





## Background

1. The riparian States of the Mediterranean Sea, fully aware of their responsibility to preserve and develop the entire area in a sustainable way, and recognizing the threat posed by the pollution of the marine environment, agreed in 1975 to launch an Action Plan for the Protection of the Mediterranean Basin (MAP) and, in 1976, to sign a Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention). The Convention entered into force in 1978 and was amended in 1995 to introduce the concept of sustainable development, but the revised text is not yet in force.

2. Recognizing that the land based activities and sources have the highest impact on the marine environment, a Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (LBS Protocol) was signed in 1980, entered into force in 1983, and was revised in 1996 to better cover industrial activities and to enlarge the coverage to the hydrographic basin. The revised LBS Protocol is not in force yet.

3. The revised LBS Protocol covers not only the Mediterranean Sea itself, but also the entire watershed area within the territories of the riparian states draining into the Mediterranean sea.

4. A Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP MED), which represents the regional adaptation of the principles of the GPA as a follow up to the provisions of the revised LBS Protocol, was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 1997. The SAP MED was prepared based on the results of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) which was prepared in 1997 and on a list of pollution hot spots. The SAP MED identifies the major pollution problems of the region, indicates the possible control measures, shows the cost of such measures and establishes a work plan and timetable for their implementation. The time span of the full achievement of the targets of the SAP is 25 years (2025) through the implementation of intermediate targets (2005, 2010, etc.)

5. In order to assist the Mediterranean countries in the long-term implementation of the SAP MED, particularly for the formulation, adoption and implementation of National Actions Plans (NAPs), a three-year GEF Project "Determination of priority actions for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" was prepared and approved by the GEF Council.

6. In addition, the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) has decided to support the preparation of pre-investment studies in four countries, capacity building in three countries and the organization of three regional training courses.

7. This training course was organized with the support of FFEM.

## **Objectives**

8. Objectives of the regional training course were:
- To review the overall operational strategy for the implementation of the SAP to address land based Sources(LBS) of pollution.
  - To review the process of the preparation of NAP according the guidelines prepared by the secretariat
  - To train national experts on the integration of economic instruments, public participation, and the preparation of a portfolio in the framework of the preparation of NAPs
  - To train national experts through a simulation exercise on the organization of work, the integration of stakeholders and the drafting of SPs and NAPs

## **Introduction**

9. The Regional Training course for the preparation of Sectoral Plans and National Action Plans in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP MED) was organized at the TUBITAK, Marmara Research Center, Izmit (Turkey), 4-6 March 2004. The training course was bilingual (English/French) with simultaneous interpretation.

## **Attendance**

10. The training course was attended by 45 national experts from 19 Mediterranean countries, 2 regional consultants and representatives of the UNEP/MAP and GPA. A list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

## **Opening and objectives of the training course**

11. On 4 March 2004 at 9.15 a.m., Mr FS Civili, MED POL Coordinator, opened the training course and welcomed the participants.
12. Ahmet BABAN, TUBITAK, welcomed the participants on behalf of the president of the TUBITAK Marmara Research Center, who was unable to attend the course due to other commitments, and expressed his wishes for the success of the training. In addition, a short video on the Marmara Research Center's activities was shown to the participants.
13. Mr. Ivica Trumbic, PAP/RAC Director, gave an introductory lecture on the basic principles of Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM), as it has been applied by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and Priority Actions Programme (PAP). He stressed the importance of the coastal areas in many countries, as well as pressures and impacts that human activities have on the state of coastal areas in the Mediterranean. It is obvious that coastal areas have an enormous economic and environmental importance and that an integrated approach is needed if their management is to be successful. MAP and its components, PAP in particular, started these activities in the mid-eighties, and have been very active since then. These activities include a methodological approach to

ICAM, development of appropriate tools and techniques, capacity building (the latest being the development of the MedOpen – an Internet based training course on ICAM), information dissemination (notably the Clearing House on ICAM), and practical projects (CAMP). All of these efforts have culminated with the adoption by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention of the recommendation to draft the text of the regional protocol on ICAM (Catania, November 2003), to be presented at the next CP meeting in 2005. It is expected that the protocol, the first of its kind in the world, if adopted, signed and ratified will be a milestone event for ICAM in the Mediterranean region.

14. Mr. David Osborn, UNEP GPA Coordination Office, spoke on the sustainability of National Action Plans (NAPs). He emphasized that each country must select an approach that best suits, among others, its geographic characteristics and political, institutional and regulatory frameworks. However all NAPs must include specific targets and a clear timetable showing the dates by which the country involved commits themselves at a political level to achieve the targets. Sustainability will thus be realized by making the NAP an iterative governance process that institutionalizes the phased implementation of priorities identified within a cross-sectoral, participatory framework.

15. The development of an NAP should be a 'whole-of-government' exercise that seeks to integrate existing activities and programmes not only in the immediate coastal environment, but also those high in watersheds emptying into estuarine and coastal habitats. Integrated management objectives should also reflect bilateral or regional commitments.

16. To understand the long term sustainability, the NAP should also include initiatives aimed at building human capacity and creating an enabling environment for positive action. This may include, among others, a legislative review, market reforms, the provision of tax incentives and the removal of unsustainable subsidies. Key elements also include broad stakeholder participation and the inclusion of pilot projects with high demonstration value. The primary responsibility for each activity of the NAP should be assigned to a specific government agency or supporting partner, and a clear reporting strategy should be clearly articulated. Finally, national endorsement at the highest possible level will strengthen the political and budgetary position of the NAP and therefore its sustainability.

17. The UNEP GPA Coordination Office provides support for all governments preparing and/or an NAP. Information can be obtained from the GPA Clearing House Mechanism at [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org). The Global H2O: Hilltops-2-Oceans partnership Conference and Trade Fair, in Cairns, Australia, 10 – 14 May 2004 will emphasize the experience of governments around the globe in preparing NAPs. Information on the conference can be obtained at [www.hilltops2oceans.org](http://www.hilltops2oceans.org).

18. Mr Ante Baric, GEF Project Manager welcomed the participants. He introduced the GEF Mediterranean Project, whose main aim is to create a sound ground at the regional and national levels for the implementation of the revised LBS Protocol and SAP MED. Within the project for the capacity building, a series of regional and national training courses were planned, and some of them have been organized so far. The organization of this training course was supported by FFEM, and Mr Baric took this opportunity to thank the French authorities for their support. Finally, Mr Baric expressed

his thanks to TUBITAK, and particularly to Mr F. Karakoc for the effort and support he devoted to the organization of the training course, and for hosting the training course.

19. Mr. Civili reviewed the objectives and the organization of the training course stressing the importance of the preparation on the NAPs as a milestone in the process of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme(SAP) to address LBS on pollution in the Mediterranean. He mentioned that a number of regional experts have been contracted to assist the secretariat in the organization of this course and they will be present during the whole period of the course. The representatives of the RACs, MEDPOL and the regional experts will present the different aspects of the methodology for the comprehensive, realistic and applicable NAPs. On the other hand, the secretariat prepared an innovative and proactive process to undertake an efficient working-group sessions based on the "Role Game" concept and he explained in detail the process.

### **Review of the SAP and its operational strategy**

20. Mr. Abousamra presented the SAP and its Operational Strategy, highlighting in detail the type and scope of commitments under the Urban and Industrial Development that the CPs agreed upon, in the framework of the SAP. He defined different elements of the Operational Strategy for the long term implementation of the SAP, namely: the principles for implementation, the identification and role of different stockholders, the control functions, the institutional set up and finally the technical tracking of pollution reduction methodology.

### **Guidelines for the preparation of the NAP**

21. Mr. Angelides, regional expert, presented a comprehensive review of the different phases of the preparation of the NAP based on the document entitled "Guidelines for the preparation of NAP to address LBS of pollution and protect the Mediterranean marine environment". He also recalled all the support documents such as regional plans, guidelines and technical reports that the secretariat made available for use by national experts for the preparation of NAPs.

### **Preparation of Sectoral Plans**

22. Mr. George Kamizoulis, WHO/MED POL Senior Scientist, made a presentation on the setting up of sectoral programmes. This part is Phase IV of the preparation of National Action Plans and it consists of plans necessary to fulfill the relevant provisions adopted at the regional level, such as regional plans, guidelines, common measures etc., taking into consideration the administrative plans. He introduced the documents related to the SAP sectoral programmes, covering the following issues: (i) Sewage management, (ii) Urban solid wastes with emphasis on coastal litter, (iii) Industrial pollution and (iv) Pollution caused by organohalogen compounds. He also emphasized that the sectoral programmes form the basis of the National Action Plans and should therefore be prepared for all priority areas for action in order to control pollution from land-based sources identified in the SAP. The part related to the application of BAT, BEP and Cleaner Production in industries, all three being very important issues for the sectoral plans, was addressed later on thoroughly by the Director of CP/RAC. In particular, a number of documents dealing with guidelines and regional plans of the

above-mentioned areas of consideration, were presented, while information was provided on the steps to follow in preparing some specific sectoral plans.

### **Cleaner Production aspect**

23. Mr. Victor Macia, the CP/RAC Director presented Cleaner Production as one of the strategies for abating pollution from economic/industrial activities. Cleaner Production offers an enviro-economic approach, promoting enviro-efficiency and generating savings as well as reducing the need of end-of pipe issues. Conditions and obstacles for the implementation of Cleaner Production were presented, as well as some examples from Mediterranean companies, showing both the environmental and economic performances obtained through Cleaner Production. Some ideas for the introduction of Cleaner Production principles and tools (legal, administrative, technical, managerial, economic, etc.) in NAPs were also presented, underlining the convenience of prioritising Cleaner Production into the set of actions.

### **Portofolio preparation for priority actions**

24. Mr. Glafkos Constantinides introduced the issue of the Investment Portfolio. His presentation covered three main aspects comprising the subject matter of the Investment Portfolio. The key analytical environmental/economic issues involved, the steps to be followed for the preparation of the Investment Portfolio and the main uses of the Investment Portfolio. He related the Investment Portfolio to the overall context of the SAP MED, and particularly the NAP preparation process, and concluded by stressing that the flexibility of the suggested methodological guidelines to accommodate changes was necessary in light of the individual country conditions and experiences.

### **Sustainability of SAP - Economic Instruments**

25. Ms. Daria Povh presented the activities done in the framework of the project component "Development of economic instruments for the sustainable implementation of SAP". In the beginning, she defined economic instruments and their types, and presented some successful examples of their use. She presented the results of the "Analysis of the use of economic instruments in Mediterranean GEF eligible countries" finalised in 2002. Also she presented five pilot projects, their state-of-art, including lessons learned from the pilot projects. She informed the participants on the brochure on "Advantages of using economic instruments", translated into six languages, and on the project web site where information about the project can be found, and several outputs downloaded. Finally, she presented the future tasks, including preparing "Proposals of economic instruments to combat marine pollution from the land-based activities" as well as the "Policy guidelines on economic instruments". Proposals will be prepared for the economic instruments that are to be introduced in the short, middle, and the long-term. Economic instruments that are to be introduced in the short-term will be described in detail, while for the middle and the long-term only the basic information will be provided. She has invited the teams working on the NAP preparation to take into account the possibilities to include economic instruments into the NAPs that are to be adopted by the countries. In this case, the country's commitment to introduce economic instruments would be much higher, which would improve the chances for the NAP implementation, as well as for the economic instruments adoption.

## **Public Participation**

26. Mr. Baher Kamal, MAP Information Officer, made a presentation on the relevance and advantages of integrating the participatory approach into the whole process of elaboration of the NAPs, from the stage of their conception, to the last phase of follow up of their implementation. He stressed that the involvement of concerned stakeholders is a key factor for reaching a consensus among all parties, this being indispensable for the stakeholders to have the sense of ownership, to increase trust in institutions, to provide their needed inputs in an effective manner, to decisively contribute to conflict resolving and to ensure adequate, efficient implementation of the NAPs. Mr. Kamal also cited the main groups of stakeholders to be involved according to each case (examples: industrial sector, private business, trade unions, regional and local authorities, NGOs, tour operators, scientific community, etc), as well as the suggested relevant modalities. He briefed on the proposed guidelines included in the related document presented to the meeting. The MAP Information Officer stressed as well that the participatory approach in the case of the NAPs should not be interpreted as traditional campaigns for spreading awareness among the general public as such campaigns, however important, should be considered as a complementary and parallel component. In conclusion, special emphasis was given to the fact that the exercise that would be carried out by the working groups in this training course represents a practical case of adopting such participatory approach.

27. David Osborn, UNEP GPA Coordination Office, spoke also on public participation in the development of a NAP. He demonstrated that the public have a strong interest in the health and quality of coastal and marine environments, and therefore have a particular role to play in both the preparation and implementation of a country's NAP. To adequately engage the public in the preparation of the NAP, governments may need to prepare issue or background papers, hold public meetings, prepare Internet sites, conduct negotiations with NGOs and other representative bodies such as religious institutions. Issues that governments may need to consider prior to participating in public consultation include government credibility and methods of conflict resolution.

## **Working Groups**

28. On the second day, Mr Abousamra organized three working groups and designated three group leaders. He also reviewed the "Role Game" methodology with the groups. According to this the participants are supposed to play the role of different NAP stakeholders.

29. Mr. Angelides presented the Case Study "Atlantis" prepared by the secretariat as a working document for the WGs.

30. At the end of the working group sessions, the group leaders presented their findings in a plenary session which shows that participants were well aware of the complexity of the preparation of the NAPs and the necessity to work closely with national stakeholders to reach a consensus on the NAPs and the list of priority actions.

31. Before closing the training course Mr Abousamra gave the floor to the representatives of RACs, GPA and regional experts to draw their conclusions on the different aspects of the preparation of the NAP and on the basis of the discussions with WGs.

### **Closing of the training course**

The course was closed by Mr Baric and Mr Abousamra on Saturday 6 March 2004 at 18:30.



**ANNEX I**

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UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/8  
Annex I  
page 2

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UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/8  
Annex I  
page 4

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UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/8  
Annex I  
page 6

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UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/8  
Annex I  
page 8

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UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/8  
Annex I  
page 12

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UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/8  
Annex I  
page 14

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UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.245/8  
Annex I  
page 16

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