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SCOPE

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, in their 12th meeting in Monaco in 2001 adopted the Operational Document for the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities. This document describes the legal, institutional and technical activities that should be performed by the CPs to enhance the national preparedness for the implementation of the SAP through the elaboration and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) to reduce pollutants releases into the Mediterranean Sea.

The elaboration of NAPs is considered as the ultimate goal of the MED SAP/GEF project and should be prepared on the basis of NDA and Baseline Budget of releases reports.

In this context, MED POL, with the assistance of the GEF project, organised five sub-regional meetings in Damascus (for Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya), Split (for Croatia, Albania, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina), Rabat (for Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria), Monaco (for Monaco, France, Greece, Italy, Spain) and Ankara (for Turkey, Malta, Israel, Cyprus). These meetings are considered as a get together between national experts contracted by GEF and MED POL to assist national authorities in the preparation of NDA and Baseline budget of releases.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the meetings were:

- to review the implementation strategy of the NDA and Baseline Budget of releases;
- to discuss country by country the national strategies for the implementation of these activities;
- to introduce the database and software for the calculation of Baseline Budget of releases and perform a training on its use;
- to identify barriers and possible difficulties that could adversely impact the achievement of these activities;
- to enhance the horizontal cooperation between the CPs by a better sharing of information and exchange of know-how.

AGENDA

A common agenda for the meetings was set up as follows:

- Opening and election of officer
- Overview of the SAP
- National Diagnostic Analysis
- Guidelines for the preparation of Baseline Budget of releases
- Countries presentations
- Discussion session after each presentation

PARTICIPANTS

45 countries representatives participated in the meetings as the national experts contracted by MED POL to undertake the activities as well as other countries' representatives. (see list of participants in Annex I)

DOCUMENTS

A set of documents was distributed for the participants (in French and English) including:

- the Strategic Action Programme (limited number);
- the Operational document for the implementation of the SAP (limited number);
- Guidelines for the calculation of Baseline Budget of Releases;
- CD containing the data base and software for the calculation of Baseline Budget of releases;
- instructions book for the use of the data base and software with application example;
- brochure and leaflet entitled "Reducing pollution from LBS".

FINDINGS

1. Sub-regional meeting I (Syria, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon)

a. Experts

Syria, Lebanon and Egypt nominated qualified experts with a relevant background to undertake the activities. They were present in the meeting with the exception of the Egyptian expert. Egypt was represented by an officer from EEAA. Libya had not nominated any expert. Two representatives from EPA represented Libya.

b. Work plan

Syria and Lebanon elaborated relevant and feasible work plans and timetables. They identified the sources of data and information from different national administrations. Libya and Egypt did not yet develop their work plans and timetable.

c. Data availability

Lebanon has generated data and information through national and international projects with the World Bank, especially on POPs, batteries, nutrients etc. More efforts should be made to comply with the SAP provisions. Few data is available from Syria. The experts and national authorities should deploy enormous efforts to collect and/or generate data. No information is available from Libya and Egypt.

d. Barriers and Gaps

All the experts shared common barriers and gaps as follows:

- shortage of information;
- insufficient collaboration at national level;
- difficult accessibility to industrial establishment;
- reliability of existing data;

- lack of national emission factors;
- expected delays in providing NDA report due to time constraints.

MAP comments:

Country	No of experts	No of administrative regions	Availability of information			Needs
			good	Accept-able	poor	
Lebanon	3	4 casas	+		+	Follow up Assistance
Syria	3	2 governorates				
Libya	2	-		+	+	Contact Follow up
Egypt		-				

2. Sub-regional meeting II (Croatia, Albania, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina)

a. Experts

All the countries nominated qualified experts with relevant background to undertake the activities who were all present at the meeting.

b. Work plan

The experts elaborated relevant and feasible work plans and timetables. They identified the sources of data and information from different national administrations.

c. Data availability

Croatia has already generated data and information on releases for a limited number of pollutants such as BOD, nutrients, some metals etc. More efforts should be made to comply with the SAP provisions. Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina have poor data available. The experts and national authorities should deploy enormous efforts to collect and/or generate data. Slovenia has developed a data bank and has a national monitoring programme for the releases.

d. Barriers and Gaps

The experts identified barriers and gaps as follows:

- shortage of information;
- insufficient collaboration at national level;
- difficult accessibility to industrial establishment;
- lack of national emission factors;
- expected delays in providing NDA report due to time constraints.

MAP comments:

Country	No of experts	No of administrative regions	Availability of information			Needs
			good	accept-able	poor	
Croatia	2	7 districts		+		Follow up
Slovenia	1	1 district	+			Follow up
Albania	2	11 districts			+	Assistance
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	4 river basins			+	Assistance

3. Sub-regional meeting III (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia)

a. Experts

Morocco and Algeria nominated qualified experts with relevant background to undertake the activities. They were present in the meeting. Tunisia had not nominated any expert and was not represented at the meeting.

b. Work plan

Morocco and Algeria elaborated relevant and feasible work plans and timetables. They identified the sources of data and information from different national administrations. No information from Tunisia is yet available.

c. Data availability

Morocco and Algeria have generated little data and information on releases and impacts through national and regional activities. More efforts should be deployed by Morocco to comply with the SAP provisions and enormous efforts should be deployed by the Algerian experts to cover the 1400 km of coast and to collect and/or generate data. No information is available from Tunisia

d. Barriers and Gaps

All the experts shared common barriers and gaps as follows:

- shortage of information;
- insufficient collaboration at national level;
- difficult accessibility to industrial establishment;
- reliability of existing data;
- lack of national emission factors;
- expected delays in providing NDA report due to time constraints.

MAP comments:

Country	No of experts	No of administrative regions	Availability of information			Needs
			good	Acceptable	poor	
Morocco	3	6-7 provinces		+		Follow up Assistance
Algeria	2	14 wilawas			+	
Tunisia	-	-				Contact

4. Subregional meeting IV (Monaco, Greece, France, Spain, Italy)

a. Experts

According to our information the national environmental authorities of the 5 countries are effectively dealing with the preparation of NDA and BB. Italy and Greece requested a financial assistance to contract national experts. France was not represented at the meeting

b. Work plan

The EU countries are actually undertaking a similar exercise to the BB under the framework of EU Water and IPPC directives and Monaco in the framework of RAMOGE. Data should be provided on releases to the EC by June 2003, which is in line with MED POL timeframe

c. Data availability

Data and information on releases and impacts are available in all EU countries. Minor efforts should be undertaken to put the data and information in MED POL format. Monaco does not have any data.

d. Barriers and Gaps

All the experts shared common barriers and gaps as follows:

- time constraints to prepare the information according to MED POL instructions;
- no obligation to provide information to environmental authorities in Monaco.

MAP comments:

Country	No of experts	No of administrative region	Availability of information			Needs
			good	Acceptable	poor	
Monaco	1	1 region			+	Assistance
France	-	-	-			-
Italy	1	-	-			Follow up
Spain	2	10 regions	+			Follow up
Greece	1	13 prefectures	+			Follow up

5. Subregional meeting V (Turkey, Israel, Malta, Cyprus)

a. Experts

All the countries nominated qualified experts with a relevant background to undertake the activities. The experts were present in the meeting except from the Maltese expert. Malta was represented by an officer from the environmental authority.

b. Work plan

The experts elaborated relevant and feasible work plans and timetables. They identified the sources of data and information from different national administrations. Some work has also been achieved. No information from Malta.

c. Data availability

All the countries have generated data and information through national, international and EU projects; more efforts should be made to comply with the SAP provisions. Malta, Cyprus and Israel would collect data from monitoring programmes and permitting systems. Turkey has generated data for the Southern coast in 2001 and it has to generate data in 2002 for the Aegean part.

d. Barriers and Gaps

- time constraints;
- delays in providing NDA report.

MAP comments:

Country	No of experts	No of administrative region	Availability of information			Needs
			good	Acceptable	poor	
Turkey	2	10 regions	+			Follow up Follow-up, contact
Malta	1	1	+			
Israel	2	4-5 districts	+			Follow up Follow up
Cyprus	1	1	+			

OVERALL EVALUATION

Most participants, mostly national experts contracted to prepare the BB and NDA, appreciated the concept of the sub-regional meeting to deal with such delicate exercises. The low number of participants present in each meeting facilitated the exchange of ideas between the Secretariat and the experts from one side and between the participants themselves on the other side. Therefore, the cooperation between experts from different countries has effectively enhanced.

The participants generally appreciated the presentations performed by the MED POL team on the SAP and the guidelines for the preparation of the BB (including database and software), NDA and consequently the SAP/NAP.

The participants raised several questions regarding the SAP and its implementation methodology such as:

- on which basis the list of substances, covered by the SAP, was set up ?
- how to deal with the stockpiles of chemicals ?
- why the methodology did not consider river mouth as sources of pollution ?
- the uncertainty in dealing with emission factors;
- the timeframe allocated to the preparation is too tight;
- the financial assistance allocated for some countries is not compatible with the extent of the coastal areas;
- how the experts should deal with NFP ?

A consensus was reached between the participants and the Secretariat on how to deal with these questions:

- the Secretariat will propose a methodology for the estimation of the releases from stockpiles of chemicals to be included in the Baseline Budget of Releases;
- the Secretariat will make the necessary contacts with regional scientific institutions to prepare a detailed methodology for the estimation of releases from diffuse sources;
- the experts should address requests, through the NFP, for a possible extension of their contracts;
- the Secretariat could ensure limited financial assistance to the experts to cover their transport expenses inside the country. Requests should be submitted through the NFP;
- the experts were contracted to assist the NFP in the preparation of NDA and BB, therefore the NFP is responsible vis-a-vis the Secretariat;
- the process of estimation of the BB is a dynamic one and it will be improved with the time on the basis of the national experts' findings.

On the basis of the results of the sub-regional meetings, 47% of the Mediterranean countries are in a position to prepare NDA and BB reports, 17 % need close follow-up by the Secretariat and 36% need additional assistance.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Sub-regional meetings for the preparation of NDA and BB
September-October 2002**

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