

APPENDIX I

RECOMMENDATIONS ON MED UNIT, MED POL AND RACs STRUCTURE

The Contracting Parties approve the following recommendations:

A. General recommendations

1. As the issues facing MAP are well defined and prioritized through the newly approved Convention and protocols, MAP-Phase II, Agenda MED 21 and the MCSD, a more holistic and well coordinated approach is needed in the work of MEDU, MED POL and RACs. Streamlining of the Secretariat work, improving its managerial process, synergy and transparency in its work, have to be enhanced in order to be able to shoulder the new responsibilities.
2. The Coordinating Unit is the main administrative body in the MAP system.
3. Ultimate responsibility for implementing the protocols lies with the Coordinating Unit of MAP. The relevant centres implement the technical aspects of the protocols.
4. However, the implementation of certain activities should be delegated from the Athens MEDU office to the RAC Centres, such as the coordination of a few CAMP projects, the coordination of biodiversity action programmes, and the representation of MAP in outside fora, keeping the overall responsibility of the Coordinator of MAP.
5. The principle of equitable geographical distribution within the Mediterranean region should be respected whenever vacant or new internationally recruited posts are to be filled.
6. As MTF funds are considered as seed money, it is recommended that MAP relation with relevant financial and development institutions and programmes be strengthened, in order to solicit additional finance, human resources and expertise. Concrete and well prepared projects should be presented to these organisations by the Coordinating Unit.
7. UNEP Headquarters (and IMO for REMPEC) should augment its support to MAP, in particular through a better utilization of the programme support cost for the financing and administration of these structures.
8. MEDU capability to manage the legal component of MAP should be strengthened.

B. Meetings of the Contracting Parties and MAP National Focal Points

1. Meetings of the Contracting Parties are held at the Ministerial level, in order to deliberate on the general policy, strategic, and general political issues relevant to MAP as a whole.
2. The meetings of the MAP National Focal Points would be mandated to thoroughly review and finalize the MAP draft programme budget and prepare a framework strategy for subsequent approval by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties.

C. Regional Activity Centres (RACs)

1. A unified approach concerning the status of RACs other than REMPEC, which has United Nations status, should be pursued, as much as possible.
2. Agreements or formal exchange of letters are to be prepared for all RACs taking into account the diversity of the administrative systems and the prevailing circumstances in the host country.
3. The Contracting Parties hosting RACs are requested to simplify the procedures for issuing entry visas, residence permits, and work permits of internationally recruited staff, as well as granting entry visas to representatives of Contracting Parties on official MAP business.
4. Project documents should be signed by UNEP and RACs covering the activities to be carried out by them on the basis of priorities decided by the Contracting Parties. Host countries of national centres should provide counterpart contribution to cover operational costs.
5. RACs should do their best to solicit additional funds for MAP activities from outside sources, in full cooperation and prior consultation with the MEDU,
6. An assessment of the activities of RACs and other MAP Programmes should be undertaken on a regular basis by MEDU, taking into consideration the cost-efficiency ratio.
7. Financial auditing of the activities of RACs financed by the MTF should be undertaken by UNEP/MEDU on a regular basis.
8. MAP National Focal Points should devote one session at the beginning of their meetings to act as the National Focal Points for each of the BP and PAP Centres.

Staff

9. The recruitment of staff paid under the MTF should be based on a vacancy announcement to be circulated by MEDU to all Contracting Parties. The appointment of the Director of a Centre is to be undertaken in consultation between the responsible authority and MEDU. In the case when a Director of a Centre is paid by MTF, a vacancy announcement shall be jointly prepared by the host country and MEDU.
10. Consultants and experts recruited by RACs in the framework of MAP shall be selected in full consultation with the MEDU. The principle of diversification of the nationalities of the recruited consultants should be observed.