

## **7. MONITORING OF PROGRESS**

The objective of the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and strategies is to effect real changes to improve the environment in the Mediterranean Sea area. It is essential to have a good understanding of whether progress is being made towards accomplishing the objectives set, and to identify where better performance is needed.

Progress monitoring must consider both the steps undertaken and also the results on the ground as well as the underlying causes of success or failure. Results of this monitoring should feed back into the preparation of future Indicative Programmes and biannual Work Programmes, and thereby be used to improve the effectiveness of actions undertaken by the MAP components and by the Contracting Parties themselves.

A suitable system of indicators is required to measure the effectiveness of the measures taken towards the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and also to know trends in the Mediterranean environment. The pertinent information from different national sources must be brought together in a coherent information system for this purpose.

### **State of the Environment reporting**

Indicators to monitor results on the ground should be compiled from SoE reporting. Such State of the Environment indicators are key input for designing future Indicative Programmes of MAP.

Several components of the MAP system already collect information on the State of the Environment, including to fulfill requirements of the protocols for technical reporting to MAP. In addition, other regional initiatives, including the MEDSTAT Programme and activities under way at the EEA, generate information about the State of the Environment. For reasons of efficiency and completeness, the MAP Secretariat should coordinate its activities with these other initiatives whenever possible. The first step to be taken by MAP should be to integrate the data collected by the various RACs (including MED POL). Ultimately, the region should move towards a 'report once' approach whereby State of the Environment data is collected following agreed standards so that they can be used for multiple purposes, including national needs, European Commission requirements, requirements of other conventions, etc.

### **Legislative / institutional progress in Contracting Parties**

The MAP reporting mechanism provides information on how legislation and institutions in the Contracting Parties comply with the requirements of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, including the decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties that are addressed to the Contracting Parties. On the basis of the reports from the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Secretariat should draw up a report describing the overall situation regarding legislative and institutional progress in the region. Such information can be used to identify steps needed to correct any non-compliance, and the future MAP Work Programmes can be designed accordingly.

### **Progress in Implementation of the Work Programme**

Information about the state of implementation of the current MAP Work Programme, including the technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation, is needed both to steer its management and also as input to the design of future programmes.

Regular communication among RACs and between RACs and the Coordinating Unit is key to ensuring the early identification of any problems related to the implementation of the biannual Work Programme.

Regular formal reports (e.g. at a frequency of six months) shall be submitted by the RACs to the Coordinating Unit. These reports should be structured following the actions in the biannual Work Programme, and cover all substantive, administrative and financial aspects of the Centre's activities. They should highlight any problems encountered in implementation, or needs for divergence from the agreed Work Programme.

Reports should be discussed by the Bureau, which will provide guidance to the Secretariat in resolving any problems. The reports should also be made available to all Contracting Parties.

At a minimum, the reporting should assess progress with respect to:

- The name and exact purpose of activity(ies);
- Reference to the date that the mandate was given for the specific activity and the body that gave the mandate;
- Implementation of activities in line with the purpose, highlighting convergence or divergence from goals and identifying the respective reasons and justification for any divergence/changes, mentioning technical details to enable proper understanding and evaluation;
- Associated cost/benefits using an objective and transparent approach;
- Impact of the activity and its effectiveness. Periodical evaluations of all major activities should be carried out by authoritative and independent experts;
- Efforts to mobilize external resources in order to implement activity(ies) effectively.

Reporting should also assess the coherence between individual actions, and their combined contribution towards meeting MAP objectives.