kamizoulis
10–14 May	Tunis, Tunisia	National Training course on Environmental inspectors	MED POL / WHO	G. Kamizoulis
16–18 May	Algiers, Algeria	National Training course on Waste Treatment Plants	MED POL / WHO	G. Kamizoulis
27–29 May	Cagliari, Italy	Regional stakeholders' Forum on Integrated Coastal Area Management towards new Protocol	PAP/RAC	I.Trumbic M. Prem
14–15 May	Tunis, Tunisia	Forth Meeting on reporting issues	MEDU	T. Hema
3–4 June	Split, Croatia	Training course on river monitoring for the Adriatic region	MED POL / GEF	F. Abousamra A. Baric
7–10 June	Mersin- Iskenderun, Turkey	National Training Course on the use of Simplified Methodology for Risk Assessment and on Emergency Response in cases of HNS Accidents in Port Areas of Mersin and Iskenderun	REMPEC and Turkish Authorities	E. Sampatakakis
16 June	Genoa, Italy	Bureau 61	MEDU	P. Mifsud T. Hema
17–19 June	Genoa, Italy	9th Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) Meeting	MEDU	A. Hoballah
21 June	Athens, Greece	Fifth Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee	GEF	A. Baric
21–24 June	Damascus, Syria	National Training course on Environmental Inspection	MED POL / WHO	G. Kamizoulis
22–23 June	Athens, Greece	Preparatory Meeting to discuss a draft concept paper for a full-sized GEF Project	GEF	A. Baric

	Greece	paper for a full-sized GEF Project		
8–10 July	Italy	1st National Experts meeting on regional strategy for the prevention and response to marine pollution from ships	REMPEC	R. Patrino D. Domovic J. Pace L. Khodjet El Khil
9–10 September	Ankara, Turkey	Training course on river monitoring for Turkish experts	MED POL / GEF	F. Abousamra A. Baric
28 September–1 October	Istanbul, Turkey	National Training Course on Annex I to Marpol 73/78 for Ship Inspectors	REMPEC and Turkish Authorities	J. Pace
6–9 October	Mugla, Turkey	National training course for sewage treatment plant operation and management	MED POL / WHO	G. Kamizoulis
11–13 October	Trieste, Italy	Stocktaking meeting for the development of the GEF strategic partnership for the MED Sea Large Marine Ecosystem	MED POL	F.S. Civili
11–15 October	Malta	MEDSTAT-Environment Training T2 on Biodiversity Statistic	BLUE PLAN	F. Pintus
16–19 October	Damascus, Syria	National Training course on Environmental Inspections	MED POL / WHO	G. Kamizoulis
2–5 November	Cesenatico, Italy	Training course on eutrophication monitoring	MED POL	C. Beken
8–9 November	Athens, Greece	Meeting on Compliance	MEDU	T. Hema
24–26 November	Malta	Regional Seminar on Port Reception Facilities for Collecting Ship-Generated Garbage, Bilge Waters and Oily Wastes in the Mediterranean	REMPEC	J. Pace L. Khodjet El Khil
25 November	Cairo, Egypt	Bureau 62	MEDU	P. Mifsud T. Hema
1–2 December	Damascus, Syria	Final Presentation Workshop EC Life CoLD Project	PAP/RAC	S. Carnemolla
6 December	Sophia Antipolis, France	Peer review for the MSSD Draft report	BP/RAC	A. Hoballah G. Benoit
8–10 December	Monaco	1st National experts meeting on Pleasure Craft in the Mediterranean region	REMPEC	R. Patrino L. Khodjet El Khil
9–10 December	Athens, Greece	Meeting on MAP evaluation	MEDU	T. Hema
12–14 December	Algiers, Algeria	Third training course on participatory techniques CAMP project	PAP/RAC	Z. Skaricic
14–16 December	Catania, Italy	Government designated to review the process of long-term preparations and implementation of National Action Plans	MED POL / GEF	F. Abousamra A. Baric
16–17 December	Catania, Italy	ERS-RAC National Focal Points Meeting	ERS/RAC	S. Illuminato
21 December	Rome, Italy	Expert Meeting on local management and sustainable development	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
2005				
4–5 January	Athens, Greece	Second Meeting of the ICAM Protocol Working Group	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
10–13 January	Damascus, Syria	National training course on Environmental Inspections	MED POL- WHO	G. Kamizoulis
17–18 January	Rome, Italy	9 th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD	MEDU	A. Hoballah
24–25 January	Sophia Antipolis, France	Steering Committee Meeting on Policy and Indicators in the Mediterranean region	BP/RAC	G. Benoit

27 January	Athens, Greece	RAC Directors Meeting	MEDU	P. Mifsud
7–8 February	Tripoli, Lebanon	Launching of Coastal Litter Project	MED POL	F. Abousamra
17–18 February	Paris, France	Third Meeting of the ICAM Protocol Working Group	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
17–18 February	Nicosia, Cyprus	Workshop to review Implementation of Dumping Protocol and Guidelines	MED POL	F. S. Civili F. Abousamra
17–19 March	Split, Croatia	Expert Workshop to prepare the ICAM Strategy in the Mediterranean	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
March	Turkey	Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles	SPA/RAC	Z. Belkhir
30 Mar–1 April	Athens, Greece	Consultation Meeting to examine the review documents on sewage treatment and water reuse	MED POL - WHO	G. Kamizoulis
31 March	Athens, Greece	Consultation meeting on MAP Evaluation	MEDU	T. Hema
31 March–1 April	Athens, Greece	Second meeting on MAP evaluation	MEDU	P. Mifsud T. Hema
4–5 April	Athens, Greece	Workshop to review marine pollution indicators	MED POL	F. Abousamra
5–7 April	Rome, Italy	Workshop to review MSSD report	MEDU	A. Hoballah G. Benoit
7–9 April	Malta	Workshop for Mediterranean Media Professionals on Land-based and Sea-based Pollution	MEDU	B. Kamal
11–12 April	Athens, Greece	Second meeting of the WG on Implementation and Compliance	MEDU	T. Hema
14–15 April	Athens, Greece	Consultation on Sediments monitoring	MED POL	C. Beken
18–19 April	Athens	Consultation to review MED POL-Phase IV programme	MED POL	F. S. Civili
21–23 April	Malta	Second Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships	REMPEC	R. Patruno D. Domovic J. Pace
25–28 April	Malta	7th Meeting of Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)	REMPEC	R. Patruno D. Domovic J. Pace
4 May	Sophia Antipolis, France	Peer review for the MSSD Draft report	BP/RAC	A. Hoballah G. Benoit
9–11 May	Nice, France	Forum on “Policy and Indicators for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean region	BP/RAC	G. Benoit
12–15 May	Sophia Antipolis	Joint Focal Points Meeting	BP/RAC - ERS/RAC - PAP/RAC	G. Benoit I. Trumbic S. Illuminato A. Hoballah
24–27 May	Barcelona, Spain	Joint Meeting of MEDPOL National Coordinators and CP/RAC National Focal Points	MED POL - CP/RAC	F. S. Civili A. Vilaplana
31 May–3 June	Seville	7th Meeting of National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas	SPA/RAC	Z. Belkhir
1–5 June	Rome, Italy	Forum on information needs and use	ERS/RAC	S. Illuminato
10–11 June	Malta	Regional Workshop on Evaluation of Bathing Area Management in the Mediterranean	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
13–14 June	Rabat, Morocco	5th Meeting on Reporting under the Barcelona Convention	MEDU	T. Hema
17 June	Athens, Greece	Meeting of experts on Liability and Compensation	MEDU	T. Hema

20–21 June	Algiers, Algeria	The Signing of Subregional Agreement Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and First Meeting of National Operational Authorities	REMPEC and Algerian Authorities	R. Patruno D. Domovic
20–22 June	Athens, Greece	10th Meeting of the MCSD	MEDU	A. Hoballah
21 June	Athens, Greece	CAMP Cyprus Signing of the agreement	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
24–25 June	Oristano, Sardinia	Regional consultative workshop for the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Area Management	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
30 June	Brussels, Belgium	Meeting of the Bureau	MEDU	P. Mifsud T. Hema
30 June	Paris, France	Mechanism of Cooperation on Tourism and SD in the Mediterranean	BP/RAC	P. de Monbrison-Fouchère E. Coudert G. Benoit

Part II: Upcoming/Ongoing Meetings to be organized in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan, July 2005 December 2005

3–7 July	Alexandria, Egypt	Subregional Training Course on preparedness and response for Arabic speaking Mediterranean countries	REMPEC	D. Domovic	Arabic speaking Mediterranean Coastal States	Confirmed
11–16 July	Barcelona, Spain	Advanced Seminar on Pollution Prevention in Dairy Industry	CP/RAC	A. Vilaplana	Regional experts	Confirmed
26 August	Sophia Antipolis, France	Meeting on the activity "rural development" in the logic of the preparation of the Experts Meeting organised with the CIHEAM on prospective and indicators (Rural) which will be held in november	BP/RAC	L. Dassonville	Consultants	Confirmed
September	Koper, Slovenia	CAMP Slovenia Mid-term Harmonisation Meeting	PAP/RAC	M. Prem	national experts, RACs	Tentative
September	Sophia Antipolis, France	Steering Committee to plan the activities of 2007–2008 (Tourism)	BP/RAC	E. Coudert	Experts	Tentative
12–13 September	Algiers, Algeria	CAMP Algeria: Final Presentation Conference	PAP/RAC	Z. Skaricic	national experts, stakeholders	Tentative
15–16 September	Sophia Antipolis, France	Steering Committee to plan the activities of the 2006–2007 biennium (Water)	BP/RAC	M. Blinda	Experts	Confirmed
21–24 September	Athens	MAP Focal Points Meeting	MEDU	P. Mifsud T. Hema	MAP Focal Points	Confirmed
Last week of September	Cyprus	Regional Seminar (MEDEXPOL 2005)	REMPEC	R. Patruno D. Domovic	All countries	Tentative
October	Sevilla, Spain	CAMP Spain Signing of the Agreement	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic	country representatives, MAP-PAP	Tentative
October	Split, Croatia	Training Course on Tourism Carrying Capacity Assessment	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic	experts, country representatives	Tentative

October	Nicosia, Cyprus	CAMP Cyprus Inception Workshop	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic	country representatives, MAP-PAP	Tentative
October	Paris, France	Communication on RED	BP/RAC	G. Benoit	MEDD CE	Tentative
October	Batna, Algeria	Regional workshop on "urbanization and mobility"	BP/RAC	P.Miran	Transport and environment institutions representatives	Tentative
October	Turkey	Launching of PRTR in Turkey	MED POL	F. Abousamra	Turkish experts	Tentative
4–6 October	Athens, Greece	Meeting of the Network for Compliance and Enforcement	MED POL / WHO	G.Kamizoulis	All countries	confirmed
10–11 October	Athens, Greece	Multi-stakeholders forum for the implementation of SAP/NAP	MED POL / GEF / MIO	F. S. Civilis F. Abousamra	Civil society, NGOs, Industry associations form Mediterranean Countries	Confirmed
10–12 October	Rome, Italy	Regional FAO/PAP Workshop on soil erosion and desertification control	PAP/RAC and FAO	I. Trumbic	Countries' representatives, experts, UNCCD, FAO representatives	confirmed
15–16 October	Istanbul, Turkey	Shark workshop with TUDAV	RAC/SPA	Daniel Cebrian		Confirmed
November	Split, Croatia	Expert Meeting to propose activities on Coastal Landscape management in the Mediterranean	PAP/RAC	M. Prem	selected experts	tentative
08–11 November	Portoroz, Slovenia	14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties	MEDU	P. Mifsud T. Hema	CPs	Confirmed
9–10 November	Bari, Italy	Experts Meeting on prospective and indicators (Rural)	BP/RAC CIHEAM	G. Benoit	Experts	Tentative
17–18 November	Lattakia, Syria	Final workshop PRTR Syria	MED POL ICS-UNIDO	F. Abousamra	National industrials	Tentative
17–18 November	Barcelona, Spain	Symposium Oiseaux	RAC/SPA	Lobna Ben Nakhla		Confirmed
23–26 November	Rabat, Morocco	Regional Workshop	BP/RAC FAO HCEF/LCD	L. Dassonville	Silva <i>Mediterranea</i> Network	Confirmed
December	Split, Croatia	Regional Training Workshop on Sustainable Urban Water Resources Management	PAP/RAC	I.Trumbic	country representatives, experts	Tentative
December		Invasive marine species workshop	SPA/RAC	Souha El Asmi		Tentative
7–9 December	Athens	Review Meeting on Monitoring	MED POL	C. Beken	All countries	Tentative

ANNEX III

TRUST FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION (ME)
Status of contribution as at 30 June 2005
(Expressed in euros)

COUNTRIES	Unpaid pledges for 2004 & prior yrs		Adjustments	Pledges for 2005	Collections during 2005 for 2005 and fut. yrs	Collections during 2005 for prior yrs	Collections during 2005 for prior yrs - US \$	Unpaid pledges for prior yrs.	Unpaid pledges for 2005 & prior yrs
Albania	4,997		0	3,877	0	0	0	4,997	8,874
Algeria	58,163		0	58,163	0	0	0	58,163	116,326
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0		0	16,619	16,619	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0		0	53,730	53,730	0	0	0	0
Cyprus	0		0	7,755	7,755	0	0	0	0
European Union	0		0	138,483	138,483	0	0	0	0
Egypt	47,041		0	27,143	0	0	0	47,041	74,184
France	0		0	2,103,262	2,103,262	0	0	0	0
Greece	155,647		0	155,653	0	155,647	0	0	155,653
Israel	6,297		0	81,427	83,703	6,297	0	0	(2,276)
Italy	0	1/	0	1,737,670	1,737,670	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	6,720		0	3,877	0	0	0	6,720	10,597
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	267,262		0	109,124	37,838	0	0	267,262	338,548
Malta	3,877		0	3,877	0	3,877	0	0	3,877
Monaco	0		0	3,877	3,877	0	0	0	0
Morocco	59,916		0	15,511	0	0	0	59,916	75,427
Serbia and Montenegro	18,000		0	18,000	0	0	0	18,000	36,000
Slovenia	0		0	37,113	37,113	0	0	0	0
Spain	0		0	830,337	0	0	0	0	830,337
Syrian Arab Rep.	(428)		0	15,511	0	0	0	(428)	15,083
Tunisia	11,632		0	11,632	0	11,632	0	0	11,632
Turkey	0		0	124,634	0	0	0	0	124,634
Total	639,125		0	5,557,275	4,220,050	177,453	0	461,672	1,798,896
					0				
Additional Contributions (for information only)									
									0
European Commission	0		0	598,569	598,569	0	0	0	0
Host Country *	103,866		0	440,000	307,692	0	0	103,866	236,174
UNEP Env. Fund	0	2/	0	22,000	22,000	0	0	0	0
Total	742,991		0	6,617,844	5,148,311	177,453	0	565,537	2,035,071

N.B. Amounts in brackets mean credit to the Government

- 1/ The amount of Euros 195,215 has been JV'd to other counterparts serviced by the Government of Italy at the instructions from the Government
2/ Interfund Settlement: ME Trust Fund CP/4040-02-61(16)