

ANNEX III

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006-2007

I.A COORDINATION

I.A.1 Legal framework

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

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. In view of the particular threat to the marine and coastal environment by dumping and land-based sources and activities, to accept urgently the amendments to the:
 - a. Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (the Barcelona Convention);
 - b. Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (the Dumping Protocol);
 - c. 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 other Protocols, and in particular 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) and the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol), which are in force.
3. To request the depositary country (Spain), together with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, to take a more active role for the Parties to speed up the process of the acceptance of amendments and ratification.
4. To ensure the implementation of the recommendations made by the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, held in Catania, in order to assist the Contracting Parties, especially the most vulnerable among them, to build their technical and logistical capacity within the framework of the Convention and, in particular, the Protocols on combating pollution, and to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Request the Secretariat:

To undertake the necessary actions to assist the Contracting Parties, at their request, in their efforts to accept the amendments to the revised instruments and/or ratify, accept, and adhere to the new MAP legal instruments.

I.A.1.2 Developments in the legal framework

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

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 draft text of the Protocol on ICAM prepared by the Secretariat.
 3. To establish a working group of experts designated by the Contracting Parties to develop a draft text of the Protocol on ICAM with a view to its consideration and possible approval by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 and to convene a diplomatic conference for its adoption to be held immediately following the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. International governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, the activities of which are related to the Convention, will be invited to participate in the process as observers.
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I.A.1.3 Liability and compensation

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. In view of the legal complexity of implementing a liability and compensation mechanism, to establish an open-ended working group of legal and technical experts to propose appropriate rules and procedures pursuant to Article 16 (*Liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment*) of the amended Barcelona Convention. The working group should be composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties and one representative from MAP NGO Partners.
2. To take note of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.4 as being of relevance to defining institutional responsibility and liability in a wide range of MAP activities

Request the Secretariat:

To invite all interested socio-economic actors and NGOs, including those which are members of the MCSD, to take part in the meetings of the working group at their own expense.

I.A.1.4 Reporting system

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To take note of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report "Regional assessment of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention for the biennium 2002-2003" (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/6), "Report of the Fifth Meeting on Reporting under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols" (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf .6) and "Comparative Analysis between MAP and other reporting systems" (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.7).

2. To start preparing national reports on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols for the 2004-2005 biennium on the basis of the updated reporting format, as indicated in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/9, with a view to their submission to the Secretariat by January 2007 at the latest. At their discretion, to include also any additional elements covered by the proposed new formats, as indicated in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.6.
3. To complete, where appropriate, national reports submitted on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols for the 2002-2003 biennium by providing any information missing from the reports already submitted.
4. To start reporting on a voluntary basis on the implementation of the SAP MED in line with the results of the reporting format currently being tested by Croatia, Greece, Israel and Turkey.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To develop a new reporting format in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in close cooperation and consultation with the Contracting Parties and relevant organizations for consideration and adoption at the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 based on the following criteria:
 - (a) an integrated reporting system covering all MAP legal instruments;
 - (b) coherence in the timing of the reporting for all MAP legal instruments;
 - (c) the use of an indicator-based approach;
 - (d) harmonization with other reporting systems relevant to MAP in relation to timing and content; and
 - (e) inclusion of the decisions on which the Contracting Parties have to report within the framework of the legal instruments of MAP.
 2. To develop a list of indicators relevant to the practical implementation measures for consideration by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.
 3. To establish an electronic database with the information provided by the Contracting Parties and introduce a system of electronic on-line reporting to be implemented by INFO/RAC.
 4. To provide assistance to the Contracting Parties, at their request, for the preparation of national implementation reports for the 2004-2005 biennium and strengthen their reporting capacities and systems.
 5. To prepare a regional report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention in the 2004-2005 biennium for submission to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points and of the Contracting Parties in 2007.
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I.A.1.5 Compliance mechanism under the Barcelona Convention

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To extend the mandate of the working group on implementation and compliance and its membership to include all Contracting Parties with a view to developing a full compliance mechanism for adoption by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007. The working group should develop the compliance mechanism on the basis of the principles, findings, recommendations and deliberations set out in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/7.

2. To encourage action by all bilateral and multilateral donors at the regional level for assisting the Contracting Parties, particularly the most vulnerable among them, in the implementation of the Convention, through programmes of technical and financial assistance
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I.A.1.6 Assistance to countries in legal matters

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To ensure the incorporation of the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols into national law taking into account the analysis provided in the regional assessment of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Request the Secretariat:

To strengthen the support provided to countries on legal matters related to the protection of the marine and coastal zones of the Mediterranean with a view to implementing the provisions of Article 14, paragraph 2, of the amended Barcelona Convention.

I.A.2 Institutional framework

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To take note of the the report UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/8 on the external evaluation of MAP.
2. To approve the convening by the Secretariat of an extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points to discuss the evaluation report (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/8) and a draft Vision and Strategic Statement incorporating the mandates of the RACs prepared by the MAP Secretariat for future MAP orientation for consideration by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.
3. To approve the participation of representatives of MAP Partners in the above-mentioned extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points.
4. To take note of the reports on the MED POL evaluation (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.10), on the CP/RAC evaluation (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.11), and on the ERS/RAC evaluation (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.12) .
5. To agree that ERS/RAC should be transformed into INFO/RAC.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To convene an extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points to consider the conclusions and recommendations of the external evaluation of MAP and to discuss a draft Vision and Strategic Statement, prepared by the MAP Secretariat, and to make recommendations to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.

2. To invite a representative of the MAP Partners to participate in the extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points to consider the evaluation report.
 3. To take the necessary steps for INFO/RAC to be fully integrated into the activities of MAP under the mission statement agreed upon at the last MAP Focal Points Meeting.
 4. To modify the existing host country agreement in respect of INFO/RAC in cooperation with the concerned Italian authorities, so as to define the Centre's regional and international role in the field of information and communication.
 5. To prepare a document to be submitted for approval to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 formalizing:
 - a) The mission statement of CP/RAC and its rules of operation.
 - b) The role and ordinary tasks of the CP/RAC National Focal Points.
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I.A.3 Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To adopt the MSSD as finalized at the June 2005 meeting of the MCSD held in Athens, on the basis of the Declaration of the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties .
2. To provide the necessary support for the implementation and follow-up of the MSSD at the regional, subregional and national levels.
3. To integrate, as appropriate, the objectives, orientations and actions set out in the MSSD in National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) that are being prepared or have been prepared.
4. To identify specific commitments and projects as a contribution to the implementation of the MSSD.
5. To define and launch partnership initiatives for the implementation of the MSSD and strengthen existing Mediterranean Type II Initiatives.
6. To carry out information and communication campaigns on the MSSD and specific NSSDs.
7. To adopt the MCSD programme of work and provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the MCSD's activities at the regional and national levels.
8. To approve the following representatives of civil society as members of the MCSD:
 - a) Local Authorities: the Network of Medcities, the Region of Sicily (Italy) and the Association of Italian Local Agenda 21 (Italy);
 - b) Socio-economic Actors: UMCE – Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises; Chamber of Commerce of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton;
 - c) NGOs/IGOs: Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM), Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Environnement Développement et Action au Maghreb (ENDA/Maghreb), Friends of the Earth - Europe/Mediterranean (FoE/Mednet), GREENPEACE, League for the environment (LEGAMBIENTE), Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Sustainable Business Associates (SBA):

- d) Alternate Members: L'Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM), Association pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan (APNEK), Euro Arab Management School (EAMS), Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA), International Marine Centre (IMC), Institut Méditerranée de l'eau (IME), International Ocean Institute (IOI), Le Mouvement Ecologique Algérien (MEA), Research and conservation of island & coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean (MEDMARAVIS), Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME), Tour de Valat, Sustainability Challenge Foundation (SCF), Union of Northern Association for Development, Environment, Patrimony (UNADEP) and the University of the Aegean (UoA).

Request the Secretariat:

1. To monitor the implementation of the MSSD at the regional and national levels.
 2. To define, launch and strengthen pilot actions as a contribution to the implementation of the MSSD.
 3. To promote and, as appropriate, provide support for the preparation of NSSDs.
 4. To encourage Contracting Parties and Partners to carry out and, as appropriate, provide support for information and communication campaigns on the MSSD and NSSDs.
 5. To launch and coordinate the implementation of the programme of work and activities of the MCSD, in close coordination with other MAP activities.
 6. To issue information regularly, through the web and direct communications, on progress in the implementation of the MSSD and NSSDs, MCSD activities and Mediterranean Partnership Initiatives; to improve the visibility of the MCSD at the national, regional and international levels.
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I.A.4 Energy Issues

Request the Secretariat:

To encourage the MAP Regional Activity Centres and components to cover energy issues in the framework designed by MSSD, mostly by facilitating the implementation of its energy orientations and actions at the national level.

I.A.5 Cooperation and partnership

I.A.5.1 Cooperation with United Nations Agencies, IGOs, NGOs and other partners

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To support the development and strengthening of cooperation between MAP and international organizations, United Nations agencies, other conventions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

2. To strengthen national coordination mechanisms among the focal points of the various conventions and organizations relevant to the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To participate in the GEF/IMO project to assist developing countries in addressing the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms in ships' ballast water, and in any other initiative of common interest.
 2. To strengthen cooperation with the Secretariats of environmental conventions, other regional seas programmes, relevant United Nations agencies, United Nations Regional Economic Commission offices, regional processes and ministerial conferences such as those related to "Environment for Europe" and REREP, and other intergovernmental organizations which are directly relevant to the Barcelona Convention, with a view to ensuring synergy on issues of common interest.
 3. To further develop cooperation in the Arab region, in particular through the Arab Region Cooperation Programme, the League of Arab States, the United Nations Economic Commission for West Asia, UNEP/ROWA and CEDARE, through the implementation of joint activities, preferably in the context of a memorandum of understanding.
 4. To strengthen cooperation between MAP and regional environmental centres such as the Regional Environment Centre for East and Central Europe (REC), with respect for the agreed mandates and strategies of these centres.
 5. To promote cooperation with the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, the Trilateral Commission of Croatia, Italy and Slovenia and other regional initiatives.
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I.A.5.2 Cooperation with the European Union

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To take note of and support the implementation of the Joint Work Programme between MAP and the European Commission to:
 - a. Strengthen cooperation at the institutional level by facilitating meetings between the two sides at the highest level possible to achieve synergy on strategic matters of common interest;
 - b. Increase cooperation between the European Commission and the MAP Coordinating Unit, the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and MED POL so that the experience and expertise of the RACs and MED POL can support EC activities in the implementation of environmental policy in the region;
 - c. Strengthen the environmental dimension of public policy and the promotion of sustainable development policies in the countries bordering the Mediterranean.
2. To continue cooperation with the European Commission to further develop the proposed European marine strategy.
3. To approve the participation of MAP in the initiative that is being launched by the European Commission to develop a maritime policy.
4. To support the involvement of MAP in the proposed Euro-Mediterranean Partnership initiative to "depollute" the Mediterranean by 2020 in view of the important role that MAP

already plays through its components in eliminating pollution in the Mediterranean from land- and sea-based activities.

5. To promote the Barcelona Convention and MAP as a privileged regional mechanism for the implementation of EC activities in the region at the forthcoming Barcelona Summit to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.
6. To take note of the contribution of the SMAP Programme and of the Mediterranean component to the EU Water Initiative for the improvement of the environment in the Mediterranean.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To implement the Joint Work Programme with the EC on the basis of the activities outlined in document UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/Inf.8.
2. To submit an assessment of the implementation of the Joint Work Programme to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
3. To take an active part in the implementation of the European marine strategy and the consultation process launched by the EC for the development of the EU maritime policy in order to ensure that Mediterranean specificities and needs are duly taken into account in further developments in respect of these initiatives so that the environmental policies of MAP and of the European Community are implemented in a mutually supportive way.
4. To become a major actor in the Euro-Med initiative to “depollute” the Mediterranean by 2020 by contributing the experience and expertise acquired by MAP over the years and thus avoiding any duplication of activities or the wasteful use of resources.
5. To work closely with the European Commission on the issue of adequate financing for implementation of those MAP activities in the Mediterranean that are also of relevance to the EC.
6. To strengthen cooperation between MAP and the European Environment Agency (EEA) by establishing a joint work programme in line with the proposed MAP/European Commission joint work programme.
7. To encourage the involvement in the 2020 Depollution Initiative of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) of those Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention that are not members of this Partnership.

I.A.5.3 Cooperation with civil society and public participation

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To promote public participation in all MAP-related activities carried out at the national level and to encourage and strengthen cooperation with MAP Partners representing civil society.
2. To approve the updated list of MAP Partners contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.15.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To further strengthen 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.

2. To further consolidate MAP activities in the field of public participation and awareness-raising focusing on environmental issues in general and MAP activities in particular, by providing assistance to countries for such activities.
 3. To involve NGOs in MAP activities, and at the same time support their initiatives in favour of Mediterranean environmental issues, and encourage other NGOs to become MAP Partners.
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I.A.6 Information, public awareness and public participation

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To help give a higher profile and visibility at the national level to the Barcelona Convention, the activities of MAP and the Regional Activity Centres.
2. To approve the redesign of *MedWaves* and its publication as a quarterly magazine featuring reports about the various activities of MAP and its components.
3. To promote access to information on environment and sustainable development issues in general, and on MAP activities in particular.
4. To promote involvement in the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To embark on a publicity and public relations exercise to enhance the profile of the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan through the publication of press releases and feature articles on a more regular basis on Mediterranean environmental issues in general and MAP activities in particular.
 2. To update the MAP Information Strategy in order to introduce a more innovative approach to the dissemination of information and the organization of public awareness campaigns about the Barcelona Convention, MAP and its components, through the use of the latest information and communication tools.
 3. To establish and maintain close contacts with journalists from Mediterranean print and broadcast media and to provide them with a regular flow of information.
 4. To assist countries in organizing events to promote public participation in environmental issues and disseminate information about MAP in order to increase public awareness.
 5. To participate in activities related to environmental education and sustainable development in the framework of the regional implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.
 6. To ensure close coordination between MEDU and INFO/RAC, once it is refocused towards information and communication activities, for the implementation of the above activities.
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I.A.7 Financial issues and personnel matters

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To adopt the 2006-2007 budget version in euro currency.
2. To take note of the 2006-2007 budget version in US dollar currency.
3. To call on those Contracting Parties which are in arrears in their contributions to make every effort to settle their pledges so that the MAP Secretariat would be in a position to finance its activities, especially in the next biennium, when no increases in voluntary contributions are envisaged.
4. To approve the upgrading of the post of MED POL Coordinator to D 1.
5. To freeze the post of Deputy Coordinator until the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.
6. To extend the post of Sustainable Development Officer at MEDU until the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.
7. To approve the retention of the post of Security Assistant on a temporary basis for one year (2006) until all administrative issues are resolved with DSS and UNEP and, in addition to the funds being made available by UNHCR, to use the MTF revolving fund to make up the balance

Request the Secretariat:

1. To make every effort to collect the arrears in ordinary contributions.
 2. To continue to provide details in the budget of cash and in-kind contributions.
 3. To seek ways and means to resolve the issue of pending payments of the former Yugoslavia.
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II. COMPONENTS

II.A POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

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

II.A.1.1 Policy and coordination

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To approve the vision, principles, objectives, content and modalities of implementation of the MED POL Phase IV Programme (2006-2013) as contained in Annex III to document UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/5, and to ask the Secretariat to prepare, in cooperation with the Contracting Parties, the operational details of the Programme during 2006-2007, taking into account the results of the evaluation of MED POL Phase III and developments in related international and regional programmes and initiatives.
2. To welcome the initiative by the European Union to prepare and implement a marine thematic strategy that will share the principles and objectives of MAP and its components and to recommend that MEDPOL continues to be a major partner within MAP to assure that common objectives for preventing and abating pollution are achieved.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To follow the initiative of the European Commission relating to the project to be implemented by MED POL to review the implications of applying the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the Mediterranean region; the project should be implemented in cooperation with all Regional Activity Centres, with a view to the possible application of the ecosystem approach by the whole MAP system.
2. To work in cooperation with INFO/RAC and in consultation with the MED POL National Coordinators on the preparation of an information system and on the international and European initiatives covering data on pollution sources, levels and effects, based on existing national and international information systems as a platform for the establishment in future of a wider system for all MAP data and information
3. To organize a meeting of *ad hoc* MED POL National Coordinators specifically devoted to the examination of the operational aspects of MED POL Phase IV, the preparation of an information system and the draft elements which could form the basis for the legally binding text containing the measures and timetables for implementation required under Article 15 of the LBS Protocol.

II.A.1.2 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP MED

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To endorse, support and mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based activities and to ensure their integration into existing national strategies and pollution control plans.

2. To take note of the paper prepared by the Secretariat on the transfer of technology and knowledge within the framework of the SAP MED and the NAPs and to consider it as a guide for future initiatives in the region.
3. To approve and facilitate the creation by the Secretariat of a regional task force for the development of regional arrangements to facilitate cooperation for the transfer of technology related to pollution reduction within the framework of the SAP MED and the NAPs; CP/RAC will assist the Secretariat in this task.

Request the Secretariat:

To catalyse and facilitate the mobilization of external funds to assist Mediterranean countries in the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs).

Municipal sewage

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To take note of the proposed Guidelines for municipal water re-use in Mediterranean countries which were prepared following a thorough analysis of Mediterranean conditions, and are intended to assist countries in achieving the targets of the SAP MED and the NAPs related to the appropriate management of municipal sewage.

Air pollution

Request the Secretariat:

In accordance with section I.A.4, to include energy-related activities in the MED POL work programme for 2006-2007, depending on the availability of funds, and to start work on the impact of the energy sector on the Mediterranean marine environment; Life Cycle Assessment of fossil fuels in the Mediterranean basin; and a mechanism for the development of energy efficiency (EE), renewable energy (RE) and cleaner or less polluting energy in the Mediterranean basin in its respective sphere of competence.

Industrial pollution

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To provide the Secretariat with all available data and information related to inputs of nutrients and mercury from industrial installations and on national management systems for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), obsolete chemicals, lubricating oil, used batteries and hazardous substances, so as to allow the preparation of up-to-date regional plans for pollution reduction within the framework of the SAP MED.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To prepare regional plans for the reduction of nutrients and mercury from industrial installations, for the management and disposal of stockpiles of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (avoiding duplication with the work undertaken by the Stockholm Convention) and obsolete chemicals, used lubricating oils, used batteries and hazardous substances. The plans should be prepared on the basis of the recent data and information gathered through the preparation of Baseline Budgets (BBs),

National Diagnostic Analyses (NDAs), Sectoral Plans (SPs) and National Action Plans (NAPs), and should contain realistic targets and deadlines based on those indicated in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP MED), taking into account relevant international developments.

2. To start working on the formulation of elements which would in future be included in the legally-binding measures and timetables referred to in Article 15 of the amended LBS Protocol, on the basis of the present SAP MED and taking into account any relevant international developments.
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Monitoring

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To formulate and implement marine pollution monitoring programmes pursuant to Articles 7 and 8 of the LBS Protocol as indispensable tools for the proper implementation of the SAP MED, particularly for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the pollution reduction measures adopted.
2. To facilitate the planning and organization of subregional surveys to improve the knowledge of the contamination level of the Mediterranean coastal waters.
3. To initiate the process of revision of ongoing monitoring activities in the framework of the LBS Protocol and MED POL Phase IV and ensure the provision of the monitoring data and information missing from MED POL Phase III.

Request the Secretariat:

To plan and launch subregional surveys and initiate the process of revising the monitoring programme, including the assessment of the quality of the marine and coastal environment, in the framework of the LBS Protocol and MED POL Phase IV.

Public participation

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To support, encourage and facilitate the involvement of all stakeholders in the process of the implementation and monitoring of NAPs in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme, *inter alia* through the organization of relevant workshops.

Reporting

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To consider the PRTR system, or other appropriate systems, such as EPER and marine pollution indicators, as important tools for the preparation of national and regional environmental assessment.

Environmental inspections

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To strengthen the capabilities of national inspection systems to facilitate the implementation of compliance monitoring and the NAPs in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme.

Cooperation with GEF

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

1. To welcome and endorse the initiative of GEF and the World Bank to launch a Mediterranean Strategic Partnership which will substantially contribute to the long-term process of pollution reduction and preservation of biodiversity.
 2. Those Contracting Parties which are GEF Members should undertake to ensure that their efforts and support, within the GEF Council, are further harmonized and coordinated in order to increase the Fund's interest in, and funding for, the Mediterranean region and MAP.
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II.A.1.3 Implementation of the Dumping Protocol

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To adopt the guidelines prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with national authorities and experts on the placement at sea of matter for purposes other than mere disposal (construction of artificial reefs) (doc. UNEP(DEC)MED IG.16/8).
2. To adopt the guidelines prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with national authorities and experts on dumping of inert uncontaminated geological materials (doc. UNEP(DEC)MED IG.16/9).
3. To facilitate the collection by the Secretariat of data and information for the preparation of a review/assessment of historical dumping sites of ordnance in the Mediterranean.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To assess country needs (legal, technical and institutional aspects) and prepare and implement a programme of assistance for the proper application of the Dumping Protocol and its guidelines, and to provide assistance as appropriate.
 2. To strengthen cooperation with the London Convention Secretariat, continue to exchange data and information and ensure the harmonization of the respective reporting systems.
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II.A.2 Marine pollution prevention and control (REMPEC)

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To adopt the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships as endorsed by the 7th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, 25-28 April 2005), to implement the Strategy, to provide information to the Secretariat on the actions being taken at the national level for its implementation and to consider, at the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the possibility of strengthening the human resources of the Centre starting from the biennium 2008-2009.
2. To adopt the set of Principles agreed upon during the Meeting of National Experts on the Feasibility of a Legal Regional Instrument on Prevention of Pollution from Pleasure Craft Activities in the Mediterranean (Monaco, 8-10 December 2004) and endorsed by the 7th Meeting of Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, 25-28 April 2005).
3. To support the implementation by REMPEC of the project on Euro-Med cooperation on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED) financed by the European Community (EC) under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership MEDA financial mechanism, and involving ten Mediterranean partners.
4. To support REMPEC's efforts for the development of monitoring activities in the Mediterranean to detect, prevent and combat operational pollution in conformity with the relevant international conventions, as defined in the three components of the CLEANMED project developed by REMPEC.
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.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To support Mediterranean coastal States in their efforts to implement the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.
 2. To prepare guidelines on pollution from pleasure craft activities, taking into consideration the Principles for the development and respect of the marine environment by pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea, and to present them to the next Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points for endorsement, prior to their submission for adoption to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. In developing these guidelines, to take due account of the requirements imposed on European Union Member States by Directive 94/25/EC, as amended, regulating the environmental performance of recreational crafts.
 3. To extend, as far as possible, the activities included in the SAFEMED project to the other Mediterranean coastal States not covered by this project.
 4. To request, as necessary, the collaboration of other MAP components when addressing scientific aspects of regional issues related to Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), sensitivity mapping and ballast water management; in this regard Contracting Parties that are member States of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia) should seek assistance with the preparation of pilot projects concerning those issues mentioned above for the Adriatic Sea as a particularly sensitive sea area.
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II.A.3 Cleaner production

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To submit information on:
 - a) The specific needs of countries to improve the application of cleaner production and complementary approaches (Life Cycle Assessment, eco-efficiency, eco-labelling, EMAS, etc.) in their industries and other sectors (agriculture, services).
 - b) The activities carried out to promote and implement cleaner production in the country, including the materials prepared by the Secretariat (CP/RAC).
 - c) The links existing between centres, institutes, universities and industry.
2. To promote the inclusion of environmental awareness programmes at all educational levels related in particular to cleaner production.
3. To promote research and development in cleaner production among universities in the region.
4. To include in environmental legislation mechanisms which allow industry to comply with the legislation through the implementation of cleaner production principles.
5. To encourage technical and financial support and, in particular, soft loans with low interest rates for companies and institutions wishing to introduce BATs and BEPs.

Request the Secretariat (CP/RAC):

1. To continue holding seminars and preparing studies, guidelines and databases on issues of interest to the Mediterranean region regarding pollution prevention in economic activities.
2. To broaden the current scope of the activities of CP/RAC to include other areas in relation to cleaner production.
3. To involve academics and industrialists in CP/RAC activities wherever appropriate.
4. To provide information on success stories and good practices in the field of cleaner production for dissemination to a wide range of stakeholders in Mediterranean countries and to assist countries in capacity building and the dissemination of success stories to the public and private sectors relating to the introduction of BATs and BEPs.
5. To catalyse and facilitate the mobilization of funds to support specific cleaner production activities based on partnerships with countries.
6. To facilitate communication between companies which have already experienced the benefits of cleaner production and those which have not.
7. To promote more expertise on cleaner production in Mediterranean countries.
8. To strengthen cooperation between NGOs, through the CP/RAC Focal Points and the Secretariat, for the dissemination of information on BATs and BEPs.
9. To strengthen links and partnership with regional and, particularly, national centres and institutions.
10. To work with the European Commission to strengthen cooperation, particularly with the countries of the South, in order to support them in their environmental upgrading strategies, especially in the industrial and tourist sectors.

II.B BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

II.B.1 Implementation of the action plans

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

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To address the problem of the deliberate killing of monk seals combined with habitat loss existing in areas of major importance for the species, targeting fishermen and other stakeholders, taking into account the most serious threat to the survival of this species, as noted in the assessment of the implementation of the action plan (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.146/5, Arta 1998).
2. To make the best possible use of the positive experiences in Alonissos (Greece) and Foça (Turkey) to extend protection and conservation actions to all the other known Mediterranean areas with critical habitats of monk seals.
3. To ensure that management plans for protected areas containing critical monk seal habitats, as well as legislative measures relevant to the conservation of monk seals, are developed and implemented.
4. To identify existing or potential critical habitats of monk seals.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To assist countries in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal through management plans, operational tools and capacity building; to this end, to make use of the report UNEP(DEC)/MED WG 232/Inf.6 of the group of experts convened by SPA/RAC in 2002, as already recommended by the Contracting Parties in 2003.
 2. To support countries in the identification of existing or potential critical habitats of monk seals.
 3. To assist countries in organizing awareness campaigns for target groups, with a view to ensuring their participation in efforts to reduce hostility and increase consensus for the implementation of conservation actions.
 4. To strengthen collaboration with relevant bodies, in particular FAO/GFCM, in order to address effectively the problem of the interaction of fisheries with monk seals.
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II.B.1.2 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To fulfil their obligations in relation to the implementation of the Action Plan, and particularly the recommended actions at national level for each country.
2. To ensure legal protection measures for known nesting sites (including adjacent waters) and other aggregation areas.
3. To encourage pilot studies on tested methods to reduce turtle by-catch and mortality in fisheries.
4. To take note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles.
5. To take note of the results of the Workshop on the Standardization of Tagging and Centralization of Information, and to promote tagging programmes that comply with the general recommendations and the principal guidelines of this Workshop.
6. To support participation in the 26th International Sea Turtle Symposium to be held on 3-8 April 2006 in Greece.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To assist countries in fulfilling obligations pertaining to the implementation of the Action Plan, by supporting and/or coordinating actions where necessary.
 2. To support initiatives to improve knowledge of the distribution of populations of marine turtles at sea.
 3. To strengthen collaboration with FAO/GFCM to address the problem of the interaction of fisheries with marine turtles.
 4. To take into consideration the results of the Regional IUCN Red List Assessment of *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas* and *Dermochelys coriacea* which is being prepared by IUCN's Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG), and all relevant inputs in order to propose, as appropriate, an update of the Action Plan at the 8th Meeting of SPA/RAC National Focal Points.
 5. To support the organization of the 26th International Sea Turtle Symposium in Greece and the 3rd Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, to be held in Tunisia.
 6. To promote awareness measures and education for various target stakeholders (including fishermen, tourists and decision-makers).
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II.B.1.3 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To join the ACCOBAMS Agreement, if they have not already done so, and to take note and implement as far as possible the pertinent resolutions and recommendations of the Meetings of its Contracting Parties.
2. To recognize that common obligations relating to cetaceans under the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol are fulfilled by the implementation of ACCOBAMS.
3. To promote the creation and extension of protected marine and coastal areas specifically for cetaceans.
4. To establish close cooperation at the national level between the SPA/RAC National Focal Points and the ACCOBAMS focal points.
5. To invite the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS to inform the Meeting of the SPA/RAC National Focal Points of the implementation of measures relevant to the conservation of cetaceans, in particular through the ACCOBAMS national reporting system, and to present the decisions of the Meetings of its Contracting Parties.
6. To support the implementation of the ban on driftnets proclaimed by ICCAT (2003) and GFCM (2005) by developing and executing specific reconversion plans.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To implement the Memorandum of Cooperation between SPA/RAC and ACCOBAMS.
 2. To seek synergies with the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS in relation to any relevant activities to be implemented in countries that are not parties to ACCOBAMS.
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II.B.1.4 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To adopt the updated activity programme for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. To take the necessary steps to complete, within the prescribed time, the activities provided for by the updated activity programme for the implementation of the Action Plan.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To assist countries in complying with their commitments under the updated programme for the implementation of the Action Plan.
2. To provide countries with the necessary support to make inventories and carry out mapping of marine meadows and marine vegetation formations and, in particular barrier reefs of Posidonia and organogenic surface formations, terraces (platforms with vermitids covered by soft algae) and certain Cystoseira belts.

3. To help countries that have already started activities in the framework of the Action Plan to set up monitoring networks.
 4. To strengthen collaboration with FAO/GFCM to address the problem of the interaction of fisheries with marine vegetation.
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II.B.1.5 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To contribute to the implementation of an international system of inspection and control that is consistent with the specific nature and needs of Mediterranean fisheries, within the framework of the relevant regional fisheries management organizations.
2. To take the necessary measures to complete the activities included in the Action Plan within the agreed time period.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To ensure the implementation of the actions under its responsibility set out in the Action Plan in accordance with the timetable adopted in collaboration with FAO/GFCM.
 2. To pursue collaboration to assist countries increase their national expertise on cartilaginous fish
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II.B.1.6 Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species Listed in Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To take the necessary steps to complete, within the prescribed time frames, the activities provided for in the Action Plan, and particularly to:
 - a) Guarantee procedures for the legal protection of species;
 - b) Set up research programmes to fill gaps in knowledge on threatened species;
 - c) Establish national action plans and implement existing plans;
 - d) Identify, map and protect areas at sea that are important for birds.
2. Join AEWA and subscribe to *ad hoc* Memoranda of Understanding if this has not been done already.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To collaborate closely with BirdLife International and other competent international organizations, such as the MedWet Initiative of the Ramsar Convention, for the implementation of the Action Plan on the Conservation of Bird Species Listed in Annex II to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.
 2. To prepare a report on the progress made so far in the implementation of the Action Plan for submission to the Meeting of the SPA/RAC National Focal Points in 2007
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II.B.1.7 Implementation of the Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To take the necessary steps to complete the actions provided for at national level by the Action Plan in accordance with its implementation timetable.
2. To work at the regional level to assess impacts of invasive species on local marine biodiversity and different marine habitats.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To cooperate with competent institutions in this field at the Mediterranean level.
 2. To carry out the actions provided for by the Action Plan in accordance with its implementation timetable and in collaboration with the relevant organizations.
 3. To prepare an evaluation report of the implementation of the Action Plan, to be submitted to the Eighth Meeting of SPA/RAC National Focal Points.
 4. To provide assistance to countries to carry out the actions provided for in the Action Plan at the national level.
 5. To encourage regional cooperation to assess the impact of invasive species on local marine biodiversity and different marine habitats, in coordination with IMO and REMPEC.
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II.B.2 Selecting, establishing and managing specially protected areas

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To include in the SPAMI list the sites fulfilling the criteria for inclusion:
 - *the Banc des Kabyles Marine Reserve*
 - *the Habibas Islands*
 - *the Portofino Marine Protected Area.*
2. To support the extension and continuation of the MedMPA project at the national level, where appropriate.
3. To consider the establishment of new marine protected areas (MPAs) both in coastal waters and in particular on the high seas, where appropriate, on the basis of existing scientific knowledge, in accordance with the commitments adopted at the Seventh

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other applicable international regulations.

4. To assess and identify those SPAMIs which are exposed to environmental risks by international shipping activities and could be proposed for designation as PSSAs by the IMO.
5. To revise the criteria for the establishment of SPAMIs

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To establish a programme of work for the development of protected areas based on the positive experience of the MedMPA project, with the aim of helping countries of the region to develop before 2012 a representative network of marine protected areas, in accordance with the recommendations of the SAP BIO and in close cooperation with WWF.
 2. To pursue its assessment of the procedure for the evaluation of SPAMIs and to proceed with a test to evaluate two voluntary SPAMIs using this procedure in collaboration with IUCN.
 3. To collaborate with ACCOBAMS, and in particular with its scientific committee, for the establishment of specially protected areas for the conservation of cetaceans.
 4. To assist countries, in close cooperation with REMPEC, to conduct the assessment of those SPAMIs that could be proposed for designation as PSSAs by IMO.
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II.B.3 Activities linked to processing and managing biodiversity-related data

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To further inventory natural sites of conservation interest, using the Standard Data-entry Form (SDF) and other technical tools adopted by the Contracting Parties.
2. To develop national clearing-house mechanisms on marine and coastal biodiversity;
3. To use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as tools for the management and exchange of data on marine and coastal biodiversity.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To assist countries in inventorying natural sites of conservation interest.
 2. To harmonize the inventory system using the Standard Date-entry Form with the Natura 2000, Emerald and MedWet systems.
 3. To develop the use of Geographic Information Systems for managing and disseminating data on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean.
 4. To improve SPA/RAC's directories and databases and integrate them into a regional information system.
 5. To help countries to attain a good qualitative and quantitative level of information on marine and coastal biodiversity in their national clearing-house mechanisms (CHMs).
 6. To take account of the effects of climate change and the adjustment measures necessary to protect biodiversity in the region.
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II.B.4 Strategic action programme for the conservation of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To consider the SAP BIO as an essential tool for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity and for the implementation of the SPA Protocol and to ensure the involvement and coordination of competent national and regional institutions for its implementation.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To further integrate the SAP BIO into its programme of activities.
 2. To prepare project proposals and seek funding for the implementation of the SAP BIO, also exploring possibilities with external donors.
 3. To seek financial support from GEF for the same purpose.
 4. To continue to cooperate with all relevant organizations, agencies and institutions for the implementation of SAP BIO
 5. To strengthen cooperation among the various Regional Activity Centres, particularly PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and REMPEC, in order to carry out integrated projects for the protection of ecosystems against pollution and to promote marine biodiversity.
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II.B.5 Common criteria for the choice of species that could be included in or excluded from Annexes II and III to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To approve the principle of modifying the lists of species included in Annexes II and III to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol on the basis of criteria to be established.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To prepare guidelines for future amendments to Annexes II and III to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol based on the contributions of all Parties, including the scientific, legal and procedural aspects.
 2. To take into consideration the results of the Regional IUCN Red List Assessment in order to update the Action Plans, and to propose criteria for the amendment of Annex II and III to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.
 3. To make a first set of proposals to test the validity of the procedure for submission to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.
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II.B.6 Mediterranean initiative on taxonomy

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To recognize the shortage of taxonomists and to encourage postgraduate specialization in taxonomy and national and/or bilateral cooperation to address this problem.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To cooperate more closely with other competent organizations to evaluate the taxonomic guides available for Mediterranean marine flora and fauna and to update them if necessary with the aim of providing tools for the Contracting Parties.
 2. To organize a Mediterranean workshop on reference collections of marine species in the Mediterranean in collaboration with the relevant institutions and experts.
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II.B.7 Capacity building

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To promote training courses in order to strengthen national capacities in the field of the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To convene a training course on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for biodiversity conservation purposes.
 2. To convene a training course on mapping marine biotopes.
 3. To convene training courses and provide technical assistance on management tools and action plans for priority species and areas to be protected.
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II.B.8 Other priority Mediterranean habitats

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To promote training courses to strengthen national capacities in the field of the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity with particular reference to coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions.

Request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

To formulate a programme of work on protecting the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean and to submit it for adoption by the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties, after consulting the SPA/RAC National Focal Points.

II.C SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AREAS

II.C.1 Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM)

II.C.2 CAMP projects

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To continue efforts to implement the MCSDD recommendations on the sustainable management of coastal areas as well as the components of the MSSD related to coastal management.
2. To adopt the Operational Action Plan for ICAM in the Mediterranean and support PAP/RAC in its implementation.
3. To continue efforts to create new institutional interministerial arrangements for ICAM and to adopt new and/or improve the implementation of existing national legislation for sustainable coastal management.
4. To invite countries where there have not yet been any CAMP projects to propose new projects. To invite countries that have already implemented CAMP projects to ensure appropriate follow-up based on the outcome of the CAMPs and to consider new projects in the light of the recommendations of the proposed Operational Action Plan for ICAM, and particularly new types of CAMP projects.
5. To support the implementation of activities related to the development and application of landscape management methodologies and tools.
6. To support the implementation of the EU/SMAP programme of activities related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management, to improve beach management and information sharing through the clearing-house mechanism.

Request the Secretariat (PAP/RAC):

1. To assist countries in the implementation of the Operational Action Plan for ICAM, including efforts to develop new types of CAMP projects.
2. To pursue the development and implementation of ICAM tools and instruments, with particular reference to marine spatial planning, coastal information systems, environmental impact assessments and SEA in coastal environments, coastal erosion and risk management, economic instruments for coastal management, the assessment of carrying capacities for tourism, landscape management, beach management and integrated coastal area and river basin management (ICARM).
3. To support and assist the Contracting Parties in preparing their national and local ICAM strategies and programmes, in implementing ICAM tools, techniques and methodologies and in developing subregional ICAM initiatives.
4. To assist Albania, Algeria, Croatia and Egypt to prepare their national reports on integrated coastal management.
5. To coordinate MAP activities in relation to CAMP projects, under the overall coordinating responsibility of MEDU.
6. To prepare CAMP feasibility studies, CAMP programmes and agreements, to implement ongoing and planned MAP CAMP projects

7. To propose to countries where CAMP projects have been completed to introduce new and/or adapt existing instruments for environmental management and to assist those countries in preparing viable projects, which would enable the follow-up of CAMPs.
 8. To continue institutional strengthening and capacity building of national and local institutions by means of traditional and internet-based training courses (MedOpen), the exchange of information on ICAM through the clearing-house mechanism, the maintenance of the informative website, the publication and dissemination of guidelines, thematic papers, programme results and other achievements.
 9. To strengthen existing and seek new partnerships in the region and mobilize existing resources at the international level for the implementation of ICAM and sustainable development in coastal regions.
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Request the Secretariat (BP/RAC):

To help countries carry out prospective analyses in coastal areas and contribute to the implementation of CAMPs.

II.D ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

II.D.1 Integrating environment and development

PAP/RAC

Recommendations to Contracting Parties:

1. To support activities on local management and sustainable development in the framework of the MCSD.
2. To urge municipal authorities to apply the recommendations of the MCSD on urban management and sustainable development.
3. To support efforts to introduce better practices for the management of water resources, and particularly the implementation of the Guidelines for Integrated Urban Water System Management in Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean.
4. To encourage the relevant national and local authorities and concerned stakeholders to undertake carrying capacity assessment for tourism activities, taking into account their potential impact as a common tool for the sustainable development of this industry, nationally and locally.
5. To support activities and mobilize the pertinent means for combating land degradation and to support the partnership of PAP/RAC with relevant international organizations and institutions.

Request the Secretariat (PAP/RAC):

1. To support the MCSD working group on local management and sustainable development.

2. To assist the Contracting Parties 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, further developing the methodology for urban regeneration.
 3. To promote the use of carrying capacity assessment as a tool for the sustainable development of tourism, through the enhancement of the capacity of Mediterranean national and local institutions, and to continue providing technical assistance.
 4. To provide support to local authorities for the implementation of guidelines for the sustainable management of urban water resources (Guidelines for Integrated Urban Water System Management in Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean).
 5. To continue activities related to land degradation management and to establish new partnerships with international and regional organizations and institutions in this field.
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BP/RAC

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To support the dissemination and promotion of the *Environment and Development Report's* findings in countries and at the Euro-Mediterranean level.
2. To facilitate the implementation of the common PAP/BP/METAP project in support of the SMAP beneficiaries within the SMAP III programme so as to strengthen the integration of the environment into development strategies and policies.
3. To support Blue Plan's efforts to develop follow-up activities (sustainable development indicators, thematic follow-up) for the MSSD.
4. To support Blue Plan's efforts to conduct priority thematic activities by mobilizing qualified experts and other relevant ministries or agencies and by hosting and funding regional, subregional and national events (workshops).

Request the Secretariat (BP/RAC):

1. To increase its presence in individual countries to reach a wider public and contribute to the strengthening of environmental ministries' capacities to better integrate environmental concerns into sectoral policies.
2. To make the main findings of the *Environment and Development Report* available to countries and other users in an appropriate format (policy briefs, PowerPoint presentations, websites, participation in national and regional discussions).
3. To help the Contracting Parties to build up information that facilitates the follow-up and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development as well as national strategies for sustainable development.
4. To document indicators, expand analyses and identify good practices with volunteer countries, EU bodies and partners and regional initiatives involved in the following fields: water demand management, energy and climate change, sustainable tourism and sustainable rural development.
5. To focus thematic activities in areas where MAP can offer added value: sustainable development indicators and trend analysis, inventory of best practices and of policy tools for demand management and integrated development, sharing of Mediterranean experience.

6. To produce and disseminate a set of indicators to followup the MSSD and help countries develop indicators for their national strategies.
 7. To strengthen technical partnerships with other MAP components and institutions.
 8. To develop, in particular with INFO/RAC and concerned Contracting Parties, the translation of the Environment and Development Report into Arabic and other languages and its dissemination.
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II.E INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION - INFO/RAC

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To approve and support the Centre which should provide support to MAP and its components in addressing priority information and communication requirements in the implementation of their programme of work.
2. To support the Centre in the establishment of links with national authorities and organizations in the field of information and communication to enable the Centre to develop a MAP information system.
3. To support the dissemination of the video produced for the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Convention on national television in Mediterranean countries.

Request the Secretariat (INFO/RAC):

1. To develop a process for the establishment of a common information management infrastructure (MAP Info) that facilitates and supports IC activities across MAP, including the management and periodic upgrading of the UNEP/MAP website, the MED POL Info System and the MAP reporting system.
 2. To establish bilateral partnerships with non-governmental organizations and other actors concerned with promoting public participation and raising awareness of the objectives and activities of MAP and the Barcelona Convention.
 3. To organize the Mediterranean Environmental Award as an annual event, ensuring maximum positive media/public exposure for the Award, MAP and the priority environmental concerns of the Mediterranean basin.
 4. To facilitate workshops and related activities for the preparation of a strategic information and communication strategy including existing information and earth observation data in accordance with Group on Earth Observations (GEO) recommendations, in the context of MSSD, ensuring convergence with the MAP Info design process and related recommendations.
 5. To provide technical assistance in the drafting and implementation of an information and communication plan to the country selected to host the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to ensure the most effective use of available IC tools, information resources etc, including the implementation, management and promotion of an official Contracting Parties website.
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