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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN



GEF Project "Determination of Priority Actions for the  
Further Elaboration and Implementation of the  
Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea"

Third Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee

Athens, 28 January 2003

**PROGRESS REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2002  
AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF THE PROJECT**



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## INTRODUCTION

Being aware of the importance of land-based activities for the pollution of the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean countries adopted in 1997, at the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona convention held in Tunis, the Strategic Action Programme of regional and national activities to address pollution from land based activities (SAP MED). The SAP MED is an action-oriented initiative, identifying priority target categories of substances and activities to be eliminated or controlled by the Mediterranean countries, through a planned timetable for the implementation of specific control measures and interventions. It is a basis for the implementation of the Land-based Sources Protocol by the Mediterranean countries over the next 25 years.

The key land-based activities addressed in the SAP MED are linked to the urban environment, (particularly municipal wastewater treatment and disposal, urban solid waste disposal and activities contributing to air pollution from mobile sources), to industrial activities, targeting those responsible for the release of toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative substances into the marine environment, giving special attention to persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and to activities that contribute to the destruction of the coastline and coastal habitats.

In order to provide the support to the Mediterranean countries for the implementation of the SAP MED, the GEF Project "Determination of Priority Actions for the further Elaboration and Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" (MAP/GEF) was approved by the GEF Governing Council in May 2000, while the project document was signed on 15 December 2000. Twelve GEF eligible Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Slovenia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) are receiving support from the Project. The project was initiated on 1 January 2001.

The main aim of the Project is the establishment of conditions at regional and national levels necessary for the implementation of SAP MED. An additional aim of the project is to develop and adopt a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) in conformity with the provisions of the protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity.

The main purpose of this report is to review the activities undertaken within the Project during 2002, to point out the main obstacles in the action implementation, to identify corrective measures which were undertaken, to present lessons learned, and to elaborate the programme of activities until the end of the Project.

The structure of this report follows the logic of other Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) reports. After this first introductory chapter, the second chapter presents the progress report for the period 1 January - 31 December 2002. This chapter is highly synthesised and essentially presents activities undertaken. The third chapter briefly presents the programme, timetable and recommendations, where appropriate, for the activities planned until the end of the project. The fourth chapter contains conclusions and recommendations concerning the possible extension of the project. The information on the development of SAP BIO is given in the Annex, for information only, since it is without the terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee.

## **1. PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2002**

### **1.1 Project Coordination**

#### **1.1.1 Coordination at the project level**

The project is managed by the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, where a Project Management team was established. The management consists of Project Manager, Administrative Assistant and Secretary. The Project Manager reports directly to the MAP Coordinator. In his activity the Project Manager closely cooperates with the MED POL Coordinator, MED/WHO/EURO Officer and Directors of PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and CP/RAC.

Apart from the coordination of the implementation of all activities specified in the project document, ensuring the timely completion of each one, liaising closely with the executing agencies, the GEF National Coordinators and the representatives of the GEF partners and other donors, preparation of terms of reference and contracts with all consultants hired under the umbrella project, preparation of half-yearly and yearly managerial and financial reports, preparation of self-evaluation reports, the GEF Project management has done the following:

Prepared the background document for the second meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee;

Organized second meetings of the Inter-agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee

Prepared the reports of the second meetings of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee and prepared reports of the meetings

Prepared background information for the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee meetings

Organized two meetings of the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee

Prepared the Progress report on the project implementation, requested by the UNEP/GEF;

Organized and participated in the expert's missions to five countries in order to revalidate the proposed priority hot spots and to prepare terms of references for the preparation of pre-investment studies;

Prepared relevant letters of agreement with three countries and terms of references for the preparation of pre-investment studies;

Participated at three subregional meetings of national experts designated to prepare BB and NDA;

Sub-organized two training courses and one regional workshop on EIA

The activities of the Project committees were as follows:

#### *Inter-Agency Steering Committee*

This committee is composed of the implementing and donor agencies. It is chaired by the leading implementing agency (UNEP), in accordance with the agreed procedures for GEF International Waters Projects and includes representatives from the UNEP GEF Coordination Unit, UNEP/MEDU, UNEP/MED POL, WHO/MED POL, GEF, UNDP, the World Bank as the administrator of METAP, FFEM and UNIDO-ICS, as well as other

potential donors. The second meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee was held in Tirana (Albania) on 21 March 2002. The meeting was informed on the project activities and particularly discussed the issues related to the preparation of pre-investment studies and NAPs. The meeting adopted a revised timetable for the implementation of specific activities in 2002. The report of the second meeting was prepared and disseminated to the members of the committee and the participants of the meeting.

#### *Coordination Committee*

This committee is composed of the members of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and by nationally nominated coordinators for activities undertaken in the framework of the project. All Mediterranean countries nominated their national GEF coordinators. The Committee met for the second time in Tirana (Albania) on 22 March 2002. The national GEF coordinators were informed on the details of planned activities, particularly on the process for the formulation of National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities. It pointed out the establishment of the close cooperation between the countries and implementing agencies for the success of the project. The report of the second meeting was prepared and disseminated to the members of the committee and the participants of the meeting.

#### *Ad-hoc Technical Committee*

This committee is composed of representatives from MAP/MED POL, WHO/MED POL, the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Plan (METAP) and its partners, GEF, FFEM and UNIDO-ICS. It is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the pre-investment studies. METAP will follow up technically the implementation of these studies, which will be undertaken under the responsibility of the Governments, themselves, with the guidance of the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee.

The Committee met for the first time on 28 and 29 January 2002 in Athens. The main aim of the meeting was to select pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies. The meeting adopted a preliminary priority list which was sent to the countries for comments. In addition, the countries were required to provide their position either at national or local level regarding the follow-up investment. This was required in order to avoid the preparation of pre-investment studies for hot spots having high uncertainty for investment.

Based on information received from the countries, the committee at its second meeting (Tirana, March 2002) adopted a final priority list of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies.

Reports of both meetings were prepared and disseminated to the committee's members

#### *Donors meeting*

The Donors meeting planned for September 2001 was postponed, because of the delay in the adoption of the priority list of hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies and in the preparation of pre-investment studies. The general feeling within

MEDU is that the meeting should be organized when concrete projects for investment are ready. However, preparatory activities for its organization, such as collection of addresses of institution for the invitation to attend the meeting and preliminary contacts with potential donors and partners were undertaken.

### **1.1.2 Coordination at the countries level**

In order to coordinate actions and activities directed at the effective preparation of the NAPs, in the spirit of building a consensus at the national level, the countries were requested to set up Inter Ministerial Committees (IMCs). Adequate support to the activities of IMCs was proposed and a related MOU was submitted to the countries. Seven countries signed the submitted MOU and received the proposed support. Following the decision of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee concerning improving the efficiency of the National GEF Coordinators by providing support for the administrative assistance, three countries requested such support. However, only one country received the support in 2002.

### **1.2 Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)**

MEDPOL started preparing the ground for the updating of the 1997 TDA report during the biennium 2000-2001, when a new outline was prepared, discussed and adopted by a teamwork.

A number of eminent regional consultants for TDA updating were hired in the second semester of 2001 and at the beginning of 2002. MEDPOL received most of the TDA expert reports by June 2002. Only one expert did not respect his contract which was cancelled and a new expert was contracted to undertake the activity. During June-August MEDPOL reviewed the reports and prepared **draft 1** which was dispatched to the expert team leader, by September 2002. The secretariat received from the expert team leader **draft 2** on 30 December 2002. This draft will be reviewed, and comments will be made by regional independent experts who are invited to meet at the MAP premises on 29-30 January 2003.

### **1.3 Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas**

The country reports with the data and information on the potential risk of transboundary effects, prepared by WHO/MED POL, and on the application of socio-economic criteria for the prioritisation of pollution hot spots, to be selected for pre-investment studies, were considered by the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee for the Pollution hot spots, at its meeting at the MEDU premises, held in Athens, from 28-29 January 2002. The Committee adopted the preliminary priority list of pollution hot spots for pre-investment studies.

The preliminary priority list of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies was communicated to the countries. The countries were required to express their opinion regarding the proposed hot spot(s) in the country for the preparation of a pre-investment study and to provide their position either at national or local level regarding the follow-up investments. This was required in order to avoid the preparation of pre-investment studies for hot spots having high uncertainty for investment. The final priority



list of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies was prepared and adopted by the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee at its second meeting (Tirana, March 2002).

METAP has prepared two types of generic TORs for the preparation of pre-investment studies, which are used to tailor TORs for concrete projects.

Following the decisions of the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee and the Inter-Agency Steering Committee concerning the preparation of pre-investment studies, expert missions to revalidate the proposed pollution hot spots, (to prepare TORs for the preparation of pre-investment studies, to assess the costs for the preparation of pre-investment studies and to identify an implementing agency), have been sent to five countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Syria and Turkey) in the period May-September 2002.

The mission reports and draft TORs were sent to the countries for comments. Three countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Egypt) agreed with TORs and signed a letter of agreement for the preparation of the pre-investment study. Two other countries, despite several reminders, didn't react positively so far.

Only one country (Bosnia and Herzegovina), so far, accomplished the procurement procedure for the selection of a consultant, which will be contracted for the preparation of the pre-investment study.

FFEM, as the main partner for this action, has decided that it would directly support the preparation of pre-investment studies in four countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) by applying the same procedure as it is applied for the other countries. However, after the initial activities, contacts with the countries, and exploratory missions to the countries the activities on the preparation of pre-investment studies are not initiated so far. FFEM submitted in September 2002 the proposal for a framework agreement between FFEM and MEDU concerning their contribution to the GEF project. The negotiations on the proposed agreement are not accomplished and the agreement is not signed yet.

ICS/UNIDO is directly supporting the preparation of one pre-investment study in Croatia. The contract between ICS/UNIDO and the Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning for the preparation of the study has been signed, however the activities on the preparation of the study were not initiated because the new legislation enacted after the signature of the contract requires the application of procurement procedure for the selection of consultants.

So far, two GEF eligible countries are not participating in this activity, Libya and Slovenia. Libya never answered officially, only during the meeting in Catania (Dec. 2002), the Libyan's representative proposed to be considered for further activities, and very lately prepared the revised country's report, while Slovenia informed (by phone only) that they would not be interested in the activity since pre-investment studies for the selected pollution hot spots have already been prepared.

A consultation meeting on criteria for pollution sensitive areas was held in November 2002 in Athens. Following the recommendations made by the participants on the

proposed criteria, a final draft was prepared which has been circulated for comments among the MED POL Coordinators.

#### **1.4 Regional cooperative actions**

Under regional co-operative actions, MAP/MED POL is responsible for the preparation of the guidelines and the regional plans listed below, which were planned to be prepared in the period September 2001-September 2002:

*Guidelines:*

development of ecological status and stress reduction indicators; and river(including estuaries) pollution monitoring programme

*Regional Plans:*

collection and disposal of all PCBs waste;  
reduction of input of BOD by 50% by 2005 from industrial sources;  
management of hazardous waste;  
regional inventory of quantities and uses of nine pesticides and PCBs as well as of industries which manufacture or condition them;  
establishment of regional pollution monitoring reporting and data quality assurance programme for rivers;  
establishment of regional pollution monitoring reporting and data quality assurance programme for marine environment; and  
collection of information on levels and loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean.

To ensure cost/effectiveness to the work as well as consistency to the information that would be included in the guidelines and regional plans, the following was decided (see the minutes of GEF/MEDOL follow up meeting of 11 July 2001):

to combine the regional plan and the guidelines for river monitoring in one document;  
to include the regional inventory for pesticides and PCBs in the regional plan for collection and disposal of PCBs;  
to include an inventory for hazardous waste in the regional plan for hazardous waste management; and  
to consider that the two regional plans on marine pollution monitoring (8 and 9 above) have been prepared as part of MED POL Phase III and are being applied under the trend, biological effects and compliance monitoring activities.

The draft regional plans and guidelines have been submitted by the consultants, reviewed by the secretariat and translated into French.

WHO/MED POL is responsible for the preparation of four regional guidelines on:

sewage treatment and disposals;  
industrial wastewater;  
coastal litter; and  
environmental compliance and enforcement.

The first draft of the first three guidelines were prepared on time and reviewed by a team of experts in the respective fields, and following their recommendations and comments, the final draft will be tabled for discussion during the proceedings of two meetings of Mediterranean experts, as envisaged in the project document. The guidelines on environmental compliance and enforcement have been reviewed by the MED POL National Coordinators.

Under this component RAC/CP should elaborate 3 regional guidelines and 1 regional plan:

Regional Guideline for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilisers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture;  
Regional Guideline for the application of BATs and BEP in industries;  
Regional Guideline for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial installations which are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids; and  
Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation.

The Regional Guideline for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilisers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture has been finalised and will be sent to the GEF National Focal Points for its revision and comments during 2003.

The Regional Guideline for the application of BATs and BEP in industries has been prepared in the first draft, which was revised and the final draft was prepared at the end of 2002.

The Regional Guideline for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial installations which are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids has been prepared in the first draft and after the review, the final draft was prepared at the end of December 2002.

The Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation has been prepared and its first draft has been reviewed, the final draft was prepared at the end of December 2002.

## **1.5 Capacity building**

The regional workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) planned for September 2001 was organized in June 2002, due to the late signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank, as administrator of METAP. Twenty participants from 10 GEF eligible countries attended the workshop. Two "train the trainers" workshops at national level for environmental impact assessment, one in English and other one in French were organized in February 2002. The workshops were attended by 33 participants from 11 GEF eligible countries. All workshops were organized at CITET in Tunis (Tunisia) and supported by METAP. MAP/MED POL postponed the regional training course on river pollution monitoring for 2003, as well as two national training courses due to the expected contribution from FFEM.

A regional course to train trainers on the operation and management of municipal wastewater treatment plants (Athens, Greece, 16-20 October 2001), was convened by WHO/MED POL and was attended by 17 participants from 15 Mediterranean countries.

So far, the national training courses have taken place in Libya (in Arabic), Croatia with Slovenia participation (in Croatian), and in Albania, based however on a more particular subject like treatment by stabilization points, to meet better their requirements. Two more national training courses are scheduled for Algeria and Syria. Funds for the above national training courses were provided from savings from other activities as the planned contribution by FFEM is still pending.

The regional training course on pollution monitoring and inspection could not be implemented in 2001, as FFEM's contribution was the only source of funding. Namely, FFEM would like to follow the countries' priorities in the capacity building and the negotiations on their involvement in the capacity building component are not yet finalized. In 2002, a number of funds from other activities were shifted in order to provide the financial background for the implementation of the above activity. Consequently, the regional training course for trainers on environmental inspections organized by WHO/MED POL was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 4-8 November 2002. Sixteen trainers from 14 Mediterranean countries attended the course, who in turn, will organize similar national training course in their countries, based on the original material prepared for the training.

Under this component RAC/CP prepared and organized one regional training course on Cleaner Production Techniques and Practices, which was held in Barcelona from 30 September to 4 October 2002. The aim of the course was to build and enhance the capacities of the Mediterranean countries for the formulation of National Action Plans (NAP) to combat pollution from land-based activities, the operational long-term output of the SAP. The idea was to specifically provide training on cleaner production as well as other related strategies and approaches of environmental management, in order to facilitate tools to the Mediterranean countries for the later elaboration of NAPs.

The course was organised through the national focal points of GEF, who were invited to participate in it or to designate the most suitable country representative bearing in mind the aim of the course.

A total of 15 participants from all the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries as well as from Cyprus, Israel, Malta and Spain attended the course.

### **Problems encountered during the organization of training courses**

The reaction from the countries in proposing the implementation of national training courses was quite slow and probably occurred due to national administrative problems.

Another considerable issue remains the development of an accurate translation of the different documents, as the number of translators accredited in producing qualitative work is rather limited.

### **1.6 Sustainability of SAP MED**

**Preparation of the baseline pilot project** on introducing the tourist eco-charge consisted of preparation of the 3 documents, presentation of the instrument to the local

authorities, and organisation of the training course in collaboration with other Croatian pilot projects. The first of the 3 outputs was delivered in October 2002. The other 2 outputs are to be finalised in January 2003. During August, the activities on rising awareness were done, including the organisation of an info-point called "Eco-corner", which was situated in the centre of the town of Hvar for the 3 weeks. At the "Eco-corner", the promotional materials on economic instruments, and on the impact of tourism on the environment, were offered, as well as the questionnaire for the opinion poll on willingness-to-pay for environmental protection of the Hvar. The project was presented in the training course on EI in Opatija. The training course, as well as the project, was presented with an extensive article, in the 2 local newspapers, and at the local radio station. The project was also presented in the METAP/PAP training course on ICAM in Split. After that, the project was again presented at several local radio stations.

The new instrument was proposed in May 2002. The local authorities have still not responded. The entire economy of the Island of Hvar is based on tourism, and the risk of provoking negative impacts on the number of visitors is something nobody on the island would like to happen. The sale of the local hotel company "Suncani Hvar" is in progress. Taking the decision on the buyer of the big share of stocks has been delayed, mostly because of the political reasons. Therefore, the decision on the introduction of the new instrument has been postponed.

#### **Preparation of five additional pilot projects in selected countries**

The draft version of the Diagnostic Analysis has been prepared in 4 countries. Preparation of the Diagnostic Analysis has been significantly delayed, because of the weak response of the countries. Three training courses were organised from October to December (Croatia, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina). At present, the training courses are in preparation in Algeria and Morocco. Three presentations to the relevant authorities have been done. Upon the authorities' response, some changes have been done in the proposals. The pilot project in Egypt has been cancelled. Since EI NFP had left Egypt, the new contacts couldn't be established and the interest in this pilot project vanished. The pilot project in Morocco has been cancelled. Since the new Minister is not interested in this project, PAP/RAC has offered to organise a training course, and to present the results obtained by PAP/RAC expert. However, it has been concluded that the unspent funds be used for the implementation of the remaining 5 pilot projects.

#### **Preparation of the web site and the web data base**

The web site, which was established in November, contains all important outputs from this project component. PAP/RAC has received the results of the 6 countries questionnaires for the web data base, and the construction of the data base is in the course. The numeric data requested by the questionnaire were difficult to obtain in the countries of the project. The results of the questionnaires are delayed, since the quality of the results obtained is questionable. These results were more or less expected, knowing the weak points in the region. However, the establishment of this data base is the first step in building information in the region.

**Brochure on advantages of using economic instruments** was published in May 2002. The brochure is translated and published in 3 national languages (Croatian, Bosnian and Albanian). The Algerian translation will be finished in January 2003. In some countries, the brochure was extended with the presentation of the state-of-art related to EI in the country. Translation, adaptation and printing of the brochure in national languages is slow.

**Expert meeting to prepare proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments in selected countries**, which has been foreseen for September 2002, is postponed for February 2003. The reasons for this postponement are in delay of finalisation of the Diagnostic Analysis and presentation of new instruments to the relevant authorities. These first outputs present an input for the preparation of proposals for introducing the EI.

## **1.7 Public participation**

In the framework of the MAP Information Officer's Work Plan, which establishes providing the MED GEF Project with professional advice on activities related to Information, Awareness and Public Participation, the following activities were carried out in coordination with the MED GEF Project Manager and the MED POL Coordinator:

### **ACTIVITY 1 Mediterranean Strategy on Information, Awareness and Public Participation**

As agreed with the Mediterranean GEF Project Manager, the MAP Information Officer supervised the elaboration of a report-survey on the status of three components of this strategy in the East Adriatic countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania) and Turkey, Malta, Cyprus and Israel, containing proposals for the drafting of a sub-regional component of the strategy.

A consultant, whose fees were funded by the MED GEF Project, collected inputs from national experts and concerned NGOs in each one of the above-mentioned countries

The MAP Information Officer selected the appropriate consultant and drafted the relevant terms of reference.

The MAP Information Officer supervised the work of the consultant, the preparation of the working paper and the organization of the relevant workshop, as well as all related documents and reports.

#### **OUTCOME:**

In the framework of this activity, the workshop took place in Split, Croatia, on 17 and 18 May 2002. Both the working paper of the meeting, the report of the meeting and the final conclusions of the workshop, drafted under the supervision of the MAP Information Officer, were duly produced and delivered to the Mediterranean GEF Project Manager.

### **ACTIVITY 2 Publications on the SAP/MED for the wide public:**

This activity, coordinated by the MAP Information Officer in close co-operation with the MED GEF Project Manager and the MED POL Coordinator, focused on:

The preparation, publication, and dissemination, in four languages (English, French, Arabic, and Spanish) of a publication on the SAP Programme, entitled "Reducing Pollution from Land". This publication has been produced as part of the series for the Johannesburg Summit and it was widely distributed.

The preparation, publication, and dissemination, in three languages (English, French, and Arabic) of a leaflet on the SAP Programme. This leaflet has been produced as part of the series of publications for the Johannesburg Summit and it was widely distributed.

**OUTCOME:**

Both publications, funded by the MED GEF Project, produced and widely disseminated.

The activities on the development of the regional plan for public participation were not continued, as it was planned, since a new proposal on how to continue with the action was made, which is explained under 2.7.

**1.8 National Action Plans to address pollution from land based activities (NAPs)**

The “Guidelines for the preparation of the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) and the Baseline Budget (BB) of pollutant releases” were prepared as the first step for the preparation of NAPs and sectorial plans. It was dispatched to the national experts and MEDPOL and GEF national coordinators in March 2002.

The Guidelines were prepared following a dynamic approach which takes into consideration the possible developments of the environmental scientific and technical knowledge that would occur during the implementation of the SAP. The Guidelines describe in detail the methodology to be used by the national authorities to prepare the NDA and consequently to set up the BB for each SAP targeted pollutant. They also propose pollutant emission factors that could be considered at national level in case of lack of the necessary data.

To increase the possibility of success of these two exercises, the national experts who are actively involved in the NDA and BB process were called to follow up meetings at the sub-regional level to review, case by case, the achievements and bottlenecks being faced during the preparation of the NDA and BB. The meetings were organized according to the following:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>Subregional meetings</b>			
Egypt, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine	10-11 September	MEDPOL/GEF	Syria
Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria	7-8 October	MEDPOL/GEF	Tunisia
Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia	17-18 September	MEDPOL/GEF	Croatia
Turkey, Malta, Cyprus, Israel	21-22 October	MEDPOL/GEF	Turkey
Greece, France, Italy, Monaco	16-17 October	MEDPOL/GEF	Monaco-Ramoge

The formulation of the NAPs and sectorial plans can be considered as the final output of all the activities of the GEF project and as part of the ultimate implementation of the SAP. Guidelines for the preparation of NAPs under the provisions of the SAP were therefore prepared and approved by Country Designated Experts at their meeting in

Catania (Italy), December 2002. This activity is planned to be accomplished during 2003. The Guidelines will be sent to the MEDPOL and the National GEF Coordinators by the end of January 2003.

Additional support documents and guidelines are under preparation as support to the overall activities to prepare the NAPs and the sectorial plans. These documents and guidelines are as follows:

Assessment of the national institutions set up by selected Mediterranean countries to assist the industrial and municipal sectors in their environmental activities;  
Guidelines for tracking the Baseline Budget for industries; and  
Guidelines for the compliance under the provision of the SAP operational strategy.

### **1.9 Development of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) (informative only)**

The development of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) is outside the terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee, therefore the relevant Progress report and planned activities until the end of the project are attached, for information, as Annex I to this report.

## **2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF THE PROJECT**

### **2.1 Coordination**

#### **2.1.1 Coordination at the Project level**

Communication between the countries and the GEF Project Management in 2003 and until the end of the project will be intensified in order to initiate and stimulate activities on the preparation of NAPs and pre-investment studies. For those countries which have not yet established an Inter-Ministerial Committee, (IMC) the first priority will be given to the finalization of its setting up. IMC are expected to coordinate actions and activities directed at the effective preparation of the National Action Plan, in the spirit of building a consensus at the national level. The assistance for the activities of IMC will be provided under the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).

The countries will be provided with direct assistance for a variety of activities at the national level aiming for the preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP). Following the assistance which was provided for hiring national experts for the preparation of National Diagnostic Analysis and Baseline Budget (BB), adequate assistance will be provided for the preparation of sectorial programmes and finally the National Action Plan, as well as for the organization of meetings of national stakeholders in order to discuss and review of draft sectorial programmes and NAPs.

In order to enhance the activities at national level concerning the preparation of NAPs, it is planned to recruit regional expert(s), who would assist national experts and authorities when such assistance is required.



Furthermore, the preparation of pre-investment studies for selected hot spots would require a lot of coordination activities during the preparation phase in the selecting and recruiting of national experts, and execution of the pre-investment studies. The countries would be able to receive assistance of international consultants, if required.

The above mentioned assistance would be provided to the countries under appropriate MOUs, project documents and contracts.

#### *Inter-Agency Steering Committee*

The third meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee is planned for 28 January 2003 in Athens. The main tasks of the meeting are to evaluate the activities undertaken during 2002 and to decide on the precise modalities for execution and coordination of the remaining activities until the end of the project.

#### *Coordination Committee*

Following the conclusion of the second meeting of the Coordination Committee the third meeting is planned for September 2003. The main tasks of the meeting would be to evaluate the activities undertaken during 2002 and the first half of 2003, particularly on NAPs development and pre-investment studies preparation.

#### *Ad-hoc Technical Committee*

The Committee is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the pre-investment studies, while METAP follows up technically the implementation of these studies and reports to the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee.

So far, a new meeting of the Committee is not planned. The committee members are informed by mail on the development of activities on the pre-investment preparation. However, a meeting may be organized when necessary.

#### *Donors meeting*

Regarding the organization of the Donors meeting, it is not defined when and where to organize it. For the meeting an informative document will be prepared. The document will contain information on hot spots potentially attractive for donation and partnership. However, it will be prepared in close cooperation with the countries and will contain only the hot spots approved by the countries.

### **2.1.2 Coordination at country level**

The preparation and adoption of NAPs is a rather complex process, which requires the active involvement of a large number of stakeholders. For the success of the action, a well-established coordination is essential. The IMC is the national body, which should coordinate all activities, at national level, aimed in order to prepare, discuss, review and adopt NAP. Therefore, additional effort should be made for setting up an IMC in those countries, which have not yet established one. Financial support will be provided to the countries to cover expenses of the IMC's activities, as well as for the administrative support to GEF National Coordinators, when such support is required. In addition, the countries would be able to receive the assistance of international consultant(s) at any stage of the NAP's development.

## 2.2 Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

### Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
Expert meeting to review draft TDA report	January 2003	MAP/MED POL
Finalization, editing, printing and dissemination of the report	Feb.-June 2003	MAP/MED POL

## 2.3 Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

After the relevant documents are signed between MEDU and FFEM concerning FFEM's contribution to the GEF project, and between FFEM and the relevant country related to FFEM support for the preparation of pre-investment studies, identification missions to the countries will be organized in order to re-validate the selected hot spots, definition of the scope of pre-investment studies and tailoring TORs and studies cost in accordance to the hot spot characteristics and complexity.

For the selected pollution hot spots, pre-investment studies will be prepared by consultant(s), who will be selected after the procurement procedure is performed in compliance with national legislation.

METAP will assist countries to define the scope and objective of the studies, prepare the terms of reference and work plan for the studies, assist countries, when required, for the selection of national consultants to carry out the studies and assist in the contract negotiations, and technically supervise the work carried out by the consultant. METAP will also report to the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee on the progress of work and will clear payments to national consultants based on the satisfactory performance at successive stages of the pre-investment studies preparation.

**Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas – Work plan and Timetable**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Identification field mission to the remaining countries in order to: Re-validation of selected hot spots Definition and agreement of scope of PIS Tailoring TORs and costing study	MAP/GEF, FFEM with the assistance of METAP	Feb.- April 2003
2. Review and finalization of TORs with consultant's selection criteria	METAP	Jan. – May 2003
3. Negotiations with countries and signing of relevant Project Document	MAP/GEF and countries	Jan. –June 2003
4. Preparation of Request for Proposal (RFP) and its announcement	Countries according to their national regulations	Jan. – Sept. 2003
5. Release of RFP	Countries according to their national regulations	Jan. – Oct. 2003
6. Evaluation of technical and financial proposal	Countries according to their national regulations	Jan. – Dec. 2003
7. Draft Evaluation Report (ER) and its submission to MAP/GEF	Countries according to their national regulations	Jan. 2003 – Jan. 2004
8. Review of ER	MAP/GEF with assistance of METAP if required	Feb. 2003 - Feb 2004
9.Negotiation on consultant's contract and contract award	Countries after the approval of ER	March 2003- March 2004
10. Consultants mobilization	Countries and consultants	April 2003 – April 2004
11. Review of Work plan and Inception Report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM with the assistance of METAP	June 2003 - June 2004
12. Review of progress report(s) and draft pre-investment report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM with the assistance of METAP	July 2003 – July 2004
13. Review of final report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM countries with the assistance of METAP	Oct. 2003 – Oct. 2004
14. Dissemination of report	MAP/GEF, FFEM	Nov. 2003 – December 2004
15. Coordination of overall activities	<i>Ad hoc</i> Technical Committee	January 2003 – December 2004

**2.4 Regional cooperative actions**

It is considered necessary to review the information included in the Guidelines and Plans with the countries' representatives to ensure consensus and applicability. It is therefore proposed to send the documents to national coordinators for comments and to convene expert review meetings during 2003, where selected Government designated experts would be invited to discuss and review the draft documents and comments would be received from the countries.

Originally, it was planned to organize only one meeting of governmental designated experts to review the regional plans prepared by MED POL and two meetings to review the regional guidelines prepared by MED POL and WHO/MED POL, respectively. A meeting to review the regional plan and the regional guidelines prepared by CP/RAC was not planned at all. In order to treat all documents equally, it was agreed to review all the regional plans and guidelines at six meetings, so that at each of the meetings more than one document would be reviewed. Documents are grouped taking into account the similarity of issues, as shown in the following table:

**Regional cooperative actions – Work plan and Timetable**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Government designated experts meeting to review the guidelines for rivers monitoring	February-March 2003	MEDPOL/GEF	To be determined
Government designated experts meeting to review the Regional Plan for the management of hazardous wastes, Inventories of PCBs and nine pesticides, and Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation	February-March 2003	MED POL; CP/RAC, GEF	Tentative Egypt
Government designated experts meeting to review the Regional Plan for the reduction of 50% of BOD from industrial sources by 2005, Regional Guidelines for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial installations which are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids, First draft of Regional guidelines related to industrial wastewater, Regional guidelines for the application of BATs and BEP in industries	February-March 2003	MED POL, CP/RAC, WHO/MED POL	Tentative Split
Government designated experts meeting to review the Guidelines for ecosystem stress indicators	February-March 2003	MED POL	Syria
Government designated experts meeting to review the Regional Guidelines for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilizers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture	February-March 2003	CP/RAC	To be determined
Government designated experts meeting to review the Regional Guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal and Regional Guidelines on solid wastes with emphasis on coastal litter	March-April 2003	WHO/MED POL	Athens
Adoption of the regional plans and guidelines by the meeting of national MED POL coordinators	May 2003	MED POL	

## 2.5 Capacity building

### Capacity building – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Regional training course on river monitoring	2003	Report and manual of training courses	MED POL
Two national training courses on river monitoring	2003	Reports and manual of training courses	MED POL
Two national training courses on river monitoring	2004	Reports and manual of training courses	MED POL
Two national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	February - May 2003	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL
Two national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	May – Nov. 2003	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL
	Feb. – May 2004		
Two national training courses on wastewater treatment plants operation and management	May – October 2003	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL
Three national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	Jan. 2004 – Nov. 2004	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL
One national training course on wastewater treatment plant operation and management	September 2003 – June 2004	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL

As a result of the preparation of the guidelines for river monitoring together with a set of power point presentations to be used for training courses, one regional training course will be held in Spain in 2003; two national training courses will be organized in 2003 and two more in 2004. Syria expressed their readiness to host one of the national training course in 2003.

The two national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection scheduled for 2002 are postponed to 2003 due to the delay in conducting the regional training course. Furthermore, the training material in Power Point format needs to be translated and this will contribute more to the delay.

It seems rather unfeasible to implement in 2003 five national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection, and therefore it is proposed to postpone one of them until the end 2003 and to hold the rest during 2004.

The national training course on wastewater treatment plant operation and management will be held, subject to availability of funds, in 2004, by shifting the eventually remaining funds from different budget lines.

## 2.6 Sustainability of SAP MED

### Sustainability of SAP MED – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Expert meeting to prepare proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments in selected countries	February / March 2003	Expert meeting report	NFPs, PAP/RAC
Dissemination of the proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments	January - June 2004		PAP/RAC
Implementation of proposed measures in economic instruments' application at national and regional level, with special emphasis on making SAP MED programme sustainable	October 2002 – March 2004	Improvement of national legislation on economic instruments; sustainable implementation of SAP MED	National govt. institutions, NFPs
Preparation of the baseline pilot project	January 2002 – December 2003	Diagnostic Analysis Report on Procedure of and measures for development and implementation of EI Report on procedure of evaluation of efficiency of implemented EI	Countries - EI NFP PAP/RAC
Implementation of five additional pilot projects in selected countries	March 2002 – December 2003	Four Diagnostic Analyses Four Reports on Procedure of and measures for development and implementation of EI Four Reports on procedure of evaluation of efficiency of implemented EI	Countries - EI NFP PAP/RAC
Evaluation of newly introduced / adapted economic instruments at regional and national level	January - March 2004	Final evaluation paper on effects of the Project on introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments	National institutions and experts PAP/RAC

**Expert meeting to prepare proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments in selected countries**

This activity is to be performed in February/March 2003, since it depends on the draft results of the pilot project. It is expected that all 5 pilot projects will finalise their Diagnostic Analyses and have other 2 reports in the draft form, in January 2003.

**Implementation of proposed economic instruments' application at national and regional level, with special emphasis on making SAP MED programme sustainable**

The decision on implementation of proposed new instruments is in the hands of the relevant government. It is believed that more time we have, better possibilities there are, that the new instruments will be actually implemented. Having in mind the present deadlines of the project, it is agreed that the pilot projects, if their implementation will not be possible within such a short term, will implement a simulation exercise in May 2003. The possibility of extending the duration of the GEF project would permit the postponement of simulation exercise and provide some additional time for implementing the EI.

**Evaluation of the newly introduced / adapted economic instruments at regional and national level**

Evaluation of the newly introduced/adapted EI will be done for each pilot project, and the date of this evaluation depends on the duration of GEF project. If GEF project should be extended, the evaluation would be postponed, and again, chances for actual implementation of EI would be improved.

**Dissemination of the proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments**

Preparation of the proposals for introducing new/adapting existing EI in 12 GEF eligible countries of the project is to be done from July to November 2003. This output is foreseen in the form of a section for the National Action Plans (NAPs). According to past experience, a longer period of time is to be expected for the preparation of such an important document. The quality of this output would be increased, if some results of the pilot projects could be obtained.

**2.7 Public participation**

It was planned to develop a regional plan for public participation, which should be adopted by a regional meeting of governmental designated experts and NGOs. However, through the implementation of the whole project, it is more and more felt that it might be useful, efficient and relevant to induce and provide direct support to the countries for the promotion of public participation at the national level in the framework of NAPs.

As MAP is actually preparing an overall regional information and public participation strategy, it would be preferable to avoid overlapping with a regional SAP MED public participation strategy and devote direct attention to the identification, information, consultation and association of concerned partners at national level for the preparation of the NAPs in a more realistic way.

To that end, a common methodology based on the Aarhus Convention principles could be prepared by MAP as a reference framework. In this context, most of the fund

allocated for the public participation would benefit the countries. If this approach is accepted, the further development of the action might be as shown in the following table:

### Public participation – Work plan and Timetable - a new proposal

Activity	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Preparation of TORs for regional consultant(s)	Feb. 2003	TORs	MEDU/GEF MED
Hiring of regional consultant(s)	March 2003	Contract	GEF MED/MEDU
Drafting of common methodology	March-May 2003	Draft common methodology for public participation	Consultant
Review of draft common methodology for public participation by small team of experts	June 2003	Common methodology for public participation	MEDU/GEF MED
Editing, publication and dissemination common methodology for public participation	July-Sept. 2003	Final common methodology for public participation	MEDU
Application at national level through NAPs and follow up of implementation	July 2003-Dec.2004		GEF and countries

If it is decided to prepare the regional plan for public participation, the further development of the action might be as shown in the following table.

### Public participation – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Preparation of TORs for regional consultant(s)	Feb. 2003	TORs	MEDU/GEF MED
Hiring of regional consultant(s)	March 2003	Contract	GEF MED/MEDU
Drafting of regional plan	March-May 2003	Draft regional plan	Consultant
Meeting to review and adopt of draft regional plan	June 2003	Regional plan	GEF/MED POL/MEDU
Editing and publication of regional plan	July-Sept. 2003	Final regional plan	MEDU/GEF/MED POL

## 2.8 National Action Plans (NAPs)

During the period February-June 2003 the National Diagnostic Analysis reports and the National Baseline Budget (BB) of releases, should be received, and by the end of 2003 the secretariat will receive the National Action Plans (NAPs) to reduce releases from LBS activities. As soon as MEDPOL start receiving the NDA and BB reports, experts will be contracted to assist the secretariat to review these reports, and contact the national authorities to complement the information if needed.

MEDPOL is keen to work in close cooperation with the national authority to elaborate the NAPs. To this aim, it will contract, with the assistance of the GEF project, national



expert(s) to assist the national authority in the preparation of sectorial plans and NAPs and will also contract 4-5 regional experts to work closely and assist the national experts and authority in the preparation of these two plans.

### National Action Plans (NAPs) – Work plan and Timetable

Activity (in each country)	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Dissemination of guidelines for the preparation of NAPs	January 2003		MEDPOL
Contract national experts for preparation of sectorial plans	March-April 2003	Contracts	MEDPOL/GEF
Contract regional experts for countries assistance	April 2003	Contracts	MEDPOL/GEF
Preparation of sectorial plans	March – September 2003	Draft sectorial plans	National experts
Meetings of national stakeholders to review and approve sectorial plans	September-October 2003	Approved sectorial plans	National authorities/ MEDPOL/GEF
Contract national experts for preparation of NAPs	June-July 2003	Contracts	MEDPOL/GEF
Preparation of NAPs	June – Nov. 2003	Draft NAPs	National experts
Meetings of national stakeholders to review and approve NAPs	November-December 2003	Approved NAPs	National authorities/ MEDPOL/GEF
Adoption of NAPs	Dec. 2003-Feb. 2004	Adopted NAPs	National authorities

### 3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the above mentioned information, the following may be concluded:

The majority of the project activities are being implemented within the timeframe defined in the Project document, despite the fact that they were initiated at a later stage, due to the late recruitment of the Project manager. However, some activities are beyond the approved timeframe;

Those activities within the updating of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, regional cooperative actions, capacity building and public participation, are being implemented with a small delay, which will not delay the project as such;

Some activities on capacity building, both at regional and national levels, were postponed due to expecting contribution from FFEM. However, some of the training courses planned to be supported by FFEM have already been organized using savings from other activities.

Activities on the prioritization of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies are finalized with significant delay due to late response from the countries. The process of the preparation of pre-investment studies is rather more complex, addressing many technical, environmental and socio-economic issues, bringing a large number of

stakeholders, and would require more time than assumed on the Project document. Therefore, some additional time to accomplish this activity is expected. In order to minimize the delays and better manage the activity, closer contact will be established between the GEF Project management, GEF national coordinators, implementing agencies and contractors;

The preparation of National Action Plans is a specific process for countries, which requires the full engagement of national experts and officials, as well as adequate assistance from outside. In order to further stimulate the implementation of the process, the countries should be provided with reasonable assistance, as required. This will be done by establishing/strengthening the management structures related to entire process in each country;

The preparation of pre-investment studies and National Action Plans is based on a country driven approach. It is therefore up to the countries to manage these components of the project with our support. The GEF Project management will find a way to provide the assistance, when required.

Based on the above, and particularly on the above conclusions, the following is recommended:

To intensify the negotiation with FFEM in order to initiate the activities which will be supported by FFEM:

To consider the extension of the project until the end of 2004 in order to accomplish all planned activities, particularly those on the preparation of NAPs and pre-investment studies which are implemented by the countries and assisted financially and technically from the GEF project.

To intensify contacts with countries, in order to stimulate and support activities organized at the country level, by visiting the countries and providing regional consultant assistance during the preparation of NAPs and pre-investment studies;

To increase the financial support to countries in order to improve the quality of NAPs by the involvement of interested stockholders where possible in the process of the preparation and adoption of NAPs whenever possible;

To post all prepared documents on the MAP Web site in order to make them widely available.

## ANNEX I

### DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (SAP BIO) (INFORMATIVE ONLY)

#### 1. PROGRESS REPORT (1 January - 31 December 2002)

##### 1. NATIONAL PROCESS

###### 1.1. Progress so far made

###### 1.1.1. Preparing the National Reports

Progress. So far 19 countries have sent the National Report to RAC/SPA: A first revision of these draft National Reports, was made by RAC/SPA with the support of the International consultants in charged of follow the national processes in the GEF eligible Countries.

15 National Reports were finalized, 4 are still draft but are expected to be finalised within the end of the year.

Support and coordination. RAC/SPA staff (or international consultants representative of RAC/SPA) carried out missions to support the preparation of National reports in the following countries: Albania, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Malta, Slovenia, and Cyprus.

RAC/SPA sponsored the organisation of National workshop to present the outputs of the national processes and to achieve the widest possible consensus on the Reports in 11 countries: Croatia, Morocco, Albania, Algeria, Greece, Israel, Libya, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Tunisia, Syria.

###### 1.1.2. Developing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues

The project provides for developing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues starting from some of the main urgent priority actions identified within the context of the National Report.

Progress. National Correspondents have been asked to identify priority actions, through national consultation processes, and a team of National Consultants or institutions in charged of preparing the National Action Plans.

52 National Action Plans have been identified: 20 have been elaborated and finalised; 32 are draft and should be finalised within the end of the year.

Support and coordination. 42 National consultants, identified by National Correspondents, have been recruited by RAC/SPA and 3 MOU's were established with National institutions. 2 International consultants were recruited. Special national meeting aiming at identifying and elaborating National Action Plans was supported in one country.

To co-ordinate this activity, RAC/SPA has prepared draft general guidelines for preparing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues. To elaborate Action Plans concerning fishing and Action Plans dealing with the protection of birds, specific documents including some scientific information and ideas for actions have been prepared: "Draft guidelines for elaborating National Action Plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds", "Draft guidelines for elaborating

National Action Plans for the control of fishing practices and gear harmful to threatened species and habitats"<sup>1</sup>.

As for Action Plans on fishing, RAC/SPA, jointly with the FAO's COPEMED project, has organized a specific workshop (Palma de Mallorca, 23-25 June 2002) involving the National Consultants in charge of preparing the Action Plans on fishery, the COPEMED Focal Points and representatives from the relevant organisations, in order to improve the draft plans prepared by the countries (see paragraph 4 for more details).

## **1.2. Problems encountered and actions taken to solve these**

No major problems were encountered during the second year in project implementation. The following minor problems was faced:

- The different level of quality of the National Reports (scientific level and English language).

*To reduce this problem a work of revision by RAC/SPA (RAC/SPA Staff and international consultants) and some missions to countries have been undertaken.*

- Delay of some countries in finalizing the National reports. 4 countries haven't yet finalised the National Report.

*Strongly invited by RAC/SPA to finalize the National Report, in some cases with even missions to the country, the latecomer countries will finalize their reports within the end of the year. In any case for the elaboration of the draft SAP BIO Document, which is started in September 2002, the draft reports of these countries have been used.*

- Some countries have faced problems to elaborate investment portfolio's section of national report.

*These sections needs to be revised in some reports in order to better elaborate the relevant section in the SAP BIO document. The recruitment of 1 or 2 international consultant to assist some countries in the revisions of this section of the national report should be scheduled for the beginning 2003.*

- Insufficient level (scientific, technical and English language) of some National Action Plans (6-7 NAPs) elaborated by countries.

*When the final version of the National action Plans was inadequate, even following the comments and suggestions sent to the countries by RAC/SPA, the recruitment of an international consultant to improve the documents was necessary. Then the new revised version of the National action Plans were sent to the country for approbation. The revision of the English language of all the National Action Plans and additional revision of their contents will be made during the 2003.*

## **2. REGIONAL PROCESS**

### **2.1. Progress so far made**

In addition to the three regional documents finalised within 2001 further 6 regional documents listed below were elaborated during 2002:

- Impact of fishing technology in the Mediterranean

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<sup>1</sup> This document was elaborated during the 2001

- Guidelines for elaborating Action Plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds.
- Report on the introduction in the Mediterranean of marine and brackish species for aquaculture purposes.
- Status of knowledge on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea
- White Coral community, canyon and seamount faunas of the deep Mediterranean Sea.
- The Coralligenous.

The first two documents above listed (originally in English) were already translated into French. The translation of the other 4 documents is in progress.

## **2.2. Problems encountered and actions taken to solve these**

No major problems were encountered

## **3. PREPARING THE SAP BIO DOCUMENT**

### **3.1. Progress so far made**

The Outline of SAP BIO document, approved during the National Correspondents Alicante meeting (July 2002) was detailed for the II meeting of the Advisory Committee and improved following the meeting. This document was the foundation for the preparation of the SAP BIO Document and for the identification of the team of consultants in charged of supporting RAC/SPA in this task.

The National Reports, priority National Action Plans, and regional reports represented the major inputs to the SAP BIO (Appendix I "list of inputs to the SAP BIO Document"). In addition to the outputs elaborated within the framework of the project, the SAP BIO incorporated other inputs, mainly existing strategies and results obtained within the framework of other networks and/or organisations.

The steps taken for the preparation of the document were:

- Defining the structure and composition of the working team.
- Identifying potential members of the team (totally 10 consultant were recruited)
- Organising a two-day co-ordination meeting (Tunis, 6-7 September 2002) with team members to describe the tasks to be carried out, inputs, procedures and deadlines, distribution of tasks among team members, defining of phasing of preparation of individual parts/chapters and other logistical details as were appropriate.
- Preparing individual contributions (drafts) by team members, as defined by the distribution of tasks among members
- Editing the first draft SAP BIO

### **3.2. Problems encountered and actions taken to solve these**

No major problems were encountered

## **4. INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS**

The following two international meetings were held during the 2002:

- **The Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee<sup>2</sup>**

This was the Advisory Committee's second meeting, organised by RAC/SPA in Tunis from 7-8 May 2002. The following Committee Members attended at the meeting:

WWF-Mediterranean International Programme, IUCN- (WESCANA), IUCN (Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation), the MEDWET Programme, the FAO, the Council of Europe (Secretariat of the Berne Convention), the Centre Thématique Européen pour la Protection de la Nature et de la Biodiversité (CTE/PN), the Agreement on the Conservation of the Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Areas (ACCOBAMS).

The Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and Federcoopescas were represented at the Meeting.

At the Meeting, the following documents were discussed and improved on:

- 'Draft general guidelines for preparing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues within the framework of the SAP BIO project' (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/4),
- 'Guidelines for the elaboration of National Action Plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds',
- 'Guidelines for the elaboration of National Action Plans for the control of fishing practices and gear harmful to threatened species and habitats',
- 'Detailed outline for preparing the SAP BIO document' (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/5).

- **The Workshop on developing National Action Plans concerning the impact of fishing on marine biodiversity (Palma de Mallorca, 23-25 June 2002).**

This workshop was jointly organized by RAC/SPA and the FAO-COPEMED project, and was held in the Centre of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography in Palma de Mallorca, Balearics, Spain.

The workshop was attended by experts from six countries<sup>3</sup> (Algeria, Croatia, Libya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia), who generally representing two different ministries or sectors – the environment, and fishing. Representatives from the European Union (D.G. Pêche), the ACCOBAMS Agreement on the Conservation of the Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Area, the IUCN Mediterranean Centre for Cooperation, the IEO Spanish Institute of Oceanography, and the Cabrera marine park also attended the workshop.

Its objectives were:

- giving people in the fields of fishing and of environment protection the chance to meet and work together
- improving the National Action Plans on the impact of fishing on marine biodiversity that had been elaborated by various countries
- identifying common actions the implementing of which requires the participation of several countries.

The final report on this workshop was sent to all national correspondents and it will be available on the SAP BIO website (.).

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<sup>2</sup> Meeting's final report: UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/6

<sup>3</sup> The consultants recruited by RAC/SPA for elaborating the National Action Plans concerning the impact of fishing on biodiversity, and the same countries' COPEMED focal points, were invited to attend the Meeting

- Moreover a Meeting of the team of consultants in charged of elaborating the draft SAP BIO document was held in Tunis on 6-7 September 2002 (see previous paragraph).

## 5. OTHER

### - The use of the GIS in the SAP BIO Project

In order to support the SAP BIO outputs, as appropriate, by maps, the following methodologies have been used:

- Following on the Meeting with a company operating in the field of the use of environmental GIS tools, a sub-set of data for each country was prepared and given to the countries. These databases will be the starting point for preparing maps.
- A questionnaire to collect information from the National Report for updating the database was finalised and given to each country. The completed questionnaire will be used to improve and enrich the databases of each country. When necessary, National Consultants have been recruited to fill in the questionnaire.

## 2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF THE PROJECT

ACTIVITY	TIMING	OUTPUT	RESP.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b> The Third Meeting of the Committee will examine the first draft of the SAP BIO document, the preparation of which is RAC/SPA's responsibility, and make proposals for revising and improving it.	23 – 24 January 2003	Proposal for revising draft SAP BIO document	RAC/ SPA
<b>Revised draft of the SAP BIO Document</b> Taking into account the recommendation of the third Advisory Committee RAC/SPA will improve the draft SAP BIO document. Within this framework a revision of the investment portfolio sections of some national reports (inputs to SAP BIO document), with the involvement of international consultants, is recommended	February 2003	Revised draft SAP BIO document	RAC/ SPA
<b>Second Meeting of National Correspondents</b> The main objective of this Meeting will be to examine a revised version of the SAP BIO prepared by RAC/SPA on the basis of the inputs received. The Meeting is expected to provide inputs for the further revision of the SAP BIO.	24-26 April 2003	Inputs for further revision of draft SAP BIO and for the finalizations of other outputs	RAC/ SPA
<b>Final Draft of the SAP BIO Document</b> Following the Meeting of the National Correspondents, a finalized draft will be produced under the authority of RAC/SPA.	May 2003	Final draft SAP BIO document	RAC/ SPA
<b>Regional process – elaboration of further documents</b> Analysing the national reports, in addition to the 9 regional documents already elaborated two further regional documents have been identified, these will be elaborated taking into account along with other inputs the National reports too: - A first document on the impact of tourism on marine and coastal Mediterranean biodiversity, in particular on sensitive species and habitats and on protected areas. - A second document looking into the role of coastal Mediterranean wetlands (coastal lagoons, estuaries) for the coastal biodiversity conservation. This document is being prepared jointly with MEDWET.	April 2003	Two further regional documents	RAC/ SPA
<b>Finalization and "Visibility" of the Outputs of the Project</b> The main outputs of the project will be finalized (revision of the texts, introduction of Photos, paging up) and printed. Other tools aiming at the "visibility" of the outputs of the project (posters, CD, ...) will be elaborated.	January - June 2003	Final revised version of all the regional documents, National action Plans, posters showing the national reports, CD on SAP BIO, etc...	RAC/ SPA

## **Appendix I - Inputs to SAP BIO Document - List of Documents**

### **National reports (prepared by countries)**

National report of Albania; Rapport National de l'Algérie; National report of Bosnia and Herzegovina; National report of Croatia; National report of Egypt; National report of Greece; National report of Israel; National report of Lebanon; National report of Libya; National report of Malta; Rapport National du Maroc; National report of Slovenia; National report of Syria; National report of Italy; Rapport National de la Tunisie; National report of Turkey; National report of Spain; National report of Cyprus; Contribution du Monaco

### **National Action Plans (prepared by countries)**

#### **Albania**

- Action plan for the proclamation of the first Marine National Park of Karaburun.
- Action plan for the rehabilitation of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system habitats
- Action plan for the Dalmatian pelicans as a global endangered species
- Action plan for building and exploitation of artificial reefs for the fisheries along Albanian coast.

#### **Algeria**

- Mise en place d'un réseau de surveillance des herbiers à *Posidonia oceanica*
- Mise en place d'un programme de collecte de données sur le phoque moine
- Réduction de la pression des pêcheurs sur les zones côtières d'intérêt pour la biodiversité
- Inventaire et mise en place d'aires marines et côtières protégées en Algérie.

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

- Identification and preservation of endangered marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitats, and plant communities in the Mediterranean zone of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Action plan on sustainable development of Marine and adjacent waters of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### **Croatia**

- Impact of Fishery on threatened species and sensitive habitats
- Net of Mediterranean wetlands in Croatia – management and revitalisation
- Impact of hunting, poaching and commercial collecting on the coastal zone biodiversity, including introduction of new game species on islands.
- Preparation of management guidelines for sites with submerged karstic phenomena.
- Biodiversity conservation as a part of integral coastal zone management planning.

#### **Israel**

- Action Plan on coastal birds management and conservation
- Action Plan to reduce the impact of fishery on threatened species and sensitive habitats

#### **Lebanon**

- Organizing awareness campaigns for the Lebanese coastal communities and the public sector
- Updating of legislation and development of guidelines for marine and coastal conservation (\*)
- Determine the physical parameters of the Lebanese marine environment
- Establish conservation strategies for coastal habitat.
- Develop monitoring strategies for coastal and marine biodiversity.



**Libya**

- Conservation of marine and coastal birds in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- National Action Plan on proposed new marines and coastal protected areas and national parks
- Conservation of Marine turtles and their habitats

**Malta**

- Action plans for Cetaceans.
- Action Plan for the estimation of the sustainability of Groupers fishing in the Maltese Islands
- Action Plan for the estimation of the sustainability of shark fishing (including accidental catches) in the Maltese Islands
- Action plans for Turtles.
- Micro-cartography, mapping and surveillance of the *Posidonia oceanica* meadows.

**Morocco**

- Cartographie des habitats de la côte méditerranéenne marocaine
- Programmes de recherche sur la biodiversité méditerranéenne du Maroc
- Elaboration des programmes éducatifs/sensibilisation et de projets incitatifs ainsi que l'élaboration d'un Guide des espèces et des écosystèmes menacés du Maroc
- Amélioration de la législation nationale
- Valorisation de la biodiversité marine méditerranéenne du Maroc
- Protection des espèces menacées par l'exploitation traditionnelle

**Slovenia**

- Habitat cartography supported by the Geographic Information System (Special emphasis on seagrass meadows)
- Biological invasions and possible effects on biodiversity
- The impact of alien populations used in mariculture on genome of wild populations of same species
- Slovene commercial fishery by-catch
- Sensitive ecosystems – *Posidonia oceanica* meadow (ecological conditions, cartography and monitoring based on the *GIS Posidonie* methodology)

**Tunisia**

- Impact de la pêche sur la biodiversité littorale
- Cartographie et suivi des herbiers de posidonie
- Protection des bancs et des fonds coralligènes
- Coordination formation aspects législatifs et institutionnels
- Etude des espèces invasives.

**Turkey**

- Conservation of marine turtles
- Creation of Marine protected areas along the Turkish coasts
- Reducing the negative impacts of detrimental fishing practices (trawl, purse seine, spear fishing, use of explosive) on sensitive ecosystems and on vulnerable species.
- Conservation of Monk Seals
- Conservation of marine mammals (cetacean)
- Conservation and Management of coastal Wetlands and associated bird communities.

### **Regional documents**

- Effects of fishing on ecosystems in the Mediterranean – Analysis of the major threats from fishing gear and practices on biodiversity and marines habitats.
- Legal analysis of the measures envisaged by states bordering on the Mediterranean to minimize the impact of fishing activities on threatened marine ecosystems and non –target species.
- Impact of Fishing Technology in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Draft report on the introduction in the Mediterranean of marine and brackish water species for aquaculture purposes.
- Status of knowledge on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea.
- White Coral community, canyon and seamount faunas of the deep Mediterranean Sea.
- The Coralligenous.
- Guidelines for the elaboration of National Action Plans for the control of fishing practices and gear harmful to threatened species and habitats.
- General guidelines for elaboration Action Plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds.