

Annex III

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2004 - 2005

The Contracting Parties agreed:

I.A COORDINATION

I.A.1 Legal framework

I.A.1.1 Status of ratification of the Convention and the Protocols

1. To urgently accept the amendments to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment against pollution (the Barcelona Convention); the Protocol for Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (the Dumping Protocol); and the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (the LBS Protocol).
2. To ratify, accept, approve or accede as soon as possible to the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (the Prevention and Emergency Protocol).
3. Also, as soon as possible, to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Protocol concerning Specially-Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol).
4. To request the depositary country (Spain), together with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, to take an active role in encouraging the Parties to speed up the ratification process.

To request the Secretariat:

To undertake the necessary actions to assist the Contracting Parties in their efforts with a view to the entry into force of the MAP Phase II legal instruments.

I.A.1.2. Regional Instrument for ICAM

1. To affirm the urgent need to halt and reverse the continuing degradation of the Mediterranean coastal zone through a process of integrated management.
2. To take note of the feasibility study and its various options for the regional legal instrument on coastal management.

To request the Secretariat:

To prepare a draft text of the regional protocol on integrated coastal management, on the basis of a broad process of consultation among experts and all other interested parties in view of its consideration by the CPs.

I.A.1.3 Liability and compensation

To request the Secretariat:

To prepare a feasibility study for submission to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005 covering the legal, economic, financial and social aspects of a liability and compensation regime based on the organization of a participatory process with the Contracting Parties and socio-economic actors and with a view to avoiding overlapping with any other liability and compensation regime.

I.A.1.4. Reporting system and mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance with the Barcelona Convention

1. To commence the implementation of Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention starting from the biennium 2002-2003 on the basis of the updated reporting format, as indicated in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/9.
2. To approve the establishment of a Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts to be assigned the following tasks:
 - a. to elaborate a platform to promote the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention to be submitted for consideration to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005;
 - b. to provide guidance for the preparation of the regional report on the status of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention in the biennium 2002 – 2003;
 - c. The Working Group should be composed of six experts nominated by the Contracting Parties, respecting geographical distribution, along with one representative from the MAP partners. The progress achieved in the process should be regularly shared with all the Contracting Parties.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To provide assistance to the Contracting Parties to strengthen their reporting capacities and systems.
2. To prepare a regional report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention in the biennium 2002-2003 for submission to the Meeting of MAP National Focal Points and of the Contracting Parties in 2005.
3. To prepare reporting formats and guidelines for the non-legal component of MAP with a view to having a draft for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their 2005 Ordinary Meeting.
4. To further work towards the harmonization of reporting procedures with other multilateral environmental agreements and the respective European Union directives and present a consolidated report on the progress of its work, including a proposed updated format, for consideration by the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005.

I.A.1.5. Assistance to countries in legal matters

To request the Secretariat:

To strengthen support to countries on legal matters related to the protection of marine and coastal zones in the Mediterranean.

I.A.2 Institutional framework

I.A.2.1. MAP and RACs evaluation

To request the Secretariat:

1. To launch the external overall evaluation of MAP, including the evaluation of the MED POL Programme; with a view to presenting it to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005. In this process the document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/5 "Draft Strategic Assessment of the General Framework of the Barcelona Convention (MAP evaluation)" could be considered as an input, while ensuring the consideration of other inputs from Contracting Parties.
2. To take note of the recommendations included in documents UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/6 Draft Report on "Evaluation of SPA/RAC: Programme Assessment and Prospects"; and UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/7 "Evaluation of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)" including the "Management Performance Audit of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)" and to propose positive follow-up .
3. To submit to the Bureau during the next biennium a proposal, in cooperation with the Government of Tunisia and UNEP, related to the future status of SPA/RAC, taking into account the future general orientations to emerge from the overall evaluation of MAP and the evaluation study of the Centre.
4. To approve the proposals made by the MCSD and finalized at Cavtat in May 2003 concerning the transformation of the "100 Historic Sites" Programme, established in the framework of MAP in 1985, into a programme for the Mediterranean cultural heritage and sustainable development.
5. To invite Tunisia and France, in consultation with the Secretariat, to seek in 2004 partners interested in participating in the above-mentioned programme, to specify the precise arrangements for the implementation of the programme, and to report on it regularly.
6. To launch an external evaluation of CP/RAC and ERS/RAC, drawing on the lessons learned from the previous evaluations in terms of approach, methodology and criteria.

I.A.3 Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

1. To take note of the Vision and the Framework Orientations for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (UNEP(DEC)/MED. IG.15.10) and to submit comments and proposals to the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties before 15 January 2004 with a view to refining them.
2. To provide the necessary support and contribute to the preparatory process of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), giving due consideration to the additional comments and proposals.
3. To do their utmost for providing voluntary support for the MCSD in general and the preparation of the MSSD in particular, through specific financial contributions and/or secondment of qualified staff.
4. To entrust the Steering Committee of the MCSD with the task of supervising the preparation of the MSSD; in this context, the Steering Committee would have to meet as necessary for that purpose.
5. To approve the creation of a post within the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, for a duration limited to two years, for the activities of the MCSD/MSSD.
6. To approve the MCSD proposed recommendations on MCSD assessment and prospects (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.15/3, Annex III, Appendix I), as amended by the Contracting Parties and attached hereto (Appendix 1) .

To request the Secretariat:

1. To organize the preparatory process for the MSSD on the basis of a broad participatory approach and to submit the Strategy document to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption.
2. To establish an Advisory Group composed of between five and eight experts to assist in the preparation of the MSSD.
3. To improve cooperation with major groups and partners for a more active contribution to MCSD activities, and in particular the MSSD.
4. To provide assistance to countries and partners for the implementation and follow-up of the MCSD's recommendations.

I.A.4 Cooperation and partnership with United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners

I.A.4.1. Cooperation with international and regional organizations:

1. To support the strengthening of partnership and cooperation between MAP and the European Commission.

2. To provide support for the Secretariat in promoting cooperation and coordination with the relevant intergovernmental organizations and Conventions through the exchange of information and joint activities.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To undertake the necessary steps to request the accreditation of the Barcelona Convention with UN-ECOSOC, so as to improve the visibility of the Mediterranean and be able to participate directly in UNCSD as an observer, with a view to increasing its involvement in the implementation of UNCSD decisions at the regional level.
2. To elaborate a work programme for cooperation with the European Commission, for adoption by the Bureau at its first meeting in 2004, based on the following priorities:
 - strengthening the cooperation between MAP and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in conformity with the Athens Declaration, 2002;
 - association of the European Commission with the implementation of the SAP MED and SAP BIO;
 - participation of the European Commission in the process of preparing the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;
 - involvement of MAP in the process of implementing the European Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management ;
 - cooperation with the European Commission for the development of the strategy for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.
 - involvement of MAP in the process of preparing and implementing the European Marine Strategy as confirmed in the Catania Declaration adopted at the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, with a view to providing a holistic framework to deal with the protection and conservation of the marine environment.
3. To elaborate a work programme for cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) for adoption by the Bureau at its first meeting in 2004, in order to rationalize the already fruitful collaboration between MAP and EEA.
4. To strengthen cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies including IMO and their regional offices or commissions, as well as with the Secretariats of environmental conventions, such as the London Convention, and other intergovernmental organizations; by taking into consideration the outputs of the "Environment for Europe" process.
5. To promote cooperation with the Ionian Adriatic Initiative and the Arab Region cooperation programme (through the League of Arab States, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia/ ESCWA, UNEP/Regional Office for West Asia/ROWA, UNEP/Regional Office for Africa/ROA, UN/Economic Commission for Africa/ECA and CEDARE), and if possible through memoranda of cooperation with joint activities.
6. To prepare joint projects to be submitted for external funding by relevant intergovernmental organizations, and particularly their regional offices or commissions, including MEDA/SMAP , UNEP/GPA and other programmes.
7. To strengthen cooperation with regional institutions such as the Regional Environmental Centre for East and Central Europe/REC, ReREP programme, Baltic 21 Programme, and MedWet and the conventions under the United Nations Regional Seas Programme and other regional seas agreements and programmes.

8. To develop a joint programme of work with the Euro-Arab Management School to promote training and capacity building on issues of interest to the Contracting Parties such as preparation and management of projects, legal framework and reporting to strengthen cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies and their regional offices or commissions, as well as with the Secretariats of environmental conventions and other intergovernmental organizations.

I.A.4.2 NGOs and other partners

1. To approve the revised list of MAP partners as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.15/Inf.17.
2. To include the following NGOs in the list of MAP partners: Institute for Sustainable Development in Management of Natural Resources (INARE), Greece; Union of Northern Associations for Sustainable Development, UNSAD Lebanon, already considered by the Bureau, together with two newly proposed ones: Mediterranean SOS Network (Greece), ECAT Tirana (Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology, Albania).
3. To mandate the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to review and decide upon, after consultation with the Contracting Parties, applications in conformity with the criteria decided upon by the Contracting Parties and to inform them as soon as possible of any changes in the list of MAP partners.
4. To enhance and facilitate the participation of civil society in the meetings of the Contracting Parties.
5. To encourage the participation of municipal councils as an important means of heightening their awareness of the Convention and furthering their shared rights and responsibilities in that regard.
6. To recognize the private sector as a key player in social corporate responsibility, in keeping with the sustainable development measures proposed by WSSD and with the fundamental "polluter-pays" principle, and accordingly involve the private sector fully in the implementation of the Convention, thereby enhancing resource mobilization.

To request the Secretariat:

To further strengthen its cooperation and assistance to Mediterranean NGOs included in the list of MAP partners, giving priority to those active in the East and South of the Mediterranean.

I.A.5 Meetings

To request the Secretariat:

1. To continue convening the joint Meeting of the National Focal Points of BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and ERS/RAC while enhancing its preparation and coordination.
2. To hold joint meetings of the MED POL National Coordinators and the CP/RAC Focal Points and share the experience gained by the two programmes in the framework of

the implementation of the SAP, with a view to offering countries the necessary assistance in relation to the reduction of industrial pollution.

I.A.6 Information, public awareness and public participation

To promote public participation and access to information on environmental and sustainable development related issues in the region in general and in MAP's fields of activity in particular.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To further consolidate MAP's activities in the fields of information, awareness and public participation, with increased focus on:
 - Providing assistance to countries to promote public participation and access to and dissemination of information while promoting the involvement of civil society;
 - Further networking with communication and media professionals, organizing thematic workshops and regularly disseminating press releases and features;
 - Initiating the process of preparing an updated publication on the state of the environment in the Mediterranean region in collaboration with concerned partners;
 - Consolidating MAP information tools, in particular by updating the MAP web site; the MAP *MedWaves* magazine and other publications, such as the MAP Technical Reports Series, as well as the library services and the MAP information dissemination system; and also by preparing summaries of the studies and documents of MAP and its Centres, in the major MAP languages, as appropriate.
2. To commence the preparation of a strategic approach to information, public awareness and public participation, in the context of Article 15 of the Barcelona Convention.

I.A.7 Financial matters

1. To approve the conversion to euro currency of the unpaid pledges for previous years, as they appear in the status of contributions table.
2. To delete the name Yugoslavia from the status of contributions table.
3. To encourage the settlement of the arrears of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the concerned countries by the end of 2005.
4. To approve the integration of participation of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro in the budget for the 2004-2005 biennium.
5. To encourage and support the introduction of a yearly voluntary contribution.
6. To approve the proposed 2004 – 2005 budget.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To prepare an evaluation of the effectiveness of the activities accomplished during the period 2004-2005, and a timetable for the intermediate goals and the final completion of the activities.

2. To prepare in cooperation with the Bureau and the Contracting Parties a draft budget for the biennium 2006-2007 based on the principle of budgetary stability related to the budget for 2004-2005.
3. In preparing the draft budget for 2006-2007, to link the activities to clear objectives that could be assessed against the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the commitments related to sustainable development.

II. COMPONENTS

II.A. POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

II.A.1. Pollution from land-based sources (MED POL)

II.A.1.1 Programme policy and coordination

1. To sign and ratify the Stockholm Convention by 2004 in view of the complementarity of SAP MED and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
2. To sign and ratify the 1996 London Protocol to the 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To evaluate the MED POL Programme and formulate a new phase of MED POL (2006-2013) responding to the needs of Mediterranean countries in terms of the assessment, prevention and control of marine and coastal pollution, including the impacts of rivers on the marine environment. The programme should represent an effective tool for achieving sustainable development by examining the modalities and implications of implementing the ecosystem-based approach as a management framework for MED POL and other components of MAP, taking into consideration the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and European Union legislation and the Strategy for the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment and the legislation and capabilities of concerned countries.
2. To take into account throughout the implementation of the SAP the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and particularly the issues of: energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy, water and sanitation, and new financial arrangements, as a contribution to the MSSD.
3. To discuss and negotiate, in consultation with the MED POL National Coordinators, the formulation and the launching of possible additional projects with partners/donors for the implementation of the SAP objectives and targets.
4. To explore ways of ensuring increased participation and ownership of the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in all MED POL activities through their involvement in:
 - the identification of activities and issues to be addressed by MED POL;
 - the preparation of draft technical and policy documents to be submitted for consideration to the MED POL National Coordinators, which could be

achieved by the identification of leader country(ies) or observer(s) responsible for undertaking such a task or tasks.

II.A.1.2 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

1. To prepare National Action Plans to address pollution of marine and coastal zones from land-based activities as part of the implementation of the SAP; the Plans should be operational by 2005, should focus at least on the identified pollution hot spots and should take into account the objectives and targets of the SAP, as well as the guidelines and regional plans developed by MED POL and CP/RAC.
2. To adopt the approach proposed by the Secretariat in the Regional Plan for a 50 per cent reduction in BOD from industrial sources considering the target date of 2010 to be reviewed in 2007, and to ask the Secretariat to update the data and information included in the Plan on the basis of the national baseline budgets of pollutant releases.

Explanatory note:

(The reduction of BOD from industrial sources has to be achieved taking into consideration the SAP Operational Plan adopted by the CPs at their 12th Meeting in Monaco 2001 and the flexibility measure included in the guidelines for the preparation of the National Action Plans under which any targeted reductions are to be implemented only in industrial sites which are not in compliance with the related national and/or international standards. A review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan will be carried out in 2007).

II.A.1.3. Monitoring

To consider monitoring as an essential tool for assessing and controlling pollution, as well as the effectiveness of measures taken within the framework of sustainable development, and therefore to formulate, implement and operate permanent monitoring programmes, including the newly adopted eutrophication programme, in accordance with the agreed MED POL objectives and methods, including the assessment of the resulting status of transitional, coastal and marine waters.

II.A.1.4. Reporting

1. To adopt the concept of the reporting system on the implementation of the SAP, as proposed by the Secretariat.
2. To consider the document containing guidelines for the use of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) formats (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.233/2) and its annexes on: (i) the reporting format; (ii) codes to be used to complete the reporting format; (iii) industrial sectors for PRTR reporting; and (iv) list of substances released onto land, water and air for PRTR reporting as the basis for the development of national PRTR systems.
3. To integrate the PRTR concept as part of the national environmental policy.
4. To consider environmental and industrial associations and other relevant stakeholders as important partners in the implementation of national PRTR pilot projects.

5. To explore ways of fully integrating small and medium-sized enterprises into the PRTR system.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To launch pilot projects to test the feasibility of the reporting system on the implementation of the SAP.
2. To continue to provide assistance to the Mediterranean countries for the implementation of national PRTR pilot projects (potential beneficiaries include Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia).
3. To strengthen cooperation with ICS-UNIDO for the implementation of future PRTR systems.
4. To enhance the regional communication programmes in the field of PRTR through the development of regional information dissemination networks.
5. In view of the importance of the sustainability of PRTR reporting, to continue working with the Alexandria project, taking into consideration the possibility of covering additional industries.

II.A.1.5. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

1. To adopt the guidelines on the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures proposed by the Secretariat, which were prepared in close consultation with national authorities.
2. To provide information to the Secretariat on the procedures used at the national level for the dumping of inert geological material (permits issued, definition of inert material, site selection, etc.) that will be used as the basis for the finalization of the existing draft Guidelines.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To start the preparation of Guidelines for the placing of matter for a purpose other than dumping such as artificial reefs.
2. To follow the international developments, in particular at the level of the London Convention, related to the preparation of Guidelines on the Dumping of Inert Geological Material, to collate information on national practices, to harmonize and finalize accordingly the existing draft Guidelines prepared by the Secretariat and subsequently submit them to Contracting Parties for adoption.

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

1. To support the preparation of the strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships with a view of its adoption by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005.

2. To support REMPEC's efforts for the development of monitoring activities in the Mediterranean to detect, prevent and combat pollution in conformity with the relevant international Conventions and regulations.
3. To support the implementation of the proposed projects for the assessment of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and the related risks, and on the prevention of operational pollution (illicit discharges).
4. To support the preparation of a regional legal instrument on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea.
5. To provide REMPEC with the additional human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, either by seconding professional officers to the Centre or by sponsoring their recruitment.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To extend the network of REMPEC correspondents to national authorities responsible for maritime affairs.
2. To continue the process of preparation of the strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in close cooperation with the relevant national authorities, inter-governmental organizations, the European Union and the socio-economic and environmental actors.
3. To proceed with the preparation and examination of the feasibility of a draft regional legal instrument on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea and to organize a national legal and technical expert meeting in 2004 accordingly.

II.A.3 Cleaner production

1. To readapt the role of the CP/RAC as a tool for the achievement of sustainable development by Mediterranean industry, within the framework of the implementation of the SAP, on the basis of its evaluations.
2. To adopt the approach proposed in the regional plan for the reduction of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations by 20 per cent by the year 2010 to be reviewed in 2007, and to ask the Secretariat to update the data and information included in the Plan on the basis of the national baseline budgets of pollutant releases.

Explanatory note:

(The targeted reduction refers to the "hazardous waste generation factor" (quantity of industrial hazardous waste generated in relation to industrial GDP in Euros) and countries should work towards these objectives through the implementation of National Action Plans, on the basis of the operational strategy adopted by the CPs at their 12th Meeting in Monaco in 2001 based on the flexibility measure included in the guidelines for the preparation of the National Action Plans taking into account the level of compliance of waste generators with the applicable legislation. A review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan will be carried out in 2007).

To request the Secretariat:

1. To assist the countries in the implementation of the regional plan for the reduction of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations and in particular to:
 - a. check the data included in the plan, on the basis of the national baseline budgets required by the SAP;
 - b. assist countries in reviewing their legal framework;
 - c. study the financial mechanism required for implementation of the plan;
 - d. review periodically the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan.
2. To promote the exchange of knowledge between the various actors who play an influential role in terms of the Mediterranean environment.
3. To collaborate in initiatives aimed at spreading eco-efficiency in the Mediterranean at the regional, sub-regional, national or local levels, taking into consideration the priority issues established by the SAP, the MCSD and other relevant MAP programmes and activities.
4. To strengthen cooperation with other programmes and components of MAP, and particularly with MED POL, for the implementation of the SAP.

II.B. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

II.B.1. Collection of data and periodic assessment of the situation

To adopt the reference list of coastal (terrestrial and wetland) habitat types for the selection of sites, as approved by the meeting of SPA Focal Points, to be included in the national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest, and to apply the classification as an indicator.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To integrate the reference list of coastal (terrestrial and wetland) habitat types for the selection of sites to be included in the national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest into the standard data-entry form (SDF) and to provide assistance to countries for its use.
2. To assist countries in carrying out case studies of inventories of natural sites of conservation interest, using the standard data-entry forms (SDF).

II.B.2. Planning and management

II.B.2.1 Implementation of the action plans

1. To invite all the concerned parties to hold a high-level meeting to define appropriate ways of urgently implementing action for the effective protection of the Mediterranean Monk seal, on the basis of the reports of the expert group convened by SPA/RAC in 2002.
2. To promote when necessary the creation of protected zones in those areas where Mediterranean monk seals are concentrated.

3. To take the necessary steps for a more efficient application of the Action Plan, including the protection of the turtle habitats.
4. To take note of the Guidelines to improve the involvement of marine turtle rescue centres as an additional tool to reduce their mortality and raise public awareness, and to support the creation of rescue centres where necessary. Existing centres should follow the above guidelines as appropriate.
5. To take note of the ACCOBAMS-SPA/RAC guidelines for the development of national networks of cetacean strandings and promote the development of such networks at the national level.
6. To take note of the document on recommendations for a code of conduct for whale watching in the Mediterranean Sea and recommend the use of the guidelines finalized by ACCOBAMS, and SPA/RAC.
7. To invite Parties which have not yet done so to join ACCOBAMS.
8. To promote research programmes to identify/define critical areas for the threatened *Tursiops truncatus* and *Delphinus delphis* populations and discover the wintering areas of *Balaenoptera physalus*.
9. To take the necessary steps to carry out, within the programmed deadlines, the activities envisaged in the implementation calendar of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea.
10. To grant, in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 26 of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea, the status of Action Plan Associate to the Greek National Centre for Marine Research (NCMR, Greece) and of Action Plan Partner to Nautilus (Italy).

To request the Secretariat :

1. To provide assistance to countries to implement urgent actions for the effective protection of monk seals in the Mediterranean, on the basis of the report of the expert group convened by SPA/RAC in 2002.
2. To prepare an evaluation report on the status of the Mediterranean monk seal for submission to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
3. To translate the fishermen's guide into local languages and to adapt it to national circumstances.
4. To organize a coordination workshop for the standardization of tagging programmes and the centralization of information.
5. To establish collaboration with the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of FAO to undertake educational campaigns for fishermen to haul, handle, release and record correctly turtles that are caught accidentally.
6. To create a permanent website assembling the available data of interest for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean. The site of the Mediterranean Conference will be used and will also include a Mediterranean newsletter, as recommended by the Action Plan.

7. To organize the second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles in collaboration with the relevant organizations.

In the framework of SPA/RAC-ACCOBAMS cooperation:

8. To assist countries in the creation of national stranding networks and attempt to set up a regional network for strandings in close coordination with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.
9. To assist countries in the elaboration of National Action Plans for the Conservation of Cetaceans.
10. To assist countries in the promotion of practices aimed at broadening the activities of coastal fishermen to include alternative activities that are more compatible with the conservation of dolphin populations.
11. To collaborate with the relevant organizations to assess the level and effect of by-catch on cetacean populations in Mediterranean fisheries.
12. To assess the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea and to prepare a report on this subject for submission to the next meeting of SPA National Focal Points.

II.B.2.2 Elaboration of new action plans

1. To adopt and implement the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fish (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea and consider, as appropriate, the proposals for the conservation of these species by other relevant international bodies, CITES in particular, and the advice of the appropriate fisheries bodies.
2. To adopt and implement the Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species listed in Annex II to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.
3. To adopt and implement the Action Plan on Species Introduction and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To promote the implementation of the action provided for in the Action Plan according to its timetable:
 - establish a network and directory of collaborators;
 - support the definition of Protocols for: (i) monitoring commercial landings and discards by species; and (ii) recording data on rarely observed, endangered and protected species;
 - contribute to information campaigns and publish materials for public awareness;
 - create guidelines for the reduction of the presence of sensitive species in by-catch and for their release if caught, to be prepared and published in the appropriate languages;
 - organize a symposium on Mediterranean chondrichthyan fish;
 - support the establishment of/or support existing centralized databases.

2. To work in collaboration with the Action Plan partners for the implementation of the action provided for in the Action Plan in accordance with the timetable for implementation.
3. To promote the implementation of the actions provided for in the Action Plan according to the timetable for implementation.

II.B.3. Public information

To request the Secretariat :

To optimize the dissemination of information on the activities carried out, particularly through the preparation of materials in various forms, including new electronic formats (CD-ROMs, etc), and the improvement and regular updating of the SPA/RAC web site.

II.B.4. Selection, establishment and management of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)

1. To investigate the possibility of approaching IMO to propose that a number of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance be designated as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas, and to assess whether the current legal status of the Mediterranean would allow the establishment of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas.
2. To include on the SPAMI list the following sites:
 - Parque nacional marítimo terrestre del Archipiélago de Cabrera;
 - Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo.
3. To establish contingency plans for the protection of SPAMIs in case of accidental pollution.
4. To adopt the criteria and procedures for awarding the Mediterranean Diploma for SPAMIs envisaged in MAP Phase II.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To cooperate with IMO with a view to starting the process of designating SPAMIs as PSSAs.
2. To assist countries in improving the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
3. To assist countries in preparing and implementing prevention and contingency plans for MPAs.

II.B.5. Training activities concerning specially protected areas and species conservation

1. To take note of the Mediterranean Initiative on Taxonomy and promote its implementation at the national and regional levels.
2. To invite representatives of the concerned international and regional organizations to participate in the implementation of this initiative.

3. To promote the training of taxonomists by inviting the concerned university institutions to encourage post-university specialization in taxonomy and by organizing national and/or bilateral cooperation systems to encourage students to specialize in taxonomy (fellowships, grants, etc.).

To request the Secretariat:

1. To develop, through bilateral cooperation and other appropriate channels, a regional training programme on the management of protected areas, taking into account existing initiatives at the national and regional levels.
2. To contact the relevant international organizations and collaborate with them in implementing the Mediterranean Initiative on Taxonomy, particularly through training courses for taxonomists.

II.B.6. Project for the elaboration of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)

To adopt the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) and take the necessary measures for its implementation at the national and regional levels.

To request the Secretariat:

To carry out the action provided for in the follow-up chapters of the SAP BIO concerning the preparatory phase and the launching of the SAP BIO, and to identify bilateral and multilateral mechanisms with a view to facilitating the financing and implementation of the SAP BIO

II.B.7. Cooperation and synergy

To facilitate linkages with other regional intergovernmental processes which can assist in the implementation of agreed actions in the context of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.

To request the Secretariat:

To reinforce existing partnerships for the implementation of national and regional action and identify additional opportunities for joint implementation and fund-raising with international and national partners, thereby increasing cooperation and synergies.

II.C SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES

II.C.1 Sustainable management of coastal areas

1. To urge the relevant authorities to improve the implementation of the MCSD's recommendations on the sustainable management of coastal areas.

2. To continue efforts for the adoption and/or improvement of national legislation for sustainable coastal management, taking into account the work carried out by PAP/RAC and other international organizations.
3. To support sub-regional activities for the sustainable management of coastal areas, with a view to developing sub-regional strategies, programmes, action plans (such as the Adriatic Action of Plan) and projects in related fields.

To request the Secretariat:

1. To support and assist countries in the implementation of ICAM methodologies and to undertake thematic studies with a view to developing relevant guidelines and action plans on the issue of coastal land and sea environment and the utilization of its resources, and the sustainable financing of ICAM activities.
2. To assist countries in preparing their national reports on integrated coastal management.
3. To undertake the necessary analyses and prepare a report on the state of Mediterranean beaches, and to develop a regional plan to combat coastal erosion.
4. To pursue the development and implementation of ICAM tools and instruments, and specifically the coastal information systems, rapid coastal environmental assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in coastal environments, economic instruments for coastal management, Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) for tourism and Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) plans.
5. To assist countries in the development of sub-regional initiatives for ICAM and ICARM taking into account and creating synergies with similar initiatives.

II.C.2. Implementation of CAMPs

1. To invite the authorities in Algeria, Cyprus and Slovenia to continue their efforts to support the implementation of CAMP projects in their countries and to invite Morocco and Spain to commence preliminary activities with a view to launching the projects in their countries.
2. To call on the authorities in the countries where CAMP projects have been completed to implement follow-up activities by securing the necessary financial and human resources, with the support of MAP and PAP/RAC.
3. To invite countries where there have not yet been any CAMP projects to propose new projects and to prepare the respective feasibility studies. Countries that have already implemented CAMP projects are invited to consider new projects in light of the recommendations of the proposed ICAM/CAMP strategy, particularly bearing in mind the new types of CAMP projects.

To request the Secretariat :

1. To coordinate MAP activities in relation to CAMP projects under the overall responsibility of MEDU, including the development of new types of CAMP projects, such as the transboundary projects.

2. To prepare CAMP feasibility studies, CAMP programmes and agreements, to implement the ongoing MAP CAMP projects and the projects whose implementation has been decided on.
3. To propose to countries where MAP CAMP projects have been completed the introduction of new and/or the adaptation of existing instruments for environmental management, which would enable the follow-up of CAMPs, and to assist those countries to prepare viable projects in continuation of completed MAP CAMP projects.

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

To prepare regional, national and local ICAM strategies and programmes, using the methodologies, tools and instruments for the implementation of ICAM, and to aim to adopt the regional strategy on integrated coastal area management (ICAM) and CAMP in 2005.

To request the Secretariat:

To prepare, in consultation with regional stakeholders and in coordination with MEDU and the concerned MAP components, the regional strategy for integrated coastal area management and CAMP, ensuring a strong synergy with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

II.C.4. Capacity building and training

To request the Secretariat:

To continue institutional strengthening and capacity building of national and local institutions by means of traditional and internet-based training courses, regional conferences and workshops on strategic and thematic issues relevant to ICAM.

II.C.5. Information dissemination and awareness

To request the Secretariat:

To continue the exchange of information on ICAM through the clearing-house mechanism, assist countries to prepare their own national clearing-houses for ICAM, maintain the informative website and publish and disseminate guidelines, thematic papers, programme results and other achievements.

II.D INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

1. To contribute to the finalization and dissemination of the Mediterranean Environment and Development Report (and spin-off publications) and, where necessary, have them translated into languages other than English and French.
2. To ensure broader targeted and coordinated dissemination of MAP/Blue Plan documents dealing with environment and development integration (water demand management, free trade and environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context,) among competent authorities and professional bodies.

3. To support activities related to financing and cooperation for sustainable development and to agricultural and rural development.
4. To improve the implementation of the MCSD's recommendations related to indicators and evaluate the progress and difficulties encountered.
5. To support the implementation by national statistical offices of the MEDSTAT Environment Programme and favour the conclusion of an agreement between MAP and EUROSTAT in order to guarantee the optimum use of the outputs by the Contracting Parties.
6. To encourage national and local authorities, associations in the hotel sector and profit and non-profit organizations to apply the Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) for tourism activities as a common tool for sustainable development of tourism.
7. To support efforts to introduce better practices for urban water resources management, in particular the implementation of the relevant guidelines.
8. To support activities related to soil erosion/desertification control and management as an essential element of sustainable development in the region, and to support the partnership of MAP with the relevant international organizations and institutions.
9. To support ERS/RAC activities and the new objectives of the Italian centre towards the ERS-ICT/RAC by the 14th Meeting of Contracting Parties in 2005;
10. To request Italy to sign a Host Country Agreement with UNEP/MAP, clarifying the status and the structure of ERS/RAC, as well as its objectives and contribution to UNEP/MAP;
11. To request the Italian authorities to draw up and develop the new programme of the Italian RAC towards the Information and Communication Technology Centre, in close cooperation with the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, taking into account the suggestions of other countries, and present a proposal for consideration by the Contracting Parties in 2005.

To request the Secretariat:

With respect to BP/RAC

1. To finalize the Mediterranean Environment and Development Report in cooperation with other MAP components and support the elaboration of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.
2. To proceed with the activities related to cooperation, financing and economic tools for sustainable development and to take part in the consultation process of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area sustainability impact assessment launched by the European Commission.
3. To develop with competent regional organizations (*Silvamediterranea* /FAO, ICAMAS (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies) a prospective vision on sustainable rural development to assist in the changes of policies.

4. To deepen the prospective analysis on transports, urbanization and sustainability and to contribute together with REMPEC to the implementation of the proposed project for the assessment of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and the related risks.
5. To proceed with the implementation of tourism and sustainable development related recommendations (assessment of economic tools for the management and protection of natural and cultural sites, feasibility study of a cooperation mechanism).
6. To implement, together with national statistical offices, the *MEDSTAT-Environment* project, Phase II, and to improve synergy with Ministries of the Environment and data producers.
7. To draw up a regional assessment of progress made in the implementation of recommendations adopted relating to indicators and observatories in order to contribute to the strengthening of sustainable development policies and strategies.
8. To evaluate the usefulness of compound indices of sustainability for the Mediterranean region.
9. To assist countries implementing sets of indicators for sustainable water management, while taking other regional initiatives into account.

With respect to PAP/RAC

1. To assist countries in their endeavours to implement the MCSD's recommendations on urban management and sustainable development through the development of appropriate urban management tools and instruments, and by establishing mechanisms for the exchange of experience of good urban management practices.
2. To assist countries in the implementation of the guidelines for urban regeneration and in the incorporation of ICAM into urban management.
3. To promote the use of Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) as a tool for the sustainable development of tourism through the enhancement of the capacity of national and local institutions by continuing to offer technical assistance, and to take steps to incorporate it in the ICAM process.
4. To support local authorities in implementing guidelines for sustainable urban water resources management.
5. To develop partnerships with international and regional organizations active in the field of the control and management of soil erosion/desertification, and to implement the sub-regional project on the control and management of soil erosion and desertification in the Maghreb countries.

With respect to ERS/RAC

1. To implement its programme of activities in close cooperation with concerned MAP components and to extend its scope of activities to information and communication technologies;
2. To prepare a Host Country Agreement in close cooperation with the concerned Italian authorities.

APPENDIX 1

Proposals of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) for recommendations concerning the Commission's assessment and prospects

Eight years after its establishment, a considerable amount of work has been done by the MCSD in many fields of sustainable development, and a wide range of recommendations and proposals for action have been made. This has been a rich source of inspiration for the Contracting Parties and all the sustainable development partners in the Mediterranean. In order to make the work of the MCSD more efficient and visible, and to improve the participation of the different civil society groups, a review and assessment of the MCSD's organization and methods of work were considered necessary by Contracting Parties as well as the MCSD. Accordingly, the MCSD, at its Seventh Meeting held in Antalya, established a Task Force from among its members to consider the issue of its assessment and prospects. The MCSD considered the Task Force's report (finalized in April 2003 and attached for information) at its Eighth Meeting in Cavtat and decided to propose to the Contracting Parties that they adopt the following set of recommendations, aimed at further strengthening the Commission and refocusing its action in the post-Johannesburg era:

1. The MCSD should continue to be a think tank/high-level policy forum for identifying, evaluating and examining sustainable development issues in the region. The Commission should seek to better establish its credibility so as to extend its active dialogue with international and regional agencies and national governments, as well as all the bodies within MAP and civil society, in order to assist their work and strengthen their contribution to sustainable development.
2. To improve the efficiency and credibility of the MCSD, special attention should be given to the organization of dialogue on substantive policy issues at the annual meetings, to the progress of work of the thematic groups and to the networking of MCSD members with other stakeholders at regional and national levels.
3. Aiming to secure a more coherent regional approach on sustainable development and in line with the overall concern for improving global environmental governance, as evidenced by UNEP's Cartagena Agreement on governance and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, UNEP/MAP Secretariat is urged to act as a catalyst and renew initiatives for the establishment of an informal Interagency Platform in the Mediterranean in consultation with the regional offices of agencies active in the region on sustainable development issues.
4. The recommendations and proposals for action of the MCSD should not be restricted only to formal approval by the Contracting Parties (CPs), which have the major responsibility to deliver. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat, with the support of other MAP bodies, through external resources if necessary, should elaborate on the strategic recommendations and proposals for action, making them more explicit and strengthening them with detailed guidelines. Implementing the recommendations and proposals for action remains the responsibility of governments at all levels in cooperation with other stakeholders. Follow-up responsibility should mainly be entrusted to MEDU, which should also encourage all MAP bodies to integrate such recommendations and proposals for action in their regular activities and programmes of work, including in their mainstream reporting requirements.

5. The Commission will periodically review and assess implementation of its recommendations and proposals for action. In order for the MCSD to be enabled to fulfill this function, the following should be adopted:
 - The Secretariat should prepare a common reporting format, following the Commission's Programme of Action, in consultation with CPs.
 - The Secretariat, on the basis of short voluntary reports from governments and the other actors on progress made with regard to the Commission's recommendations and proposals for action, should prepare a concise report on implementation and submit it to the MCSD.
 - The MCSD should review the report, assess progress made, formulate its findings and suggestions concerning implementation and submit them to the meetings of the CPs for further consideration.
 - Selected working groups could reconvene from time to time in order to assess the results of the periodic monitoring of the implementation of their recommendations and proposals for action.
6. The Commission's composition is its main strength and any changes should maintain its open, autonomous, advisory and representative nature, with members that are informed experts from various sectors and civil society in general. The MCSD should continue to consist of 36 members, with 15 seats allocated for the non-governmental sectors, on the basis of a flexible, broad and representational approach (e.g. trade unions, federations of professionals, consumer groups, women, youth, etc); members proposed by non-governmental partners should accept that they have a responsibility to consult with the sectors they represent on any particular issue.
7. To each session two to three ad hoc members could be invited, having special competence in the matters included in the agenda of a meeting.
8. The Commission will hold ordinary meetings once every year, to last for three days and consider a limited number of issues each time. In its working methods, the Commission and its groups should be encouraged to fully utilize the potentials offered by modern technology. The practice of holding meetings in various countries will be maintained, but proposals to host such meetings should be accompanied by a substantial contribution of the host country towards the logistics of the meeting.
9. The reasons that restrict the effective and active participation of some groups should be addressed through direct contacts with the organizations concerned so as to allow all groups to take advantage of, and contribute to, the opportunities and challenges offered by the setting up of the MCSD.
10. Representatives of the various agencies to MCSD meetings should be invited not only to MCSD meetings, but also, on the basis of the relevance of the issues to their interests, to meetings of working groups, participating with equality of interaction as stakeholders.
11. Every effort must be exerted to establish connections with the Type II Initiatives launched either in Johannesburg or later which are of special interest to the Mediterranean. The Commission should also strongly encourage its members to develop additional partnership Initiatives guided by the UNCSD 11 set of criteria for partnerships.

12. The MCSD proposes to the CPs that they mandate the MAP Coordinator to identify, through outside professional advice, the appropriate means required for the MAP structure, including the MCSD, to successfully respond to the requirements for the promotion of sustainable development at regional level and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the CPs.
13. A clear distinction should be maintained between the functions of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat (coordination, policy and strategic issues, etc) and the function of the RAC support centres (basically for “thematic issues” and related activities including some kind of follow-up). All RACs are encouraged to refocus their programmes more on sustainable development issues and act as support centres for the scientific and technical aspects of the MCSD’s “thematic” activities.
14. The potentials offered by current manpower resources and relevant arrangements within MEDU should be fully utilized, with outside professional advice if necessary, in order to give greater visibility not only to the MCSD but to MAP itself, as an integral part of a structured communications strategy.
15. A multi-stakeholder fund-raising strategy should be developed as an integral part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development under preparation within MCSD/MAP.
16. At its 2004 session, the Commission should prepare a medium-term Programme of Work for the period 2004-2007 to be endorsed by the Bureau, based on the priorities of relevant global, regional and national initiatives, such as the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) and national commissions on sustainable development, as they relate to the Mediterranean specificities; this programme will then be revised in line with the objectives and priorities of the MSSD once approved by the Contracting Parties.