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ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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BP/RAC

MAP
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PAP/RAC

Joint Meeting of the Focal Points
of BP/RAC, INFO/RAC and PAP/RAC
Palermo, Italy, 5-7 June 2007

Report of the Joint Focal Points Meeting of BP/RAC, INFO/RAC and PAP/RAC

UNEP/MAP
Palermo, 2007

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Introduction

1. Following the decision of the Contracting Parties at their Fourteen Ordinary Meeting (Portoroz, Slovenia, November 2005) to continue the practice of convening joint meetings of the Focal Points of the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) and the Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre (INFO/RAC), the fourth Joint Focal Points Meeting of the three RACs was organised at Palermo, Italy, with INFO/RAC taking care of the logistical aspects of the meeting and the MAP Co-ordinating Unit and the three RACs (BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC) sharing the costs. The Joint Meeting was held at the Castello Utveggio, Palermo, from 5 to 7 June 2007.

Participation

2. The Joint National Focal Points Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Commission, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey; and of the following intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), European Environment Agency (EEA), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Development Programme-Turkey (UNDP), SMAP RMSU Project, Federparchi, Marevivo, WWF, Business Council for Sustainable Development, Gruppo San Pellegrino. A number of experts attended as observers. Mr P. Mifsud, MAP Co-ordinator and Ms T. Hema, MEDU Programme Officer, participated in the meeting as representatives of the Co-ordinating Unit of MAP. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

Agenda Item 1: Plenary Session (PAP, BP and INFO RACs)

Opening of the Meeting and Welcome addresses

3. Mr P. Mifsud, MAP Co-ordinator, welcomed participants on behalf of the Co-ordinating Unit, and wished all success to this important meeting of the three RACs. The meeting, he stressed, was organised a bit differently than previously, i.e. to have a joint plenary sessions at the beginning and at the end of the meeting, and to conduct the specific RACs' meetings in parallel so to give each RAC more time for discussions with their Focal Points. He thanked the Region of Sicily for the hospitality and excellent organisation of the meeting.

4. On behalf of the Region of Sicily, Mr. G. Cardone, welcomed the participants and stressed the attitude that the Region dedicates to sustainable development of its coastal areas. He underlined the privileged geographical position of the island that is committed to international co-operation and regional networking. He wished a productive meeting and called for further support to the Barcelona Convention process and the achievements for the sustainable development.

5. Mr S. Illuminato, Director, INFO/RAC, on behalf of the Centre that organised the meeting he welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of collective endeavours for the sustainable development in the Mediterranean. He pointed out the importance of information and communication tools in promoting all the related issues. He wished the meeting all success.

6. Mr I. Trumbic, Director, PAP/RAC, warmly welcomed the participants and underlined the implementation of a number of important commitments and projects in the last biennium, such as MSSD. In particular, he stressed the preparation of a new ICZM Protocol for which the Centre is responsible, and he mentioned the current state on this project. He hoped the meeting will not only discuss the progress achieved in the last period and the work programme for the next biennium, but also the synergies and co-ordination among the RACs.

7. Mr H. Thibault, Director, BP/RAC, thanked the organisers and hoped for a successful meeting where the issues important for all the Centres should be discussed. He underlined the importance of collaboration in the Mediterranean in general, and among the Centres within the MAP structure in particular.

Election of officers

8. Following consultations and as proposed by the Secretariat, the Meeting elected the following officers:

- Chairperson: Mr O. Montanaro (Italy)
- Vice Chairpersons: Mr F. Osman (Egypt)
  Ms M. Mance (Croatia)
- Rapporteur: Ms S. Nateche (Algeria)

9. On the proposal of the Secretariat, it was agreed that three day parallel sessions would be held devoted respectively to the three RACs (BP/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC) with a joint plenary sessions at the beginning and at the end of the meeting, and chaired, respectively, by Mr O. Montanaro (Italy), Mr F. Osman (Egypt) and Ms M. Mance (Croatia).

Agenda item 2: Introduction by the Co-ordinator and adoption of the Agenda

10. Mr. P. Mifsud, MAP Co-ordinator, introduced the overall context and objectives of the Focal Points meetings, and the meetings that will follow until the next Contracting Parties meetings. The review of the achievements in the last biennium and the proposed work programme would be crucial for the success of the MAP Focal Points meeting that will follow, he stressed. He mentioned some related commitments from previous meetings, such as the Extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points and the preparation of the Governance Paper, which aims at improving of the MAP structure, the role of RACs and related Focal Points. Also, he made a reference to the importance of the new ICZM Protocol and the progress on this project achieved by PAP/RAC. He pointed out some of the new initiatives of INFO/RAC aiming at improved awareness and publicity of MAP. The implementation of the MSSD and the recent meeting of the MCSD where the climate change, water management and energy, among other issues were discussed, and are important ones for the BP/RAC field of activities.

11. The participants unanimously adopted the agenda as presented by the Chairperson. The agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.

Agenda item 3: Parallel RACs Sessions

12. Each of the three RACs had separate sessions organised in parallel. Their individual reports are presented in respective annexes: BP/RAC in Annex III, PAP/RAC in Annex IV and INFO/RAC in Annex V.

Agenda item 4:Plenary Session (PAP, BP and INFO RACs): Presentation of the conclusions of the RAC Meetings, and identification and planning of joint BP-INFO-PAP/RAC activities

13. At the invitation of the Chairman, RAC Directors presented a summary of conclusions made by their respective sessions. They were unanimous in stating that the discussions during these sessions confirmed the strategic orientation of their RACs and provided a number of valuable new ideas for the next biennium.

14. The full text of the conclusions presented is given in the respective RAC's Sessions reports.

15. In the discussion that followed, several participants commented the way in which the meeting was organised stating that they assisted to parallel meetings of individual RACs and not to a joint meeting that would have given them the possibility to get a complete image of RACs activities. The representative of France insisted that MAP should take a more active co-ordinating role in general, by offering a global vision and stimulating NFPs to realise it, as well as in the particular case of the NPF meetings which need to be better prepared and better co-ordinated.

16. Aware of the huge mass of activities implemented by the three RACs, the representative of Italy made some concrete suggestions on how to improve the future work, namely: improve the feedback between former and forthcoming biennium; reflect on the possibility of identifying a small arch of cross-cutting activities which would secure closer links and better co-ordination between RACs; seek for a wiser use of resources and efforts by benefiting from contexts other than Barcelona Convention. With this regard, he recommended that the example of PAP/RAC, who succeeded to secure a significant mass of funding from external sources, be followed by all the other RACs.

17. The representative of Algeria invited the RACs, and especially PAP/RAC that is responsible for CAMPs, to specify in their budgets for 2006-2007 the contribution of countries in various projects in order to show the efforts made by countries to implement the Barcelona Convention.

18. In answering to the issues raised, MAP Co-ordinator pointed out that after the CPs meeting there would be occasions to discuss the future work, especially the financial aspects and the possibility of benefiting from other sources. He welcomed the recommendation to include countries' allocations in the budget and confirmed that this would be done in the next report. Concerning the sponsoring, he said that it was necessary to see what would be the implications for an organisation belonging to the UN system.

Agenda item 5: Presentation of the Ecosystem Approach

19. Mr. G. Gabrielides, MAP Consultant, presented the work on the ecosystem approach, an issue brought out at Catania and Portoroz meetings but for which no decision was taken yet. ***

20. The discussion that followed turned mostly about the difference between the ecosystem approach and ICZM. The Israeli representative asked for more clarifications, as she could not find major difference on the basis of the presentation made. The Moroccan delegate joined this intervention and asked what would be the advantages of adopting the ecosystem approach instead of other similar approaches.

21. MAP Consultant provided a clarification. For him, ICZM deals only with coastal zone while ecosystem approach includes all marine aspects, such as plankton, etc. The ecosystem approach deals with socio-economic consequences as well, and does the management in a

more systematic manner. ICZM does not apply the ecosystem approach, this latter doing the same as ICZM but in a better way.

22. BP/RAC Director underlined that this was a complex subject and that MAP Consultant cited among other the biodiversity issue on which it is much more difficult to attract the attention than on climate change, for instance. It is difficult to explain to economists, private sector, etc. why an animal or vegetal specie should be protected. To this end, it is necessary to develop a language adapted to the public we are addressing and to insist on taking duly into account the biodiversity and the ecosystem approach. We do not use enough the ecosystem approach and we do not know what is the cost of that to various stakeholders.

23. MAP Co-ordinator explained that the purpose of the presentation was to start the discussion and to inform the audience on the latest developments such as HELCOM. He pointed out that the presented ecosystem approach was not a revolution but an evolution, and that we could not continue addressing the issues in a sectoral way.

Agenda item 6: Conclusions and closure of the meeting

24. Before concluding the meeting, Mr. Mifsud, asked the participants for their opinion on the experience with this meeting in order to plan the future ones. Majority of the participants would prefer to have a real joint meeting so that all Focal Points could follow all three RACs meetings and not just the plenary sessions. In this way, they agreed, the meeting would contribute to better integration of RACs, creation of synergies, co-ordinated definition of priorities and improved interrelation among the cross-cutting issues, especially due to the new approaches that require close collaboration on the issues, such as the ecosystem approach, dealing with the climate change effects and alike. This would also diminish overlapping and duplication of efforts, as well as contribute to improved effectiveness. This applies particularly to some of the smaller countries with limited human resources. Thus, it was decided to organise joint meetings of the three RACs in the future and to have a common template for the reporting at the meeting, including the indications of the budget for the proposed activities in the biennium to come.

25. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 13:00 on Saturday, 7 June 2007.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

Agenda

Tuesday, 5 June

Meeting Room A) Plenary Session (PAP, BP and INFO RACs)

09:00 – 10:00	Registration of participants
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome addresses by the Authorities
10:15 – 10:30	Introduction by the Co-ordinator
10:30 – 11:00	Opening statements by the RACs

PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Meeting Room A) PAP/RAC Session 1: Reporting on the Progress

11:30 – 11:45	Item 1: Introduction to the PAP/RAC session
11:45 – 13:00	Item 2: Progress Report of activities in biennium 2006-2007
14:30 – 16:00	Item 3: Presentation of other PAP/RAC activities related to core programme
16:30 –18:00	Item 4: Preparation of draft text of ICZM Protocol

Wednesday, 6 June

PARALLEL SESSIONS:

Meeting Room A) PAP/RAC Session 2: Future orientations

09:30 – 11:00	Item 5: Impact of global changes on coastal zones
11:30 – 13:00	Item 6: Awareness raising and ICZM Marketing
14:30 – 16:00	Item 7: CAMP lessons and future activities
16:30 –18:00	Item 8: Programme, Budget and Recommendations for biennium 2008-2009

Meeting Room B) INFO/RAC Session 1: Future orientations

09:00 - 09:30	Item 1: 1.1 Introduction to the INFO/RAC session 1.2 Election of officers 1.3 Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work
09:30 - 11:00	Item 2: 2.1 Overview of main developments within INFO/RAC and Progress Report of activities during the 2006-2007 biennium. 2.2 Discussion and feedback
11:30 - 12:00	Item 3: 3.1 Overview of the main objectives of the 2008-2009 WP; presentation of the Mediterranean Information and Communication Strategy for Sustainable Development and related work plan

12:00 - 13:30	3.2 General discussion, wrap up and conclusions
15:00 - 16:00	Item 4: 4.1 Partnership and cooperation. Presentations from partners (*max ten minutes each*) on common actions and synergies to be developed on the basis of the INFO/RAC WP for 2008-2009
16:30 - 17:00	Partnership and cooperation. Presentations from partners (continued)
17:00 - 17:30	4.2 Wrap up, discussion and conclusions

Meeting Room A) **Plenary Session** (PAP, BP and INFO RACs)

19:00	Viewing of MEDITERRANEA, the video for the *30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention*

Thursday, 7 June:

Meeting Room A) **Plenary Session** (PAP, BP and INFO RACs)

09:00 – 11:00	Presentation of the conclusions of the RAC Meetings and identification and planning of joint BP-INFO-PAP/RAC activities Presentation of the Ecosystem Approach
11:30 – 13:00	Conclusions and closure of the meeting

ANNEX III

REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF BP, INFO AND PAP RACs - BP/RAC SESSIONS -

(Palermo, June 5-7, 2007)

Introduction

1. Ten riparian countries (Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey) and the European Community were represented at the Plan Bleu meeting, where discussions covered 7 items:

- A general introduction which notably recalled the recommendations formulated by the Focal Points during their last meeting in Nice, in 2005;
- The progress report on the activities of the 2006-2007 biennium;
- Plan Bleu's strategic orientations;
- Plan Bleu's intervention framework for the period 2007-2015;
- The activity program for the period 2008-2009;
- The strategy to reinforce partnerships;
- Recommendations for the 2008-2009 biennium for the Contracting Parties on the one hand, and Plan Bleu on the other.

These items were covered during three sessions, chaired respectively by Montenegro, Morocco and Turkey.

Point 1: Overall presentation of the session

2. In his introductory remarks, Mr Thibault noted that the organisation of the Plan Bleu Session has induced an overall emission of 10.5 t of carbon (due to the travel of the various participants), which would be compensated via the financing of reforestation projects.

3. Then, he recalled the recommendations adopted at the last meeting of Plan Bleu Focal Points in Nice in May 2005 *(refer to the table on page 7 Annex III)* pointing out that the Plan Bleu activity report would be examined in view of these recommendations, and underscoring the part played by the Focal Points - as relay to the countries - in assisting Plan Bleu, in particular, and MAP in general, to move ahead and foster sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Point 2: Progress report on the activities of the 2006-2007 biennium

Chairperson: Ms. Jelena Knezevic (Montenegro)

4. Mr Thibault presented the activities carried out by Plan Bleu during the 2006-2007 biennium, as regards data collection, achievements on the road to sustainable development (via defined and documented indicators, benchmarking and rating, on the basis of multi-criteria analysis), topical activities (in particular in water demand management, renewable energies and rational use of energy) and communication and dissemination of production.

(Refer to the activity report 2006 and to the diaporama presented during the session.)

5. The participants expressed appreciation for the quality of the work done by Plan Bleu during the past 2 years, and highlighted and raised the following issues and questions:

- The importance of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which has served as a forum, for the 21 riparian countries and the European Community, to discuss the issue of sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

- The need to clearly identify Plan Bleu target groups, by seeking to reach out beyond the public of environmentalists already enlisted to facilitate progress towards sustainable development. While the conferences or meetings organised in certain countries to present the main results of Plan Bleu Environment and Development Report (issued in November 2005) have, in this regard, helped bring together the various ministries and other sustainable development players on national level, dissemination and communication efforts need to be pursued in other countries and on further territorial scale. Besides, certain participants have proposed the organisation of targeted communication based on the media in order to reach out to the public at large;

- The need to sustain national capacity building (of which the capacity of the national observatories), particularly in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, with a view to promoting work on sustainable development follow-up indicators (collection, analysis, verification of the quality and reliability of the indicators) and involving the countries in the activities programme conducted under the aegis of the MCSD.

- As regards the works on the MSSD follow-up indicators: i) the need to evaluate the efficiency and relevancy of the indicators selected and to harmonise data collection on national level, ii) the need to work in close coordination with the other Regional Activities Centres (RACs) of MAP and the partners engaged on the subject, and iii) the need for cartographic representations to make the information easily graspable and forceful. It was also proposed to define dedicated indicators for Mediterranean sub-regions in order to facilitate the development of strategies.

Points 3 & 4: Plan Bleu's strategic orientations and intervention framework for the period 2007-2015

Chairperson: Ms. Aziza Bennani (Morocco)

(Refer to the Strategic Orientations Document, to the Strategic Intervention Framework and to the diaporama presented during the session.)

6. The Strategic Orientations Document (DOS/SOD) - developed late 2006 - and its operational translation, the Plan Bleu Strategic Intervention Framework (CIS/SIF) - compiled in the first quarter of 2007 - are aimed not only at identifying, prioritising and planning the medium term crosscutting and themes-based activities of Plan Bleu, but also at specifying the orientations in matter of strengthening partnerships. They constitute, in this regard, framework documents both for Plan Bleu and the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), and for development partners as well.

The Focal Points first expressed their appreciation of Plan Bleu's approach in planning its medium-term interventions within the SOD and the SIF. They made suggestions to further enrich these framework documents, which are to be updated regularly.

7. The discussions addressed the following items:

- Plan Bleu's role and political stance: while the purpose of the RAC is not one of « policy prescriber », it can nonetheless provide stakeholders with responses, through the availability of data and indicators, prospective analyses, tools, methods and collected best practices. In this regard, Mr Thibault recalled that Plan Bleu is, first and foremost, a MAP Activities Centre, such as clearly specified in the Strategic Intervention Framework. Its reporting to UNEP is essential with regard to the relations that Plan Bleu maintains with the partner countries;

- The need, as provided by Plan Bleu in its Strategic Orientation Document (SOD), to work on various territorial scales (local, national and regional);
- Concerning the methodological tools in particular: while it is the role of Plan Bleu to develop tools, test them, demonstrate their relevance and make them available, its mission is not, however, to deploy them on all territorial scales. Indeed, it is up to other stakeholders to take ownership of these tools for local-level implementation;
- Plan Bleu's ambitious activity programme concerning the number of topics addressed and of publications considered, and the need to pool resources for its implementation: Mr Thibault highlighted the fact that the works conducted with regard to each of the topics will be targeted and must be geared towards meeting Plan Bleu's strategic objectives and/or towards explicit requests, or still be coordinated with other programmes or initiatives concerning the Mediterranean (e.g. the Initiative for the Time Frame 2020). Besides, any given scope of activity will not be engaged unless Plan Bleu has the means necessary to conduct the said activity;
- The interest in organizing more economic studies and evaluations to convince political decision-makers to implement sustainable development strategies and tools. To this end, Plan Bleu's economic potential will need to be reinforced and the support of the experts' network strengthened (FEMISE, Economic Research Forum, etc.). As relevant economic institutions have so far been rather lukewarm about environmental issues, MAP has a key role to play in bringing round these institutions to engage in the field of sustainable development. The need to integrate the "employment" factor into the studies conducted has also been put forward;
- Communication and coordination of the activities with other MAP Activities Centres and with the partners: Mr Thibault pointed out that communication will be conducted in coordination with RAC INFO which is mandated thereto, under the supervision of the MAP Coordination Unit;
- The productions calendar will be drawn up in accordance with that of the priority thematic issues of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and this with a view to making of it the voice of the Mediterranean on international level.

8. During the presentation of the Strategic Intervention Framework (SIF), and in response to questions raised by the participants, Mr Thibault further highlighted the following points:

- Monitoring the performance of the countries in matter of sustainable development (benchmarking and rating, on the basis of multi-criteria analysis) is a "perilous" exercise and requires high-level expertise. In this regard, Plan Bleu will calls upon the expertise of the various Mediterranean countries, as well as that of international partners qualified in the field;
- The wish to extend the scope of application of the systemic and prospective sustainability analysis of the "Imagine" method - initially used within the framework of Coastal Areas Management Programme- by testing it, for instance, on the level of organisations, water management programmes on (sub)-catchment areas level, urban development and housing development programmes, etc;
- The project of setting up good practices exchange platforms which have formed the subject of explicit requests by the countries, particularly in regional workshops on Water Demand Management (Zaragoza, March 2007) and Energy (Monaco, March 2007).

Point 5: Activity program for the period 2008-2009

Chairperson: Ms. Bedriye Neze Yildiz (Turkey)

(Refer to the activities programme proposed for the period 2008-2009 and to the diaporama presented during the session.)

9. Mr Thibault presented the activity program as proposed by Plan Bleu for the period 2008-2009. This program focuses on:

- the implementation - jointly with INFO/RAC - of a Mediterranean Information System on the Environment and Sustainable Development (MISESD);
- the drafting - with the assistance of the coordination unit, INFO/RAC and other MAP components - of an initial Report on the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean, to be published every 2 years prior to the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
- further in-depth study of the following 4 topics, in line with the work calendar of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and with the main sustainable development issues highlighted in the SOD: agriculture and rural development, tourism, urban mobility and transport.

10. The discussions addressed the following items:

- Concerning the indicators and the MISESD: the Focal Points highlighted the need, if not the necessity - in order to foster synergies and avoid « duplications » -, to coordinate the activities scheduled in matter of indicators with those conducted by other partners serving on various territorial scales (the countries, other MAP CARs, the European Commission, the European Environment Agency, UNDP, the World Bank). They proposed that Plan Bleu should consider, when the project has made appreciable progress, a presentation of the MISESD to the various countries, as well as some initiation to facilitate using the system and updating the information by the various partners. Mr Thibault pointed out that the works conducted by Plan Bleu will be undertaken, of course, while taking into consideration the existing mechanisms and initiatives. The MISESD will be supplied with the data provided by the countries, though Plan Bleu will, no doubt, have to « screen » certain data so that the information disseminated should be reliable, comparable and relevant;
- As regards the thematic issue related to agriculture and rural development: the works will not be confined to agricultural development in rural environment, but will mainstream a diversity of related issues, such as competition between food agriculture and energy agriculture, competition over water (particularly between domestic and agricultural uses), impacts of climate change on agriculture, etc;
- Concerning the transport thematic issue activities: the participants expressed the wish that Blue Plan activities should mainstream the issues related to the impact of transport on human health, as well as resorting to tax and economic instruments to reduce the use of private cars;
- The Focal Points expressed the wish that the « key » productions of Plan Bleu should be published in the Arabic language.

11. The Focal Points adopted the activities programme proposed by Plan Bleu for the 2008-2009 biennium and pledged to support the implementation of this programme.

Point 6: Strategy to reinforce partnerships

Chairperson: Ms. Bedriye Neze Yildiz (Turkey)

(Refer to the Strategic Intervention Framework (part 4) and to the diaporama presented during the session.)

12. The participants approved the orientations as presented by Plan Bleu for the reinforcement of partnerships with institutions and stakeholders at work in the Mediterranean:

- The Mediterranean Action Plan and other Regional Activity Centres, the other institutions of the United Nations (FAO, UNDP, World Bank);
- European institutions: the European Commission (with the stake of enlisting other General Directorates - than those in charge of the environment - having a key role in matter of sustainable development), the European Environment Agency, the European Investment Bank;
- Bilateral institutions, with the objective of enlisting non exclusively environmental national players (particularly Ministries of finance, transport, energy and agriculture). The challenge consists also in extending Plan Bleu activities on territorial level by focussing not only on local communities and their representative bodies on Mediterranean level, but also on players acting on the level of catchment areas, quarters, etc. Also sought is the building of partnerships with bilateral institutions in charge of cooperation and development;
- Non-institutional stakeholders, such as the world of academia, private operators and civil society organisations (WWF, IUCN and the Mediterranean groups of associations).

13. During the discussions, the Focal Points underscored the need to bring on board the private sector whose activities have a strong impact on the environment and which develops innovative technologies and practices in favour of sustainable development. It may be appropriate, in particular, to target the banking and insurance sector (likely to support the development of renewable energies and clean technologies, still costly, for they are not deployed on industrial level), as well as environmental sponsorship. Mr Thibault pointed out that steps have been taken with certain enterprises with a view to acquainting them with Plan Bleu and its activities. These enterprises have shown interest, all the more so as Plan Bleu can provide information on which leading groups need to base their strategy.

14. Mr Thibault expressed the wish to engage a process of environmental certification of Plan Bleu (which may, subsequently, be extended to MAP) so as to set the example vis-à-vis its Focal Points and its partners.

Point 7: Recommendations for the 2008-2009 biennium

15. At the end of the proceedings, Mr Thibault recalled the main recommendations adopted during the preceding meeting of Plan Bleu national Focal Points (Nice, May 2005).

16. In concluding the meeting, the participants made targeted, concise, explicit and quantifiable recommendations for the forthcoming biennium. The 5 recommendations hereunder were adopted, of which one directed specifically to the Contracting Parties and the other 4 to Plan Bleu.

Recommendation for the Contracting Parties

To support Plan Bleu's efforts to enlarge its audience in countries, in the European Union and in partner organisations, thus attracting, in addition to the contributions of the environmental organisations already committed, those of other administrations and sectors, as well as of public or private stakeholders, who will partake in activities, analyses, and in the shaping of the future of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Recommendations for the Secretariat (Blue Plan/RAC)

1. To develop an interactive information system in cooperation with INFO/RAC and the other MAP components, to improve knowledge of the environment and of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.
2. To devise, implement and disseminate methods to assess country achievements in sustainable development, by relying on relevant, accessible and regularly updated indicators.
3. To organise and implement topical activities within the Plan Bleu's strategic orientations framework, focusing on systemic and prospective studies which will include an economic component, the collection and dissemination of best practices and stakeholder responses.
4. To fully factor in the planning and dissemination of the Plan Bleu's productions, Arabic version included, the countries' requirements for capacity reinforcement, as well as the milestones of regional and international agendas.

Recommendations adopted in May 2005	Achievements (as of June 2007)
Recommendations to the Contracting Parties	
To support the dissemination of the Environment and Development Report's findings in countries and on the Euro-Mediterranean level and the implementation of the common PAP/BP/METAP project in support of implementing the SMAP III programme so as to strengthen the integration of the environment into development in strategies and policies.	Events and meetings to present the main Environment and Development Report's findings were organised in various countries, but effort needs to be pursued in order to reach out to all Mediterranean countries.
To support the Blue Plan's efforts for developing the follow-up activities (sustainable development indicators, thematic follow-up) of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.	The countries have supplied indicators for the MSSD (1st campaign for the collection of indicators in 2007).
To support (voluntary countries, the European Commission) the Blue Plan's efforts for conducting the priority thematic activities by mobilising qualified experts and the other relevant ministries or agencies and by hosting and funding regional, sub-regional and national events (workshops).	The countries have provided appreciable support to Plan Bleu towards conducting the priority thematic activities ("water" and "energy": mobilisation of qualified experts to conduct national and regional studies, funding activities, hosting and funding exchange workshops.
Recommendations to the Secretariat (BP/RAC)	
To increase its presence in individual countries in order to reach a larger public and to contribute to the strengthening of Environmental Ministries' capacities to better integrate environmental concerns into sector policies.	Steps have been taken (particularly via events organised in the countries to present the Environment and Development Report), but effort needs to be pursued in order to reach out to the public at large.
To make the main findings of the Environment and Development Report available to countries and other users in an appropriate format (policy briefs, PowerPoint presentations, websites, participation in national and regional discussions).	Various documents have been designed, published and made available on line on Plan Bleu web site (summary report in French, English and Arabic versions - synthesis - 4 pages – thematic issues, PowerPoint presentation).
To help Contracting Parties to build up information that facilitates the follow up and implementation of the Mediterranean, national and sectoral Strategies for Sustainable Development. Document the indicators, expand analyses and find out good practices with voluntary countries, the EU bodies and the partners and regional initiatives involved in the following fields: water-demand management; energy and climate change; sustainable tourism, sustainable rural development.	34 priority indicators for monitoring the MSSD were identified and documented for the first time in 2007. Monitoring files for these indicators were designed (May 2007). The activities related to the thematic issues of "water" and "energy" (national studies based on indicators and examples of policy-tools and best practices, regional studies, regional exchange workshops) were conducted in 2006-2007. The activities related to the thematic issues "tourism" and "rural development" are underway (2007-2008 biennium).
To focus thematic activities in areas where the MAP can bring added value: sustainable development indicators and trend analysis, inventory of best practices and of policy-tools for demand management and integrated development, sharing of Mediterranean experience.	
To produce and disseminate a set of indicators for following-up the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and help countries provide themselves with indicators for their national strategies?	34 priority indicators for monitoring the MSSD were identified and documented for the first time in 2007.
To strengthen technical partnerships with the other MAP components and institutions such as the EEA, FEMISE, FAO, ICAMAS, IUCN, GWP-Med, OME, MEDENER, METAP, and so forth. And continue engaging in regional co-operation projects in compliance with BP/RAC mandate (*Silva Mediterranea*, MEDSTAT, SMAP, etc.) funded by the European Union and international donors.	Steps have been taken (such as presented under Item 6 "Orientations for strengthening partnerships"). Effort needs to be pursued, especially with such non exclusively environmental, non institutional players - both European and national - (e.g. the private sector).

ANNEX IV

REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF BP, INFO AND PAP RACs - PAP/RAC SESSIONS -

(Palermo, June 5-7, 2007)

PAP/RAC Session 1: Reporting on the Progress

Agenda item 1: Introduction to the PAP/RAC session

1. Mr. I. Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC, introduced the objectives of the PAP/RAC session of the Joint NPFs meeting and presented the agenda, which is given in Annex 1.

2. The following officers of the PAP/RAC session were elected:
   - Chairman: Mr. M. Aydin (Turkey)
   - Vice-chairman: Ms. S. Slim (Tunisia)
     Ms. J. Constantinidou (Cyprus)
   - Rapporteur: Ms. M. Borg (Malta)

Agenda item 2: Progress Report of activities in biennium 2006-2007

3. Mr. M. Prem, Deputy Director of PAP/RAC, presented PAP/RAC progress report. He structured the presentation along the three PAP/RAC main activity pillars in the current biennium, namely: the progress on the development of the ICZM legal framework; projects related to sustainable management of coastal zones; and those related to integrating environment and development. He stressed that the biennium 2006-2007 was one of the most important in the history of PAP/RAC. This was largely due to a major event: the preparation of the draft text of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The rest of the PAP/RAC activities that characterised this biennium were focused on the implementation of the MSSD and of the Operational Strategic Action Plan for ICZM, adopted in Portoroz in 2005. Both documents guided the Centre's activities in the field of ICZM. Here, the main projects were related to sustainable management of coastal zones and to integrating environment and development. He underlined that the CAMP projects were gaining more and more attention, which was an excellent proof that they were a good instrument of assisting countries in dealing with local issues in coastal zones. Some new topics were introduced, such as marine spatial planning, while the work on beach management, landscape management, sustainable tourism, land degradation, water resources management, as well as on ICAM capacity building, training and awareness components was continued. Many projects funded through external sources were active, where special mention should be made of SMAP III, GEF Large Marine Ecosystems, Destinations and PlanCoast projects.

4. Following this presentation, delegates from several countries congratulated PAP/RAC, expressing their gratitude for its permanent support in carrying out ICZM activities. The representative of Montenegro, who was the first to take the floor, stressed the importance of the ICZM Protocol for her country and thanked PAP/RAC for its efforts in preparing this legal document as well as for all the other PAP/RAC projects in which Montenegro has been involved.

5. The representative of Croatia congratulated PAP/RAC for its excellent work and declared that Croatia was proud to be its host-country. With regard to the progress report presented, she suggested to further elaborate the chapter on the Adriatic partnership and PAP/RAC contribution within it, since this issue was very important for the bordering countries. She also invited PAP/RAC to find a way to translate the on-line ICZM course "MedOpen" in Croatian language.

6. The representative of Cyprus congratulated PAP/RAC for its excellent work, especially for the activities in which her country was actively involved such as ICZM Protocol, coastal erosion, marine spatial planning, CAMP, and expressed the hope that there would be other activities in the future too.

7. The representative of Italy congratulated PAP/RAC for the excellent progress report and a large mass of activities implemented. He confirmed that a proposal for a CAMP in Italy would be submitted officially. In order to allow countries for a better management of activities, he suggested adding in the progress report a simple map showing links of the various Barcelona Convention components with other relevant programmes, like MCSD and other MAP centres.

8. The representative of Tunisia congratulated PAP/RAC for its 30 years of life and for the excellent work done in the past biennium. She particularly stressed the diversity and complexity of approaches applied, and the fact that PAP/RAC facilitated the work with other countries from both rims of the Mediterranean.

9. The representative of Algeria congratulated PAP/RAC pointing out benefits that her country had through the CAMP project and its results, which helped launching similar projects in other parts of the Algerian coastal zone. She insisted on the importance of transferring the achievements of various regional programmes at national level.

10. The representative of Morocco congratulated the PAP/RAC team for the variety of activities implemented and especially for those carried out in her country. As these activities require an important co-operation effort, she invited PAP/RAC to strengthen its contacts with NFPs, pointing out that the co-operation within countries needs to be reinforced as well.

11. The representative of the NGO "Marevivo" took the floor to join the congratulations of countries' delegates for a very good work performed by a very limited PAP/RAC staff. He wondered if any work had been done since the last meeting of CPs regarding the salt intrusion problem and the establishment of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA).

12. PAP/RAC Director thanked the participants for their kind words, which would give to himself and his team an additional impetus for continuing and improving the work. He agreed that PAP/RAC had a very limited staff and that with the expected adoption of the ICZM Protocol the amount of work would increase. Concerning salt intrusion and PSSA, he proposed to address the first one the following day within the agenda item on coastal risks, and to leave the latter to the competent institutions: International Maritime Organisation and SPA/RAC. However, PAP/RAC was interested in contributing, especially within its activities on marine spatial planning.

13. MAP Co-ordinator thanked country delegates for their positive opinions expressed on PAP/RAC, shared by the secretariat as well. He was particularly glad with the commitment of countries in CAMPs, which are in the focus of PAP/RAC activities together with the work on the ICZM Protocol.

Agenda item 3: Presentation of other PAP/RAC activities related to core programme

14. In a presentation guided by Ms Z. Skaricic, PAP/RAC Project Officer, four PAP/RAC representatives (Mr. Trumbic, Mr. Prem, Ms Skaricic and Mr. Bjelica) presented PAP projects financed by sources other than MAP budget. As an introduction, she pointed out that the main objective of these projects, in which PAP/RAC is either beneficiary or partner, was to complement PAP/RAC regular activities and fertilise the seed money ensured by the CPs for achieving the sustainable management of the Mediterranean coastal zones. Moreover, these projects allow for building partnerships and achieving synergy with various actors intervening in the field of ICZM, and for increasing the visibility of PAP, MAP and its other components. She explained that the added value of these projects was their complementarity with the MSSD, the Operational Strategic Action Plan for ICAM in the Mediterranean and the future ICZM Protocol. Although some of them extended to new fields of science or practice for PAP, they were always related to coastal zones and were hosted under the ICZM umbrella.

15. Twelve projects were presented, namely:

- SMAP III project called "ICZM for the Mediterranean", a 3-year project intended to promote awareness and create an enabling policy framework for the integration of environment and development in the Mediterranean, with focus on Integrated Coastal Zone Management;
- LIFE-Third Countries project "Destinations" carried out in selected coastal zones in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in order to assess their carrying capacity for tourism and propose strategic plans for tourism development;
- GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem, a large project for GEF eligible countries with the objective to accelerate on the ground implementation of the SAP MED and SAP BIO, to assist the early implementation of the ICZM Protocol, and to implement agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas;
- INTERREG III B CADSES project "PlanCoast" for Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea regions, having for main objectives the introduction of the Marine Spatial Planning (MPS) as a new spatial planning instrument, linking ICZM with the processes of statutory spatial planning, spreading the use of GIS for an effective transnational planning, and contributing to the implementation of EU policies;
- World Bank project "ICD Study and Plan for the Albanian Southern Coastal Region", which can be considered as a continuation of the work done earlier by PAP/RAC in the area in order to affirm the grounds of ICZM in Albania as the basis for sustainable development, and to promote Albania as a tourism destination;
- EU FP6 Framework project "Conscience" for combating coastal erosion in North Sea, English Channel, Western Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Baltic coast, in which PAP/RAC participates as a partner in charge of the strategic review of the links between concepts of coastal erosion management and existing coastal management policies and principles, and the co-ordination of the work of the End-User Advisory Group;
- UNEP/DTIE Manual for Sustainable Tourism, a short-term project where PAP/RAC was entrusted with the preparation of a stand-alone document that would allow planners, decision-makers and managers to understand how they can develop sustainable coastal tourism on the basis of the ICZM framework, and with the implementation of a small pilot project to demonstrate the applicability of the Manual;
- EC Tempus project "Educom@Med" to create and implement a new postgraduate course in Coastal Management emphasising the managerial aspects, in which PAP/RAC is a partner entrusted with the organisation of field work;
- EC Sixth Framework project "Nostrum" aimed at creating a network on governance, science and technology for sustainable water resources management in the Mediterranean, in which PAP/RAC is a partner securing links with Croatian

stakeholders and assisting in the dissemination of the project results through its network;

- INTERREG III C Project "Beachmed" where PAP/RAC is a partner in the sub-project ICZM-MED whose main objective is to promote the ICZM in different Mediterranean pilot sites in five regions of three Mediterranean countries (Greece, Italy and France), and to contribute towards the setting up of a Mediterranean and local integrated management strategy;
- EUCC training course "CoastLearn" for which PAP/RAC edited and translated in Croatian several modules; and
- UNDP project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Dalmatian Coast through Greening Coastal Development - COAST" in whose preparation PAP/RAC contributed.

16. After the presentation of each of the projects, the participants had the opportunity to discus them. In relation to the SMAP III Coast Day initiative (24 October 2007) they expressed some doubts about the timing chosen, but they agreed with the involvement of local NGOs in the implementation of this initiative on the ground. They proposed to relate this date to some other on-going activities in coastal areas in order to achieve the maximum value added. A general question raised was related to the success indicators of all these other projects. It was explained that their evaluation is conducted by the sponsors, and in most of the projects PAP/RAC is just one of the partners. Therefore, the overall responsibility for the project success lies with the Lead Partners. The relation between MEDPOL and PAP/RAC in implementing GEF project was raised, as well as its relevance for the implementation of NAPs within the LBS Protocol framework. It was explained that MAP was mobilising sources from various sources, and with this GEF project MAP would give assistance in the implementation of NAPs, and therefore the implementation of the LBS Protocol. As not all Mediterranean countries are eligible for GEF financing MAP will use its catalytic role to share experiences with all the countries in the region.

Agenda item 4: Preparation of draft text of ICZM Protocol

17. Mr. I. Trumbic introduced the progress on the preparation of the draft ICZM Protocol. He mentioned the main steps in the drafting of the text and expressed satisfaction with the result achieved. The Working Group, he underlined, has successfully completed its mission, delegated to it by the Contracting Parties at their last Ordinary meeting (Portoroz, November 2005). With the exception of a few reservations on some wordings in the Protocol, consensus has been reached on the text, which will most likely be ready for signature in early 2008. He concluded by explaining the road map for the next few months, when some countries will be visited in order to overcome the reservations to some articles of the Protocol.

18. In a discussion that followed participants fully supported the Protocol. The Italian delegate suggested to start immediately the process of defining priorities, timetable, main actors, etc. in order to present to the CPs a programme for the implementation of the Protocol. He also suggested to present clearly the links with other MAP protocols and the MSSD. In the same line, the representative of France suggested to start immediately the preparatory activities for an efficient implementation of the Protocol. Referring to the French experience with coastal law, he insisted on the need to provide a proper environmental education for judges and other legal actors, and to make necessary legal adjustments within countries.

19. The Tunisian delegate pointed out that the importance of the Protocol was in the fact that it would lead countries towards ICZM by assisting them in implementing principles such as delineation, integration, monitoring, etc. By providing a common umbrella it would help countries achieving sustainability in their own coastal zones. In this context, the representative of Montenegro underlined the importance of the new national legislation and national strategy for sustainable development, which are being adopted in her country.

20. Concerning the future implementation of the Protocol, the representatives of Algeria and Croatia pointed out that the starting point of the countries was not the same and that PAP/RAC should make an initial assessment and prepare a checklist for implementation. For instance, Algeria has a coastal law and Croatia has a national legislation, which provides for the application of most of the provisions of the Protocol. The representative of Turkey joined this discussion by suggesting that, after the signature, countries should be assisted in strengthening their legal structures for the implementation of the Protocol that needs to be monitored, assessed and reported in an adequate way. He particularly insisted on the importance of media whose task would be to raise awareness and create an environment in which it would be difficult to escape the implementation of the Protocol. For the representative of the EC, several issues needed to be given particular attention with regard to the implementation: What would be the common priorities and the tools to achieve them? Which kind of evaluation criteria and progress indicators would be applied? How to measure integration? She suggested to work on these issues and to use commonly accepted methodologies that are not only one-expert opinion.

21. Stressing once again the importance of the Protocol, the representative of "Marevivo" wondered about three items in the Protocol that are still in discussion: the definition of coastal zone, the bureaucracy obstacle and the system of sanctions. He invited country delegates to inform PAP/RAC about these three points as a basis for discussion at the occasion of the last working group to finalise the text of the Protocol, to be held the following week.

22. The Director of PAP/RAC thanked the participants for their good ideas and suggestions on how to proceed. He agreed that there were a large number of tasks in the Protocol and that it would be necessary to define priorities. He also wondered how to proceed in the period after the signature and before the ratification of the Protocol, which may take a few years. With regard to the proposal of "Marevivo", he was not sure if the countries would be able to comment within only one-week time on such complex, and mainly political, issues.

PAP/RAC Session 2: Future orientations

23. In announcing this session on the PAP/RAC orientation in the next few years, PAP/RAC Director explained that three broad themes were selected to stimulate discussion: global changes and their impact on coastal zones; awareness raising and marketing of ICZM; and local level action. He invited the participants to express their opinions and make suggestions in accordance with their priorities.

Agenda item 5: Impact of global changes on coastal zones

24. Mr. R. Billé, PAP Consultant, pointed out that globalisation drove – and was driven by – widespread industrialisation. Both triggered several changes of global significance, with particular relevance to the Mediterranean: ever increasing technological innovations, mechanisation and intensification of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, urbanisation, maritime, terrestrial and air transport boost, tourism development, artificialisation of watersheds, and littoralisation of populations and activities, he stressed. The combination of such changes contributed to climate change, the greatest environmental change of our time. Taken together, these trends placed high pressure on Mediterranean coastal resources and space, e.g. through land-based and maritime pollution, biological invasions, coastal artificialisation, wetlands destruction, groundwater overexploitation and salt intrusions, erosion, biodiversity loss, and fish stocks overexploitation. His presentation explored the risks associated with such trends, and how they make Mediterranean societies more vulnerable to "natural" disasters like droughts, floods, earthquakes or tsunamis. Key concepts including risk, vulnerability and disaster were defined. The point was made that these were fundamentally social phenomena, resulting from the interaction between natural dynamics (sometimes man-influenced) and socio-economic dynamics (like urbanisation). While underlining the contrasted vulnerability of different

regions/groups around the Mediterranean, some concrete examples were proposed. The presentation then provided an overview of how such issues were currently dealt with, including in the MSSD and draft ICZM Protocol. Finally, the intimate link between risk management, vulnerability reduction (esp. climate change adaptation) and ICZM was highlighted, and some ways forward were suggested.

25. Congratulating the PAP/RAC Consultant for its excellent presentation, several participants commented on global changes and their link with the ICZM Protocol. The representative of Italy invited PAP/RAC to propose a road map linking the elements of the presentation with the specific articles of the Protocol in order to offer to the countries a common framework and specific tools and strategies for action. The representative of France pointed out that the presentation confirmed the necessity of the 100-m setback, which has been intensively discussed with regard to the Protocol. Although global changes were a reality, he recommended not to be too catastrophic and to remember all the disasters that we have had survived in the past. The representative of Israel pointed out the example of his country where the sea level rise of 10 cm only in the past decade was a reason for worrying. He added that the same situation was recorder in many places along the Mediterranean coasts, which were exposed to another common problem, the coastal erosion.

26. PAP/RAC Director agreed with comments made by the participants adding that the notion of 100 m setback was not only a question of landscape preservation but also of survival. In the Southeast Asia, the number of people that died from tsunami was significantly lower in the area behind 100 m from the coastline. He reminded that tsunami in the Mediterranean can be even bigger danger than in the Southeast Asia because of tectonic movements and earthquakes, and much shorter time available for evacuation.

Agenda item 6: Awareness raising and ICZM marketing

27. Mr. B. Shipman, PAP Consultant, started his presentation by stating that the need to engage decision-makers, opinion formers and the general public in the ICZM process was seen as a crucial component in the implementation of the Protocol, as each CP would be expected to formulate a national strategy for ICZM along with coastal implementation plans and programmes. Unfortunately, ICZM practitioners have to spend a large amount of effort explaining the very concept itself rather than its benefits. The PAP/RAC White Paper on the Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean recognised that the main shortcomings of proactive ICZM derived from administrative inertia at all levels and the lack of political will. Therefore, the ICZM marketing strategy's process of defining a new identity and language for ICZM has to be outlined, in particular:

- identifying the key ICZM message *"ICZM...a better way, visualising the coastal future you want, enabling you to achieve it"*;
- the process of development of a new, relevant and attractive language and images for ICZM based around six key concepts for achieving a new paradigm of sustainable coastal development;
- a simple, stepped process to achieve this paradigm, adaptable to the individual local situations around the Mediterranean;
- the means of communicating this new message including the use of TV and other media, coastal "ambassadors" and other co-ordinated marketing tools.

28. In the discussion that followed, participants congratulated the PAP Consultant for his excellent and very instructive presentation. The representative of Montenegro particularly thanked PAP/RAC for focusing on awareness raising as those who work on local level have difficulties to convey the ICZM message. She confirmed the need for a strong marketing of ICZM and asked for PAP/RAC's help in formulating and implementing a marketing strategy in

her country. The representative of Cyprus wondered how PAP/RAC would support countries to implement the ICZM marketing strategy presented, especially with regard to the Protocol. The same question was raised by the representative of Italy who proposed that in the next biennium PAP/RAC develop a general strategy for ICZM marketing adaptable to countries' needs and to provide common methodological tools for its implementation to avoid the waste of efforts. The representative of Tunisia pointed out that countries needed a professional expertise in the field, which would help them to adapt the marketing approach to their needs and to create country-specific marketing images of the ICZM.

29. To be more concrete, the representative of Algeria invited PAP/RAC to provide for more training on participatory approaches that are an important marketing tool and crucial activity in all ICZM projects. The representative of France agreed on the need for more training and better public information, but he also underlined that the first effort should be made at government level and that the economic approach seemed to be a very good argument for decision-makers. The representative of Morocco supported the idea of adopting an economic approach in the communication strategy because it allows us to explain that environmental protection is an important guarantee of revenue. The representative of Turkey recommended finding some solid examples of ICZM marketing and showing which methods were used to convince.

30. PAP/RAC representatives expressed their satisfaction with a very positive reaction of the participants to the marketing approach. They explained that the strategy presented was conceived within the SMAP project on ICZM in the Southern Mediterranean countries but that it could be extended to all the countries of the region. PAP/RAC is ready to assist countries in shaping their own marketing strategies, depending on the available resources and the willingness of countries to do so. In the meantime, countries were invited to use the products of the SMAP project, for instance to present at their national networks the movie that is being produced. They also agreed that the economic approach could be very efficient and informed that a study on the economic benefit of the setback zone was in preparation by a renamed team of experts.

Agenda item 7: CAMP lessons and future activities

31. Mr. A. Bjelica, PAP/RAC representative in charge of CAMP Cyprus, offered an overview of MAP Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP). MAP CAMP started as an attempt to put a sustainable development philosophy and ICZM approach into specific coastal settings of the Mediterranean. Now, with 13 CAMP Projects completed, two on-going and three under preparation, the exercise has evolved into multi-disciplinary local actions involving a number of different stakeholders. Even after 15 years of their continuous implementing, demand for CAMP Projects does not seem to weaken. Major reasons why a country would want to carry out a CAMP project include:

- gaining professional assistance in solving specific coastal and/or environmental issue(s);
- revisiting the country's coastal development strategy;
- inducing changes in the country's policies towards coast.

A CAMP Project is ownership of the country in which it is being undertaken and therefore the country has responsibility to secure a portion of sources for its implementation. Also, the country should secure that the interventions induced by a CAMP Project have long-term effects, spanning long after the MAP involvement in the CAMP area has finished. CAMP Projects exhibit different objectives, geographical scope, implementation arrangements and work programme. However, they prove to be one of the rare occasions where various MAP RACs co-operate under a common working framework. Rich experience in undertaking CAMP Projects prompted PAP/RAC to rethink their nature and reshape their future. A "new-generation CAMP" may spawn transboundary projects (two countries implementing a CAMP Project jointly), sub-regional projects (three or more countries co-operating in a project) or second-generation

country projects (a CAMP project being implemented in another area of a country where a "first-generation" CAMP project has already been undertaken).

32. Mr. G. Constantinides, PAP/RAC consultant and Task Manager of CAMP Cyprus, stressed the diversity of interventions being in the focus of different CAMP Projects. A host of environmental and coastal management issues (relating to water, biodiversity, urbanisation, tourism, waste management, etc.) is being addressed using various implementation tools (ICZM, land-use planning, data management, GIS, public participation, CCA, EIA and SEA, Economic instruments, etc.). Strengths and achievements of CAMP Projects seem to outweigh their shortcomings. Ever-changing design of CAMP Projects offers new opportunities, which can be recognised in the on-going CAMP Cyprus. Policy-reform driveness distinguishes CAMP Cyprus from other CAMP Projects: CAMP Cyprus is not confined to a country area and attempts to replicate the project's experience into other national coastal zones. Being a "policy-level CAMP Project", it attempts to initiate a change in national policies towards coast by using ICZM as an overarching framework and various ICZM tools (CCA, SEA and Environmental Economics) as a cross-sectoral instruments for achieving designed coastal management objectives. A measure of success of CAMP Cyprus will be how well will this Project be related to wider national policy concerns on environment, society and economy. Innovative nature of CAMP Cyprus is not without risks. Policy makers should be able to network efficiently across individual Ministries, overcoming the cult of technical specificity and allowing for strategic approaches instead of sticking to "conventional wisdom".

33. The representative of Tunisia underlined that CAMPs were based on a multidisciplinary approach (economic, environmental, etc.) but that she did not see in them a regulatory approach. There is a need for a clear legal framework since the main issue is not to make plans but to implement them.

34. The representative of Morocco objected with regard to the selection criteria for CAMPs. Her country had to choose on 1/7 of its coastal zone, the Atlantic coast being much longer than the Mediterranean one. She wondered if there was a possibility to find ways of co-operation that would make benefit coasts other Mediterranean as well.

Agenda item 8: Programme, budget and recommendations for biennium 2008-2009

35. Mr. I. Trumbic, PAP/RAC Director, presented proposal of the PAP/RAC activities in the coming biennium, based on the main commitments and approaches of MAP and the Centre. This includes the MSSD, the Operational Strategic Action Plan for ICZM, and the activities related to the ICZM Protocol if adopted. He stressed that the work programme is structured around three main axes, namely the Protocol, ICZM and integrating environment and development. The proposed activities would therefore focus on the legal component, i.e. the ICZM Protocol, namely the preparatory activities for the implementation of the Protocol if adopted. The ICZM axes includes the CAMP projects and their implementation at various stages, some approaches that were recently introduced, such as spatial planning in coastal zones, landscape management, beach management, awareness and capacity building activities. The axes related to integrating environment and development includes activities such as CCA for tourism, assistance in implementation of the MSSD and projects on land degradation. Each activity was presented in a logical framework manner as requested by the Co-ordinating Unit, with linkages to other projects, RACs and alike, and with achievement indicators. However, the budget was not presented at this stage as first the discussion on the draft programme was needed, and also there was no information available on the availability of the budget for the next biennium.

36. In the discussion that followed majority of delegates congratulated PAP/RAC for the proposed work programme as they find it well balanced among the components and to be

diversified so to give the possibility to all Mediterranean countries to find the niche for their relevant activities in it. They supported the continuation of the Centre's activities, especially those related to the Protocol and to the ICZM component as they find it very important. Some delegates underlined the need to restructure the proposed programme in such a way that the priorities would be clearer, and that the most essential parts of it would be easily to understand. This would guarantee that the funding is used efficiently. Also, it was suggested that links to other RACs and projects be made in a more dynamic way. Two concrete proposals for the activities were suggested by the participants, namely to include the working group on ICZM and urban management as requested by the MCSD, and to include valorisation and identification of outstanding landscapes as a thematic study for the landscape management activity. In addition, it was proposed to continue the preparatory activities for the implementation of the Protocol even if not signed. A consensus has already been reached for many common issues that require some joint initiatives.

37. In responding to the comments and suggestions from the discussion, Mr. Trumbic made it clear that the priority for PAP/RAC was the Protocol, ICZM and CAMPs. However, he mentioned that there was always a certain level of uncertainty with regard to the adoption of the ICZM Protocol and related programme for its implementation. The priorities were underlined once more by saying that the Protocol and the ICZM component were the main focus of PAP/RAC for the following biennium. In concluding this agenda item Mr. Trumbic thanked the participants for their valuable proposals that would help to refine the programme and said that he understood their concerns. He said that the improved work programme would be presented at the MAP Focal Points meeting.

38. The conclusions of the Joint Meeting related to PAP/RAC 2006-2007 Progress Report and Proposed Recommendations and Work Programme for 2008-2009 are presented below.

Conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the Focal Points of BP, INFO and PAP RACs Related to PAP/RAC 2006-2007 Progress Report and Proposed Recommendations and Work Programme for 2008-2009:

1. The Progress Report on the PAP/RAC Activities Implemented or On-going During the 2006-2007 Biennium was well received and approved by the participants. Many countries congratulated PAP/RAC on their work pointing out the great amount of effort put in the projects undertaken, their diversity, regional distribution and balance among the countries. In particular, efforts related to the preparation of the ICZM Protocol, CAMP projects and other ICZM initiatives were underlined. They also acknowledged that all that had been achieved with limited staff resources.

2. With regard to the projects implementation, the participants suggested that there was still some room for improvements. In particular, it was suggested to improve the links with other RACs in the implementation of the work programme, and to show these links clearly in the next progress report, as well as to make a cross-reference map in the report to show the links with major MAP documents and commitments, such as with the MSSD, Barcelona Convention as such, and the ICZM Protocol.

3. A number of projects were implemented or are being implemented with external funds, and the participants recognised these extra efforts of PAP/RAC to enrich the work programme. Thus, the participants agreed that the added value had been achieved, as well as synergies with other institutions and projects. All this contributed to the exchange of experience among the projects and regions, and improved the visibility of PAP/RAC and MAP.

4. It was recommended that PAP/RAC should:
   - try to extend some projects (like SMAP) to all of the Mediterranean countries,

- establish criteria for the selection of external projects and give priority to those closely linked with the priorities of the ICZM Protocol and MSSD, and
- secure a better promotion and dissemination of these projects.

5. Risk management was recognised as one of the priorities for the future. PAP/RAC should prepare a roadmap for the implementation of the Protocol articles related to risks. In particular, it should make a common framework and develop specific tools and strategies to reduce negative effects of environmental risks and natural disasters.

6. Marketing strategy for a better promotion of the ICZM Protocol was accepted by the participants as a very important and innovative initiative. It was recommended to:

- support countries to implement the marketing strategy, especially with regard to the ICZM Protocol,
- extend SMAP marketing activities to all of the Mediterranean countries,
- develop a general strategy for ICZM marketing adaptable to respective countries and a common methodological tool for its implementation,
- strengthen education and training on participatory approaches which help the implementation of ICZM marketing, and
- provide assistance from professionals for ICZM marketing within projects.

7. The proposed Work Programme for 2007-2008, presented in a logical frame format as requested by the Co-ordinating Unit, was well received by the participants. The main activities in the biennium to come will be related to ICZM, Protocol and CAMPs, which are PAP/RAC priorities. The participants agreed that all the relevant issues and ICZM topics from various MAP documents and commitments were well covered by the proposed activities. However, the activities proposed should be accompanied by the related budget, and activities should be given some more prioritisation. This would give PAP/RAC more flexibility in coping with uncertainties due to the fact that ICZM Protocol has not yet been adopted. Also, it was suggested to better present the links with other MAP components.

ANNEX V

REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF BP, INFO AND PAP RACs - INFO/RAC SESSIONS -

(Palermo, June 5-7, 2007)

INTRODUCTION

1. Following the decision of the Contracting Parties at their *14th Ordinary Meeting* (Portoroz, Slovenia, November 2005) to continue the practice of convening joint meetings of the Focal Points of the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), the Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre (INFO/RAC) and the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the fourth Joint Focal Points Meeting of the three RACs took place in Palermo, Italy, with INFO/RAC taking care of the logistical aspects. The Joint Meeting was held at the Castello Utveggio, from 5 to 7 June 2007.

This report concerns the INFO/RAC section of the meeting, which was held on the 6th of June 2007.

PARTICIPATION

2. The Joint National Focal Points Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Community, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey; and by the following intergovernmental, non-governmental and business organisations: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), European Environment Agency (EEA), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Development Programme-Turkey (UNDP), SMAP RMSU Project, Federparchi, Marevivo, WWF, Business Council for Sustainable Development, Gruppo San Pellegrino. In addition to the representatives of the three RACs involved in the Joint Meeting, a representative of REMPEC and SPA/RAC attended the meeting. A number of experts attended as observers. Mr P. Mifsud, MAP Coordinator and Ms. Luisa Colasimone, MAP Information Officer, took part in the meeting as representatives of the Coordinating Unit of MAP.

Agenda item 1:

1.1 Introduction to the INFO/RAC session:

3. Mr. S. Illuminato, Director General of INFO/RAC, welcomed participants to the INFO/RAC session and presented the main items to be discussed at the meeting. He stated that the Joint Meeting represented an important stage in preparing for the *15th Meeting of Contracting Parties* in December 2007 and had a challenging agenda before it. He wished the meeting every success and looked forward to its outcome.

1.2 Election of officers:

4. Following consultations and as proposed by INFO/RAC, the Meeting elected the following officers:

- Chairpersons: Ms. Jelena Knezevic (Montenegro)
  Mr. Eng. Moheeb Abdel-Sattar Ebrahim (Egypt)
- Rapporteurs: Ms. Sari Zimmerman (Israel)

1.3 Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work:

5. The participants unanimously adopted the agenda as presented by the Chairperson. The agenda is attached as Annex II to the main report.

Agenda item 2: Overview of main developments within INFO/RAC and Progress Report of activities during the 2006-2007 biennium. Discussion and feedback.

6. In his introduction, Mr. Illuminato, declared that during 2006-2007 the Palermo based Centre had evolved significantly: originally focusing on Environmental Remote Sensing, it had turned into the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication of the Barcelona Convention – a MAP Component. In the past two years, this mission adjustment has brought about great changes and created new challenges that INFO/RAC intends to tackle by pledging its daily support to UNEP/MAP and all those bearing an interest in the Barcelona Convention, be it of an environmental, social or economic nature. Mr. Illuminato added that, in preparing for the 2008-2009 biennium, the goal of the Centre is to continue to build on the positive results achieved to date and reach for new outcomes through effective and incisive processes and actions that can help improve its work, as well as that of other relevant institutions, communities and stakeholders within the Mediterranean. The Director firmly believes that the commitment and dedication of the INFO/RAC team, helped by a continuous attention in maintaining its obligations towards institutions and the different sectors of the civil society will be key factors in helping to tackle the changes and obtaining future successes.

7. Mr. Paolo Guglielmi, Deputy Director of INFO/RAC, reviewed the information contained in the INFO/RAC Progress Report for the period 2006-2007 (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.317). He emphasised that, over the past two years, the workload of INFO/RAC had been particularly challenging. Its main activities have consisted in:

- Promoting *Info*MAP - the UNEP/MAP shared environmental and sustainable development information system and implementing its partnership framework;
- Designing the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD and implementing the related IC Pilot Project;
- Building and/or strengthening Institutional Partnerships with the Coordination Unit and Components of MAP and Regional/National Cooperation, in particular within the GEF-LME and Horizon 2020 Initiative.
- Supporting the IC activities of the Coordination Unit and Components of MAP;

He particularly stressed the fact that, due to the non disbursement of funds committed by the Italian Ministry of the Environment, several of the planned activities for 2007 are severely at risk of not being completed.

8. After Mr. Guglielmi's presentations, the floor was opened to discussion. All participants congratulated INFO/RAC on the work it had been carried out over the past year, and particularly on the formulation of the IC Strategy of the MSSD. During the discussion it was noted that *Info*MAP would be extremely useful in providing visibility to the MSSD, BC and MAP, as well as ensuring that these legal frameworks and strategies are widely accepted at the national level. Information and communication are crucial for the BC, however, because of limited funding and expertise this might prove a difficult task to achieve. Furthermore, it was recognised that the experience INFO/RAC has matured in developing an Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD might also be put to use to increase the visibility of the entire MAP system, particularly in view of its coming reform and the new management that will be approved at the next COP.

9. Participants appreciated the efforts being carried out by INFO/RAC in implementing the activities presented for the 2006-2007 biennium. In addition they recognised the importance of producing a state of the environment report of the Mediterranean region, and agreed that, for

this purpose, the MAP data portal/website being implemented by INFO/RAC might be used as the main source to gather all the information that will be used to produce the report. Furthermore, it was acknowledged that INFO/RAC should continue pursuing integration and cooperation with national authorities, and that all national stakeholders should be consulted to gather their opinions on the implementation of the IC Strategy at the Mediterranean level.

10. Participants further acknowledged that INFO/RAC had greatly improved the internal and external information and communication system within MAP. The activities so far implemented with regards to the MSSD website were greatly supported. The new MSSD website was described as a highly flexible and interactive tool, which has facilitated the search for information concerning the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. It was also emphasised that the website could be used as a possible tool to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by the Contracting Parties. Another point of merit was the fact that the website is now available in four languages. A representative also noted with dismay that REMPEC failed to be involved in any of the activities carried out by INFO/RAC, possibly due to the fact that the Emergency Response Centre is financed entirely by the Countries yet is managed by IMO. It was pointed out that this represents a highly irregular situation, which should be rectified, in fairness to the other Regional Activity Centres.

11. Many Focal Points indicated that the media and audio-visual communication activities carried out by INFO/RAC had been very successful. They acknowledged the fact that the outputs were good, well distributed and well received. They underlined the importance of working in close collaboration with all the RACs to ensure that the outputs incorporate the various messages that need to be conveyed to the wider audience. Furthermore, attention was drawn to the fact that a strategic plan needs to be put in place to decide what type of audio-visual and media activities it's worth developing. This point was previously mentioned at the *12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development*, where it was highlighted that the draft IC Strategy for the MSSD identified quite well how INFO/RAC was planning to communicate, but not what the message consisted of or to whom it was directed. There was also confusion about whether it was an MSSD strategy or a MAP strategy, a position which should be clarified by the CPs. Since the decision of updating the MAP Strategy has to be taken at the COP, the Focal Points suggested putting together a proposal on the subject to be tabled at the MAP Focal Points meeting in November and for its subsequent presentation at the COP 15. The general feeling was that there is urgent need to update the overall MAP IC strategy and since the MSSD is an element of the MAP system then it might be sensible to put the two together, subject to further discussion.

12. It was further stated that the *Info*MAP objectives are clear. It appears that the different RACs are increasingly understanding the importance of *Info*MAP, but it needs to become very clear to everyone in the MAP system, and should be explicitly stated that *Info*MAP will specifically assist the Contracting Parties in implementing the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the MSSD. Unfortunately, due to funding problems, little progress has been made in implementing *Info*MAP during 2007.

13. As far as the MAP website, the focal points stated that it was a good and innovative tool when it was built in 2003 but now it needs substantial revision and update to coop with the new emerging needs. Participants declared that both the MAP website and the *Info*MAP system, which are related but not identical, need to be made to work.

14. Other comments were made regarding partnerships within MAP. Participants agreed on the importance of partnerships, but stated that their contents and objectives need to be clear before embarking on them. Internal partnerships are also important but need to be integrated in the work plan, in the context of developing *Info*MAP.

15. Further support was expressed to INFO/RAC for the good work carried out in drafting the IC Strategy for the MSSD. The Strategy is set to play an important role in connecting the whole network of organisations, stakeholders and public who are involved in the MAP system and the MSSD. Participants agreed on the need to have a wider, recognisable visual image (identity) and a comprehensive system of internal and external communication. They also concurred on the need to deliver information to the right users at the right time, a concept which should be more clearly stated in the IC Strategy.

16. Once again participants underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation with other RACs for an effective IC strategy. It was stated that REMPEC, an important RAC, should be included in all IC activities.

17. Regarding the issue of methodology versus content, the Coordination Unit stated that it was recognised that INFO/RAC had failed to deliver in 2007 a number of development tools, such as the website, yet was aware that this was largely attributable to issues related to funding. The Coordination Unit expressed its will to cooperate with INFO/RAC to find a solution to this lamentable situation and hoped that the situation could soon be resolved. The Coordination Unit also stated that priority should be given to other tools such as publications, updating website contents and MAP materials, before tackling a new MAP strategy. Furthermore, it is important to ensure that all the Parties and organisations involved have these tools at their disposal, available in the four languages. Once this has been achieved it will be possible to build on this basis.

18. Participants agreed that INFO/RAC needed to revise its proposed work plan to further analyse and explain the type of policy questions it intends to address. They also concurred that *Info*MAP should be a real tool to help the countries in a structured and systematic way to provide the information and data needed to implement the BC. It was widely recognised that this requires a huge commitment from countries that should provide INFO/RAC with the information it needs in order to provide deliverables. It was also brought to the attention of the meeting that the proposed two-yearly state of the environment report might prove an extremely challenging task, since it requires a lot of resources at the regional level in order to bring all the information and data together and cannot be based on the national reports that are structured in a totally different way. Furthermore, every country has its own focus issues (i.e. desertification, ICZM). It was suggested that, since the BC provides a set of systematic and consistent data and information, the two-yearly report could be based on this as well as on data collected through EEA and the MEDSTAT program that EUROSTAT is running. Caution should be exercised in planning on providing an overall report every two years, although thematic reports could be produced (i.e. concentrating on water issues based on selected indications). It was proposed that a report of this nature be synchronised with the deliverables of the *Horizon 2020* reports and that synergies needed to be carefully investigated.

19. The need for countries to provide INFO/RAC with all the necessary information was supported by a number of participants, yet it was brought to the attention of the meeting that the information requires previous harmonisation and integration according to international standards (i.e. ISO standards or INSPIRE directive) for it be useful.

20. Other representatives fully endorsed the efforts of INFO/RAC in the issue of partnerships and international coordination and collaboration, for clearly defined purposes. With the assistance and cooperation of entities that follow the multi-stakeholder approach, based on their capacities, *Info*MAP would be able to integrate all the available resources and make them available to users.

21. Participants commended INFO/RAC on the choice of the date for MED*day* is well chosen, since June is notably a month in which the environment and sustainable development are celebrated all over the world. Due to the large amount of work involved in the organisation of a

world event on the Mediterranean environment it was recommended that work begin immediately, with suggestions being put forward for the development of a small song and a flag for children.

22. Further comments included the need to find a bridge, or complementarity between what countries are doing in terms of IC and what is being proposed by *Info*MAP. Some countries brought to the attention of the meeting that they are currently engaged in a number of programs that concern the sharing and exchange of environmental and sustainable development information such as MEDSTAT, Cooperation with Africa and SMAP-RMSU. It was thus suggested that a consensus be found among the different programs to establish a unique gateway to this information, in order to optimise the use of resources, so that information is not spread out over a number of websites and portals. It was also suggested that a selection be made in the type of information made available to users, and that the future website provide visibility for those NGOs that don't have a website of their own, but that carry out important work on sustainable development and environmental protection.

23. In the framework of providing more efficient implementation of the BC, it was agreed that it is extremely important to have a proper reporting system that can streamline all the data currently available and the reporting being produced at the national level. It was asserted that many Mediterranean countries are already part of or are preparing to enter the Eionet system and it would be extremely useful if data collected by environmental protection bodies and agencies could be fed into a single system that liaises with Eionet. The system in question could be the BC system or the report on the state of the environment. The importance of collaboration with other UN agencies, whereby reports could also be used by UNDP, UNECE, was also stressed as being of particular importance.

24. It was suggested that opportunities at the sub-regional level should be explored, particularly for small countries that require the exchange of information and technical data. It was also agreed that publications were still important, as was the promotion of the UNEP/MAP system at international meetings, for instance at the Environment for Europe Conference being held in October 2007. It was also suggested that UNEP/MAP be represented by INFO/RAC at the meeting.

25. The Secretariat was asked to provide a view of the cooperation between INFO/RAC and other RACs, as well as an overview of the entire MAP system. The question of funding was again stated as the first issue to be addressed for the successful completion of activities for the current biennium.

26. The Coordinating Unit, as well as several others delegates, stressed the need to focus on the next six months to complete and finalise those priority activities which were already planned and agreed such as the re-doing of the MAP website, the BC Logo, the biannual MAP report, the COP 15 website, the Med Award, etc.

Agenda item 3: Overview of the main objectives of the 2008-2009 WP; presentation of the Mediterranean Information and Communication Strategy for Sustainable Development and related work plan.

27. Following Mr. Guglielmi's presentation of the work plan of INFO/RAC for the 2006-2007 biennium, Mr. Illuminato, Director General of INFO/RAC, illustrated the four main objectives that are proposed to guide the work of INFO/RAC for the 2008-2009 biennium.

- Once approved, to carry out the design and implementation of the Information and Communication Strategy for the MAP Coordination Unit and Components; and improve and implement the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD;
- Design and implementation of *Info*MAP – the UNEP/MAP shared environmental and sustainable development information system.

28. Mr. Illuminato stated that the objectives were the natural follow-up of the activities INFO/RAC had carried out during 2006-2007. Following the presentation of the objectives the floor was opened to general discussion, in which participants suggested some of the activities that INFO/RAC should take on board, in accordance with the main objectives. Some of these include:

- increase the visibility of the entire MAP system;
- the UNEP/MAP data portal/website being implemented by INFO/RAC might be used as the main source to gather all the information that will be used to produce the proposed biannual report on the state of the environment;
- the MAP/Info System website could be used as a possible tool to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by the Contracting Parties;
- update the overall BC IC strategy;
- modify the UNEP/MAP website contents to include interactive games for children.

Agenda item 4: Partnership and cooperation. Presentations from partners (*max ten minutes each*) on common actions and synergies to be developed on the basis of the INFO/RAC WP for 2008-2009.

29. In order to improve collaboration and explore new ideas for common actions, a number of delegations were invited to present the activities carried out in collaboration with INFO/RAC during 2006-2007. At the same time they were asked to provide suggestions for possible cooperation for the upcoming biennium. The following delegates made presentations:

EEA:

30. Presentation of the Eionet system by the European Environment Agency took place during a plenary session, giving participants from the three different RAC NFPs meetings the opportunity to assist. The European Environment Agency presented Eionet from a national and regional perspective. Eionet is a network including around 900 experts from 38 countries in more than 300 national organisations. It is a system of integrated IT tools and processes creating a shared information infrastructure to support the reporting of environmental data and information within Europe and to international bodies. Eionet provides a wide range of information on and assessments of: the state of the environment and trends, pressures on the environment, the driving forces behind them, policies and their effectiveness and outlooks and scenarios. Eionet is based on data and information coming from the member countries.

CBD:

31. The CBD representative read the statement sent by Mr. Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Starting with a reference to the letter of intent signed by CBD and INFO/RAC in March 2007 on collaborative efforts towards shared goals and objectives in the context of outreach, communication and education strategies/activities, the statement focused on the points of common interest and potential interaction of the two sister conventions (CBD and BC). Specific reference was made to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, the establishment and implementation of marine protected areas and the application of the integrated coastal management approach. The statement underlined as well that many other CBD work programmes do contribute to address the seven priority fields of action of the MSSD, multiplying therefore the possibility of close collaboration. The CBD representative suggested that INFO/RAC be the gateway to reach diverse group of policy makers and experts in the Mediterranean region, as well as be the main facilitator (identifying an operational modality for knowledge sharing) of CBD proposed collaboration with PAP/RAC with respect to CBD current efforts for compiling and synthesising IMCAM case studies.

Egypt:

32. The Egyptian delegation presented the national Environmental Information Systems (EEIS). The general objective of EEIS is to provide hardware and software facilities whilst maintaining and developing them to be able to process/analyse environmental information and disseminate the reports to all concerned entities. The EEIS has the main following functions:
Establishing and maintaining of information and computer systems including equipment (Hardware) and operational systems and programs (Software) related to environment and its various component elements;

- Acquiring, developing and maintaining application software;
- Collecting and classifying environmental information and data relating to specific EEAA activities, and processing them to provide EEAA top management and different sectors, branches and other organisations with data needs to help them prepare policies and plans and to rationalise decision making.
- Documenting EEAA information systems programs, and databases, and issue of reports especially related to environmental/socio-economical situations;
- Monitoring recent international development related to information technology hardware and software, conducting necessary studies and useful research for the development of different activities of EEAA and its branches;
- Ensure general cooperation of the national environmental control and monitoring network.

A web site (www.eeaa.gov.eg) has been also developed by the Ministry and the Agency's (*MSEA-EEAA)* has been developed to provide environmental information to the public, experts, and researchers (Free Service); identify the Ministry's and Agency's activities; strengthen public service and support; educate the community (Environmental Awareness) and receive community feedback.

ITU:

33. The ITU representative illustrated the work that ITU and INFO/RAC are jointly carrying out based on the LoI signed by the two organisations as follow-up to the Geneva and Tunis Conferences of the Information Society. The overall objective of this collaboration is to promote transparent access to key information and knowledge resources, and facilitate information sharing through ICTs. ICT is indeed not only about technology, but also about people and their potential. Based on an open multi-stakeholder initiative named "Shaping Tomorrow's Networks" (STN), launched in November 2005, ITU and INFO/RAC are working collaboratively on a number of activities, which will mostly benefit the design and implementation of *Info*MAP, the common information sharing platform for the Mediterranean. In this respect, an important outcome will be a study on current and future evolutions of the ICT market in the 21 countries belonging to the BC.

Marevivo:

34. The representative of MAREVIVO illustrated the mission and the objectives of the Association, which are entirely focused on the conservation of coastal marine biodiversity and on sustainable development. Information and Awareness; Environmental education; Science; Environmental Policy are its main areas of operation. Since 1991, the organisation has launched and carried out a large number of conservation campaigns. The Association stressed the importance to continue the good collaboration achieved with INFO/RAC in the coming biennium. MAREVIVO wishes to continue to strengthen existing cooperation with MAP and its RACs, in particular on the themes of integrated coastal zone management, marine biodiversity and dissemination of information and communication.

SMAP RMSU:

35. The representative from *SMAP RMSU* project – *financed by EC-EuropeAid, co-lead by APAT - Italian Environmental Protection Agency and Technical Services - and SYKE - Finnish Environment Institute* - illustrated results stemming from the project started in 2003 and to be completed in 2008. The project aims at providing support in the management of SMAP projects, at supporting SMAP correspondents in promoting the integration of environmental issues in the sectoral policies, and improving the visibility of the programme and the circulation of environmental information in the Mediterranean, in collaboration and coordination with other programs and initiatives. *One of the main outcomes* of this project consists of *the SMAP Clearing House*, namely a regional knowledge management mechanism on the environment, built in collaboration with national and regional institutions and organisations working with environmental information in the Mediterranean. The Clearing House consists of 1) an open access, user friendly portal designed to facilitate access to existing valuable environmental information in electronic format, in the region, and 2) an informal regional network of information contributors and users from the different countries of the region that post and retrieve information on the Portal. *The SMAP RMSU project is working with INFO/RAC and the EEA to ensure the works carried so far be fully integrated in existing institutional settings at the regional level.* This heritage, once the project closes, is expected to become part of *Info*MAP.

WWF:

36. The delegate from WWF briefly presented the mission and the objectives of the Marine and Coastal Unit of the Mediterranean Programme. In particular, satisfaction was expressed for the already started cooperation with INFO/RAC on the "Destinations" project financed by the EU Life Third Countries and on the preparatory work for the GEF LME Strategic Partnership. Given the intense communication work of the association, which is mainly focused on marine protected areas and fisheries, tighter collaboration with INFO/RAC on these issues would be desirable, moreover outside the framework of the GEF project.

Federparchi:

37. The Federparchi (Italian Federation of Natural Parks and Reserves) representative gave a brief introduction of the association which consists of more than 160 protected areas in Italy. She emphasised that the Federation's highest priorities are both the Mediterranean area and communications and sensitising the public, which make a collaboration with INFO/RAC particularly interesting. There have been various positive experiences in that sense in the past, among which *Parklife 2006*, the parks and natural life fair where an entire day was dedicated to a presentation of the Barcelona Convention. It is hoped that the collaboration be continued and reinforced, along the guidelines of mutually decided methods and strategies. It would be particularly interesting for Federparchi to participate in such actions as MED*day* and would be most important for it to receive support from INFO/RAC for various international initiatives in which Federparchi is involved, together with other Mediterranean partners, such as the creation of a Federation of Protected Areas of the Mediterranean.

S. Pellegrino:

38. The representative of the private sector Sanpellegrino presented its company and its mission. Sanpellegrino is a mineral water producer which counts: 2000 People in Italy, 9 Mineral Water' Springs, 20% Market Share, Part of Nestlé Waters, The mission is "*To Guarantee Water a Future of Quality* ", Responsibility and Sustainability. Sanpellegrino is committed to respecting ecosystems, to creating shared value with local communities; to protecting the environment and educating children to water issues. The firm believes that dialogue and cooperation are the most effective approach to the global water management issues, because no one can do it all alone. Together, it states, progress can be achieved to protect and preserve this vital resource

for future generations. This is the reason for the firm's interest in developing partnership and common actions with MAP.

Conclusions Deriving from the Discussion on the INFO/RAC 2006-2007 Progress Report and (proposed) 2008-2009 Recommendations and Work Programme

The INFO/RAC NFPs, the representatives of the IGO, NGOs and business sector taking part in 7th *INFO/RAC NFPs Meeting* (Palermo, Italy, 5-7 June 2007) expressed their appreciation and wide consensus for the progress made by INFO/RAC in the 2006-2007 information and communication activities approved by COP 14.

However, they recognised that, at present, several on-going IC activities agreed at the COP 14 and further endorsed by the Joint Work Plan between the Coordination Unit and INFO/RAC, are severely at risk of not being completed. This is largely due to the fact that, to date, the Italian Government is behind schedule in the disbursement of 2 million Euro committed during the COP 14 for the INFO/RAC work programme.

Thus, the INFO/RAC NFPs request the Secretariat to submit the issue at the forthcoming Bureau meeting in July, to urge the Italian Ministry of the Environment to speed up the payment of its, previously agreed, financial contribution to INFO/RAC. The payment will thus allow the Centre to accomplish its tight schedule and carry out the IC Activities planned for the current biennium, prior to the COP 15 in December 2007, in the direct interest of the CPs and of UNEP/MAP as a whole.

Meeting participants also reviewed and approved the work programme for the year 2008-2009, highlighting the main priorities for action over that biennium, such as:

- *Info*MAP (MAP Web Site and Data Portal, Med Pol Info System, BC Reporting System, MSSD Web Site, SMAP RMSU Clearing House) developed in cooperation with BP/RAC and others MAP Components;
- MED*day* - MED Award;
- Audio Visual Productions;
- Revision of the IC MAP Strategy;
- Exploring further multilateral Partnerships to meet specific needs related to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and strategies;
- Implementation of the IC MSSD Activities.

As far as medium-term plans are concerned, the INFO/RAC NFPs agreed on the need to strengthen partnership building at the national level concerning MAP information, communication and educational activities for raising awareness on sustainable development and environmental protection issues.

(PROPOSED) RECOMMENDATIONs 2008-2009

Proclamation of the MEDday:

With the aim to:

- Give emphasis on the crossing-cutting nature of environmental issues, and specifically of the Barcelona Convention and its six Protocols;
- Facilitating joint awareness raising/information initiatives and partnerships with other conventions - organisations;
- Favouring the organisation of activities that can attract a wider audience and engage participation from stakeholders and the public.

Accept and establish the 10th of June of every year as the date for the celebration of the MED*day* for the promotion of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the

Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention and entrust INFO/RAC with the design, organisation and promotion of the event under the coordination of the UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit, and in cooperation with the MAP Components and national institutions and mobilizing the civil society.

INFO/RAC WP 2008-2009

To approve INFO/RAC 2008-2009 Programme of Work to be developed under the coordination of the UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit, and in cooperation with the MAP Components.

2008-2009 INFO/RAC WORK PLAN (PROPOSAL)

Rationale/introduction for the 2-year IC programme

The two year work programme (2008-2009) bridges and expands the INFO/RAC work programme for 2005-2006 in an evolved context, with a consolidated role and a better definition of its capacities and potential. Indeed the testing phase of the first biennium has substantially progressed at two levels:

- Institutional, with the elaboration of the initial strategic framework under which MAP IC/ICT activities are carried out;
- Operational level, with the design and implementation of a set of projects conceived as pilot actions to test the effectiveness of the approach.

The idea behind the new programme is to continue to improve complementarity with other initiatives and coherence of approach, in full compliance with the spirit of article 15 of the Barcelona Convention. This will imply the fulfilment of two main objectives, under the Coordination of the BC Secretariat:

1. DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IC STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES FOR MAP COORDINATION UNIT AND COMPONENTS, INCLUDING A SPECIFIC MSSD SECTION;
2. DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT *INFO*MAP - THE MAP SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM.

The programme takes into account the ongoing governance reform process of MAP, according to which dissemination of information are key to enhancing implementation effectiveness and political and public visibility.

Finally, it should be noted that the 2-year work programme will be developed in a context in which partnerships are formalised and professionally established to facilitate MAP in functioning as a system rather than individually, through its Components. This plan, in addition to the structural adjustments within MAP itself, will hopefully contribute to the achievement of the main objectives of the governance challenges of MAP, and namely:

- Consistency with the intent and obligations of the BC, its Protocols and the MSSD;
- Responsiveness to contemporary needs and priorities;
- Efficiency and effectiveness to meet future goals;
- Resource Optimisation.

GOAL	MAIN OBJECTIVES	POLICY RELEVANCE
► Support the objectives of the Barcelona Convention by delivering information and communication products/services and technical support to MAP and its Components and to users in member countries	► The IC Strategy and activities for the MAP Coordination Unit and Components, including a specific section for the MSSD, are designed, agreed and implemented ► *Info*MAP - the UNEP/MAP shared environmental an d sustainable development information system is designed and implemented	► **COP 14 Recommendations** (adopted by 14th Meeting of the CP in Portorož, 8-11 November 2005): ▪ "To support the Centre in the establishment of links with national authorities and organizations in the field of information and communication to enable the Centre to develop a MAP information system." ▪ "To help give a higher profile and visibility at the national level to the Barcelona Convention, the activities of MAP and the Regional Activity Centres." ▪ "To promote access to information on environment and sustainable development issues in general, and on MAP activities in particular." ► **Barcelona Convention and its Protocols:** ▪ Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean: Art. 15 Public Information and Participation ▪ Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from ships and, in cases of emergency, combating pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: Art. 7 Dissemination and Exchange of Information ▪ Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean: Art. 19 Public, Information, Public Awareness and Education ▪ Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil: Art. 25 Mutual Information ▪ Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal: Art. 12 Information to and Participation of the Public ▪ Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities: Art. 8 Monitoring – 9 Scientific and Technical Cooperation ► **UNEP/MAP – priority Objectives, Principles, Targets, Commitments:** ▪ Ensuring public access to information as an essential requisite for sustainable development and environmental protection policies ► **MAP PHASE II** ▪ The CP to the BC will adopt a programme of activities in the field of public information. Specific activities will be also addressed to developing countries to enable them to benefit from an abundance of information on environmental problems and to implement information policies for the population. ► **MCSD & MSSD:** ▪ IC Strategy of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) ▪ National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD)

OBJECTIVE 1: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IC STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES FOR MAP COORDINATION UNIT AND COMPONENTS, INCLUDING A SPECIFIC MSSD SECTION					
INFO/RAC ACTIVITIES/PLANNED ACTIONS	PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	RELATED PARTNERSHIPS	ESTIMATED BUDGET (,000 €)
▶ **Inputs to MAP Coordination Unit and Components to design and produce documents, workshops and materials for the normal running of the Barcelona Convention System, including the management and updating of the *Who's Who of the BC***	▶ BC Parties, MAP Coordination Unit and Components to exchange information and cooperate for the finalization of the initiatives and documents	▶ Inputs for Bureau meetings, ▶ Inputs for MAP NFPs Meetings ▶ Inputs for COPs ▶ Contribution to legal and technical documents ▶ Directory "Who's Who of the Mediterranean"	▶ Documents are regularly submitted, edited and approved by the competent bodies ▶ The "Who's Who" Directory is regularly updated and fully reflects present situation. It is widely disseminated and regularly updated	▶ MAP Coordination Unit and Components	▶ Staff and operational costs are fully funded by the counterpart contribution of the Italian Institutions
▶ Design an **Information and Communication Strategy for MAP Components**, including the design the **new MAP Logo** and **Corporate Identity**, through an open regional competition	▶ Coordination Unit and MAP Components, BC Parties, MAP Partners to review the MAP Components IC Strategy and provide comments and input as appropriate	▶ MAP Components IC Strategy ▶ MAP Logo and Corporate Identity	▶ MAP Components IC Strategy developed, submitted to BC Parties through official institutional channels and agreed by 2009 ▶ ToRs prepared by the Secretariat by 2007 and the Regional competition carried out by 2008 ▶ MAP Logo and Corporate Identity designed and approved by 2009	▶ MAP Coordination Unit and Components ▶ CP Barcelona Convention	▶ Pending approval of the budgetary authorities
▶ **Coordinate and develop the Replication and IC activities under the GEF SP MED-LME project**	▶ MED LME Partners to participate in meetings as required and ensure constant, accurate updated information and data on progress in the implementation of project components; provide comments and suggestions on document accessibility and user-friendliness	▶ Replication strategy ▶ Project Replication Team ▶ IC activities	▶ "Project Replication Team" (PRT) is set up by mid 2008, if GEF project kicks off before end of 2007. Team successfully leads the development and implementation of the MED-LME Replication strategy and methodology; ▶ GEF website improved to serve user and stakeholder needs, fully populated and interlinked to partner websites by 2008. ▶ IC actions are developed to increase project visibility and support its objectives, with special focus on the website	▶ GEF's Mediterranean Strategic Partnership for the Large Marine Ecosystem ▶ BC Contracting Parties ▶ UNEP/MAP ▶ Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - MCSD	▶ 3.012,500 USD / 5 years Approved by the GEF Council (12-15 June 2007)
▶ **Development and implementation of IC activities for the Horizon 2020 Initiative (Timetable adopted**	▶ Coordination Unit, MAP Components and Partners, BC Parties, EU Commission, EEA, to ensure that information and data	▶ IC activities, events, press conferences, releases, web initiatives	▶ Number of IC events and outreach activities carried out	▶ BC Contracting Parties ▶ UNEP/MAP ▶ MCSD	▶ Pending decision of the budgetary authorities

by the EMP Environment ministers in Cairo and/or the 2007/2008 timetable adopted by the H2020 Steering Group in Marrakesh)	are constantly provided and agree on IC actions to be jointly carried out			▶ Euro Mediterranean Partnerships ▶ EC / EEA	
▶ Further promote/advertise and organise the annual edition of the **MED*day*** and **MED Award**, including the expansion of its ***Network***	▶ Coordination Unit, MAP Components and Partners, BC Parties to promote the celebration of MED*day* through a series of dedicated events, special messages from national authorities to be posted on UNEP/MAP and MSSD websites, awareness raising campaigns, specific national calls for tender, integration in the agenda of national events, etc. They are expected to fully support the festival by: ▪ proposing audiovisuals for the competition ▪ promoting participation for the event ▪ facilitating support from sponsors ▪ facilitating contributions/messages from national authorities to be included in the film catalogue promoting the network within and outside the Mediterranean and come up with proposals (events, inclusion of film festivals, etc) for its further strengthening	▶ Annual celebration of the MED*day* ▶ Annual organization of the MED Award ▶ Joint IC actions adopted by the NETWORK	▶ The MED*day* is celebrated every year on the date agreed by COP15 ▶ The MED Award is organised on a yearly basis ▶ Number of participants to the film festival has increased by 1/3 by 2009 compared to first edition ▶ Actions are aimed at fostering, through film and radio-television initiatives, the meeting of different cultures and, at the same time, promoting wider participation and awareness among civil society on the "best practices" for environmental protection and sustainable development ▶ Mediterranean Environment and Sustainable Development Network has at least 20% more partners than in its initial, phase and expanded presence in 2 more countries by 2009	Within the BC System: ▶ **Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties**: ▶ **UNEP/MAP** ▶ **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - MCSD** With other Bodies/Programs: ▶ **European Commission - EC** (Letter of intent 09-05-2005): Joint Work Programme ▶ **International Telecommunication Union – ITU** (Letter of intent 27-07-2006) ▶ **Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD** (Letter of intent 12-03-2007): Joint Work Programme ▶ **WWF** (MoU 18-04-05): Joint Work Programme ▶ **Business Council for Sustainable Development Turkey - TBCSD** (Letter of Intent 08-05-2006): Joint Work Programme ▶ **Legambiente** (MoU 10-04-05): Joint Work Programme ▶ **Marevivo** (MoU 10-11-04): Joint Work Programme ▶ **AOYE** (MoU 02/05/06): Joint Work Programme	▶ Pending decision of the budgetary authorities
▶ Widely disseminate **MEDITERRANEA**, the video of the 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention and plan, produce and disseminate other **audiovisual productions on MSSD Themes**	▶ Coordination Unit, MAP Components and Partners, BC Parties to facilitate liaisons with national radio and TV ▶ Coordination Unit, MAP Components and Partners, BC Parties to contribute to the film production, logistics, authorizations, interviews, indication of best locations, etc, including suggestions on audiovisual subjects	▶ MEDITERRANEA widely disseminated and 2 new videos produced	▶ MEDITERRANEA is broadcasted on at least 7 national TV networks by 2009 ▶ At least 2 new audiovisuals are produced		▶ Pending decision of the budgetary authorities

OBJECTIVE 2: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT *INFO*MAP - THE MAP SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM					
INFO/RAC ACTIVITIES/ PLANNED ACTIONS	**PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES**	**EXPECTED OUTPUTS**	**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**	**RELATED INITIATIVES**	**ESTIMATED BUDGET (,000 €)**
► Design and progressively implement ***Info*MAP** - shared Environmental and Sustainable Development Information System for the BC and the MAP System	► Coordination Unit, MAP Components and Partners, BC Parties expected to: ▪ Provide inputs to develop ToRs as required ▪ Identify gaps in skills and/or training requirements ▪ Provide inputs to system – related workshops, seminars etc ▪ Cooperate to reach core users in their area/network, ▪ Provide inputs from maintenance assessment and workflow analysis by users ▪ Support the identification of the human resources required to support regional *Info*MAP deployment ▪ Support establishment of (maintenance) procedures for: ▪ Baseline Database & Meta Database ▪ User access-connectivity & networks ▪ Standards & protocols related to above ▪ Identify/develop technical and procedural documentation ▪ Ensure full support in testing phase as needed ▪ Ensure identification of gaps in current working partnerships and help shape activities leading to sustainable working partnerships ► EEA: full collaboration on the design and implementation of *Info*MAP (based on the proven Eionet/Reportnet platform (technology), including relevant system and user management experience gained from Eionet to date.	► Fully operational *Info*MAP Portal ► *Info*MAP 'network'	► Portal embedded and integrated within the UNEP/MAP website including interoperability with MED POL INFO SYSTEM. It provides a common 'gateway' for a wide user community accessing a broad range of environmental information on the Mediterranean ► Network is developed into a multi-sectoral and mutually sustainable working partnership through workshops, training courses, accreditation schemes etc ► At least 6 Parties sign written agreements for the development of a prototype operational system by 2008 ► Inputs received from more than 50% of countries involved in prototype testing by 2009 ► *Info*MAP partners have doubled by 2009	► **Within the BC System:** ▪ BP/RAC: Mediterranean Information System on Environment and Sustainable Development (MISESD) ▪ MED POL Info System ▪ REMPEC Info System ▪ SPA/RAC Info System ▪ PAP/RAC CAMP Info System ► **Euro Mediterranean Partnerships:** ▪ Horizon 2020 ► **EC / EEA:** ▪ Eionet ► **GEF's Mediterranean Strategic Partnership for the Large Marine Ecosystem:** ▪ Replication/Info System ► **International Telecommunication Union – ITU:** ▪ Shaping Tomorrow's Networks ► **Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-How in the Water Sector - EMWIS:** ▪ Joint feasibility study Developing a Euro-Mediterranean know-how on water management ► **SMAP-RMSU:** ▪ Clearinghouse	► Pending approval of the budgetary authorities

► Design, manage, improve and update the **UNEP/MAP website, COP website and MSSD website** and integrate them in *Info*MAP	► Coordination Unit, MAP Components and Partners, BC Parties expected to: ▪ provide information to regularly update the respective site sections, ▪ provide comments and feedback on site functionality and user friendliness ▪ ensure full support in the continuous promotion of the site, ▪ actively provide comments and suggestions ▪ link their respective websites to the MSSD website ▪ actively contribute with articles, editorials, comments, etc	►UNEP/MAP website-CMS-Intranet ► COP 16 website is designed and on line ►MSSD website – CMS - Intranet ►Regular publications and wide dissemination of Magazines, On-line Forums, Newsletters, Bulletins and Direct Mailing	►UNEP/MAP site is operational, access to the site is ensured. It supports the *Info*MAP Portal and provides a 'one-stop gateway' to a broad user community seeking essential environmental information on the Mediterranean ►MSSD website is improved to serve user and stakeholder needs, fully populated and interlinked to the redesigned UNEP/MAP website and ultimately, the envisaged UNEP/MAP Portal ►Number of hits/visits to the websites/month ►Number of contributions to the website improvement by 2009 ►Number of changes in website development by 2009 ►EcoMedia magazine is published on a monthly basis ►At least 2 on-line forum set up and moderated ►Number of Newsletters, Bulletins, etc., produced and disseminated	**►Coordination Unit MAP Components** **►CP Barcelona Convention**	►Pending approval of the budgetary authorities
► Design the on-line **Barcelona Convention Reporting System** integrated in *Info*MAP and work on its progressive implementation (based on agreement by CPs on new reporting format/contents)	► Coordination Unit and MAP Components expected to: ▪ Provide inputs to develop ToRs for the design of the on-line system as required ▪ Identify skills gaps and/or training requirements ▪ Provide inputs for workshop materials ▪ Cooperate to reach users in their area/network ►BC PARTIES to: ▪ Provide inputs and suggestions on functionalities to be included in the reporting system ▪ fully engage in training for online reporting as needed ▪ fully support the prototype testing phase	►On-line BC Reporting System	►The System is gradually implemented as a standalone application integrated within the *Info*MAP environment ►All Parties agree with the design of the online reporting system ►Inputs received from more than 50% of countries involved in prototype testing	**►Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties** **►UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit and Components**	►Pending approval of the budgetary authorities

► Develop the **MED POL Info System** into a fully operational system integrated in *Info*MAP, to be managed and updated in agreement with the relevant CPs,	►MED POL to: ▪ contribute with relevant validated information (data), documentation and institutional knowledge; ▪ provide guidance and support in defining design, content requirements and user needs; ▪ facilitate exchange of ideas and communication amongst users and developers; ▪ undertake comprehensive usability testing of the prototype; ▪ keep NFPs updated on the status and progress ▪ BC PARTIES to ensure: ▪ full support in the testing phase ▪ timely and correct reporting, ▪ full engagement in training and capacity building activities on system functionality	►MED POL MAP/Info System	►More than 6 Parties sign written agreements for the development of a fully operational system by 2009 ►MED POL Info Syste is fully integrated into *Info* MAP ►Inputs received from more than 50% of countries involved in prototype testing ►At least 1 training course carried out for the MEDPOL Info System implementation by 2009 ►At least 50% of participants reply to post-training evaluation questionnaires	►**MED POL** ►**Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties** ► **Euro Mediterranean Partnerships:** ▪ Horizon 2020 ►**EC / EEA:** ▪ Eionet	►Pending approval of the budgetary authorities
► Support the design and dissemination of the **Biannual Report on the State of Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean**	► Coordination Unit, MAP Components and Partners, BC Parties to provide accurate, timely and consolidated information and data (or verify that data and information to be inserted in the report is accurate and timely) to compile the report	►The Report on the State of Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean	►Report on the State of the environment is published biannually	►**Barcelona Convention and UNEP/MAP System**	►Pending approval of the budgetary authorities