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## MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

First Meeting of the National Correspondents  
of the project for the preparation of a Strategic  
Action Plan for the Conservation  
of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO)  
in the Mediterranean Region

Alicante, 2-4 July 2001

# **REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS OF THE PROJECT FOR THE PREPARATION OF A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (SAP BIO) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**



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## **Introduction**

1. In the context of implementing the project of preparing the Strategic Action Plan on Mediterranean marine and coastal biological diversity (SAP BIO), RAC/SPA, with the support of Alicante University's Marine Biology Unit, organised in El Campello (Alicante, Spain), from 2 to 4 July 2001, the First Meeting of National Correspondents appointed to this end by the countries bordering on the Mediterranean. This project is part of the Strategic Action Plan aimed at combating pollution due to land-based activities (SAP MED), adopted by the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Tunis, October 1997) and currently being carried out thanks to the GEF's PDF-B funding, approved by this Fund's Council in April 2000. The SAP MED project includes a sub-project, 'Preparing a Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)'. RAC/SPA was appointed to oversee the implementing of the SAP BIO sub-project.
2. The project envisages that each Contracting Party will appoint a National Correspondent for the SAP BIO project. The National Correspondents will be responsible for running the project at national level in each of the participating countries. Further, they will form a Network (Network of National Correspondents) that will contribute to implementing the project at regional level.

## **Participation**

3. The National Correspondents appointed by the following Contracting Parties participated at the Meeting: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey.
4. The following organisations were represented by observers: ADRIAMED, COPEMED, FAO, MedWet, MIO-ECSDE, the ACCOBAMS Interim Secretariat, SHORELINE, Alicante University.
5. The Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MEDU) was represented at the Meeting.
6. RAC/SPA acted as the Secretariat for the Meeting.
7. The complete list of participants appears in Annex I to this Report.

## **Agenda item 1 - Opening the Meeting**

8. Mr. Mohamed Adel Hentati, Director of RAC/SPA, after welcoming participants to the Meeting, thanked Alicante University, particularly its Marine Biology Unit and COPEMED, for their help in organising the Meeting. He conveyed the thanks of Mr. Lucien Chabason, the MAP Coordinator, who was unable to attend the Meeting. He also confirmed the interest shown in the process of elaborating the SAP BIO, following on the implementing of SAP MED, and stressed the importance of this Meeting, which was starting this process which would last for 30 months.

9. Mr. Just Bayle, speaking on behalf of Professor Alfonso Ramos, the Head of Alicante University's Marine Biology Unit, then thanked participants and highlighted the importance of this Meeting, especially the SAP BIO process,.

10. Mrs. Pilar Hernandez welcomed participants on behalf of COPEMED, a regional project, developed within the framework of FAO, which aimed at supporting initiatives that tended to promote the sustainable development of fisheries and environment protection.

11. On behalf of the Coordinator (UNEP/MEDU), Mr. Humberto Da Cruz reminded participants that SAP BIO's final aim was to identify actions in order to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and the biological diversity of the Mediterranean, and to elaborate working guidelines for the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity at Mediterranean regional level. To attain this aim, contribution at national level was essential as regards both the preparation of strategy and its implementation. The role of the SAP BIO National Correspondents was thus fundamental, not only to get a clear grasp of the situation and actions being carried out in the countries, but also to establish regional priorities in collaboration with RAC/SPA, the National Correspondents, and the Advisory Committee for the project.

12. Further, the process of elaborating SAP BIO, with the collaboration of the various Mediterranean countries and several specialist institutions, would certainly be useful as a support and framework for the national biodiversity protection programmes and would thus be a complementary tool for current national strategies. MAP sees developing this Plan as being very important and will do everything necessary to support the decisions which will be made during this Meeting.

### **Agenda item 2 - Rules of Procedure**

13. It was decided that the internal rules adopted for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG,43/6, Appendix XI) would apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present Meeting.

### **Agenda item 3 - Election of Officers**

14. After informal consultations, the Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr. Zamir DEDEJ (Albania)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Mustapha FOU DA (Egypt) Mrs. Maristella BILIOTTI (Italy)
Rapporteur:	Mrs. Myroula HADJICHROSTOPHOROU (Cyprus)

### **Agenda item 4 - Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work**

15. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/1), prepared by RAC/SPA taking into account the recommendations made by the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee,

and annotated in the document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/2, was adopted by the Meeting. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the proposed timetable, which appears at the end of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/2. The Agenda of the Meeting appears in Annex II to this Report.

**Agenda item 5 - Presentation of the SAP BIO Project, and of the progress so far achieved**

16. The Secretariat summarised the process which led to the SAP BIO project's being adopted and presented the project with reference to document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/inf.3, giving details about the objectives of the project, expected outputs and the steps foreseen for implementation.

17. The FAO representative informed the Meeting that as part of the SAP BIO project FAO and RAC/SPA had signed a Memorandum of Agreement concerning preparing technical documents with a view to facilitating the elaborating of National Action Plans. The documents basically concerned an analysis of the impact of fishing practices on biodiversity and marine habitats, a legal analysis of the measures adopted by the states bordering on the Mediterranean to minimise the impact of fishing activities on marine ecosystems and non-target species, and guidelines to reduce the impact of introducing species through fish-farming. The MoA also provided for elaborating a regional strategy project on the basis of National Reports, to be elaborated within the context of the project.

18. Participants were invited to offer their opinions about the proposed methodology for implementing the project. In this context, it was urged that SAP BIO focus on what was not being done within other projects and initiatives, even if the coordination could be difficult, as regards certain aspects such as traffic in international waters. To this end contacts with international bodies were needed to achieve coordination. Collaboration was also needed with SAP MED, and RAC/SPA could solve the problem of overlapping institutions, as had been done in the MoC with RAMSAR and the CBD.

19. Several delegates stressed that it was difficult to keep to the timetable for implementing the project, especially as regards identifying and recruiting consultants; it was agreed that the deadline for appointing consultants should be extended until the end of October 2001. However, since SAP BIO had to be submitted to the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat stressed the importance of respecting the deadline for its final elaboration.

20. In response to a remark about the problem caused by a lack of data in certain countries, which had not yet done the necessary work to make an inventory of national means and capacities, the RAC/SPA Secretariat stressed that the (long-established) basic principle to be followed here was that lack of data should not hinder or slow down the identifying and carrying out of activities. Further, if lack of data was a serious problem, implementing programmes of collecting data on biodiversity could be envisaged as part of SAP BIO. In this respect, several delegations stressed the importance of the precautionary principle.

21. As regards the document prepared by FAO, "Legal Analysis of the Measures adopted by Mediterranean coastal states to minimise the impact of fishing activities on marine ecosystems and non-target species", some representatives pointed out that in this document, information on the legal provisions in force in their countries was not up-to-date

and required correction. The Secretariat pointed out that the document was provisional, and not exhaustive, and that, as set out in its Introduction, the deadline for countries to provide up-to-date data was 15 August. Following the proposal made by the delegates, the Meeting agreed to extend the deadline to 30 October.

22. The need to involve local people was stressed, particularly as regards defining and implementing conservation measures and respecting the culture and opinions of local populations. It was recommended here that traditional practices, where these were sustainable, be promoted.

23. The GEF Project Manager expressed his general view that a high level of attention was being given to fishing issues at the expense of other issues which are also important for the preservation of biodiversity. He also expressed his hope that during the SAP BIO development a balance could be established between all relevant issues. The Secretariat stressed the fact that the first suggestion within the SAP MED concerning SAP BIO had been to focus on the impact fishing had on biodiversity. Since 1998 there had been contacts between MAP and the FAO to develop documents on fishing; other aspects would now be studied. The fact that only about 10% of the budget for the project was for fishing showed that other aspects were being taken into consideration.

24. Many delegations thought that the socio-economic element was fundamental to the SAP BIO project and stressed the need to have this aspect given due weight.

25. In the Meeting's discussions of this Agenda item, several delegations gave a favourable reception to the Secretariat's proposal that implementation methods be adapted to the special features of each country so that the process of elaborating the SAP be undertaken bearing in mind the context of each country and in synergy with the initiatives and projects either having been or currently being carried out in that country.

#### **Agenda item 6 - Inventory of activities and outputs already developed at national and regional level in connection with the SAP BIO Project**

26. The Secretariat, presenting the document dealing with the project of inventorying those activities carried out and documents elaborated that are related to the SAP BIO project (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.191/Inf4), stressed that the document was intended to help RAC/SPA and the National Correspondents who are meant to 'pilot' the process to avoid duplication and maximise the synergy effect when elaborating and implementing certain projects carried out at regional and sub-regional level. The section devoted to the national projects would be completed in the light of the information provided by the National Correspondents. The organisations concerned were invited to also provide information on their activities.

27. Participants were invited to briefly present themselves and the activities dealing with SAP BIO that are being or have been carried out in their countries/organisations.

28. From the presentations made by the National Correspondents it was clear that although in most Mediterranean countries national strategies and action plans for the conservation of biodiversity had been elaborated, there were marked differences between countries in this field, and certain countries did not yet have such strategies or action plans. Furthermore, in many Mediterranean countries the marine element had not been



sufficiently dealt with by the said strategies and action plans. A summary of the statements about this Agenda item appear in Annex III.

29. In their statements on this Agenda item, the representatives of the international and/or non-governmental organisations attending the Meeting informed the Meeting about their organisations' activities and confirmed their interest in collaborating closely on implementing the SAP BIO project.

30. The observer from an organisation representing fishermen said that the SAP BIO project constituted a good tool for the conservation and sustainable use of the marine natural wealth. But he made it clear that SAP BIO could only have a concrete effect if all stakeholders, particularly fishermen, were consulted when it was being elaborated.

31. The representative of MedWet initiative indicated the scope of collaboration between MedWet and SAP BIO within the framework of the memorandum of cooperation between RAMSAR and MAP. In this context, MedWet can provide a technical document to cover wetland issues in the national report. Med Wet can also provide methodological tools in the development of SAP BIO National Reports as well as the general SAP BIO Report.

32. As the Meeting ended its work on this Agenda item, a mapping tool was presented. This tool integrates data obtained within the context of a WWF International project. This organisation offered to make the output of that project available to the countries and the RAC/SPA with a view to facilitating the implementing of the SAP BIO project. The technical report of the WWF project will be made available to the countries.

### **Agenda item 7 - Terms of reference for the SAP BIO National Correspondents**

33. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEC)MED WG.191/3, Section A, "Terms of Reference for the National Correspondents" and explained that the document was intended to help the National Correspondents better understand the part they would be asked to play in implementing the SAP BIO project, particularly in coordinating the project at national level in conformity with the internal arrangements that each country had set up.

34. Following on questions from certain participants as to the half-yearly reports that each National Correspondent will have to make to the RAC/SPA, the Secretariat indicated that these reports would be used by RAC/SPA mainly for elaborating the project's overall half-yearly report, using a form that had been agreed on with the UNEP. The Secretariat could provide the National Correspondents with the said form for it to be used for their half-yearly reports.

35. As flexibility should be a feature of the procedures to be followed and the role of each National Correspondent, several representatives considered that the expression 'terms of reference' used to define the National Correspondents' tasks was too rigid, and that it would be better to speak of 'guidelines'.

36. Certain Correspondents requested that RAC/SPA assist them in elaborating the terms of reference for the national consultants who would have to intervene in preparing the National Reports.

37. Guidelines for the National Correspondents, as adopted by the Meeting, appear in Annex IV to the present Report.

**Agenda item 8 - Planning and organising activities and establishing a timetable of National Correspondents**

38. This Agenda item was not discussed at the plenary Meeting. Each National Correspondent was asked to discuss individually with RAC/SPA the implementing of SAP BIO in his country (for half an hour, according to the planning presented in the proposed timetable). In this regard, National Correspondents were requested to provide RAC/SPA with the information mentioned in the National Implementation Sheet.

**Agenda item 9 - Terms of reference for the Network of National Correspondents and establishment of the Network and co-ordination mechanisms**

39. The Secretariat presented Part B of document UNEP(DEC)MED WG.191/3 concerning the Network of National Correspondents and highlighted the part these will have to play at regional level to guide the implementing of the SAP BIO project, particularly as regards assessing, updating, finalizing and adopting the SAP BIO document project and as regards facilitating the circulation of the intermediary outputs to be produced between meetings.

40. Some National Correspondents invited the Secretariat to provide further details about the practical workings of the Network. Here the Secretariat indicated that in addition to the meetings that were planned for the National Correspondents, a website would be set up for the project containing information on how far the project had advanced. It would also include a discussion forum between National Correspondents where the RAC/SPA would display, in English and French, the content of the messages sent by the National Correspondents to the said discussion forum.

41. The Secretariat also indicated that the National Focal Points for SPAs could learn about the project's implementation via the website, and that the main outputs of the project would be submitted to them.

42. As had been suggested by one observer, the Meeting agreed to recommend that the CBD's Focal Points be invited to participate in the project's National Committee.

**Agenda item 10 - Adoption of a general outline for the preparation of SAP BIO Document**

43. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/4 "Draft General Outline for the Preparation of the SAP BIO Document". After congratulating the Secretariat on the good quality of the document proposed for the Meeting, the Chairperson invited the participants to review it.

44. The GEF Project Manager pointed out the importance of the SAP BIO document as the main output of the GEF-supported project, which will be used as a logical base for implementing the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Sea. The document as such had to be as clear and concise as possible. It would therefore be useful to agree on the length of each chapter proposed. Regarding the Priority Actions needed for the Conservation of Biodiversity, it would be

important to separate actions to be carried out at national level and actions at regional level. Finally, the Manager proposed exploring the possibility of holding a joint meeting of the Project Advisory Committee and the National Correspondents in January 2003 to evaluate the first draft of the SAP BIO Document, which would improve the quality of the final Document.

45. One National Correspondent stressed that it would be difficult to include such a meeting in the timetable of the project and drew the attention of participants to the fact that such a joint meeting would take place three months before the Meeting of National Correspondents already planned for April 2003. The Secretariat saw a 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting as possible if the funding problem was solved, particularly since RAC/SPA was having some difficulty identifying the additional funding needed for implementing the activities provided for by the project. Considering the links that exist between SAP BIO and MedWet, the MedWet Initiative offered to support RAC/SPA in convening a third meeting of the National Correspondents by contributing through the MedWet Coast Project and other MedWet activities to the fees related to the participation of some National Correspondents to the above meeting and other meeting needs,.

46. Certain problems were found with the meaning of the term 'hot spots' of biodiversity. It was agreed that the term would remain but should be clarified. To this end, the Secretariat was requested to search in past documents for a definition of the term.

47. After discussion about the extent of the terrestrial area the project should cover, the Meeting agreed to apply the principle, adopted within the Barcelona Convention, whereby each country would define the coastal terrestrial area in its territory within which SAP BIO activities will apply. However, there was general agreement by the Meeting that the priority and focus should be on the marine environment and terrestrial areas having links with it. The general outline for preparing the SAP BIO Document, as amended by the Meeting, appears in Annex V to this Report.

#### **Agenda item 11 - Adoption of guidelines for the preparation of the National Reports**

48. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/5, 'Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of National Reports'. Following on its debate on this Agenda item, the Meeting agreed on the changes to be included in this document. Guidelines for the preparation of the National Reports, as amended by the Meeting, appear in Annex VI.

#### **Agenda item 12 - Any other matters**

49. No other points were raised by participants under this Agenda item.

#### **Agenda item 13 - Adoption of the Report of the Meeting**

50. The Meeting adopted the Report, as amended.

**Agenda item 14 - Closure of the Meeting**

51. The closure of the meeting was prefaced by a presentation of Mr Rafael Robles, Director of COPEMED Project, who introduced COPEMED and underlined its links with RAC/SPA and SAP BIO Project in particular. He informed the meeting about the topics in which COPEMED is developing its activities (Marine Protected Areas benefits to fishery, fishing effect on marine turtles in western Mediterranean, application of information systems, circulation of scientific documents etc...).

52. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Meeting was closed on Wednesday, 4 July 2001 at 17.35 p.m.

# **ANNEX I**

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**



**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

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**ANNEX II**  
**AGENDA OF THE MEETING**



## **AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <u>Agenda item 1.</u>  | Opening of the Meeting  |
| <u>Agenda item 2.</u>  | Rules of procedure  |
| <u>Agenda item 3.</u>  | Election of Officers  |
| <u>Agenda item 4.</u>  | Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of work   |
| <u>Agenda item 5.</u>  | Presentation of the SAP BIO project and of the progress so far achieved   |
| <u>Agenda item 6.</u>  | Inventory of activity and outputs already developed at national and regional level in connection with SAP BIO Project |
| <u>Agenda item 7.</u>  | Terms of reference for the SAP BIO National Correspondents  |
| <u>Agenda item 8.</u>  | Planning and organisation of activities and establishment of a timetable of National Correspondents                   |
| <u>Agenda item 9.</u>  | Network of National Correspondents and establishment of the Network and co-ordination mechanisms                      |
| <u>Agenda item 10.</u> | Adoption of General Outline for the Preparation of SAP BIO Document   |
| <u>Agenda item 11.</u> | Adoption of Guidelines for the Preparation of the National Reports  |
| <u>Agenda item 12.</u> | Any other matters   |
| <u>Agenda item 13.</u> | Adoption of the report of the meeting   |
| <u>Agenda item 14.</u> | Closure of the meeting  |





# **ANNEXE III**

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS MADE WITHIN THE  
FRAMEWORK OF AGENDA ITEM 6**



## **ALBANIA**

Albania had finished in 1999 the study for the Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity and approved it by a Government decision in the year 2000. In the context of document a functional structure had been established, starting with the working group (including the Coastal Marine Ecosystem), the Implementating Board (which include the responsible persons for each working group) and on the Political Level the work will be had by the National Council for Nature and Biodiversity, (formed by several ministers and chaired by the Vice / Prime Minister). On the legal aspects the draft law on Protected Areas had been rendered on the beginning of this year to the Government for approval, on the other hand the draft law on Biodiversity Protection had been finished with the support of UNEP and the foreiny expertise of the CBD.

Albania had finished the coastal zone Management in the frame of week a report on the potential special Protected Areas was propered.

There are also different project related to the fishery directorate (part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food) for example the fishery Project, the ADRIAMED Project etc..

## **BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA**

Activities concerning the drafting of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity were undertaken in the beginning of 2001, however, there is a lack of data concerning the marine and coastal environment due to the lack of experts and institutions. On the other hand, a two year Life project is being carried out on the wetland Hutovo Blato. In the forthcoming period, the SAP BIO project could be the tool for the establishment of structures or mechanisms, either national or international, which would enable the national institutions to improve the knowledge about the marine and coastal ecosystems.

## **CROATIA**

Fulfilling its obligation as a party of CBD, republic of croatia prepared and adopted the national strategy and action plan for the protection of biological and landscape diversity NSAP (1999) NSAP provides the overview of the state of biological diversity in Croatia, it emphasizes strategic guidelines and identifies necessary actions, including the ones dealing with conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity ; the action plans that are being elaborated so far are :

- habitat mapping
- inventory of netlands
- red books of flora
- vertebrates
- butterflies
- and underground fauna

Besides Atlas of endemig flora in Croatia is in preparation. Draft proposal of the national environmental action plan (NEAP) was prepared and it is in the process of adoption. NEAP also identifies actions related to conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity as for the projects related to this issue it is important to mention two projects supported by the principality of Monaco (MLJET, CUTIN) as well as two transboundry projects dealing with the conservation of the lower Neretva valley in the mediterranean region of Croatia which was designated the RAMSAR site. The METAP has also supported several studies aimed at resolving important environmental problems affecting also the biodiversity. One of this studies included development of an environmental management plan for the Cres-losins Archipelago.

## **CYPRUS**

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research is responsible for marine biodiversity and for coastal biodiversity of marine/aquatic origin. It is responsible also for habitat protection in the sea and on the coast in relation to species of marine/aquatic origin.

The Fisheries Law and Regulations cover the protection of aquatic biota, including habitats and species in salt lakes and freshwaters. It provides for the protection of turtles, dolphins, seals and Ghost crabs.

A turtle conservation project aiming at the protection and conservation of marine turtles (Green and Loggerhead turtles), their eggs and hatchlings as well as their habitats was initiated in 1978 and has successfully been implemented since then.

A LIFE project entitled "Special Areas of Conservation (Directive 92/43/EEC) in Cyprus", coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment and the University of Athens is carried out in Cyprus. Its main objective is to provide the information needed for the implementation of the European Union (EU) Directive 92/43/EEC in Cyprus, that is the creation of a network of conservation areas eligible to be included in the NATURA 2000 network of Special Areas of Conservation. In the framework of this project, an inventory of coastal/marine habitats and of aquatic species of flora and fauna has been drawn up. A number of coastal/marine areas fulfilling the criteria of this Directive have been included in the national list of sites to be proposed for inclusion in the NATURA 2000 network.

## **EGYPT**

### **Nature Conservation**

Egypt's natural heritage is rich with a wide diversity of ecosystems. rendering it unique worldwide . In this respect , and within the context of sustainable development, the Government of Egypt, through the MSEA, accords a particular importance to maintaining this heritage for future generations . This is carried

out through the declaration and sustainable management of natural protected areas, in accordance to law 102 for 1983, in this regard. Currently , there exists 21 protected areas in Egypt, covering about 8% of the total national surface with plans to have this extended further to 17% by 2017. With the objective of protecting, promoting and maintaining the natural heritage of Egypt, a large number of activities and initiatives are being carried out.

On the national level, a National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation has been prepared, covering the period from 1997 till 2017. The strategy sets the main goals towards the protection of ecosystems and the management of natural resources and its various components . Moreover, a national system for protected areas is being developed, along with investigations of the local economic values of these areas and their possible contribution to the national economy, particularly through eco-tourism. In this regard, and with the purpose of elevating the economic profile of conservation , the national protected areas of Egypt were included in the investment and land use map of Egypt.

As for the immediate policy of the MSEA in the field of nature protection, it includes actions aimed at the strengthening of the existing capacities for the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and a drive towards the self –financing of conservation projects in protected areas .

More specifically, a primary line of action entails the effective and sustainable management of the existing protected areas. In this respect, programs for 9 protected areas, covering 15000 Km<sup>2</sup>, have been carried out, and visitors centers established in 11 protected areas along with access roads, offices, and staff accommodation. Moreover ,a world class visitor center containing displays of culture, historical and natural features of South Sinai, is under construction at Saint Catherine protected area, expected to be inaugurated in 2002 .One crucial aspect of these management programs is financial sustainability .Accordingly ,entrance fees have been introduced in a number of protected areas to raise revenue for their management.

Capacity building activities , having been recognized as a primary driving force to nature conservation ,present a cornerstone of the strategy MSEA and EEAA in this regard. In 2001/2002, and with support from the European Union , a focus area has been the South Sinai Governorate where 40%of its surface area is protected .Local Bedouin communities were introduced to conservation management activities ,and sustainable development activities of associated urban areas were conducted particularly on issues targeting solid waste management, cleanup campaigns and urban landscaping . In addition, the in Sharm El Sheilh training centre , established in 1999, is playing a central role in the organization of national and international training programs.

Other activities include the ongoing implementation of a long term monitoring program of coral reefs, investigating the influence of diving on the marine environment, as well as the initiation of a program for the restoration of Acacia trees . with an initial focus on South Sinai . In addition ,Within the framework of the GEF –supported Strategic Action Program for the Mediterranean Sea, initiatives are implemented , aiming at protecting wetland along the Mediterranean coast in Egypt, focusing on the areas of Zaranik ,Burullus and Ommayed . In partnership with the Government of Italy, initiatives have been successfully implemented for the environmental management and

development of the Siwa Oasis in the Western Desert, and are currently focused on the Wadi El Rayan protected area . Furthermore, plans are underway for the establishment of a Natural History Museum , a National Gene Bank and a Captive Breeding Program for rare and endangered animals destined for re- introduction to their natural habitats .

Priorities during 2001/2002 include the establishment of a Marine Park along the entire coastal and marine area of the west coast of the Red Sea, Within the context of the Egyptian Environmental Policy Program. This park is expected to be the second largest worldwide Another initiative scheduled for 2001/2002 is concerned With the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants and development of local knowledge in this regard in this regard, to be supported through GEF.

## **FRANCE**

### **Grandes lignes de la politique française En matière de conservation de la diversité biologique**

#### **1- Cadre juridique**

Le vote des lois ainsi que la ratification des traités et accords internationaux sont assurés en France par un parlement composé de deux chambres: l'Assemblée nationale et le Sénat. La protection de la nature et des paysages relève du ministère de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'environnement.

Un certain nombre de grands textes vise la protection de la diversité biologique. Sans être exhaustif, il en va ainsi de la loi du 10 juillet 1976 qui affirme que la protection des espaces naturels et des paysages, la préservation des espèces animales et végétales, le maintien des équilibres biologiques et la protection des ressources naturelles contre toutes les causes de dégradation sont d'intérêt général.

C'est aussi le cas de la loi du 3 janvier 1986 qui traite de l'aménagement, de la protection et de la mise en valeur du littoral, de celle du 3 janvier 1992 sur l'eau qui vise à préserver les écosystèmes aquatiques, les sites et les zones humides ou encore de celle sur la protection et la mise en valeur des paysages de 1993. De même, une loi du 2 février 1995 est venue renforcer la protection de l'environnement notamment en organisant la transcription des directives communautaires "Oiseaux" et "Habitats."

#### **2- Accords internationaux**

La France est partie à la plupart des conventions internationales: Barcelone (pour la protection de la mer Méditerranée contre la pollution et les 3 protocoles qui s'y rattachent), Ramsar (zones humides), Bonn (conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage), Berne (conservation de la vie sauvage et des milieux naturels de l'Europe), Rio (diversité biologique),....

### **3- Les aires protégées marines et côtières**

Le littoral français s'étend sur 1700 Km en Méditerranée ; 123 aires protégées ont été inscrites.

Deux aires protégées sont en cours de finalisation: Le Parc Marin International des Bouches de Bonifacio avec l'Italie, et le Sanctuaire pour la Conservation des Mammifères Marins.

### **4- Les espèces marines protégées de faune et de flore**

Parmi les espèces protégées par la réglementation française, on peut citer quelques exemples :

Dans le domaine de la faune : Mollusques **gastéropodes, bivalves**, Crustacés, Echinodermes oursins ;

Dans le domaine de la flore : Monocotylédones (*Cymodocea nodosa*, cymodocée, paille de mer), (*Posidonia oceanica*, pelote de mer, chiendent marin).

Il existe également des protections plus spécifiques concernant plusieurs espèces.

### **5- Observation/Etudes sur les espèces introduites enregistrées dans le domaine côtier méditerranéen**

Le Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement coordonne et finance, depuis 1999, un grand programme pluridisciplinaire concernant l'espèce invasive *Caulerpa taxifolia* ; ce programme, d'une durée de trois années, associe huit équipes scientifiques. Un nouveau programme, plus large, « Invasions Biologiques » est appelé à renforcer cette initiative au cours de l'année 2001.

### **6- Les activités entreprises dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du :**

- a- Plan d'action pour la gestion du phoque moine en Méditerranée,
- b- Plan d'action pour la conservation des tortues marines de Méditerranée,
- c- Plan d'action pour la conservation des cétacés en Méditerranée,

La France est associée à Monaco et à l'Italie dans le cadre de la création d'un Sanctuaire pour la Conservation des Cétacés en mer Méditerranée. Ce sanctuaire qui a fait l'objet d'un accord tripartite , à Rome, le 25 Novembre 1999, couvre une surface de 87 500 km<sup>2</sup> dans le bassin tyrrhénéo-corsico-provençal.

- d- Plan d'action pour la conservation de la végétation marine en Méditerranée

**Conclusion:** D'importantes difficultés subsistent dans la protection des zones côtières et du milieu marin méditerranéen : La côte française est fortement urbanisée; aussi toute action de protection doit-elle s'appuyer sur une large concertation entre les collectivités locales, les élus et l'Etat. La concertation s'accompagne souvent de conflits avec les promoteurs immobiliers, ce qui retarde d'autant la mise en oeuvre d'actions de gestion concrète. D'autre part, le développement d'infrastructures routières, l'urbanisation, la pollution tellurique, le développement de certaines activités sportives ( scooters des

mers ) ou touristiques (“ whale watching”) sont autant de sujets qui mobilisent les services soucieux de la conservation harmonieuse de la Méditerranée.

## **ISRAEL**

The Israel Ministry of the Environment is responsible for all aspects of the Barcelona Convention including its Protocols. The management and responsibility for protected areas and natural assets, including natural and cultural heritage sites is on the Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority. This authority is responsible for the protection of biodiversity and of natural and cultural sites. The Barcelona Convention and all its protocols as of 1992 were ratified by Israel, whereas the amendments to the convention and the protocols were signed by Israel and ratification is under process. Other related conventions ratified by Israel are CITES, CMS, RAMSAR, CBD, UNCCD, UNCCC, OZONE, and HAZARDOUS WASTES. The present list of proposed and declared nature reserves and national parks includes 14 marine reserves and 20 coastal reserves and 14 national parks. A new list of protected natural assets (to substitute the recent one) is under legal procedures. There is an outline for a national biodiversity strategy, as presented in the first national report to the CBD. There is no special effort for implementation made as a result of the strategy so far. There are some activities related to the SAP-BIO within the framework of the MAP, as the Marine turtles project, or the alien species inventory, as are some others, the Shiqmona project with a RAMSAR contribution, and coastal biodiversity monitoring of various groups. An annotated species list of marine macroalgae is under preparation, and a long term monitoring program of algal communities is performed.

## **ITALY**

J'aime rappeler quelques-uns des principales activités et des produits existants traitant de la conservation de la biodiversité marine et côtière en Italie:  
exécution des Directives Habitat et Oiseaux pour identifier les Sites de Importance Communautaires et les Zones de protection Spécial;  
réalisation de la cartographie des herbiers de Posidonie de la presque totalité de le cotes italiennes;  
inventaire des espèces allochtones introduit en Italie et rapport sur les modalités de leurs transport.

## **LIBYA**

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has signed and ratified the CBD and SPA protocol of Barcelona convention, this gives the Libyan Authorities and institutions the opportunity to work on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity particularly the marine and coastal biodiversity.

Towards this goal national biodiversity strategy and action plan is under preparing, started by establishment a national biodiversity committee carried



by the secretary of EGA and appointed with four sub-committees one of them is the marine and coastal biodiversity committee.

In establishing this strategy particular attention was paid to the collection and classification of data concerning this subject (e.g. national survey of turtles, survey of sea vegetation etc...).

National and international projects concerning the conservation of marine coastal biodiversity have been done in cooperation with many organisations on national, regional and international level (e.g. sea turtle, monk seal, sea vegetation and fishing sustainable management etc...).

## **MALTA**

The following are the main activities on the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity which is being carried out in Malta. (this list is not exhaustive of all the activities which are carried out in Malta).

**Species Action Plan Programme (SAPP)** which is being carried out in phases and which is presently at its first phase. It involves the following stages:

- (A) Identification of threatened species requiring special conservation measures
- (B) Compilation of action plans and reports for the conservation of priority species
- (C) Project for the control and/or eradication of alien or invasive taxa
- (D) Re-introduction of ancient taxa

### **Management of Nature reserves and set-up of Marine Protected Areas:**

Some existing nature reserves are managed by NGOs (under contract with Environment Protection Department and overviewed by a Management committee chaired by Environment Protection Department).

### **Implementing of the Natura 2000/Emerals Network (presently underway).**

For identification of areas of special conservation interest in the Maltese islands and their subsequent conservation and protection.

### **Biodiversity Monitoring programme**

Sites and species of particular interest are regularly monitored and appropriate action is taken when these are threatened.

### **MAP CAMP<sup>1</sup>**

This will identify and elaborate strategies, solutions, tools and actions contributing to sustainable development, environment protection and national utilisation of coastal and marine resources of the island of Malta, focusing on the Northwest area) to apply methodologies, tools and practices of sustainable coastal management and of integrated Coastal Areas Management (ICAM)  
c) to contribute towards the upgrading of national and local capacities for sustainable coastal management and protection of the environment.

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<sup>1</sup> CAMP refers to Coastal Area Management Programme.

At the project's completion a Marine Protected Area is envisaged.

**National Database on Biodiversity** under development

**State of the Environment Report** including sections on the state of the marine and coastal biodiversity and is currently being revised.

**Red data Book for the Maltese Islands** compiled in 1989 – preliminary revisions are being undertaken under the SAPP.

The environment Protection Department also aids other institutions on data concerning biodiversity e.g. collaboration with the Central Office of Statistics in the compilation of a list on threatened species in connection with a Blue Plan project (Medstat).

### **Structure Plan review for the Maltese Islands – Coastal Zone Management Strategy**

This Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands is currently being revised and draft documents concerning its amendments are under discussion e.g. extracts from the coastal zone strategy.

## **MAROC**

Comme activité au projet menée par mon pays en relation avec la biodiversité marine, je vous informe que dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de la convention sur la diversité biologique, le Département de l'Environnement a élaboré une étude nationale sur la biodiversité, faisant un diagnostic de toutes les espèces de faune et de flore présente sur le territoire avec description et identification des problèmes ayant un impact négatif sur ce type de ressources naturelles, ainsi, la biodiversité marine a fait l'objet d'un thème à part et toutes les données sont disponibles mais il n'y a pas quelques choses de spécifiques pour la biodiversité marine de la Méditerranée Maroc.

Un autre projet est en cours de réalisation pour l'élaboration d'une stratégie et d'un plan d'action national pour la biodiversité. Deux ateliers ont été réalisés dont notamment un, porte sur la biodiversité marine et côtière. Un rapport sur ce thème est disponible.

D'autres études sont déjà réalisées par d'autres départements du pays, notamment l'étude sur les aires protégées réalisée par le Département des Eaux et Forêts.

De même, plusieurs études achevées ou en cours relatives à la biodiversité marine, sont menées par le Département des Pêches Maritimes et les institutions de recherche comme l'Institut National des Ressources Halieutiques, les Universités, etc...

## **MONACO**

### **1/ Evaluation de la biodiversité :**

- Monaco est Partie aux divers accords internationaux relatifs à la conservation de la Biodiversité.
- Les inventaires des groupes marins principaux ont été réalisés : Macrophytes, Spongiaires, Cnidaires, Echinodermes, espèces déterminantes de Mollusques, Crustacés, Bryozoaires et Ascidies .
- Une liste d'espèces endémiques de méditerranée, présente sur le territoire a été établie.

### **2/ Identification des problèmes :**

à la suite de ces inventaires une stratégie pour la conservation de la biodiversité a été définie comprenant une série d'actions à mettre en œuvre. Ces actions concernent également la création de certains textes juridiques visant la protection de la Biodiversité marine et terrestre .

### **3/ Projets internationaux :**

- La Principauté développe dans le domaine de la biodiversité une coopération bilatérale avec la Croatie.

Deux projets sont en cours pour la période 2001-2002 :

- « Evaluation de la conservation des habitats marins du parc national de Mljet »
- « Valorisation biologique et écologique de l'aire marine et côtière de l'île de Cutin en vue d'établir une aire de conservation. »

- La Principauté a signé et ratifié le Sanctuaire franco-italo-monégasque pour la conservation des mammifères marins. Un dossier a été élaboré par les 3 pays en vue de l'inscription de l'aire à la liste des ASPIM. Des actions de conservation sont à définir en application du texte de l'Accord.

## **SLOVENIA**

The main activities concerning biodiversity conservation that are carried out in Slovenia at the moment can be summed as follows :

1. The National Strategy for the conservation of biodiversity is being finalised and it is supposed to be adopted by the end of 2001.
2. In this framework a group of experts dealing with marine and coastal environment drafted the part of the Strategy dealing with with marine and coastal biodiversity conservation.
3. A five year project on marine and coastal biodiversity, financed by the Ministry of Science and carried out by the Marine Biological Station, started in 1998.
4. The principles of biodiversity conservation were included in the new Law on Nature Protection from 1999.

5. The sea is supposed to be included in the State Spatial (Physical) Plan as Ecological Important Area, with the due consequences regarding the human activities in the sea and on the coastal area.

## **SPAIN**

In relation with the activities dealing with the SAP BIO that are being carried out in Spain, the most important aspect is the Spanish Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, elaborated in 1999. Nowadays, this Strategy is being developed through "Plans for Sustainable Development in Productive Sectors". These sectors are agriculture, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, game and fisheries, energy, tourism, industry, land use planning, transport, hydrological policy, public health and trade. For these sectors, plans should be drafted to identify concrete measures to be implemented in order to minimize or eliminate negative impacts. Drafts for all of them are available at this moment, and it is intended to submit them to a public participation process to obtain the definitive plans. This process will be implemented beginning with tourism, agriculture and transport sectors, and it is very related with the proposed SAP BIO national process.

The Working Group on Marine Species and Habitat, within the National Commission of Nature Protection, is the main forum for the inter-administration co-ordination on conservation of marine biodiversity. There are representatives of Regional Governments, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Fisheries, National Oceanographic Institute, experts from universities and researchers.

Another action related with SAP BIO is the protection of coastal and marine areas. Spain nowadays is focused on establishing the "Natura 2000 Network", which is the most advanced instrument to protect biodiversity. At present Spain is working in cooperation with the European Commission in order to establish the list of "Special Areas of Conservation". 67 coastal and marine areas in the Mediterranean Sea have been proposed, with a marine area of 360.000 Hectares.

In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and Regional Governments have established since 1982 thirteen "Marine Reserves for Fisheries" created under the protection of fishing legislation, in the Mediterranean Sea.

In relation with conservation of marine species, nine invertebrates, one fish, four reptiles and seventeen marine mammals are included in the National Catalogue of Threatened Species, five of them in the category "In danger of extinction". All cetacean species are included in the Habitats Directive and, consequently, under protection, and some of those species have been included in the National Catalogue too. Their inclusion in this Catalogue implies that an Action Plan for each species must be developed by Regional Authorities, where the species are analyzed and the necessary actions are taken in order to avoid the decrease of those populations. Nowadays, the Ministry of Environment and Regional

Governments are working on reviewing the Catalogue of marine flora and invertebrates threatened taxa.

On the other hand, the National Inventories of Cetacean Species, fresh water fishes and Habitats of the European Habitat Directive have been carried out. The Atlas of Spanish habitats not included in the European Habitat Directive, the Atlas of Amphibious and Reptiles and the Inventory of Birds and Mammals will be drawn up at a later stage.

Finally, the Ministry of Environment has carried out the following projects:

- Coordination between Central and Regional Governments to develop a standard marking system and methodology for marked marine turtles.
- A database on Recovery Centers and activities about marine turtles and cetaceans in Spain, as well as some protocols to coordinate and harmonize the collection of data.
- Identification of Areas of Special Interest for cetaceans in Spanish Mediterranean coasts.
- Conservation of bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), studying the populations of the species and the interaction with fishing resources.
- Impact generated by fast ferries on populations of cetaceans in the Strait of Gibraltar, concerning collisions with ships and “deafness” of species due to maritime traffic.
- Legislation establishing measures for conservation of cetaceans in relation with whale watching tourism.
- Proposal for the creation of a database of cetacean strandings of the whole Mediterranean basin, within the RAC/SPA activities.

## **SYRIA**

### **Implementation of national biodiversity strategy and action plan with regard to the Mediterranean coastal zones**

Through 1999-2000 the Biodiversity Unit have prepared the national strategy and action plan and submitted it to the Supreme Council for Environment Safety for the ratification.

The Syrian government works to implement the procedures related the national strategy and action plan.

The main objective for the marine strategy is to conserve and manage marine biodiversity.

### **Activities related to the inventories (completed or ongoing) of sites using the Standard Data-Entry Form (SDF) for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest**

One of the NBU's action plan activities through 2001-2002 is the establishment of a comprehensive Data-Base for the Biodiversity components including marine Fauna and Flora.

**The most important points related of the conservation of marine biodiversity in national strategy for the short and long terms were :**

1. Prepare project proposals for the management of all legislated marine protected areas such as Um Al Toyour.
2. Begin the process of legislating all the suggested marine protected areas to provide an adequate coverage of the remaining marine ecosystems.
3. Promote cooperation between Syrian government Ministries, Agencies and various community based organizations in developing marine life management policies that would guarantee the continued existence of wild flora and fauna along the Syrian shore of the Mediterranean Sea.
4. Modernize and apply the law N° 30 of 1964 that protects aquatic species, decrees that regulate fishing in marine waters, and all the relevant instructions of the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment.
5. Control in an effective manner all sources of pollution and actively penalize all violators
6. Establish a system of marine protected areas consist of legislated and proposed areas
7. Build sewage treatment stations to treat the liquid waste generated by coastal cities before dumping it into the sea.
8. Propagate marine species that are threatened and promote fish farming.

## **TUNISIA**

La Tunisie a entrepris plusieurs actions en vue de préserver la biodiversité aussi bien marine que côtière.

### **Sur le plan Juridique :**

Après avoir ratifié toutes les conventions en vigueur, La Tunisie a développé sa juridiction pour pouvoir honorer ses engagements internationaux. Aussi plusieurs textes ont été adoptés ces dernières années d'autres sont en cours de promulgation dont particulièrement :

- La loi sur les aires protégées marines et côtières
- Le cadre juridique (deux lois) sur l'utilisation et le transfert des organismes génétiquement modifiés

### **En terme d'action :**

La Tunisie a réalisé un inventaire national sur la biodiversité terrestre et marine. Cet inventaire a servi de base pour l'élaboration du plan d'action national pour la diversité adoptée en 1998 par plusieurs projets relatifs à la préservation de la biodiversité sont en cours de réalisation :

- Etude d'identification des habitats remarquables et des sites potentiels pour l'implantation de récifs artificiels au niveau du golfe de Gabès financé par la Tunisie et confié à l'Institut National des Sciences et des Technologies de la Mer (INSTM).
- Etude de la gestion intégrée du Golfe de Gabès PDF-B du GEF
- Programme de mise en place de cinq parcs marins et côtiers dont celui de la Galite qui est en cours de mise en place avec l'appui financier de la France (FFEM) et l'appui scientifique du CAR/ASP.

- Le projet MedWet Coast dont la Tunisie participe avec cinq zones humides et écosystèmes côtiers) et dont les études de diagnostic ont été réalisées et offre des informations sur la biodiversité assez complètes et à jour.
- La cartographie de l'herbier de posidonie confié à l'INSTM et financé par l'APAL.

## **TURKEY**

According to the provisions of the Convention of Biological Diversity Turkey has just prepared and finished its National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity. Also as part of this process, an other project which is funded by GEF namely "Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management Project" has become effective in July 2000 and is being implemented over a six-year period. This project will address priority conservation planning and management challenges that are common to many priority biodiversity sites throughout Turkey, including the impacts of existing or encroaching mass tourism, unsustainable use of common resources and inadequate coordination of biodiversity conservation initiatives with sectoral and local land use planning.

Also for the conservation of threatened species such as monk seals and marine turtles, several projects have been carried out.

## **ACCOBAMS**

L'accord a un Plan de Conservation qui comporte 5 domaines d'action :

- l'adoption et la mise en œuvre de la législation nationale
- l'évaluation et la gestion des interactions homme-Cétacés
- la protection des habitats
- la recherche et la surveillance continue
- le renforcement des capacités, la collecte la diffusion de renseignements, la formation et l'éducation
- les réponses aux situations d'urgence

Ces domaines correspondent parfaitement au Plan d'Action pour les cétacés du PAM et lui donne une valeur juridique.

Parmi les produits attendus du PAS BIO, plusieurs concernent l'impact des pêches sur les habitats et les espèces. C'est un des thèmes principaux d'ACCOBAMS et dans ce domaine tout particulièrement il pourra être partenaire et acteur aussi bien au travers du Comité consultatif du PAS BIO dont il fait partie qu'au travers du mémorandum de coopération qui va être signé avec le CAR/ASP.

## **ADRIAMED (FAO)**

The present note refers to, and updates the information given in the "Report of the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Project for the Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region", particularly in the Annex III "The FAO-AdriaMed

Project and its activities of interest to the SAP BIO Project". Further recent developments of the AdriaMed Project which may have some relevance to SAO BIO are briefly reported.

The initial phase of the FAO-executed Regional (Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia) Project "Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea" ended recently. Full details of the AdriaMed programme and outputs produced so far, are available from the Project's website at [www.faoadriamed.org](http://www.faoadriamed.org).

It may be worth pointing out that within the AdriaMed framework particular attention is given to those species whose stocks in the Adriatic Sea are shared by the fishing fleets of at least two countries. Amongst some of the recent activities which are being implemented by AdriaMed (and previously not indicated in the above referred SAP BIO Report) the following may be of interest to SAP BIO:

Collection and review of current fishery legislation framework of each country participating in the Project so to highlight main similarities or differences in the adopted fishery management measures

Organization of a socio-economic network focussing on the Adriatic fishing sector finalised to the characterization of the main national fisheries and to the identification and use of comparable social and economic indicators.

Establishment of a regional, consultative and neutral forum for the representatives of the fishing industry (fishworkers and entrepreneurs) of the Adriatic coastal states where some of the relevant issues will be addressed jointly by the resource users at regional level.

The above mentioned activities, as well as the majority of the AdriaMed Project activities have been identified and formulated with the aim of fully receipting the relevant recommendations given in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted by the FAO Conference in 1995.

The FAO-AdriaMed Project will support the establishment of close links between its National Focal Points and SAP BIO National Correspondents so as to ensure the flow of information and optimisation of activities within the mandate of the two Projects.

## **FEDERCOOPESCA**

Je suis heureux d'avoir été invité à cette réunion que je trouve intéressante et importante. Je suis un technologiste de pêche et mes études se sont déroulés surtout sur l'impact des engins sur ces espèces cibles et sur l'environnement en général.



La protection de la biodiversité commence à être bien considérée par les pêcheurs parce que il savent que seulement si la mer reste comme elle était, ils peuvent continuer à pêcher et à obtenir des revenus de leur activité.

Dans les derniers temps les pêcheurs voient avec b n volence la constitution des aires marines prot g es naturellement si elles sont faites avec concertation avec eux m mes.

Si les choses sont faites sans consulter les p cheurs, il y a des probabilit s consistantes qu'ils n'acceptent pas de les respecter.

Plus en g n ral il y a des difficult s   accepter des limitations   eux incompr hensibles si elles ne sont pas respect es par tout le monde.

Pour mieux m'expliquer je veux faire deux exemples : les p cheurs italiens, avec beaucoup de difficult s , d'accord, mais ils ont accept  le ban des filets d rivant pour l'espadon et le germon. Ils ne sont pas d'accord d'accepter le ban aussi des petits filets d rivant, avec petites maille qui ont comme esp ces cibles les p lagiques de petite et moyenne dimension, parce qu' ils disent qu'il n'a pas de capture d'esp ces prot g es.

Encore ils ont des difficult s   respecter les limitations sur la p che, par exemple du thon rouge parce qu'ils savent qu'il y a des bateaux qui ne sont pas des pays de la M diterran e, quelque fois des pavillons fant mes qui peuvent p cher sans limitations.

Je vous remercie d'avoir invit  FEDERCOOPESCA, et j'esp re que nous pourrions avoir une collaboration future, constructive, profitable et surtout utile pour la meilleure conservation de la mer.

# ANNEX IV

## **GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS OF SAP BIO PROJECT**



## **GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS OF SAP BIO PROJECT**

The SAP BIO project document envisages SAP BIO National Correspondents as part of the project institutional arrangements. These Correspondents will have to act at dual level:

- a) as individual National Correspondents, with the role, function and tasks to be implemented at national level, and
- b) as an institutionalised body (the Network of National Correspondents), with the role, function and tasks to be implemented at regional level.

Accordingly, the Terms of Reference presented below are structured as two parts, the first related to the National Correspondents, and the second related to the Network of National Correspondents.

### **A. GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUAL SAP BIO NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS**

#### **I. Role, tasks and institutional framework**

Individual SAP BIO National Correspondents will be responsible for running the project at national level in their respective countries. Their main role is to stimulate and coordinate activities at national level aimed at preparing the SAP BIO National Reports and the priority SAP BIO National Action Plans (NAPs), as well as to provide inputs for preparing the regional SAP BIO document. These activities will also include defining and coordinating the national consultation process. The National Correspondent will constitute RAC/SPA's main contact point for examining the progress of preparing the national and regional activities, and finalizing the documents being prepared. Within the national institutional arrangements, individual National Correspondents will act under the guidance and according to the instructions of the National Body designated as Lead Agency of the Project, and of the SAP BIO's National Steering Committee, an ad hoc committee responsible for supervising the process of developing the SAP BIO at national level.

Individual National Correspondents, acting at national level, will in particular provide for:

- identifying, contacting, and guiding the national institutions/bodies to be involved in the process,
- organising, with the support and assistance of RAC/SPA, the national consultation process/workshop, within the process of preparing the national documents,
- establishing national teams, ad hoc committees, and the necessary logistical, administrative and technical support for them,
- providing the necessary logistical, administrative and technical support for the SAP BIO's National Steering Committee,
- passing on information and communication from the national side to RAC/SPA and to the Network, and vice versa, and

- preparing Half-yearly Progress Reports for RAC/SPA, also to be distributed to other Network members.

In addition, the National Correspondents will be directly involved (i) in the process of formulating and implementing the relevant national participatory activities, and (ii) in the process of discussing/evaluating/amending the draft SAP BIO regional document.

The National Correspondent, to carry out her/his tasks, must necessarily be supported by resource persons, to be identified at national level, including by NGOs and the National Focal Points of the organisations that are members of the Advisory Committee.

To this end, member organisations are requested to circulate information about the SAP BIO to their Focal Points in the Mediterranean countries, asking them to contact the SAP BIO National Correspondent.

The National Steering Committees for SAP BIO should include, *inter alia* and taking into account specific national features, representatives of NGOs and of national governmental bodies and universities with technical and scientific expertise in marine and coastal biodiversity issues. The basic role of the Committee is to provide guidance for elaborating the National SAP BIO document, to give practical support for preparing the document and to coordinate the process at national level, avoiding duplication.

## **II. Nomination and profile of National Correspondents**

Individual National Correspondents will be nominated by their respective MAP NFPs. If possible and appropriate, they will preferably be members of the respective SAP BIO National Lead Agency, or in some cases consultants appointed by the National Lead Agency.

Their affiliation, academic degrees and professional background and references should guarantee their competence and capacity for implementing the role and tasks defined by these Terms of Reference.

It is recommended that the National Correspondents meet certain requirements. They should:

- be at the highest possible level in the hierarchy of the respective institution,
- have a good knowledge of aspects related to coastal and marine biodiversity and be able to deal with problems concerning fishing and socio-economic aspects,
- have a good command of either English or French,
- be accustomed to elaborating reports/documents of the kind,
- be familiar with the principles and practices of consultation participatory processes, in particular within national conditions,
- be available to carry out the envisaged tasks.

Detailed obligations and tasks of each individual National SAP BIO Correspondent

with respect to RAC/SPA will be defined on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the specific national conditions.

### III. Internal arrangements

Individual National Correspondents will be members of the Network of National Correspondents.

At national level they will act according to:

- instructions from the SAP BIO National Lead Agency and guidance from the SAP BIO National Steering Committee or any other structure, and
- guidance from RAC/SPA, taking into account the recommendations made by the Project Advisory Committee and by the Network of National Correspondents.

### IV. Activities, timetable

According to the SAP BIO Project document, the following activities of each individual National SAP BIO Correspondent are envisaged:

Activity:	Place, venue, dates:
1) Participating in the First Meeting of the National Correspondents	Alicante, 2-4 July 2001
2) Contributing to establishing the SAP BIO national institutional arrangements	July 2001
3) Identifying and recruiting national consultants/ teams to carry out the activities envisaged at national level	October 2001
4) Contribution to and guidance in preparing the draft National Reports	July 2001 - March 2002
5) Contribution to and guidance in the national consultation process, establishing ad hoc committees, workshop(s), as appropriate	July 2001 - March 2002
6) Contribution to and guidance in preparing the SAP BIO priority NAPs	May 2002 - June 2002
7) Participating in the Second Meeting of the National Correspondents	April 2003
8) Preparing the Half-yearly Progress Reports to be presented to national bodies and to RAC/SPA	Half-yearly

## **B. GUIDELINES FOR THE NETWORK OF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS**

### **I. The role, tasks and institutional framework of the Network:**

The Network of SAP BIO National Correspondents is one of the institutional bodies envisaged by the project to act at regional level.

The Network is composed of all individual National Correspondents and includes in practice the activities to be implemented jointly by all the National Correspondents. Most of these activities are of regional character.

The Network will be established at the First Meeting of National Correspondents, after the First Meeting of the Project Advisory Committee, and taking into account the respective recommendations made by that Meeting.

The basic role and task of the Network is to provide detailed technical advice and recommendations in the process of elaborating the regional SAP BIO and drafting the respective national documents.

Advice and recommendations of the Network will be addressed to:

- RAC/SPA, for advice and recommendations of a general nature, concerning the project,
- the international consultants involved, providing assistance to national teams,
- the responsible national authorities and teams, concerning the preparation of National Reports and selected priority SAP BIO National Action Plans (NAPs) and
- the regional team(s) or RAC/SPA related to preparing the regional draft SAP BIO document.

In particular, the Network will provide for:

- (a) the flow and exchange of information about national activities directly related to the project (implemented, ongoing or planned) within the Network membership and with RAC/SPA
- (b) information to Network members and RAC/SPA about other activities implemented and/or about documents prepared or in preparation at national level that are of relevance for the project
- (c) harmonization among countries, as appropriate, of activities and results at the level of individual countries concerning the activities envisaged by the project
- (d) an evaluation of and recommendations concerning the institutional arrangements envisaged by the project at regional and national level, in particular related to the role and functions of:
  - (i) the Network of National Correspondents itself,
  - (ii) the individual National Correspondents, at national level,
  - (iii) other national arrangements envisaged - the National Lead Agency, the SAP BIO's National Steering Committee, the national consultative process /National Workshop, the national teams/ad hoc sub committees, and

- (iv) mechanisms for coordinating project activities
- (e) technical and scientific advice concerning the entire process of project implementation, in particular related to the process of preparing the National Reports, and selected priority SAP BIO National Action Plans (NAPs), and
- (f) evaluating, amending, finalising and adopting:
  - (i) the General Outline for preparing the SAP BIO document,
  - (ii) Guidelines for preparing the National Reports,
  - (iii) all other Guidelines envisaged by the project, and
  - (iv) the revised draft SAP document.

## II. Activities, timetable

According to the SAP BIO Project document, the following Network activities are envisaged (the timetable to be understood as provisional only):

Activity:	Place, venue, dates:
1) First Meeting of the National Correspondents	Alicante, 2-4 July, 2001
2) Second Meeting of the National Correspondents	April, 2003
3) Activities between Meetings:	
- information to members, through Half-yearly Progress Reports prepared by RAC/SPA	Half-yearly
- ad hoc information, prepared by RAC/SPA	as appropriate
- information sent to RAC/SPA and to the Network by Network members in their national role (Half-yearly Progress Reports) also to be distributed by RAC/SPA to all Network members	Half-yearly

## III. Expected outputs

### a) Outputs of the First Meeting of National Correspondents

- Terms of Reference for individual SAP BIO National Correspondents and for the Network adopted
- The Network established
- The Meeting's Report
- Recommendations concerning coordination mechanisms
- The General Outline for preparing the SAP BIO adopted
- Guidelines for preparing the National Reports adopted, and
- Other outputs, if so decided by the First Meeting (e.g. recommendations concerning assistance to be provided to countries; applying the participatory



approach; additional issues of concern to be included in activities at regional and/or national level...).

**b) Intermediate (between Meetings) outputs**

- The Half-yearly Progress reports prepared by RAC/SPA circulated
- Other, ad hoc, reports and information, if any, prepared by RAC/SPA circulated
- The Half-yearly Progress Reports prepared by individual National Correspondents in their national role circulated
- Other outputs, if recommended by the First Meeting and agreed on with RAC/SPA (e.g. inputs related to technical and/or other information to be prepared by RAC/SPA or by international consultants).
- Web site of SAP BIO Project

**c) Outputs of the Second Meeting**

- Information by RAC/SPA on the progress of preparing the regional SAP BIO document
- Recommendations/amendments related to preparing the final version of the draft SAP BIO
- The Meeting's Report, and other outputs, if so decided by the Meeting.

# **ANNEX V**

## **GENERAL OUTLINE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SAP BIO DOCUMENT**



## **INTRODUCTION**

The project "Determination of priority actions for further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" developed in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, includes the "Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region", (SAP BIO) with RAC/SPA as the Lead Agency.

In formulating this project, particular attention was paid to existing plans and programmes and in particular to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The CBD is an overall general legal framework whose implementation in the Mediterranean marine and coastal zone could be undertaken through the SPA protocol. Within this framework, SAP BIO would be partially considered as implementing part of the Jakarta Mandate of the CBD.

## **SAP BIO PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the SAP BIO project is to establish a logical base for implementing the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Sea, providing for an outline of activities over a thirty-months period, in order to produce a SAP for the conservation of biodiversity, to be presented and adopted at the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

In doing this, it is recommended that the project focus the correct level of attention on the role of local communities, with the aim of involving them in planning and carrying out future projects.

## **INPUTS TO THE SAP BIO**

The National Reports, priority National Action Plans, and regional reports will represent the major inputs to the SAP BIO. It is therefore of prime importance that these documents be conceived, elaborated and formatted in a way that is compatible and consistent with the SAP BIO.

In addition to the outputs elaborated within the framework of the project, the SAP BIO should incorporate other inputs, mainly existing strategies and results obtained within the framework of other networks and/or organisations.

## **ISSUES ADVERSELY AFFECTING BIODIVERSITY, OF POTENTIAL PRIORITY CONCERN FOR THE SAP BIO**

A final, comprehensive list of issues of primary importance within the biodiversity context can only be prepared on the basis of completed National Reports. Therefore, in this initial phase of the project, only a provisional, not an exhaustive, list might be suggested:

- eutrophication,
- tourism and urban development,
- infrastructure development,
- hunting and fishing,

- pollution hot spots,
- habitats and ecosystems in danger - critical for biodiversity issues,
- invasive species.

In addition, other issues of potential impact on biodiversity could be listed, to be taken into consideration:

- erosion and desertification phenomena and processes,
- change of land use,
- socio-economic issues: migration, abandoning the land, encroaching on coastal areas, rural exodus, impacts of poverty, illegal practices,
- trade in rare species,
- over-exploitation of coastal and marine resources (not fisheries only),
- incorrect agricultural practices,
- forest fires,
- disasters, natural phenomena, climate change.

Finally, issues of a general nature will have to be analysed, leading to respective priority actions later on:

- gaps in knowledge, leading to the required research (scientific, technical, management research),
- institutional and human capacity for implementing, monitoring, assessing and updating, leading to capacity building actions,
- level of public awareness and the awareness of the authorities, willingness to implement,
- participation, involvement of the general public and stakeholders, leading to the identifying of the respective priority actions.

## **CONTENTS OF THE SAP BIO**

Analysing other comparable documents at regional and national level, as well as taking into account the above-mentioned conceptual approach and provisions of the project document, the following contents for the SAP BIO are proposed as a basis for discussion.

### **Preface**

(to be written referring to the following points:)

- Special features of the Mediterranean region
- The importance of the marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean
- Relationship between climate changes and biodiversity
- The relationship between biodiversity conservation and sustainable economic development in general in the Mediterranean
- The main initiatives taken in the past regarding the conservation of the marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean
- The new Protocol concerning "Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Sea"
- RAC/SPA's activities and its being chosen as Lead Agency for the SAP BIO project
- The objectives and expected results of the SAP BIO
- Acknowledgements.

### **Table of contents**

(as listed below – including the above Preface)

### **List of acronyms**

(This will include a list of words, usually pronounced as such, formed from the initial letters of other words, and what they stand for, used in the text, e.g.:

- CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity
- NAP – National Action Plan
- RAC/SPA – Regional Activity Centre/Specially Protected Areas
- SAP – Strategic Action Plan
- UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme...etc.)

### **Executive summary**

(Will include a summary of the text, highlighting the main points)

### **Methodology used for the elaboration of SAP BIO**

(Will include explanation about methods used to prepare the document)

## **1. Introduction and background information**

The answer to “Why do we need a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean?” will introduce the project. Reference will be made to its general concept. The introduction will also give detailed background information on the whole process, starting from the adoption in 1975 of the Mediterranean Action Plan and in 1976 of the Barcelona Convention. It will refer *inter alia* to:

- the decision taken by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 1981 to establish a Centre for Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas
- the adoption of the Protocol concerning MSPA in 1982 by the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries
- the process of revising the MAP and its legal instruments, particularly MAP Phase II and the new Protocol concerning SPAs and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
- the Convention on Biological Diversity signed at the United Nations Rio de Janeiro Conference on the Environment and Development in 1992
- the Jakarta Mandate on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity
- the several important aspects of the new SPA Protocol which entered into force in December 1999
- SAP MED
- the follow-up of a project proposal on “Determination of priority actions for further elaboration and implementation of the SAP for the Mediterranean Sea”, which was eventually approved by the GEF Council in April 2000, and which includes the “Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for biodiversity in the Mediterranean region”, with RAC/SPA as the Lead Agency.

## **2. Conceptual framework**

### **2.1 Objectives of the SAP BIO**

This will explain the main objective of the SAP BIO project.

The SAP BIO is aimed at establishing a logical base for implementing the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Sea

## **2.2 Principles to be applied**

To attain the objectives of the Strategy actions should be guided by various principles.

- When conceiving, developing and implementing the SAP BIO, existing projects, action plans, and initiatives concerning marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea should be taken into account.
- When identifying and carrying out measures for conservation of the marine/coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region within a sustainable-use framework, those related to the implementing of the provisions made by the new SPA Protocol and its Annexes should be given high priority.
- Within the assessment process, gaps in knowledge at regional level and predominant at national level should be identified.
- A system for assessing the status of marine/coastal biodiversity and defining methodologies and the institutional capacity for updating the assessment, its starting point being a regional assessment based on existing information and inventories, with attention paid to "bio hotspots", should be developed.
- Issues, causes and the significance of factors adversely affecting marine and coastal biodiversity (eutrophication, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, hunting, fishing, erosion/desertification, change of land use, abandoning of land, illegal trade in rare species...), taking into consideration pollution hot spots, sensitive habitats and ecosystems critical for threatened species, should be identified.
- Principles, measures, targets, timetables and ranking of actions at national, regional and transboundary level should be developed.
- National Action Plans, preparing an Investment Portfolio, and identifying stakeholders, their role and responsibilities and their participation in the process should be developed.
- Responsibility for any necessary action must be shared at national level by all the social and economic sectors in each country.
- Obligations, in this case particularly as to the implementing of the new SPA Protocol, should be respected at national level.
- All actions taken at all levels (national, sub-regional or regional) must be coordinated using coordinating instruments when and where these exist, and creating others when and where necessary.
- Non-governmental organisations must be involved in the drafting and execution of conservation policies.

## **2.3 Expected use of the SAP BIO**

The main use of the SAP BIO is to provide a basis for implementing the actions identified at national and regional level. It will also be used to:

- reach consensus on measures to be taken,
- increase awareness and willingness on national actions,
- involve all stakeholders,
- improve the technical basis,
- identify and rank causative factors,
- develop NAPs,
- declare new protected areas,
- manage protected areas,
- increase the protection and management of species.

## **2.4 Inputs**

This sub-section will include other inputs derived mainly from existing strategies and results obtained within the framework of other networks and/or organisations. Declarations and Initiatives of other institutions and organisations will also be taken into consideration.

## **3. Synthesis of National Reports and NAPs**

Given the fact that the National Reports and National Action Plans will represent one of the major inputs to the SAP BIO, this section will present a thorough synthesis of all such National Reports and Action Plans. This synthesis will bring under one umbrella all the separate elements found in them. It may present in thematic form and at national level all the various issues, problems (with their status and trends) and threats (highlighting their causes, impacts and significance). It will also present all the priority actions, including the National Action plans, in a coherent, detailed manner.

## **4. Regional assessment**

Taking into consideration the input and important contributions made by the National Reports regarding the situation in each respective country and the regional reports (i.e. FAO documents to face the impact of fishing activities on biological diversity), this section will carry a general detailed assessment of

- the major issues, elaborating their causes, impacts and significance at regional level
- the issues of sub-regional or national importance, together with their causes and impacts
- the status of sensitive habitats and critical sites that are of ecological importance
- the status of sensitive and/or endangered Mediterranean species
- issues of transboundary character (scope)

## **5. Identification of priorities**

Determining priorities is not an easy task. More often than not the capacity of governments and organisations to deal with environmental problems is limited. There are usually several other demands that need urgent attention. The dilemma is how to use the limited financial and human resources in the most effective way. So in seeking the conservation of biodiversity one must be selective and ask which species, habitats and sites most merit attention. Some may need urgent action requiring both human and financial resources. Others may simply require some form of legislation. This section will identify priorities after an assessment of the National Reports. Priorities may be presented at five levels:

- Priorities of a general nature
- Priorities at regional level
- Priorities at national level
- Common priorities per critical site, area, ecosystem
- Common priorities for endangered species.

## **6. Definition of approaches and measures**

This section constitutes an important part of the SAP BIO. It will define the approaches and measures to be taken. Apart from offering a diagnosis of the situation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean, the SAP should project a harmonisation of its



proposed actions with other ongoing or planned programmes.

Possible examples of approaches are:

- the Ecosystem Approach - This is useful when information is available on different scales, from species upward. Although a large-scale approach is recommended, the ecosystem approach may be performed at the different levels of: organism; population; community; ecosystem; and landscape
- the approach which uses the Precautionary Principle. This approach is useful when little or no data is available, and can be applied on different scales
- the mutual assistance
- the participative approach.

## **7. Identification, definition and ranking of Priority Actions**

One of the objectives of the National Reports is to identify priority issues and their causes and impacts and identify and elaborate the measures and priority actions needed. This section will identify, define and rank priority actions, distinguishing between priority actions at National level and priority actions at Regional level. Various measures can be considered, e.g.

- sustainable use of natural resource and land
- in-situ conservation (protected natural areas, conservation outside the protected areas, species conservation, habitat conservation, wetlands, the marine environment)
- ex-situ conservation
- institutional reforms
- legislative reforms
- economic reforms
- training, education and awareness
- research
- international co-operation and networking
- data collection/filling gaps in knowledge

## **8. Coordination and synergy among relevant organisations**

The role that relevant organisations could play in implementing the SAP BIO activities should be presented here taking into account the aims and status of each of them.

## **9. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting**

Monitoring is a process by which actual or potential changes in ecological character can be detected. It generally requires a specific reason and method for collecting particular data or information. This section will outline the framework for designing two types of monitoring:

- monitoring priority actions
- general monitoring of other issues, including the ongoing process of the SAP BIO.

This section will also present evaluating and reporting programmes directed at and related to the various issues, problems and threats as well as indicators to be used to this end.

Ideally this process should involve two steps:

- the first is aimed at monitoring, evaluating and reporting the status of the existing biodiversity (at different levels, i.e. species, population, community, ecosystem, landscape) in the region, starting from the National Reports,
- the second is aimed at monitoring, evaluating and reporting the status of bodies and elements dealing with biodiversity, such as the policies, laws, capabilities and popular consensus in the different countries of the region.

## **10. Investment Portfolio**

The Investment Portfolios will be lifted from the National Reports and will be summarized in this section. Investment portfolio for the actions to be implemented at regional level will be given in this section. A number of summarizing tables will also be presented.

## **11. Provisions for Follow-up**

The SAP BIO is long-term in character. The measures and actions to be implemented are of a complex nature and therefore it will be appropriate to consider the need to elaborate on:

- preparing Regional and National Operational Strategies for implementing the SAP
- a further refining of the Investment Portfolios at national level, thus improving the base for international support and funding
- preparing a long-term Strategy for international funding
- identifying research priority actions to be started immediately
- capacity building
- immediate participatory activities, public campaigns, etc
- Further refining of SPA protocol.

**Annexes** (if needed and as appropriate)

### **Reference bibliography**

A list of all publications referred to or consulted.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRINCIPLES FOR PREPARING THE SAP BIO**

- Within the assessment process, gaps in knowledge at regional level and those predominant at national level should be identified.
- When considering the potential and available socio-economic measures, market instruments, change of consumption pattern, measures connected with issues related to poverty, migration, rural exodus, the abandoning of land, etc., should be considered, if relevant.
- When identifying measures, those related to the implementing of provisions made by the SPA Protocol and its Annexes should be given high priority.
- Measures related to impacts of disasters, potential catastrophes and forest fires if relevant should be considered.
- When devising provision for follow-up actions, to be implemented after the SAP BIO is adopted, taking into account its long-term character and the complex nature of measures and actions to be implemented, as well as the resulting level of

- expenditure, it seems recommendable to consider the need for:
- preparing a Regional, and National, Operational Strategies for implementing the SAP BIO,
  - a further finalizing of Investment Portfolios at national level, thus improving the base for international support and funding,
  - preparing a long-term Strategy for international funding,
  - identifying research priority actions to be started immediately,
  - capacity building,
  - immediate participatory activities, public campaigns, etc.

### **THE WORKING TEAM**

Due to the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary character of the SAP BIO, a working team composed of experienced members with various profiles is needed for its preparation. The structure, profiles and other requirements will be elaborated in the Detailed Outline, taking into account the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee and the guidance of the First Meeting of the National Correspondents.

### **THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE, WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE**

The steps to be envisaged for preparing the document could be as follows:

- Defining the structure and composition of the working team
- Identifying potential members of the team
- A working session with team members: description of the tasks to be carried out, inputs, procedures and deadlines, distribution of tasks among team members, definition of phasing of preparation of individual parts/chapters and other logistical details as appropriate
- Preparing individual contributions (drafts) by team members, as defined by the distribution of tasks among members and the Workplan
- A working session to revise individual contributions and provide for formulating a draft version of parts of and/or the entire document
- Editing the first draft SAP BIO
- Presenting the first draft SAP BIO at the Third Meeting of the Project Advisory Committee
- Presenting the revised first draft SAP BIO at the Second Meeting of National Correspondents
- Preparing the final version of the draft SAP BIO
- Presenting the final draft of the SAP BIO document at the:
  - 2003 Meeting of RAC/SPA NFPs
  - 2003 Meeting of MAP NFPs, (May - September 2003), and
- Submitting the draft SAP BIO document to the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption (autumn 2003).

# **ANNEX VI**

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS**



## **FOREWORD**

While running independently, national processes will follow common guidelines with a view to providing comparable, compatible inputs to the SAP BIO. The present document aims at giving guidelines for preparing National Reports.

The national reports should be prepared taking into account the documents available at national level, in particular the National Reports, strategy and action plans prepared within the framework of the Convention of Biological Diversity.

## PREAMBLE

In the last 10 years an awareness that degradation of the environment is having negative effects has grown, instilling in people's minds the conviction that habitat modification brought about by anthropic and/or climatic change can result in a loss of biodiversity.

Flora and fauna composition in the oceans, as well as their organisation in assemblages, or even greater forms of association, responds to both climate change and human activity. The latter is considered to have been particularly responsible for the degradation of many marine environments over the last decades. The speed of such deterioration has been unprecedented; one of the negative consequences has been loss of biodiversity. Thus, marine biodiversity has become an important issue and several national and international projects are now dealing with it.

In the Mediterranean region, over the last 40 years the population living along the coast has almost doubled to over 400 million people. Similarly, the heaviest pressure connected to human activity is now to a great extent concentrated along the coast. The sea and the coast can be considered among the most threatened sites in the Mediterranean region.

In the marine environment the number of species currently described is much smaller than that on the continent. It is noticeable, however, that:

- the number of phyla is much greater at sea, with 2.5 times more animal phyla in the sea than in the continent, and that
- our knowledge of marine life is poor, particularly as regards small-sized organisms belonging to the meiofauna, bacteria, fungi, viruses etc..

This scanty knowledge of the marine environment, *sensu lato*, together with the growing pressure of human activity along the coast, suggests that particular attention should be paid to this environment in order to avoid effects that would be detrimental to biodiversity, without neglecting however the terrestrial environment, in particular habitats in ecosystems having links with the marine environment.

The following items can be listed among the causes of biodiversity loss:

- Fragmentation and loss of natural habitats, through the development of rivers and the coastline, harbour, tourist and leisure structures, and industries
- Overexploitation of certain species, through uncontrolled fishing, destructive fishing techniques, coastal overpopulation
- Biological invasions like that of the *Caulerpa* species in the Mediterranean, menacing autochthonous species
- Pollution (several causes)
- Increased silting (several causes)
- Tourism (several causes)
- Climate change
- Non-recognition or under-assessment of marine diversity and natural resources in economic terms
- Weakness of legal systems and institutions

- Absence of adequate scientific knowledge and ineffective transmission of information.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The SAP BIO project is being implemented within the framework of **the Mediterranean Action Plan** (MAP). MAP was ratified and approved in 1975, following a series of scientific meetings and inter-governmental discussions, during an Inter-Governmental Meeting convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Barcelona. In 1976, another conference was convened by UNEP in Barcelona (Barcelona Conference), where representatives of Mediterranean countries adopted the legal support needed to implement the MAP Programme. The document signed in 1976 became known as the **Barcelona Convention**, an international agreement between Mediterranean countries for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution.

The legal framework of the MAP programme has been enlarged and modified several times since the Barcelona Convention was adopted. Among the most important legal instruments developed and approved for the protection of the marine environment there are six protocols dealing with different aspects of the environmental protection.

### The new "Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean"

The new Protocol entered into force on 12 December 1999., replacing the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas adopted in 1982. The new "Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean" represents a strengthening of the Geneva Protocol in several important respects:

- the extension of the Protocol to the protection and management of endangered and threatened species, and to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,
- the extension of its geographical coverage to the international waters of the Mediterranean,
- the establishing of a new international category of protected area, the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)
- the drawing up of a list of endangered or threatened species and of a list of species whose exploitation should be regulated,
- provisions concerning environmental impact assessment, establishing inventories, and the introduction of non-indigenous or genetically modified species.

In 1992, 150 countries met in Rio de Janeiro for the Conference on the Environment and Development and signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In Jakarta, in 1997 the First Meeting of Experts on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity within the CBD was held. The Meeting produced a recommendation including consideration of a draft three-year work plan on marine and coastal biological diversity. Within the Jakarta Mandate, five thematic issues were identified: Integrated Marine and Coastal Management, Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Living Resources, Mariculture, and Alien Species.

### RAC/SPA and the Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO)

In 1981, the Second Meeting of the Barcelona Convention decided that a Centre for Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas should be established as a national institution



with a regional (i.e. Mediterranean) role to play, like the Regional Activity Centres already in operation as part of MAP (the Blue Plan in Sophia Antipolis, France, and the Priority Actions Programme in Split).

The Meeting accepted Tunisia's offer to host the Centre, RAC/SPA (Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas).

Under a GEF PDF-B grant a Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities in the Mediterranean Region (SAP MED) was developed within MAP, and was adopted by the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Tunis in 1997. As a follow-up, a project proposal on "Determination of priority actions for further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" was submitted to GEF by the MAP Co-ordinating Unit in association with the RACs (SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, CP/RAC), FAO, WHO, METAP, FFEM, IUCN and WWF. The project, approved by the GEF Council in April 2000, includes the "Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region", with RAC/SPA as the Lead Agency.

#### SAP BIO objectives

The main objective of the SAP BIO project is to establish a logical base for implementing the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Sea. At the same time it should provide an outline of activities over a thirty-month period, in order to produce a SAP for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. This will be presented and adopted at the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

To achieve this goal, it is important that each of the countries participating in the Programme prepare a National Report in standardised, comparable format. The National Report will constitute a major input for preparing the SAP BIO.

## 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS

The National Reports will be prepared by the participating countries respectively, and will constitute a major input for preparing the SAP BIO. They will constitute the main output of processes to be carried out at national level, aiming at:

- identifying problems affecting biodiversity and their proximate/ultimate causes (a list of possible causes is indicated in the Preamble to this document),
- assessing their relative importance,
- identifying national conservation priorities,
- identifying remedial actions such as: (a) preserving single endangered/threatened species/populations by special protection plans; (b) conservation of threatened habitats, communities, ecosystems, landscapes by creating Marine and Coastal Protected Areas; (c) limiting some fishing activities by instituting Fishing Exclusion Zones for some gear and/or some period of time; and (d) other actions.

## 2. CONTENTS OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS

National Reports should follow common guidelines to provide comparable, compatible inputs to the SAP BIO. For this reason, a guide of possible contents of the Report is given below.

Preface (possibly by the National Correspondent)

Contents (list of the main items of the National Report)

List of acronyms (used in the National Report)

Methodologies followed for the preparation of the National Report

### I. Introduction

(a) Background information:

Reference is to be made to the SPA Protocol, GEF project, GEF SAP BIO project, SAP BIO document. See *Background Information* above.

(b) Objectives of the National Report:

Reference is to be made to the *Objectives of National Reports...* see above.

(c) Target users

It is important to specify the intended use of National Reports and the expected follow-up. Priority of use should be given to the SAP BIO NAPs, SAP BIO document, national programmes to implement SAP BIO and expected international support for national follow-up programmes.

### II. Basic information on status in the country

Firstly this chapter should give a description of the main components of Marine and coastal biodiversity of the country.

Then it should be formulated by answering and developing the following questions related to the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity:

What documents and information are available in the country?

What relevant activities have been implemented at national level in the country?

What relevant activities are on-going and/or planned?

What gaps have been identified?

Which are the responsible national structures or institutions present in the country?

What is the present level of national capacity in the country? (specifying the national capacity in terms of financial, human, infrastructural resources etc. and pointing out whether or not there are differences within different areas in the country (i.e. north vs. south))

What is the level of public awareness?

What is the level of government and local authority awareness?

Do NGOs have any role in the conservation process?

Which are the major stakeholders involved or to be involved in the process?

What are the existing legal regulations?

Provide a list of international Conventions, Protocols, etc. signed/ratified

International cooperation and assistance in the country

Is there a need for technical assistance? (specify in which field).

### **III. Analysis of the present situation**

As a starting point, National Reports should assess the status of marine/coastal biodiversity at national level based on existing information, inventories and databases. Particular attention should be paid to those areas which have been identified as "biodiversity hot spots", where habitats, ecosystems and species of high biodiversity value are found.

National Reports should identify issues adversely affecting the status of the marine and coastal biodiversity at national level, their proximate and ultimate causes, and their relative importance. Such issues may be one or more of the following:

- Eutrophication
- Tourism and urban development
- Infrastructure development
- Hunting and fishing
- Pollution hot spots
- Sensitive habitats and ecosystems, particularly those in danger of disappearing in their natural area of distribution in the country concerned and/or which are critical to the survival, reproduction and recovery of threatened species (such as Posidonia meadows, nesting sites of marine turtles, wetlands, etc,..)
- Invasive species.

Attention should also be paid to other issues of potential impact on biodiversity which may be relevant, such as:

- Erosion and desertification phenomena and processes
- Change of land use

- Socio-economic issues (e.g. migration, abandoning the land, encroaching on coastal areas, rural exodus, impacts of poverty, illegal practices, etc.)
- Trade in rare species
- Over-exploitation of coastal and marine resources
- Harmful agricultural practices
- Forest fires
- Disasters, natural phenomena, climate change.

In addressing the above issues, the National Reports should assess the problems resulting from these issues, their present status and trends, and identify the major threats to marine and coastal biodiversity and their causes, impacts and significance. This part represents the core of the report and should be very well developed. At the end of the chapter a schematic table that summarize this point should be introduced, following the draft format here below proposed.

(a) Which issues are relevant to your country? List them in order of relevance.

Issue	Problems	Status	Trend
1.			
2. (etc.)			

(b) Which are the major threats resulting from the problems listed above?

Issue/ Problem	Threats	Causes	Impacts	Significance
1.(Issue) Problem (a)  Problem (b)  Problem (c)				

2. (Issue) Problem (a)  Problem (b)  etc.				
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Threats may be rated according to the following categories providing appropriate explanations and justifications:

- Critical
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Unknown significance

#### IV. Priorities for action

One of the main elements in the National Reports is the identifying of national conservation priorities. The Reports should include proposals for measures and actions of a general nature and highlight the priority actions which need to be taken. They should present the principles, approaches, measures, targets and timetables for action in response to the assessment of issues, their problems, status and trends as well as the threats referred to above in Section III. Each priority action identified could be presented as follows in a form of a table:

<u>Priority Action 1</u>	
Justification	
Description	
Targets	
Responsibility	
Prerequisites needed for implementation	
Support needed	

#### V. Investment Portfolio

The conservation of biological diversity and resources requires investments *inter alia* in staff, in infrastructure, in research and in education. The worst-case scenario for the

conservation of biodiversity is in those areas where the threats are coupled with restricted financial means for supporting conservation efforts. There are other situations where governments subsidise activities that have severe negative impacts on biological diversity. Action is therefore required to identify both at national and international level ways and means of providing funds for the conservation of biological diversity. Presenting a good case for financial aid is a *sine qua non*.

*Simple Draft Table Format for Priority Activities to be financed for promoting the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity at national level*

Priority Actions	Responsibility	Targets	Estimated cost in US \$
<u>PA 1 (summary)</u>			
<u>PA 2 (summary)</u>			
Etc.			

## VI. Suggested follow-up

National Reports are expected to present follow-up proposals for remedial action both at national and regional level. One of the best ways of ensuring general agreement on priorities is by preparing a strategy that defines the basic problems and presents appropriate objectives. A strategy is turned into action through a process of planning activities which would address problems and threats; this generally involves preparing an Action Plan. An Action Plan can be aimed at a species or group of species, at a habitat or an area, at a nation or a whole region. The biggest problem with strategies and Action Plans is the implementation. They are most successful when generated by those who face the problems and those who will be involved in implementing them.

### (a) Follow-up proposals at national level

National Reports are expected to propose priority National Action Plans which should be presented in outline. They should indicate:

- Threats and current conservation measures
- Aims and generic objectives  
(objectives may be grouped under policy and legislation, protection, monitoring and research, and public awareness)
- Actions  
(these actions may be given a priority rating, e.g. essential, high, medium or low – these should be related to the category of threat defined in Section III above)
- Responsibility

(who is responsible for the implementation)

- Implementation and timing  
(e.g. immediate – to be completed within one year; short – within 1-3 years; medium – within 1-5 years; long – within 1-10 years; ongoing – an action currently being implemented and which should continue).

National Reports should also propose national plans for:

- further research
- the compilation of inventories
- data collection.

The actions suggested above are not only essential for filling in the gaps in knowledge which are identified during the process of the whole ongoing project, but also ensure a long-term monitoring and evaluation of the state of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean at national level.

National Reports should also identify stakeholders who have a role in the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity, with their respective responsibilities and roles, thus ensuring that they participate in the whole process, particularly in implementing the strategy at national level.

(b) Follow-up proposals at regional level

National Reports may also:

- propose actions suggested by national needs but whose implementation requires to be undertaken at regional level with the involvement of the majority of countries
- invite and/or request assistance for follow-up concerning regional and national actions after the SAP BIO has been adopted.