

ANNEX III
THE MED POL - PHASE IV PROGRAMME
(2006-2013)

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BACKGROUND

Aside from the physical degradation of the Mediterranean coastal (terrestrial and marine) regions and the decline of its biological resources, pollution of the Mediterranean Sea originating from a large variety of terrestrial and maritime sources and activities is presently one of the major problems threatening the Mediterranean Basin. Therefore, pollution control is considered among the most important approaches to halt effectively, and eventually reverse, the continuing degradation of the Mediterranean, as a contribution to the process of achieving sustainable development.

While the primary responsibility for pollution control rests with the national authorities of the Mediterranean countries, action taken at the level of individual countries can be fully effective only if taken as part of concerted efforts of all countries sharing the same sea. Namely, there are no physical barriers that would prevent the spread of pollutants once they reach the sea and therefore their impact is not restricted to the vicinity of the point where they enter the sea but is felt in a much wider area. This obvious fact was recognized by the governments of the Mediterranean countries in the mid-1970s by the adoption of the **Mediterranean Action Plan** (1975) and by signing of the **Barcelona Convention** (1976) which became their common framework for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea.

The present **Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region – MED POL** evolved, as the environmental assessment and pollution control component and integral part of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), and became MAP's first operational programme. It was adopted in 1975 (**MED POL I, 1975-1980**) by the very first intergovernmental meeting of the Mediterranean coastal States, called by UNEP to consider the formulation of a broad and complex programme for the protection of the Mediterranean region.

The objectives of the first phase of MED POL were to formulate and carry out a coordinated pollution monitoring and research programme taking into account the goals of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the capabilities of the Mediterranean research centres to participate in it. MED POL Phase I concentrated its efforts on capacity building and on collection and analysis of sources, levels, pathways, trends and effects of pollutants relevant to the Mediterranean Sea.

In 1981, the second phase of MED POL (**MED POL II, 1981-1995**) was initially approved for a ten year period which was later extended until 1995. Initially the programme continued focusing on pollution-related monitoring and research but gradually broadened its scope in order to follow the trends indicated by the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development (Agenda 21) adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and to bring it closer to the other components of MAP, in particular to the implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (LBS Protocol) and the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP) of MAP.

The development of the present phase of MED POL (**MED POL III, 1996-2005**) was initiated in 1993 and formally approved in 1996. While retaining the assessment of pollution and provision of support to national institutions (i.e., capacity building) as its important functions, pollution control was made the new focus of MED POL III. As in the previous phases of MED POL, the assessment was expected to be based on data reported by national institutions participating in the programme. The assessment programme was envisaged to serve as the basis for the pollution control programme consisting of two major elements: (i) development of pollution control measures and targets; and (ii) pollution monitoring as an indicator for the effective implementation of these measures (compliance monitoring).

With the adoption of the SAP in 1997 and the launching of its operational phase in 2000, the tasks -and, accordingly, the objectives- of MED POL increased in coverage from the original ones to meet the new needs. Although the MED POL Programme was formally entrusted with the responsibility to follow up the implementation of the SAP, no formal amendments were made to the original objectives of MED POL Phase III.

The relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention (Art. 5, 8 and 11) and of the protocols associated with the Convention, as well as the MED POL-related decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Convention provide the legal and the basic operational framework for the activities of MED POL.

MED POL has actively participated in and contributed to the development of the European Union's European Marine Strategy. MED POL Phase IV could represent the Mediterranean operational link with the Strategy considering the similarity of objectives and principles, for the benefit of the Mediterranean region.

TOWARDS MED POL PHASE IV (2006-2013): PROPOSED APPROACHES

MED POL Phase III is ending in 2005. In view of the recognized role of the Programme and its important contribution to the over all objectives of MAP, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention decided that the MED POL Programme should continue throughout a new phase (2006-2013) but that it should go through a revision as necessary on the basis of the specific evaluation carried out, the objectives and requirements of the amended Convention and Protocols, the need to substantially contribute to the process of achieving sustainable development, and keeping into account and harmonizing the new Phase IV with ongoing regional and international programmes and initiatives.

There are several steps that should be followed in preparing MED POL IV covering a well structured iterative process needed to develop the next phase of the Programme and ensure its formal adoption by the Parties to the Barcelona Convention.¹ The stages in this process include:

- the critical analysis of the results of the evaluation of MED POL III in order to benefit from evaluation's findings and recommendations;
- and an agreement on five cluster of issues:
 - (i) the overall objectives and goals of MED POL IV;
 - (ii) the basic principles and assumptions on which MED POL IV should be based;
 - (iii) the scope (content) of MED POL IV;
 - (iv) the modalities of implementation; and
 - (v) the operational details of implementation, including specific goals and targets.

A two-step approval of the next phase by the Parties to the Convention appears to be the most appropriate. The first step includes the approval/adoption of the MED POL IV overall objectives and goals, basic principles, scope (content) and implementation modalities. As the second step, the operational details of implementation modalities (i.e., the "operational document") would then be elaborated on the basis of the agreement on these issues, and submitted for approval to the Parties.

Elements that should be used in considering the first four clusters of issues listed above are elaborated in the ensuing sections of the present chapter, with proposals related to the last (fifth) cluster.

Visions

A successful MED POL Programme cannot be seen independently from the context to which it belongs. MED POL is and will remain an integral part of MAP and the Barcelona legal system, and it operates in a regional and a wider international context with precise roles and expectations. It is therefore obvious that in viewing the MED POL specific long-term reference points, i.e. its visions, the reader should also consider that some of them will be of general nature and involving other actors and stakeholders.

¹ The short-term road map of the Secretariat includes: (i) presentation of the first draft of the programme description for MED POL IV to selected experts for comments and suggestions (beginning of 2005); (ii) presentation of the amended draft to the Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators (May 2005); (iii) presentation of the draft principles, objectives, scope and modalities of implementation of the Programme, as agreed by the National Coordinators, to the MAP Focal Points (September 2005) and to Contracting Parties for adoption (November 2005).

In addition to the overall commonly shared vision for a clean, healthy, biologically diverse and productive Mediterranean marine and coastal environment that both we and our future generations can enjoy, the MED POL Programme's visions include a strong commitment by the Contracting Parties towards the goals of the Convention and the Protocols, and the adoption and the implementation a clear strategy for sustainable development covering a gradual but steady reduction of urban and industrial pollution made through the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities.

Overall objectives and goals

The overall objectives and goals of MED POL III may, at this stage, be considered the basic starting point for MED POL IV too, as they correspond to the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its relevant Protocols and are in line with the principles and objectives of sustainable development. The evaluation carried out confirmed this statement. As a result of the above and considering the necessary evolution of the Programme, the overall objectives of MED POL Phase IV are:

- ◆ to facilitate the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by the Contracting Parties in matters of its competence, in particular in the reduction and elimination of pollution from land-based sources and activities and dumping activities;
- ◆ to assess all point and diffuse sources and load of pollution reaching the Mediterranean, and the magnitude of the problems caused by the effects of contaminants on living and non-living resources, including human health, as well as on amenities and uses of the marine and coastal regions;
- ◆ to assess status and trends in the quality of the marine and coastal environment as an early warning system for potential environmental problems caused by pollution and other anthropogenic pressures;
- ◆ to assist countries, including capacity building, for the implementation of national action plans, including programmes and measures, for the gradual elimination of pollution, for the mitigation of impacts caused by pollution and for the restoration of systems already damaged by pollution, as a contribution to the process of achieving sustainable development;
- ◆ to monitor the implementation of the action plans, programmes and measures for the control of pollution and assess their effectiveness;
- ◆ to contribute, in cooperation with other MAP components, to the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities within MAP, with MED POL as the monitoring and assessment component.

Basic principles and assumptions

The following are the basic principles and assumptions on which the MED POL could rest:

- a) The entry into force of the LBS and Dumping Protocols and the revitalization of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol as the basic assumptions which would provide all MED POL-related activities with the necessary legal and political strength;

MED POL to remain one of the key programme elements of MAP, implemented under the direct authority of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, within the legal and policy framework defined by the Convention, the relevant Protocols to the Convention and decisions of the Parties;

MED POL to remain the MAP component responsible for:

- i. Following up and assisting the countries' implementation of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols;
 - ii. Following up and assisting the countries' implementation of the SAP and national action plans;
 - iii. Assessing the status and trends of pollution of the Mediterranean eco-regions.
- b) The ecosystem approach to the management of human activities to be adopted by MAP;
 - c) The full and active involvement of all advisory and decision making bodies of MAP as one of the basic requirements for the successful completion of the process leading to the adoption of MED POL IV;
 - d) The next phase of MED POL to be built and heavily lean on the results, achievements and experience of the previous phases (especially Phase III). Therefore, the critical analysis of the results, achievements, shortcomings and experience of the Programme carried out by the MED POL Phase III Evaluation, particularly those related directly to the practical aspects of pollution control, should be taken into account in designing the operational details of a realistic and well focused next phase;²
 - e) In the transitional phase, i.e. until the operational details (the "operational document") for the implementation of MED POL IV are formulated and approved, the basic lines of action approved for MED POL III to be continued but with gradual adaptations, modifications and expansions, as may be required by the scope approved for MED POL IV in harmony with the provisions of the amended Convention and Protocols;
 - f) Monitoring to be better integrated into the scope of the SAP and of any other pollution control measure adopted by the Contracting Parties in application of the LBS Protocol and to be used as a tool (i) to contribute to the continuous assessment of the status and trends of the quality of the marine and coastal environment and the effects of pollution and (ii) to assess the effectiveness of the pollution reduction measures implemented by the countries. The scope (content) of the monitoring activities of MED POL to be readapted as appropriate to respond to the above needs;
 - g) The assessment and, if appropriate, the gradual application of common and differentiated responsibilities in the process of reducing pollution, as recommended by the evaluation carried out, to facilitate the long-term implementation of the SAP.
 - h) Monitoring, assessment and pollution control activities, as well as data quality assurance, data collection and handling, reporting and data management policies and procedures to be functionally harmonized with those adopted by regional,

² An evaluation of MED POL III has been carried out by independent evaluators in 2004-2005 in parallel with the design of MED POL IV.

international and global bodies and organizations, such as the European Union and other UN Agencies and programmes;³

- i) MED POL assessment and reporting schedules to be synchronised, and the assessment and reporting procedures harmonised, with the schedules and procedures which will be adopted for the evolving global assessment of the state of the marine environment;
- j) Scientific activities related to policy development and implementation that may receive limited support by MED POL IV to be directed to the requirements of operational oceanography and monitoring, assessment and pollution control activities and the formulation of pollution control measures, application of the ecosystem approach or to identified emerging environmental issues that may need clarifications; MED POL could take advantage of the products and tools of the currently existing operational oceanography monitoring and forecasting network in the Mediterranean Sea to support regular assessments of the marine environment, including the identification of scenarios for the fate and dispersal of contaminants at sea;⁴
- k) Public participation and communication to be considered as corner stones for the integration of regional and national civil society and for the achievement of the MED POL objectives; in order to ensure the broadest possible support and the adequate implementation of MED POL IV, the appropriate non-governmental structures (e.g., the scientific communities, private sector, local authorities, NGOs and other relevant structures of the civil society)⁵ should be involved at the onset of phase IV, i.e already

³ As repeatedly recommended by Contracting Parties, all MAP programmes and activities should be as appropriate harmonized with existing regional and international programmes and initiatives so as to facilitate implementation and reporting activities.

⁴ MAP recognizes that it should be based on the best possible available science. The scientific foundations of MAP should be ensured by wise use of knowledge and experience generated by the scientific communities and by ensuring that the independent views and impartial advice of these communities is regularly brought to the attention of relevant decision-making structures of MAP.

⁵ The Action Plan adopted in 1995 for the second phase of MAP recognizes that *without public support, the application of nature protection and conservation measures cannot achieve results commensurate with the challenges and threats looming over the natural heritage of the Mediterranean*, and commits the Contracting Parties to *involve local, provincial and regional authorities, as appropriate, in the formulation and implementation of MAP Phase II programme activities, and to associate in the MAP Phase II activities non-governmental organizations involved in the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development, as well as organizations representing economic interests*. The Convention, as amended in 1995, commits the Parties to *ensure that the opportunity is given to the public to participate in decision-making process relevant to the field of application of the Convention and the Protocols, as appropriate*. The SAP also recognizes that *information and public participation are essential components of a sustainable development and environmental policy* and identifies, as one of SAP's proposed targets, to *mobilize and ensure the participation and involvement of the major actors concerned (local and provincial communities, economic and social groups, consumers, etc.)*. Last but not least, the Catania Declaration specifies that *all concerned partners should be actively involved in the development and implementation of sustainable development policies and activities, in particular the business sector and NGOs, through a participatory approach and operational partnership for joint programmes/projects* (operational paragraph 6 of the Declaration adopted at the meeting of Contracting Parties in Catania, 11-14 November 2003). Aside from reasons given above, the UN-ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making (Aarhus Convention) also requires a full involvement of all stakeholders and general public in processes leading to decision-making.

during in the dialogue leading to the formulation of the operational details of MED POL IV.

- I) MED POL, in cooperation with other competent MAP components, to act within MAP as catalyst for the harmonization and integration of the EC Marine Strategy within MAP and for the bridging between the Mediterranean non EU member states and the EC Marine Strategy.

Scope (content)

MED POL IV will retain most of the basic elements of MED POL III, and as such will continue to deal with marine and coastal pollution assessment and control by using the same tools (e.g. monitoring, capacity building, assessments, elaboration of control measures, etc.) that were successfully implemented in the past. However, considering the results of the evaluation of MED POL Phase III, based on the analysis of MAP's legislative framework and the contemporary initiatives and trends in environmental protection, and the recent policy developments at the region and the international levels, it appears that a number of important issues are presently not, or not adequately, covered by the scope of MED POL III and need to be included in its Phase IV. In particular:

Control and assessment

- a) Control of sources of pollution in river basins, watersheds and ground waters, as related to the inputs into the marine environment (as advocated by WSSD and the European Union, and as envisaged by the relevant articles of the LBS Protocol⁶). Initially it may be reasonable to cover only the estuaries, particularly if they are declared also as hot spots, and move gradually upstream only when the available data show the existence of pollution hot spots upstream;
- b) Plans and programmes to counter physical alteration and destruction of habitats in cooperation with the competent regional bodies (as advocated by Agenda 21, SAP, GPA/LBA, PEBLDS, and identified by numerous assessments such as GESAMP and GEO);
- c) Inclusion of the analysis of relevant social and economic factors such as the analysis of the social and economic roots of environmental degradation into the assessment of the state of the marine environment (as recommended by WSSD, carried out by GIWA, and envisaged by GMA);
- d) Tightened control over ecological and health-related impact of dumping;
- e) A wider use of preventive and precautionary actions in pollution control, especially by preparation of environmental impact assessments, BAT and BEP for planned activities

⁶ Article 3, paragraph (b) of the Protocol: *The area to which Protocol applies shall be the hydrological basin of the Mediterranean Sea.* Article 4, paragraph 1(a) of the Protocol: *The Protocol shall apply to discharges from LBS point and diffuse sources and activities within the territories of the Contracting Parties that may affect directly or indirectly the Mediterranean Sea area. These discharges shall include those which reach the Mediterranean Area, as defined in Article 3(a), (c) and (d) of this Protocol, through coastal disposal, rivers, outfalls, canals, or other watercourses, including ground water flow, or through run-off and disposal under the seabed with access from land.* Article 8 of the Protocol specifies that *the Parties shall carry out at the earliest possible date monitoring activities, presumably covering the Protocol area, i.e. the hydrological basin of the Mediterranean.*

that may be a major source of marine pollution and substitution (as envisaged by the LBS and Dumping Protocols, and the SAP);

Cooperation, information, public participation

- f) Meaningful involvement of, and collaboration, with the private sector and other stakeholders in designing and implementation of pollution control programmes and in the evaluation of their results (recommended by WSSD);
- g) Intensified dissemination of information on the problems associated with the Mediterranean; mobilisation of public support to the goals of MAP/MED POL; preparation and wide distribution of regular “state of the Mediterranean” reports addressed to general public, by making effective use of information technology (IT);
- h) Intensified and well structured programmes that may facilitate cooperation for the transfer of technology between countries in order to reduce the existing technological gaps in the pollution reduction processes.

Ecosystem approach

- i) Treatment of the “marine environment” in a holistic way, i.e. as an integral whole consisting of the sea area and the adjacent terrestrial coastal area (as advocated by Agenda 21 and the WSSD, and as implied by the revised title of the Barcelona Convention and envisaged by the amended Article 1 of the Convention⁷);
- j) Application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities, including pollution control (as advocated by a large segment of scientific community, proposed by SAP⁸ and the European Union, advocated by the MED POL Phase III evaluation and adopted by a number of regional pollution control programmes⁹). For its application, the Mediterranean may be divided into management regions;
- k) Intensified collaboration with natural and social scientists, and better use of scientific understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems as a functional basis for sound decision-making;
- l) Monitoring and assessment of the environmental effects and ecological implications of fisheries management, including aquaculture, on ecosystems (as advocated by the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities and practised by other Europe-based regional seas programmes) as well as of sea water desalination activities;
- m) Monitoring and assessment of environmental effects associated with energy production and maritime transport, in cooperation with other competent international and regional bodies;

⁷ The title of the Convention: *Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean*. Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention: *The application of the Convention may be extended to coastal areas as defined by each Contracting Party*.

⁸ One of the targets proposed in the SAP is *to safeguard the ecosystem function, maintain the integrity and biological diversity of species and habitats*.

⁹ For instance: HELCOM and OSPAR.

- n) Assessment of the health risk associated with the quality of bathing and shellfish-growing waters, tourist establishment and facilities.

Some of the above issues may appear as beyond the scope of a programme initially designed for marine pollution control. However, while sectoral and narrowly defined control of marine pollution may have been seen in 1975 as an effective remedy to the woes of the Mediterranean basin, the changes adopted since 1995 in MAP's legislative framework are a clear indication that the Parties to the Convention have shifted the focus of their attention from the *protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution* to a broader and more ambitious goal: to the *protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean*.¹⁰ Agenda 21, the contemporary global and regional initiatives and trends in the approach to environmental protection, and the change in the philosophy underpinning the current legislative framework of MAP, justify certain adjustments in the present scope of MED POL.

Modalities of implementation

In order to ensure a smooth transition to the next phase of MED POL, and assuming that the activities of MED POL IV will be organically linked to those of the present phase of MED POL, it would be important that the eventual changes in the current modalities of implementation be introduced only gradually, taking into account the results of the evaluation of MED POL III¹¹, the evolution of MAP and the objectives, goals and scope approved for MED POL IV.

The basic functions and responsibilities of the National MED POL Coordinators, the National MED POL Collaborating Institutions and the Secretariat as agreed for the implementation of MED POL III¹² should be retained, albeit some of their functions and responsibilities may need to be slightly redefined. In addition, considering in particular the multidisciplinary aspects of the pollution reduction process, the need to involve other national stakeholders (e.g. Ministries of finance, of public works, etc.) in addition to the Ministries of Environment seems to become necessary if MED POL wants to achieve concrete results. To that end, the establishment of a mechanism in each country to ensure appropriate coordination and integration in their national programmes of the MED POL activities, and in particular those of the SAP, is recommended.

It should be kept in mind that each Mediterranean country has a national pollution control programme and the implementation of MED POL (including SAP) at national level can be successful only if it is implemented in the framework and as part of this wider national programme carried out through national mechanisms which differ considerably from country to country. Therefore, while retaining the central technical responsibility of the National MED POL Coordinators for the implementation of MED POL at national level, the full integration of national MED POL activities (including SAP) in the national pollution control programmes should be added to their responsibilities. As a minimum requirement, the MED POL National Coordinator should include in his/her functions the follow up of the implementation of the SAP as well.

¹⁰ Comparison of the original (1976) title of the Barcelona Convention with the revised text of the Convention (1995).

¹¹ The evaluation of MED POL III has been carried out by independent evaluators during 2004-2005.

¹² MED POL Phase III: Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region. Chapter 4. MAP Technical Reports Series No.120. UNEP, Athens, 1999.

Under the guidance and supervision of the relevant structures established under the MAP and the Barcelona Convention, the Secretariat should continue playing a central coordinating role for MED POL, ensuring the harmonisation of national activities at the Mediterranean level, and effectively and meaningfully monitoring their implementation. In the preparation of "guidance documents" for the implementation of MED POL (e.g., various technical and policy documents, guidelines), all efforts should be made to take into account the work already carried out by other regional and international bodies and special but critical attention should be paid to their harmonization with other relevant documents developed at the regional and international levels by the European Commission and Union and other international agreements.

Some of the Secretariat's functions and responsibilities could be assumed by or shared with the National Coordinators or Collaborating Institutions (e.g., organisation of training and capacity building activities, or preparation of technical meetings, documents and guidelines). This would lighten the burden of workload on the Secretariat staff and could become a source of considerable in-kind contribution to the budget of MED POL.¹³ It would also seem advantageous to intensify a more meaningful involvement of the Collaborating Institutions in shaping and management of MED POL.

In considering the implementation modalities for MED POL IV, it would seem appropriate to examine also the ways and means to further strengthen cooperation with the relevant international and intergovernmental organisations, global conventions and programmes and, in particular, the support that may be obtained from national structures hitherto not formally associated with MED POL. Harmonisation of the reporting requirements (contents, schedules, procedures) to the maximum possible extent would be highly beneficial as it would allow the countries to prepare a single report that could be used both in the context of MED POL and the relevant global conventions to which the countries are parties. In addition, there may be room for intensified cooperation with some sectors of national economy, local authorities and non-governmental organisations, using innovative approaches. The tourism-based economic sector would seem a particularly appropriate partner, although the establishment of a closer partnership with other sectors would be also worth examining.

Public awareness and opinion is among powerful forces determining the success of any programme. Therefore, it would be advisable for MED POL to maintain a closer link with NGOs and media representatives and to provide them regularly with information that they could use in promoting the goals of MED POL.

Sustainable implementation of MED POL

As a follow up to the evaluation of MED POL Phase III, and in order to ensure effectiveness to the Programme, in setting the specific objectives, goals and targets for MED POL IV, their feasibility should be carefully examined through the widest possible consultation with key stakeholders, taking into account the social and economic implications of the planned actions, including their cost-benefit ratio.

The financial constraints related to capital investments and their sustainable maintenance are objectively among the major obstacles for the implementation of MED POL (in particular SAP) and should be taken into account when the specific goals and targets will be set as part of operational details for MED POL IV (i.e., in the operational document of MED POL IV).

¹³ This approach is widely and successfully practiced by a large number of programmes (e.g., OSPAR, HELCOM).

The Parties to the Convention should face the fact that the costs associated with the implementation of MED POL (including SAP) should be primarily met from their own resources. A variety of instruments are at the disposal of the Parties for the mobilisation of these resources. The instruments differ from country to country and the experience with their application is currently being examined in the framework of SAP. In addition to the resources mobilised at national level, supplementary support for the implementation of MED POL is available, although modest, through the Mediterranean Trust Fund of MAP and, to some eligible countries, through bilaterally or multilaterally funded projects and donations. The most important sources of supplementary funding include the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the programmes of the European Union (the Euro Mediterranean Partnership in particular), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a number of national cooperation funds such as the Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM). There are specific country eligibility clauses associated with some of these funding sources. In this context, the MED POL Secretariat will play an important catalytic role in the mobilization of such funds by bridging countries and projects with donors and other stakeholders.

The protection of the Mediterranean is today of common interest not only to its coastal states but also to citizens of other countries which in their millions enjoy visiting and benefiting from the Mediterranean environment. This wider interest in maintaining a healthy and clean Mediterranean environment may finally be used to consider the establishment of a "Mediterranean Fund" along the lines of *The Global Fund* and use its resources to make substantial and significant contribution to the present woes of the Mediterranean basin.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Aarhus Convention Agenda 21	UN-ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making Programme of Action for Sustainable Development (adopted at UNCED)
Barcelona Convention	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean
BAT	Best available technique / technology
BEP	Best environmental practice
CAMP Dumping Protocol	Coastal Areas Management Programme (of MAP) Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea
EQC	Environmental Quality Criteria
EQO	Environmental Quality Objectives
EQS	Environmental Quality Standards
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFEM	Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environment Protection (IMO/FAO/UNESCO-IOC/WMO/WHO/IAEA/UN/UNEP)
GIPME	Global Investigation of Marine Pollution (IOC)
GIWA	Global International Water Assessment
GMA	Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment / Global Marine Assessment
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System (IOC/WMO/UNEP)
GPA/LBA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
HELCOM	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAM	integrated coastal area management (synonymous with ICZM integrated coastal zone management)
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOTERRA	International Environment Information System (UNEP)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	World Conservation Union (formerly: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources)
LBS Protocol	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region
NAP	National Action Plan

NGO	non-governmental organization
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Commission
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (of UNEP/MAP)
PEBLDS	Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (of the Council of Europe)
POPs	persistent organic pollutants
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
Rio Declaration	Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (adopted at UNCED)
SAP	Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (in the Mediterranean Sea)
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNCHE	United Nations Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WFD	Water Framework Directive (of the European Commission)
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 26 August - 4 September 2002)
WTO	World Tourism Organisation