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**PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT BY MED POL DURING
THE BIENNIUM 2002-2003**

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This document lists and describes the activities that are proposed to be implemented as part of MED POL during the biennium 2002-2003. It is divided in five sections covering the main subject areas and responsibilities of MED POL and contains a number of draft recommendations to Contracting Parties and the Secretariat. It is presented to MED POL National Coordinators for analysis and approval in view of its submission to MAP Focal Points and Contracting Parties for adoption.

1. General policy and coordination

In the opinion of the Secretariat, during the 2000-2001 biennium, the MED POL Programme has focused its activities on more concrete action for the control of pollution, as requested by the Contracting Parties. The launching of the process of updating of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and the preparation of an Operational Document, the launching of the Mediterranean GEF Project activities which largely count on the contribution of MED POL, the specific activities related to compliance and enforcement, the identification of hot spots and the formulation and implementation of more objective-related monitoring programmes are examples of the efforts made by MED POL to become a concrete tool for the Mediterranean countries for finally moving towards a phase of actual control of pollution. During the 2002-2003 biennium it is proposed to pursue the approach followed and in particular to move towards an effective implementation of the SAP.

As a result, during 2002-2003 MED POL will focus on those activities which will provide assistance to the countries for achieving the SAP targets as specified in the "Operational Document for the implementation of the SAP", presented to this Meeting for discussion and approval (UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/6). To this end, especially important will be the full implementation of the activities of the Mediterranean GEF Project.

The MED POL Programme will continue to carry out activities related to assessment of pollution that are to be considered essential tools to verify the state of pollution of the region and the progress made by the countries in the control of pollution and valid means for achieving appropriate coastal zone management.

Throughout the activities, MED POL will give priority to the implementation of capacity building programmes. In this context, in addition to those activities "historically" carried out by MED POL (such as training and assistance for the implementation of monitoring programmes including data quality assurance), MED POL, with the financial assistance of GEF, will also include in its work plan capacity building for pollution inspectors, solid waste management, river pollution, management of waste water treatment plants, and other areas all related to the implementation of the SAP.

In this framework, MED POL will enhance cooperation with those competent intergovernmental, international, regional and sub-regional Institutions, Organizations and Agreements as well as potential donors who could contribute to the implementation of the activities. In particular, it is proposed to strengthen cooperation with GEF, in view of their present and possible future contribution to the implementation of the SAP and with the UNEP/GPA Secretariat for guidance on the long-term implementation of the SAP; also with FFEM, METAP, ICS/UNIDO and the other SAP-supporting Organizations for their specific financial and intellectual contribution. Also, close cooperation will be achieved with CP/RAC and PAP/RAC in view of their important role they will have in the coordination of certain activities of the SAP. Cooperation will be continued with WHO, in charge of the technical coordination of many activities related to SAP and other aspects of compliance and control, and with IAEA/MESL, responsible for the data quality assurance activities of MED POL. WMO and IOC will also continue to provide an important contribution to specific aspects of the monitoring activities of MED POL. The EuroMediterranean partnership is also expected to play an important role in assisting the implementation of MED POL activities and close

contacts should therefore be maintained with the European Commission. In this context, the MAP/ Donors Steering Committee which is proposed to be established as part of the coordination activities of SAP, will greatly assist countries in creating and maintaining contacts with other potential donors interested in the financing of specific projects related to the implementation of the SAP. Close contacts should also be kept with those sub-regional Agreement such as RAMOGE and the Adriatic Initiative who could contribute to specific activities but who could also represent a valid platform for the implementation of the objectives of MED POL and MAP. Finally, cooperation will be achieved with NGOs for the specific support they could provide at the national and international levels for the sensibilization, information and participation of the large public in relation, in particular, to the implementation of the SAP.

It is worth noticing that during the new biennium the Secretariat will also stress on the activities related to the future implementation of the Dumping and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol. In particular, concerning the Dumping Protocol, which is expected to enter into force soon, the Secretariat is proposing to complete the preparation of all Guidelines called for by art. 4 and 6 of the Protocol and hence to facilitate the expected implementation of its provisions by the Contracting Parties.

Proposed Recommendations

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To confirm the course undertaken by the MED POL Programme and to give emphasis to the implementation of action-oriented pollution control activities; to this end, to give priority to the full implementation of the activities of the SAP, including those included in the Mediterranean GEF Project.
- b) To continue and strengthen cooperation with the competent UN Cooperating Agencies supporting MED POL, Regional Activities Centres, intergovernmental, international, regional and sub-regional Organizations, Institutions, Agreements and Programmes and NGOs for the implementation of the SAP and the other MED POL approved activities.
- c) To the Secretariat:
- d) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to give priority to the activities aiming at assisting the countries in implementing the SAP and to fully cooperate with those Organizations involved in the implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project.
- e) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue to formulate, implement and follow up activities related to pollution assessment that are to be considered essential tools to verify the state of pollution of the region and the progress made by the countries in the control of pollution and valid means for achieving appropriate coastal zone management.

2. Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme

Municipal Wastes

When preparing the SAP, special emphasis was given to the need to properly tackle the issue of sewage pollution at the national level, considered one of the most important regional problems. In this context, the Mediterranean GEF Project is expected to substantially contribute to the creation of a technical, institutional and financial basis to the long-term solution of sewage pollution in the region. The preparation of pre-investment studies foreseen by the Project starting in 2001, which will also include hot spots due to municipal pollution, will in fact represent the first step for long-term investments, along with the preparation of National Action Plans which should also

necessarily include the issue of urban pollution. The implementation of the national activities related to the elimination of municipal pollution implies the mobilization of large amounts of funds which, on the medium and long-term, should be mostly found in national budgets. However, the involvement of financial institutions and donors in the formulation process as well as the future implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project will provide the countries with additional future opportunities and perspectives. Countries should however consider as immediate priority the implementation of a number of policy action (e.g. promoting and updating related legislation) which will show their concrete intention to meet the targeted objectives.

During past years, the National MED POL Coordinators were requested to gather the most recent information available from official sources on municipal waste waters treatment plants and to submit the information received to the Coordinating Unit, as a follow up to one of the main issues included in the 1985 Genoa Declaration. Official data and information resulting from previous activities related to the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the identification of pollution hot spots were used to form the basis on which information was exchanged. A draft document presenting the status of sewage treatment plants was presented to the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators, held in Reggio Calabria 20-23 June 1999. A final document was published in 2000 reflecting the comments and additional information received during and subsequent to the above meeting (MAP Technical Report Series n. 128). The majority of the data contained in the above document covers the period up to the year 1999. In view of the importance of the subject, included as one of the key issues in the SAP, it is proposed to regularly **update the list of the waste water treatment plants** to verify the progress made by the countries in controlling municipal pollution. The first revision of the document will be prepared by the year 2003 under the technical supervision of WHO/MED POL.

Another issue relevant to SAP and also connected to the issue of municipal sewage, is **municipal wastewater reuse**. Due to the increased shortage of water in most of the Mediterranean countries and the need to decrease pollution loads that enter into the Mediterranean Sea, reuse of municipal wastewater could greatly alleviate this situation. However, because effluents from treatment plants often contain pollutants, usually microbiological, there is a need to further develop this critical issue. The first step to be proposed is the preparation of an assessment of the situation prevailing in the Mediterranean, possibly in combination with the updating of the "wastewater treatment plants in the Mediterranean", in order to identify the extent of the current practice of reuse in the Mediterranean and propose some practical measures for promoting it in a safe and efficient manner. The assessment would be prepared by WHO/MED POL.

As part of the GEF Project in support of SAP, a set of **guidelines related to sewage treatment and disposal** will be developed using the GEF funds allocated. The mechanism to be used for the preparation of such guidelines will consist of the preparation of a draft outline. This will then be sent to the National MED POL Coordinators for comments. As soon as the outline is finalized, detailed guidelines will be formulated by an expert (with the assistance of a group of specialists and under the supervision of MED POL). These guidelines will then be sent to the National Coordinators for further comments. The final guidelines will be presented for review to a meeting of government-designated experts, and subsequently for approval to the MED POL Coordinators. WHO/MED POL will be technically responsible for the preparation of the Guidelines.

Limited **research projects on the specific area of alternative and innovative sewage treatment** for Mediterranean conditions, as well as reuse of sewage treated, could be launched, as foreseen in the SAP. However, in view of the limited financial resources available, external support from ongoing research in these areas will be sought.

In view of the expected entry into force of the LBS Protocol during the biennium 2002-2003, **national regulations on sewage discharges** into the sea and rivers are expected to be updated taking into account the provision of the Protocol and the existing common measures. As a result, during the 2002-2003 biennium, in parallel to the preparation of the Guidelines on sewage

treatment and disposal, MED POL could provide assistance to countries in need for the preparation or updating of national legislation.

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To consider the reduction of municipal pollution a priority objective and to accordingly implement policy action such as promoting and updating the related national legislation.

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to regularly update the list of waste water treatment plants and to prepare a new updated list by 2003.
- b) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to provide assistance to countries in need for the updating of national legislation on sewage discharges.

Solid Wastes

During the biennium 2000-2001, the Secretariat has extensively worked on the subject of **coastal litter** and, in particular on the preparation of an assessment of the coastal litter management in the Mediterranean countries and on the identification of the institutional and technical gaps at the national level. As a result, a document was prepared which is submitted to the present meeting for review and comments (UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/INF.4). The Secretariat is proposing to continue to work on the subject with the aim to formulate an action plan that should help the countries to better manage the issue and meet the SAP objectives. To this end, an experts meeting will be organized during the 2002-2003 biennium to review the progress made and discuss the content of the action plan which will contain elements for strengthening the institutional aspects of coastal litter management in the Mediterranean region as well as the criteria for the use of solid waste treatment and disposal technology in coastal areas.

In parallel to the above activities, MED POL will participate in the related MCSD activities and contribute to the work of the Thematic Group on solid waste management.

Guidelines on coastal urban solid wastes will also be developed during the biennium 2002-2003 as part of the GEF Project to support the SAP. The mechanism to be used for the preparation of these guidelines will be the same as those proposed above for the sewage treatment and disposal. Emphasis will be placed on urban solid wastes as they relate to coastal zones and will take into consideration the ongoing work and the results of the assessment of coastal litter. The Guidelines will be part of the action plan on the management of solid litter mentioned above.

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to further work on the issue of coastal litter and to prepare an action plan aiming at assisting countries to improve the institutional and technical aspects of coastal litter management.

Air Pollution

No special activities are proposed under this subject identified by the SAP. In trying to meet the agreed targets, the countries should be in close contact with the regional and international competent Organizations and Convention Secretariats for the implementation of programmes and

measures foreseen by the existing legal instruments such as the EU Directives and the Kyoto Protocol. Concerning the related issue of climate change, the Secretariat will continue to follow the development at the scientific and policy level and will regularly report to the Contracting Parties on Mediterranean-related issues.

Industrial Pollution

One of the key elements of the SAP is the **reduction and elimination of industrial pollution**. In view of the related targets set by the SAP which need to be elaborated in detail, the Secretariat has given large emphasis on the issue during the past biennium, in particular when operating the updating of the SAP by taking into account developments in the scientific, technical and legal fields. As a result, a draft Operational Document for the Implementation of the SAP was prepared and presented to an expert meeting held in Catania on 28-30 March 2001. Concerning industrial pollution, the Operational Document proposed a specific approach to establish a method for achieving and tracking the pollution reductions foreseen in the SAP. On the basis of the comments and suggestions made at the Meeting, a new draft Operational Document was prepared and is submitted to the present meeting for analysis and approval (UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/6). With reference to the technical aspects included in the Operational Document and in view of the expected adoption of the "national baseline budget" approach for achieving industrial pollution reductions, during the 2002-2003 the Secretariat will prepare a number of supporting documents covering:

- the procedure for establishing the inventory of sources that would enable national authorities to estimate the baseline budget for each targeted pollutant;
- the relevant and substantial point and diffuse sources of the targeted pollutants taking into account production levels, pollutant loads, etc.;
- the methodology for the estimation of the baseline budget for each targeted pollutant.

A government-designated expert meeting is proposed to be convened during the biennium 2002-2003 to review and approve the supporting documents prepared by the Secretariat.

According to the SAP, the updating of the national regulations for point sources discharges of pollutants from industrial sources should start in 2002 with the assistance of the Secretariat. In this context, a number of Guidelines on industrial pollution will be developed during the 2002-2003 biennium as part of the GEF Project to support the SAP.

In the context of industrial pollution, under the umbrella of the Thematic Group on Industry of the MCSD, MED POL will contribute to the preparation of an inventory of relevant new and innovative technologies using the more advanced information technologies such as Internet.

Concerning the **POPs**, as part of the activities of the Mediterranean GEF Project in support of the implementation of the SAP, a document will be prepared providing technical information on the nine pesticides and PCB substitutes and on the environmentally sound disposal and progressive elimination of the nine pesticides and PCB's. In preparing the document, the Secretariat will cooperate with the relevant international bodies and organizations, including UNEP/GIWA, taking into consideration the expected adoption of the POPs Convention.

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To adopt the "Operational Document for the Implementation of the SAP" aiming at achieving gradual reduction and, by the year 2025, elimination of pollution; accordingly, to establish by the year 2003 the national baseline budget of emissions for each SAP

targeted pollutant and agree on a common or comparable methodologies for establishing the budget and tracking the pollution reductions achieved.

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to assist countries to establish by the year 2003 the national baseline budget of emissions for each of the pollutants identified in the SAP and to prepare the necessary supporting technical documents and methodologies.

Physical alteration and destruction of habitats

No specific activities are proposed for the biennium 2002-2003.

Monitoring

Monitoring activities have been the backbone of the MED POL Programme since its launching and continue to be the major tool to assess the quality and quantity of marine pollution. With the implementation of the SAP, monitoring is also becoming an effective tool to verify the reductions of pollution expected to be achieved by the countries. During the past biennium, monitoring has therefore become more objective-oriented and, as a result, efforts are being made to assist countries to launch specific trend, compliance and biological effects **national monitoring programmes**.

In view of the more specific and challenging objectives of the MED POL Phase III monitoring programme, implying sometimes different methodologies and different competencies, the Secretariat was expecting slower progress in finalizing national programmes in spite of the provision, within the budget limitations, of training and direct assistance.

As a result, six national monitoring programmes were successfully finalized and data were provided by five countries. Details on the ongoing programmes and the action made for the establishment of new ones including the assistance provided to countries during the previous biennium are presented in document UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/Inf.3.

It therefore appears essential to identify the problems (technical and/or institutional) which are delaying the finalization of monitoring programmes and to aim at the involvement of the largest possible number of countries in the monitoring activities. At the end of the year 2001 a meeting will be held to discuss with participating scientists the implementation of the trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring activities and another meeting is proposed to be held during the biennium 2002-2003.

Hence, the major goal for the coming biennium is the full establishment of the monitoring programmes at the regional scale with the contribution of all the countries. Assistance will continue to be provided to countries, within the financial possibilities of MED POL, to facilitate the implementation of the monitoring activities and also for the purchase of small pieces of equipment, chemicals and material and for individual and group training.

Concerning **data management**, the work initiated during the biennium 2000-2001 to adapt the standard reporting formats of MED POL Phase II to the new needs of MED POL Phase III will continue during the 2002-2003 biennium. At present, formats are available in EXCEL worksheets to ensure easy transmission of the monitoring data. As a second step, the data received by MEDPOL will be integrated into a database which will allow full assessment and management of data. For this purpose, the MEDPOL database will be restructured into a new one where the validated data of the past monitoring activities and those of MEDPOL Phase III will be combined.

As a pilot exercise, the establishment of compatible national databases in selected countries will be made aiming at achieving easy and error-free transmission of national data into the MED POL database and good management both at the regional and national levels. An information document on the progress being made on MED POL data management is presented as UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/Inf.5.

The **Data Quality Assurance** Programme managed by IAEA/MESL will continue to be the essential tool to achieve reliable data and the successful implementation of the monitoring programmes. External quality control of data will be achieved through the ongoing DQA services (intercomparison exercises, training courses, quality assurance missions etc.) whereas the implementation of internal quality control procedures will be solicited from the participating laboratories by MEDPOL during the time span of implementation of the monitoring programmes.

Following the approved MED POL programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001, a consultation meeting to finalize the **Interim Quality Criteria and Standards for Bathing Waters** is scheduled to be convened in 2001. A draft document has been prepared by WHO/MED POL taking into account the situation existing in sub-regional treaties and the new guidelines of the World Health Organization. However, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the quality criteria and standards that may finally be adopted by the Contracting Parties should avoid to be in contradiction with others adopted by other countries or group of countries, keeping however in mind the special situation of the Mediterranean region. As a result, in view of the negotiations still ongoing at the level of other international fora covering a number of Mediterranean countries, it is proposed, if need be, to postpone the convening of the above meeting to the 2002-2003 biennium to ensure that the quality criteria and standards eventually adopted in the region would be appropriate for the needs of the region and would be easily and fully applied by all Contracting Parties.

The 1996 LBS Protocol extends its coverage to include the hydrographic basin of the region. The SAP also includes a number of related regional and national actions in its work plan. As a result, and in view of the limited past experience of MAP and MED POL in the field of **river pollution and river basin management**, it is proposed to gradually initiate implementing specific and basic activities and programmes to be able to assist in the near future countries to fulfil their obligations towards the new LBS Protocol.

In view of this new need of the region in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, when formulating the Mediterranean GEF Project, MED POL included a number of basic related activities which could create the basis for the implementation of future larger national and regional actions. With funds made available through the GEF Project, Guidelines for river pollution monitoring will therefore be prepared and finalized during the 2002-2003 biennium with the assistance of experts. An expert consultation is also scheduled to review the draft which is expected to be adopted by Contracting Parties in 2003.

In this context, and in line with the activities foreseen in the SAP, during the 2002-2003 biennium information on the quality and quantity of fifty selected rivers will be gathered by MED POL from national authorities and regional and international sources to form a basic regional register. The register will be submitted to National Coordinators for review and approval.

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To make any effort to formulate and implement national monitoring programmes including trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring in accordance with the agreed MED POL Phase III objectives and methods, as a tool for marine pollution assessment and

control; to this effect, to provide their national Institutions participating in the monitoring activities with the necessary basic institutional and financial support.

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue to assist countries in the formulation, finalization and implementation of their national monitoring programmes aiming at the inclusions of trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring activities.
- b) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue to work on the finalization of the new MED POL Phase III database for the proper management of monitoring data and to assist countries to establish compatible national databases.
- c) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to give priority to the implementation of Data Quality Assurance Programmes in order to ensure high quality and reliability to the monitoring data.
- d) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to initiate working on the issue of river pollution and river basin management by preparing basic technical and information documents and making use of funds from the Mediterranean GEF Project.

Capacity building

As specified above under "Monitoring", the capacity building activities related to the implementation of **monitoring programmes** will continue during the 2002-2003 biennium under the technical supervision of IAEA/MESL. It will include:

- running four Intercomparison Exercises comprising Organic Contaminants (OCs) in a sediment sample and a biological matrix and Trace metals and methylmercury (TMs) in a sediment sample and a biological matrix;
- advise MED POL designated laboratories as requested with respect to marine analytical chemistry and marine pollution monitoring and assessment activities;
- conduct split sampling analyses and provide assistance to MED POL designated laboratories as requested;
- provide MED POL designated laboratories with Reference Materials and Standards as available;
- undertake Quality Assurance missions to member states as required;
- provide MED POL Secretariat with advise on relevant scientific information as required (monitoring and assessment, laboratory networking, database management activities, emerging pollution issues);
- host four training courses in Monaco (one per year for each of Ocs abd TMs analyses);
- supervise research projects in emerging pollution issues (marine antifoulants).

It is expected that through the GEF-financed activities to support SAP, the capacity building activities will be enhanced. There will be training programmes on the topics related to **pollution monitoring and inspection** and also on **wastewater treatment plants**. Initially, a regional training course will be organized during which the participants will be trained in the technical, legal and administrative aspects of the subjects, as required. At least one participant from each country will attend the training course, which will aim at preparing trainers. The next step will be the

organization of a number of national training courses on each of the above topics, which will be organized basically by the staff trained during the regional course. In addition, issues related to specific country conditions will also be included in the national training courses and efforts will be made to produce training material in the language of the country where the national courses are to be held. At the end of the training programmes the respective manuals will be widely distributed throughout the region.

During the biennium, making use of funds available under the Mediterranean GEF Project, CP/RAC, in close cooperation with MED POL, will prepare a number of **guidelines** and organize **training courses** in the field of cleaner production and technology, as a direct contribution to the implementation of the SAP. The GEF Project in fact foresees the following:

- regional guidelines for the application of BAT, BEP for industries;
- regional guidelines for the application of BAT, BEP for industrial sources of BOD nutrients and suspended solids;
- regional guidelines for the application of BEP for fertilizers in agriculture;
- regional action plan for the reduction of hazardous wastes from industries;
- regional training course on cleaner production techniques;
- national training course on cleaner production techniques.

Additional activities related to the promotion and use of cleaner technology will be implemented during the biennium 2002-2003 by CP/RAC in the framework of the Mediterranean GEF Project.

Proposed Recommendations:

Specific recommendations related to the implementation of capacity building programmes and assistance to countries are made under each chapter and are not repeated here.

Public Participation

The activities related to enhance public participation in the process of implementation of the SAP will be a joint effort by MAP and all its components, based on the MAP's Strategy on Information and Public Awareness approved by the Contracting Parties. On its part, MED POL will continue to involve NGOs in its activities and will try to diffuse as much as possible information to the public on the SAP content and its objectives.

Concerning more specifically the related activities included in the SAP, during the 2002-2003 biennium, making use of funds from the Mediterranean GEF Project, a workshop will be convened by MAP to discuss and agree on the content of a regional programme for public participation in the implementation of the SAP.

Reporting

A unified **reporting system** covering the Convention and the Protocols is being prepared by MAP and will be finalized this year. In view of the complexity of the SAP and the evident difference in nature of the action contained therein (e.g. policy action, pollution reductions, implementation of action plans, etc.) it was not considered feasible at this stage to include in the MAP reporting system specific formats related to reporting on the implementation of the SAP by the countries. However, the Secretariat is following the work of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office and will make use of the experience in reporting on the implementation of the GPA which will be discussed at the

Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the GPA to be held in November 2001 in Canada.

As indicated in the SAP, **information on levels and trends of loads of pollution** will be collected by MED POL as a result of the national monitoring programmes and published regularly on the MAP Technical Report Series or other specific volumes.

As a result of the successful launching of the **Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)** pilot project in Alexandria, Egypt, one additional country will be selected for implementing PRTR. A set of guidelines will be prepared to enable and facilitate a larger involvement of countries in the process and a regional trainer training course will be organised in 2002.

Concerning the review and development of **indicators** being carried out as part of the activities of the MCSD, the Secretariat will cooperate closely with BP/RAC, EEA and experts from the countries to elaborate a set of marine pollution indicators that could be applied in the unified MAP reporting system mentioned above.

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To consider the development of PRTRs an essential tool for the assessment and control of industrial pollution and to make any effort to provide the necessary data and information for their implementation in the region.

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue working on the implementation of PRTR by providing the necessary assistance to countries.

National Action Plans (NAPs)

According to the SAP workplan as well as the activities of the Mediterranean GEF Project, Mediterranean countries should formulate their NAPs by the year 2003, which should be fully operational by 2005. As a result, during the 2002-2003 biennium, the Secretariat, making use of the Mediterranean GEF Project funds, will closely work with the countries to initiate the process. As a first step, the Secretariat will formulate a draft methodology for the preparation of national diagnostic analyses that will be discussed and reviewed at a meeting with SAP national coordinators and experts. The national diagnostic analyses are in fact the basis for the formulation of the NAPs. Through the GEF Project, countries will soon be contacted for the finalization of Memorandums of Understanding that will describe the process of preparation of the NAPs and will include details on the activities to be carried out, the financial assistance and the specific tasks of the national actors involved.

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To start the process of preparing National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities as part of the implementation of the SAP; the Plans should be completed by the year 2003 and be operational by the year 2005.

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to assist countries formulate National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities.

Other activities related to the LBS Protocol

As a result to the interest of Mediterranean countries in responding to their growing water demands through the creation of new **sea water desalination plants**, and as a follow up to the request made by some Contracting Parties to the Secretariat, MED POL has prepared an assessment of the situation in the region which combines 1) information of status and trends of the desalination plants in the region, 2) information on the possible environmental effects of the discharges of brine, 3) the possible implications of such practice with the provisions of the Dumping and LBS Protocols and 4) elements for the preparation of guidelines. The document is presented to this Meeting as UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/INF.6 for information and discussion on its possible follow up. The Secretariat is proposing to organize in 2002 an expert meeting to further elaborate the guidelines for the management of brine produced by desalination plants. The guidelines would mostly focus on the proper siting of the desalination plants aiming at reducing the impact on the marine environment.

The **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)** is considered a very important document for the quantity and quality of information that it contains and a very useful background for all the MED POL activities. Its updating and finalization, already preliminary started in 2001, will be completed during the 2002-2003 biennium in consultation with MED POL National Coordinators, by making use of the Mediterranean GEF Project funds. The Secretariat will ensure the updating process through the following steps:

- review of the previous TDA report to identify the chapters that would need to be updated and the possible addition of new chapters following new developments occurred in the relevant environmental Conventions as well as the availability of new scientific information;
- select a team of regional experts;
- convene a consultation meeting to review the updated TDA report;
- submit the new TDA report to National Coordinators for approval.

The issue of **pollution hot spots and sensitive areas** was and will be developed in the framework of the GEF Project. The list of hot spots adopted in 1997, although it represents a very important step forward, since it constitutes a first attempt to produce a precise assessment of the pollution sources of the region, may need to be reviewed because the data, collected in 1996-1997, could require an updating to reflect the new developments possibly occurred in the countries. In planning the activities, it should be recalled that, on the short-term, i.e. during the period 2001-2003, the Mediterranean GEF Project is providing funds to make a review of the pollution hot spots criteria, to prepare an updating of the list and to carry out pre-investment studies on a number of selected hot spots. The same approach is being followed for sensitive areas. On the long term, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the list of hot spots, in order to reflect the progress made by the countries, should be reviewed on a regular basis, and is proposing every four years. Taking into account the activities started in 2001, the following action will be implemented during the biennium 2002-2003:

- a) select hot spots where pre-investment studies will be carried out, in consultation with the GEF-eligible countries; and
- b) carry out the selected pre-investment studies.

During the meeting of the Informal Network on compliance and enforcement held in Sorrento, 15-17 March 2001, it was agreed, among other, that similar meetings should be held regularly, the exchange of information should be intensified, the capacity building component should be reinforced in order to strengthen the **inspection systems** and guidelines for environmental inspection systems should be prepared. During the 2002-2003 biennium the Secretariat will work in line with above recommendations. More in particular, the Secretariat, in addition to the above mentioned guidelines, will prepare technical manuals, will visit and assist individual countries in need to further develop inspection systems, will prepare a web site with specific information and success stories and will prepare training courses. The activities will be partly financed by the Mediterranean GEF Project.

During the last meeting of the MCSD held in Tunis, it was suggested to WHO to prepare an **assessment of the state of environmental health in Mediterranean countries** that would enable the countries to apply better management for pollution reduction. The assessment would also help countries to incorporate health concerns into environmental management, thus reducing the risks to human health. Work related to health effects from polluted seawaters, which was carried out in the past as part of MED POL, needs now to be completed to include coastal areas (including the catchment basins) since they are now under the coverage of the Barcelona Convention and the LBS Protocol and imply pollution and risks to public health. As a result, a study to identify the state of environmental health in the Mediterranean is proposed to be undertaken during the 2002-2003 with funds coming directly from WHO.

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To provide the Secretariat with all the necessary data and information to enable the regular review of the list of pollution hot spots every four years; the first revised list to be prepared during the 2002-2003 biennium.

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to further elaborate the guidelines for the management of brine and to submit them to Contracting Parties for approval;
- b) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to prepare a revised list of pollution hot spots based on official data and information provided by the countries;
- c) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to provide assistance to the countries in establishing/enhancing pollution inspection systems.

3. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

Under the provisions of Article 5 of the 1976 Dumping Protocol, national authorities are requested to keep records of the dumping activities by issuing permits and informing the Secretariat accordingly. However, since the entry into force of the Protocol, only few countries have regularly reported to the Secretariat on the permits issued.

In this context, considering the relevance that dumping activities may have for planning pollution monitoring and control activities and the expected entry into force of the 1995 revised Dumping Protocol, the Secretariat is attempting to use the information already available, to integrate them with new information and prepare an **assessment of dumping activities for the period of 1995-2001**. A letter was sent on 1 February 2001 to the National Coordinators to identify national authorities and experts who could assist the Secretariat in the preparation of the assessment. In

view of the scarce responses received (only 8 countries have replied to the Secretariat's request), the Secretariat is soliciting the requested information from all countries and is proposing to finalize the assessment during 2002.

Under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and according to the 2000-2001 MED POL activity programme, during the year 2000 the Secretariat prepared draft "**Guidelines for the management of fish waste or organic materials resulting from the processing of fish and other marine organisms**". The Guidelines were sent on 30 January 2001 to the MED POL National Coordinators for comments and amendments. A revised draft (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/4) was prepared accordingly and is presented to this Meeting for consideration and approval in view of their transmission to Contracting Parties for adoption.

Under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and according to the 2000-2001 MED POL activity programme, during the year 2000 the Secretariat prepared draft "**Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea**". The Guidelines were sent on 30 January 2001 to the MED POL National Coordinators for comments and amendments. A revised draft (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/5) was prepared accordingly and is presented to this Meeting for consideration and approval in view of their transmission to Contracting Parties for adoption.

Under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and in order to fulfil the requirements of its Articles 3 and 6, the Secretariat is proposing to work during the biennium 2002-2003 on the preparation of **Guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials**, which will complete the list of Guidelines to be prepared. The Secretariat will seek the assistance of experts from the region to prepare draft guidelines before their submission to MED POL National Coordinators for approval and to Contracting Parties for adoption. As a first step, the Secretariat is considering that a proper and unanimous definition of the term: "inert uncontaminated geological materials" would be essential to be able to start the work; National Coordinators will soon be contacted on the subject.

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To provide the Secretariat all the necessary data and information to enable the Secretariat to prepare an assessment of dumping activities related to the period 1995-2001;
- b) To adopt the Guidelines for the management of fish wastes or organic materials resulting from the processing of fish and other marine organisms which were prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with national authorities;
- c) To adopt the Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea which were prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with national authorities.

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to complete the assessment of dumping activities for the period 1995-2001 based on information provided by the Contracting Parties;
- b) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to prepare guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials in close cooperation with national authorities.

4. Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

Regarding the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, it should be noticed that a number of activities aiming at preparing the ground for the future implementation of the Protocol are included in the SAP activities and will be implemented during the 2002-2003 biennium, mostly as part of the Mediterranean GEF project work plan (see the chapter on Industrial Pollution above).

In addition, the Secretariat is proposing to prepare an **assessment on the status of Hazardous Wastes management in Mediterranean countries** that would take into account the obligations of the Basel and other related Conventions. The assessment would enable the Secretariat to avoid duplication of work and identify gaps and needs in view of the related activities to be carried out as part of the implementation of the SAP.

5. **Activities related to the identification and follow up of environment and pollution emerging issues**

During the last meeting of MCSD in Tunis, the Contracting Parties requested MED POL to follow up and inform the Contracting Parties on the development of the **climate change** issues in the Mediterranean region. On the basis of, and as a complement to, the above request, the Secretariat is proposing to collate information based on I.P.C.C. reports in the framework of the Climatic Change Convention and other sources of information related to the Mediterranean countries and prepare a background and up-to-date information document. Regarding the launching of new studies on the impacts of climatic changes in Mediterranean coastal zones, MED POL will do so, as appropriate, in the context of ongoing or new Coastal Areas Management Programmes (CAMPs) launched as part of MAP.

As a result of a small consultation meeting on environmental and pollution emerging issues held in Rome on 31 May - 1 June 2000, the Secretariat, in addition to the **research** areas identified as part of the work on the implementation of the SAP, is proposing to launch limited research projects on airborne pollution and on marine antifoulants as subjects of special Mediterranean relevance. Concerning airborne pollution, it was felt that, in parallel to the monitoring activities carried out as part of MED POL, a number of areas still needed investigation such as the pollutants' routes and the mechanisms of wet and dry depositions in the region. Concerning antifoulants, in view of the global ban of TBTs being negotiated by IMO, the need was felt to study the toxic effects of the alternative biocides which are going to be used in the region.

A special session on environment and pollution emerging issues will be jointly organized with **CIESM**, on the occasion of the CIESM General Assembly to be held in Monaco in September 2001. A number of grants will be provided to Mediterranean scientists to facilitate their participation.

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue to follow up the ongoing research and study developments on the issue of climatic changes and its environmental implications in the Mediterranean region and to inform the Contracting Parties accordingly;
- b) To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue to work on the identification of environment and pollution emerging issues in consultation with MED POL National Coordinators and, accordingly, to fund limited research projects and prepare assessments in cooperation with competent intergovernmental Organizations, UN Cooperating Agencies and Convention Secretariats.

