

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its protocols was held in Tunis (Tunisia), at Le Palace Hotel, Gammarth, La Marsa, on 28 March 1998, instead of 27 March 1998 as previously scheduled. The delay was mainly due to the unexpected bad weather in Athens which closed the airport for 24 hours.

Participation

2. The meeting was presided by H.E. Mr Mohamed Mehdi Mlika, Ministre de l'Environnement et de l'Aménagement du Territoire, Tunisia, H.E. Ms Imren Aykut, Minister of the Environment of Turkey (Vice-president), H.E. Mr Bernard Fautrier, Ministre plénipotentiaire of Monaco (Rapporteur), Ms Gordana Valcic, Deputy Director of State Directorate of Environment, Croatia (Vice-president), Mr Alexandros Lascaratos, MAP Liaison Officer, Greece (Vice-president), and Mr Bashir Fares, General Director, Technical Centre for Environment Protection, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (Vice-president) were present.
3. Mr Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of MAP and Mr Ibrahim Dharat, Senior Programme Officer, MAP, represented the Secretariat.
4. The full list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

5. H.E. Mr M. Mlika, President of the Bureau welcomed all participants and expressed his pleasure to see all members of the Bureau and the Secretariat three months after the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. In particular he thanked the Ministers for attending the meeting despite their heavy schedule. He expressed his thanks to the Secretariat for the preparation of this first Bureau meeting of the 1998-1999 biennium. He also welcomed the appointment of Mr A. Hoballah as Deputy Coordinator who will be entrusted with issues related to sustainable development.
6. In his capacity as President of the Bureau, he expressed his wish to share his thoughts with the members of the Bureau, on the orientation of the Bureau's work, in accordance with the decisions of the Contracting Parties. First, concerning the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), which has already achieved important work, particularly in identifying two top priorities, the management of water demand and the sustainable management of coastal zones, he took this occasion to thank all members of the Commission and the Task Managers as well as the Working Groups. He noted that after the adoption by the Contracting Parties of specific recommendations, it is the Bureau meeting which has to see to the implementation of recommendations relevant to these two issues, given the urgency to act in these two years. He stressed that all of us have to take into

consideration the recommendations of the MCSD, in our programmes at the national and regional levels as well as in the programmes of the MAP regional centres (RACs). With regard to the MCSD theme on environmental and sustainable development indicators, he informed the Bureau that certain countries are in the process of testing the sustainable development indicators. He offered this experience to other countries that have not started this exercise.

7. As far as the legal issues are concerned, and according to his information that only Monaco and Tunisia have ratified the new legal instruments, he invited other Contracting Parties to speed up the process of ratification keeping in mind that by the end of 1998, at least half of the signatories of the Barcelona Convention would have ratified them. He counted on the members of the Bureau to assist so that this objective can be achieved.
8. With regard to the financial issues, he congratulated the Secretariat for its efforts to mobilize additional funds for the MAP programme. He also invited Contracting Parties that have not paid their contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) to do so as soon as possible. Finally, with regard to the forthcoming General Assembly of GEF (New Delhi), he informed the meeting that he will take part and that he will personally support the GEF project (SAP), which aims at combating pollution due to activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region as well as its biodiversity component. He promised to launch an appeal on behalf of the Contracting Parties, for more substantive funding of projects for the Mediterranean region and will request all participants of the countries of the Mediterranean region to do the same in order to raise the awareness of our partners as to the urgency to intervene in certain sectors.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of work

9. The meeting adopted its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/BUR/52/1 and annotated in document UNEP/BUR/52/2.

Agenda Item 3: Progress report by the Coordinator on activities carried out since the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties including draft recommendations on specific activities (November 1997 - March 1998)

10. Mr Chabason introduced his progress report as contained in document UNEP/BUR/52/3, which covers the period from November 1997 till March 1998. He went through the report, section by section, stressing more particularly on the following main developments and the specific recommendations which require action by the Bureau:

Programme Coordination

11. The Coordinator referred to the Conference on Hazardous Wastes held recently in Kuching, Malaysia, on 23-27 February 1998, which was organized by the Basel Convention Secretariat. He informed the meeting that he attended the Conference on behalf of MAP, considering its close links to the Izmir protocol on Hazardous Wastes in the Mediterranean region. He referred to the Monaco position during the Conference requesting to be added to the list of countries authorized to import dangerous wastes in accordance with the provisions of the Basel Convention, a position which finally was not approved by the Conference.
12. Mr Fautrier (Monaco) thanked MAP for its support of Monaco's position during the Kuching Conference. He pointed out that many countries understood Monaco's request, considering its capability to treat wastes received from neighbouring countries, which could be considered as an effort on the part of his country to improve the environment in the Mediterranean region, in application of proximity principle and by using modern environmentally sound technologies.
13. Ms Aykut (Turkey) stressed the importance of the Izmir protocol which requires the support of all countries. She urged the Bureau to make an effort to urge Contracting Parties to speed up the ratification process of this important protocol.

Cooperation with EEA and RAMOGE

14. With regard to MAP Cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Coordinator informed the meeting that a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed soon with EEA, to formalize MAP/EEA collaboration which will concentrate on the fields of biomonitoring, assessment tools and joint organization of workshops.
15. The President of the meeting emphasized the issue of the preparation of reports on the state of the environment, individual country reports, and the creation of a network for exchanging reports.
16. Mr Fautrier (Monaco), speaking on behalf of RAMOGE Agreement, expressed the organization's readiness to cooperate with MAP, especially on biomonitoring.

Cooperation with the Arab League

17. Mr I. Dharat briefed the meeting on MAP's consultation with the Arab League office in Cairo, in pursuance to the decisions of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, Nov. 97). He pointed out that the Arab League office (Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in charge of the Environment) expressed strong support for MAP's initiative and accepted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in this connection.

18. Mr Mlika noted that collaboration with the Arab League be conducted through its specialized office located in Tunis, namely ALECSO, in order to have a more practical programme of collaboration. On the same issue of regional cooperation, Mr Chabason expressed the opinion of strengthening cooperation with CEDARE located in Cairo.
19. Mr Fares of Libya welcomed MAP initiative and stressed the importance of launching collaboration with the Arab League Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in charge of the Environment, especially in the fields of desertification, hazardous wastes and environmental education and awareness.

Caulerpa

20. The Coordinator referred to the issue of the presence of Caulerpa in the Mediterranean region which causes major problems. In this connection, he referred to the successful workshop on the invasive caulerpa in the Mediterranean, held in Crete (Greece), on 18-20 March 1998. Various scientific papers (including countries' report) were presented on mapping, modelling, toxicological aspects, ecological impact and control. Extensive discussion took place and various views were expressed. He informed the meeting that various recommendations were adopted by the workshop and a press release was also issued.
21. The President welcomed the convening of the workshop and suggested that MAP should keep monitoring the problem and report periodically to the Contracting Parties.

Role of Bureau

22. Mr Chabason noted that more linkage has been achieved during the last few years between the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat. However, in certain cases, specific problem may arise, in particular during the periods between the meetings of the Contracting Parties. He gave an example of one case which involves projects proposed and financed by other donors which also require MAP counterpart fund sharing and in which MAP has no precise mandate or budgetary programme. In this connection, he referred to articles 10 and 11 of the Terms of Reference of the Bureau, which in his views, give some flexibility to the Bureau and the Secretariat to tackle such situations.
23. The Vice-president from Greece expressed his opinion that the Bureau decisions relevant to the financial issues that have not been decided upon by the meetings of the Contracting Parties is a delicate issue that should be tackled carefully. Therefore, he suggested that the Secretariat look at the issue and suggest to the next meeting of the Bureau an appropriate procedure to be followed.

24. The President proposed and the meeting agreed that the Secretariat should have flexibility in dealing with these issues, in order to attract outside funds, but with the condition it should be within the overall framework of programme and budget approved by the meetings of the Contracting Parties and that all countries should benefit from this adjustments and flexibility.

Financial and institutional matters

Financial matters

25. The Coordinator referred to the status of contributions of the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), which is now good, and expressed the hope that all Contracting Parties speed up the 1998 payment process as well as the unpaid contribution for previous years for those who have not done so. He thanked Libya for the payment of part of its contributions for previous years and expressed the hope that the rest of its contribution be paid as soon as possible.
26. The President thanked Libya for its payment and echoed the Coordinator plea for the speedy payment of all Contracting Parties of their 1998 contributions.
27. Mr Lascaratos (Greece) requested that the Greek contribution should be shown in a more explicit form than the existing one in order to show that Greece has paid in advance its contribution for 1998. The Coordinator promised that a footnote will be added to cover this point.
28. Mr Fares (Libya) explained the difficult situation being faced by his country due to the embargo situation, however he will do his best with the relevant authorities, for the early payment of the unpaid contributions to the MTF.

Institutional matters

29. The Coordinator also informed the meeting of the introduction, on December 1997, of an accounting system which will enable MAP to provide in real time, information on the budget/account status of the office. Moreover, the office has also changed its telephone system and its e-mail connection, and has improved its computer system. This will improve MAP works, save time and energy for the staff.
30. The Coordinator informed the meeting of the appointment of Mr Arab Hoballah as Deputy Coordinator of MAP, and Mr Francesco Saverio Civili as MEDPOL Coordinator. He also pointed out that the vacant post of Mr Civili (Marine Scientist) will be reclassified and published soon. He informed the meeting that Mr Gabriel Gabrielides will be responsible for the scientific sector (such as biomonitoring) and a new organigram for MEDPOL will be prepared which will include the GEF project.

31. In this connection, Mr Lascaratos on behalf of Greece, which has the privilege of being the host country to the MAP Coordinating Unit, congratulated both the new Deputy Coordinator and the MEDPOL Coordinator on their new appointments, and ensured them of his country's support and cooperation. As regards the procedure adopted by UNEP for these two posts, during the Sophia Antipolis Bureau meeting, Greece expressed her concern that the recruitment criteria established by UNEP itself should obviously be applied to the application assessment procedure. H.E. the Greek Minister even sent a letter on this subject to Mrs Dowdeswell, the Executive Director of UNEP. He mentioned in passing that, as far as he knows, two further Contracting Parties expressed their concerns on this matter to Mrs Dowdeswell in writing. Greece notes with regret that the comments made by Greece on the need to strictly observe recruitment criteria were not given due consideration by the UNEP services concerned. He also stated that Greece considers this matter closed and does not intend to raise it again.
32. Ms Aykut (Turkey), while stressing that only scientific persons should occupy these posts, pointed out that UNEP criteria on which the selection was based, was not clear enough, as it did not give due consideration to the scientific side of the selection and expressed the hope that this situation should not be repeated in future.
33. In concluding this point, the President, sharing the views expressed by previous speakers, stressed the importance of applying the criteria agreed upon as well as respecting the conditions embodied in the job descriptions. However, criteria are changing on case by case, and flexibility therefore is required. He promised to discuss this issue as well as other MAP issues with the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr Klaus Topfer who will visit Tunis soon.

Structure of MAP

34. The Coordinator briefed the Bureau on the deliberation of the last meeting of the MED Unit and RAC Directors (Athens, 2-3 February 1998) which main objective was to coordinate MAP activities for the 1998-1999 biennium. In particular, he referred to the issue of Host Country Agreements to be signed between UNEP/MAP and countries hosting RAC Centres, which is relevant to BP/RAC, ERS/RAC and CP/RAC. These agreements should stipulate the commitment of the host country, for example in issuing entry visas to experts of the RAC Centres and the representatives of Contracting Parties attending a MAP meeting. With regard to the recruitments within the RAC Centres, he pointed out that MAP Secretariat has been involved in the process of recruitments, for example, in the appointments of the Director of PAP/RAC and the Director of the BP/RAC.
35. The President informed the meeting that he will meet his French counterpart in Tunis and he will raise the issue of visas with her.

Recruitment of consultants

36. The Coordinator referred to the criteria for selecting consultants as suggested by the MED Unit/RAC Directors meeting and contained in his progress report (UNEP/ BUR/ 52/3), in relation to the recruitment of consultants by MED Unit and RAC Centres.
37. During the discussion on this subject, various additional points were suggested:
- the criteria should be regularly reviewed and updated;
 - young people should be encouraged to be recruited as consultants;
 - respect for the principle of geographical representation;
 - English language should be compulsory, other MAP languages are an asset;
 - a roster of consultants should be prepared by MED Unit;
 - all Contracting Parties are to be requested to send the names of proposed consultants to be included in the roster;
 - the roster could be classified in accordance to topics (water, coastal zone, legal, biodiversity, etc.).
 - the roster should be reviewed and updated regularly.

Information

38. The Coordinator briefly informed the Bureau on the development concerning information, participation and training within MAP. He pointed out that the new Deputy Director (Mr Arab Hoballah) will be responsible, among other subjects, for the information subject. He will prepare for the next Bureau meeting, a programme on MAP policy in this field.
39. Mr Chabason noted that an amount of US\$ 60,000 has been secured from EU for the preparation of a World Bank style brochure to promote environmental issues with success stories. It will be launched in cooperation with the Contracting Parties and the RAC Centres.
40. In this connection, the President welcomed the proposal in order to highlighting success stories and achievement of MAP at the regional level and at the individual countries level. He, furthermore, suggested the preparation of leaflets on the individual RAC Centres, in different languages as well as leaflets on specific topics, problems and projects carried out in the Mediterranean Countries (experience of countries).
41. The President also suggested to explore the idea of linking MED Unit and all RAC Centres through an information network or through Internet. He referred to the Tunisian experience in this regard which is available for others to use it. He also referred to the need to undertake an evaluation of RAC activities.

42. Mr Fautrier (Monaco) stressed that information and environmental awareness are the corner stone for any successful activities in the fields of environment and sustainable development. People need to be convinced through information and environmental awareness, in favour of the protection of the environment of the Mediterranean region.
43. Mr Fares (Libya) expressed his appreciation to MAP Secretariat for organizing recently a one-week training course for two Libyan nationals.

Legal matters

44. The Coordinator informed the Bureau that up to now, only Monaco and Tunisia have ratified the new MAP legal instruments. He urged the Bureau to send an urgent message to all Contracting Parties to speed up the ratification process, keeping in mind the target date of the end of 1998 at the latest, as the date for these instruments to enter into force.
45. After a brief discussion, the Bureau authorized its President to send urgently a letter to the Contracting Parties that have not done so, to speed up the process of ratification of the newly adopted MAP legal instruments.

Activities of RACs

46. The Coordinator briefly informed the Bureau on the activities of the MAP/Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and programmes, namely MEDPOL, REMPEC, BP/RAC, PAP/RAC, ERS/RAC and CP/RAC. He noted that there are no specific recommendations proposed by the Secretariat relevant to this section of his progress report.
47. During the very brief discussion on this section, the President referred to his country's experience in the field of olive oil production and industry for which there is a CP/RAC project and offered this experience to other interested countries.
48. Mr Lascaratós (Greece) informed the Bureau on the collaboration of his country with SPA/RAC in hosting in Athens on October 1998, of an expert meeting organized by SPA/RAC, on review of the three Action plans for the protection of monkseals, marine turtles and cetaceans in the Mediterranean.
49. Mr Lascaratós also reminded the meeting of the decision of the last Bureau meeting requesting the Secretariat to suggest concrete proposals concerning the follow-up of existing and completed CAMP projects. At this point, the Senior Programme Officer of MAP pointed out that this issue has been discussed thoroughly during the meeting of MED Unit and RAC Directors and it will be further discussed during the MAP/METAP Workshop to "Assess Integrated Coastal Area Management: Experience from METAP and MAP (1988-1996)", scheduled to be held in Cairo, during June 1998, and which will be attended by MAP and METAP focal points. On the basis of the results and

recommendations of the Workshop, the Secretariat will propose concrete programme relevant to the follow-up issue.

Agenda Item 4: Completion of the selection of additional members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

A. Fourth Meeting of the MCSD

50. Mr L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator, introduced this agenda item and briefed the meeting on the latest developments concerning the activities of the six task managers and working groups of the Commission. He stated that a technical consultation meeting with the participation of MED Unit staff, RAC Directors and all Task Managers of the MCSD was held in Athens on 5 February 1998. The objective was to coordinate the activities of the six working groups. Various technical issues were thoroughly discussed and agreed upon, including the convening of at least one meeting of the Thematic Working Group for each theme before the Monaco fourth meeting of the MCSD. He confessed that the task manager and working group exercise is a complicated one. However, the consultation meeting was able to agree on a calendar of meetings of all groups. He pointed out that during the Monaco meeting of the Commission, few Task Managers will be able to present concrete recommendations on their subjects (Indicators, Tourism, Industry, information), while the others will only present progress reports.
51. During the ensuing discussion, the President referred to the Tunisian experience within the theme on indicators and to the Tunisia/France collaboration to test the agreed upon set of environment and sustainable development indicators. He also offered Tunisian experience to other interested Contracting Parties. The President also suggested that the Commission should avoid bureaucracy in its work and proposed the creation of **project leaders** within the MCSD to deal with specific issues.
52. The Bureau has approved Monaco as the venue for the Fourth Session of the Commission, taking into account the necessity of giving sufficient time to the working groups to allow them to present concrete communications. H.E. Mr Fautrier proposed the dates of 20 -22 October 1998, which was approved by the meeting.

B. MCSD participation in UNCSD

53. The Coordinator stated that the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) will convene its Sixth meeting in New York, on 20 April till 1 May 1998. One of the main issues to be addressed is the water resources issue, which is also a MAP priority. In accordance with previous decisions of the Contracting Parties, MAP has initiated contacts with the Secretariat of the UN Commission particularly on the accreditation of MAP, as the Secretariat of

the MCSD, to the UNCSD and to attend its meetings as an observer. He informed the meeting that a letter in this direction has been sent to New York.

54. In order to speed up the process, he suggested that:
- a. As the head of the Tunisian delegation to the Sixth Session of the UNCSD, the President devotes part of his statement to MAP and the activities of the MCSD;
 - b. A letter signed by the President is to be sent to Mr Klaus Topfer, Executive Director of UNEP, requesting, on behalf of the Bureau, the inclusion of a representative of MAP Secretariat within UNEP delegation to the Sixth Session of the UNCSD;
 - c. A letter signed by the President is to be sent to the Secretariat of the UNCSD requesting the accreditation of MAP (the Secretariat of MCSD) as an observer to the various meetings of the UNCSD.

C. *Selection of additional members of the MCSD*

55. Mr I. Dharat informed the meeting of the decision taken during the Tunis meeting of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, November 1997), authorizing the Bureau to complete the selection of other memberships of the MCSD. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat has had various contacts with all Contracting Parties requesting candidates to fill the vacant four seats within the two categories of local authorities and socio-economic actors. He referred to document UNEP/BUR/52/3/Add.1, which contains information on the 12 candidates received by the Secretariat as of 24 March 1998. He also referred to the provisions of the Terms of Reference and the composition of the Commission as approved by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montpellier, July 1996), which also includes the criteria to be applied during the selection process.
56. After some discussion and reviewing the information provided by the relevant Contracting Parties, the Bureau made the following selection:

A. Local authorities category

Members

1. City of Dubrovnik - Croatia
2. Municipality of Silikfe (Mersin) - Turkey

Alternates

1. District of the Governorate of Greater Algiers - Algeria
2. Local authorities of the Mediterranean Region - Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. Association of Coastal Cities, Tourism and Environment (IFOCC) - Israel

4. Local Council Association - Malta
5. City of Hamam Sousse - Tunisia

B. Socio-economic actors

Members

1. La Fédération des industries diverses (CGEM) - Morocco
2. Mediterranean Water Network - Spain

Alternates

1. Lebanese Businessmen Association - Lebanon

57. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to immediately give effects to such designation.
58. At the end of the discussion, the Secretariat informed the meeting of the lack of interest on the part of one member of the Commission, namely the City of Rome, which did not attend any meetings of the Commission. The Bureau expressed its regret and urged all members to participate actively in the work of the MCSD.

Agenda Item 5: Information on the on-going MAP-GEF project "Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to address Pollution from Land-based Activities in the Mediterranean Region" (SAP)

A. *MAP/GEF project on SAP and participation of METAP*

59. The Coordinator briefed the meeting on the latest development concerning the GEF project which aims at preparing the basis for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address pollution from Land-based Activities, with a financial contribution of 6.29 million US\$ from GEF, a participation of 3.04 million US\$ in cash and kind from the countries, and 1.12 million US\$ in cash and kind from MAP. He referred to the meeting of MAP/GEF National Coordinators from all Mediterranean countries which was held in Athens, on 22-23 January 1998, which finalized the document and approved a draft project document for submission to the GEF Council to be held on 1-3 April 1998 in New Delhi to examine and approve the project. The Coordinator recommended that those members of the Bureau who will attend the GEF Council meeting support the project during the discussion.
60. He also referred to the contact made by METAP with the MAP Secretariat to seek ways of cooperation in the execution of the GEF project, taking into account the specific experience and expertise of the METAP Units (PPU, PBU and RCBP) located in Cairo. Further contacts were made during the 1-2 March 1998 meeting held in Cairo, of the METAP Partners. During the meeting, MAP representatives while welcoming METAP participation, stressed that the funds

of the project should be used in the countries and for the countries and that METAP should participate as a donor organization and the METAP participation should also be accepted by the Mediterranean countries who had already approved the content of the project.

61. Furthermore, the Coordinator informed the Bureau, that on the basis of MAP consultation with the GEF Secretariat, Libya was also accepted to be one of the eligible countries to the GEF project. Furthermore, he managed to attract additional funds of 2 million US\$ from the French global environment fund for the project to be spent on feasibility studies relevant to Hot spots and Capacity building.
62. With regard to the draft report on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), the Coordinator informed the meeting that there were some critics of the report during the last meeting of the Contracting Parties due to some mistakes in the contents of the report, and that was the reason for the meeting to take note, not adopting, the TDA report. He added that the report is being corrected and finalized with the National Coordinators.
63. During the ensuing discussion, the President noted the new orientation of METAP which he does not approve. In the contrary, he welcomed the eventual French contribution to the project. With regard to the GEF project professional to be recruited by the project and to be stationed at MED Unit, the President emphasized that the staff member should act as a coordinator of the GEF project and the real work should be undertaken within the participating countries themselves.
64. Mr Fautrier (Monaco) referred to the duration gap existing between the three-year budget of the GEF project and the two-year budget of the MAP and the need to solve the budgetary issue during the intermediate period.
65. Mr Lascaratos (Greece), while congratulating the Secretariat for this project, he insisted that all Contracting Parties should benefit from the project.
66. At the end of the discussion, the Bureau approved the MAP/GEF project on SAP and requested all Contracting Parties who will attend the New Delhi meeting to support the project.
67. With regard to METAP collaboration with MAP within the framework of the MAP/GEF project, the Bureau welcomed the METAP request and agreed with the Secretariat proposal that METAP should participate as a donor, and that the GEF funds should be spent in the countries themselves.

B. *Strategic Action Programme for Biodiversity (SAP/BIO)*

68. The Coordinator pointed out that in the course of preparing the GEF/MAP project on SAP, a proposal was made to prepare a project for Biodiversity

(SAP/BIO), under the responsibility of MAP-SPA/RAC and in cooperation with FAO and GFCM, through the allocation of US\$ 600 thousands. He added that the project will assist the Contracting Parties in the process of integrating the problems related to pollution, biodiversity and human activities which the Secretariat considers essential for an adequate management of the natural and biological resources of the region and for the implementation of the new protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity. As the Tunis Centre (SPA/RAC) has limited financial resources, he proposed that additional funds be allocated to the Centre to carry its responsibilities in relation to the proposed project. He pointed out that the Secretariat will find a solution and inform the Bureau accordingly, at the next meeting.

69. During the discussion, the President noted that while welcoming the proposal on SAP/BIO, he feels that we should be pragmatic as there are problems related to this issue, especially in relation to fishery. He added that we have to use the project as a tool to solve problems in the region.
70. Mr Fautrier (Monaco) welcomed the proposal and noted that the question of fishery could not be left aside of the project that should integrate all the elements related to biodiversity conservation. Other speaker suggested the association of NGOs in the proposed project and that the project should involve all Mediterranean countries. At this point, the Coordinator proposed the establishment of a **Steering Committee** for the SAP/BIO project, to include also representatives from NGOs.
71. At the end of the discussion, the Bureau welcomed the proposal for the preparation of a SAP project for biodiversity and requested the Secretariat to inform the Bureau at its next meeting of all details of the project, including MAP financial contribution, insisting that SAP should not be limited only to the GEF eligible countries.

Agenda Item 6: MAP collaboration with Non-governmental Organizations (NGO)

72. The Coordinator introduced the relevant section in document UNEP/BUR/52/3 and the new document UNEP/BUR/52/3/Add.1 on "MAP collaboration with Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) - Additional information". He pointed out that the Tunis meeting (Nov. 97), authorized the present Bureau to take a decision concerning the deletion or maintaining of the Università del Mediterraneo (UNIMED) in MAP/NGO List of Partners, on the basis of the Secretariat contacts with the UNIMED. Based on the positive response received by the Secretariat from UNIMED of its readiness to collaborate, the Coordinator proposed that the Bureau maintain UNIMED in the List.
73. The Bureau agreed to the Secretariat proposal and decided to keep UNIMED in MAP/NGO List of Partners.

74. The Coordinator referred also to the decision of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, Nov. 97), authorizing the present Bureau, on an exceptional basis, to examine the request of the NGO from Turkey, "Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TÜDAV)", to be included in MAP/NGO List of Partners. After examining the detailed information provided by TÜDAV, the Bureau agreed to include the organization in the MAP/NGO List of Partners.
75. The Vice-president from Greece reminded the meeting of the decision of the last meeting of the Bureau to establish a working group to undertake a methodological reflection on NGOs participation in MAP and referred in this connection to the lack of information within NGOs and the need to improve communication with each other through the establishment of networks.
76. In response to the enquiry from the Vice-president from Greece concerning the Reflection Group on NGO proposed by the Tenth Ordinary Meeting, the Senior Programme Officer of MAP stated that the Secretariat has initiated some contacts on this point in order to propose the composition of this group and the best time to convene its meeting in order to undertake a methodological reflection in relation to NGOs participation in MAP. He confirmed that additional contacts will be undertaken especially with the members of the Bureau on this issue and he expects that the results of the meeting of the reflection group will be communicated to the Bureau at its next meeting.
77. On the same issue, the President proposed that the group should follow a pragmatic approach in dealing with NGOs, as he is of the opinion that their involvement in MAP is an important contribution which we should encourage. However, he mentioned that they have to work with MAP within certain conditions and framework.
78. The Vice-president from Turkey stressed the importance of the participation of NGOs in MAP activities and gave briefing on Turkish experience in regard to NGOs.

Agenda Item 7: **Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau**

79. Mr Fares (Libya) reconfirmed his country's offer to host the next meeting of the Bureau in Tripoli.
80. After brief discussion, the Bureau accepted with thanks the Libyan offer and decided to convene its next meeting in Tripoli, on 29-30 October 1998.

Agenda Item 8: **Any other business**

81. No other subjects were raised.

Agenda Item 9: **Adoption of the report of the meeting**

82. It was agreed that a draft report of the meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat and sent to the members of the Bureau for their comments before its finalization and distribution.

Agenda Item 10: **Closure of the meeting**

83. Following the exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed on Saturday, 28 March 1998 at 13.30 hours.

ANNEX I**List of Participants
Liste des Participants****TUNISIA
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