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**Report by the Secretariat for the 13th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission
on Sustainable Development
Cairo, Egypt, 28-30 September 2009**

I. Introduction

In accordance with Decision IG 17/4 on the Governance Paper of the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Almeria, Spain, January 2009, the meeting of the MCSD will be held every two years.

As such, the present report covers the activities carried out during 2008-2009 in the framework of the implementation of the multi annual and biennial programme of work of the MCSD approved by the Contracting parties in Portoroz, Slovenia, 2005 and Almeria, Spain 2008.

In addition, due to important developments related to MAP governance and MCSD/MSSD since the last meeting of the MCSD held in Istanbul, Turkey 2007, this progress report has been prepared by the Secretariat with a view to reflecting the main MCSD activities and achievements in a concise and integrated manner.

During the current biennium, the work carried out in the framework of the MCSD has been focused on four main directions:

- Progress on NSSD in the Mediterranean
- Following MSSD thematic issues
- Further implementing the MSSD and its monitoring
- Strengthening MCSD/MSSD governance system

1. National Strategies for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean region

1.1 *Review and Assessment of Progress on National Strategies and Initiatives for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region*

In order to assess progress achieved since 2005 with regard to sustainable development initiatives in the Mediterranean, the Secretariat launched an overall assessment of the actions and initiatives carried out by the Mediterranean countries for the mainstreaming of sustainable development in national policies. In addition, the review was aimed to also consider to what extent climate change adaptation and mitigation were integrated into national and sector development processes.

This exercise will enable the Contracting Parties and MCSD and its regional partners to better understand the state of play with respect to the development of NSSDs in the region and identify priorities, strengths and weaknesses, gaps and constraints; draw lessons in common challenges and best practices and identify the needs for assistance and capacity-building with a particular focus on adaptation to climate change.

The whole process was strongly supported by the Contracting parties. The work is still ongoing in particular with regards to the chapters related the update of country profiles. Countries are providing additional information and validate the final version of their profile accordingly. The final report will be submitted to the MCSD steering committee in 2010, before its publication. The draft report is presented as information document: UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.339/Inf. 3, "Updated Review and Assessment of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean"

The updated Review aims to allow for a new appreciation of the state of play with respect to the development of NSSDs, their strengths and shortcomings.

The last few years have more or less been transitional, with countries preparing new strategies; revising older ones; transforming relevant initiatives; putting in place coherent systems; trying to cope with renewed efforts to monitor regional and international commitments; and striving to translate strategies into coherent and practical practices and programmes.

Some major regional processes are having a catalytic influence on activities and initiatives in the Region; they are the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development; the Millennium Development Goals delivery process; and the European Union's Sustainable Development Strategy, and its Policies for Enlargement, Western Balkans and Neighborhood.

MAP's initiative for the preparation of NSSDs although complex and with limited funding, it is the only relevant one available to countries at this point in time.

There is a multiplicity of integrated frameworks related to sustainable development. Most countries have prepared or are preparing their own NSSDs, in addition to other strategic frameworks which have also set out principles and priorities encompassing sustainable development concerns and issues.

Although almost all strategies are structured around the three pillars of sustainable development, most often than not, the environmental issues overshadow the other two pillars. Actually, strategies have yet to acquire a real three-dimensional nature with clear linkages and synergies between the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Nevertheless, the most recent NSSDs are more balanced in their content.

The NSSD development process is in general backed by strong national political commitments. Although this should ensure, at least to a degree, cross-government support, sustained efforts are needed for this commitment to be effectively shared by various sectors and levels of government.

Progressively, the management set-ups are being changed to cope with the demands of sustainable development. Most public agencies are facing the challenge of providing leadership and impetus whilst hampered by limited resources and incorporating into the decision-making process new actors and interest groups. The governance sections in Strategies need considerable enhancement.

In many countries, decentralization is a key dimension of government policies. Support to local level initiatives will contribute to forging wide- spread national commitment and linking national and local priorities and actions in a two-way interactive process.

The importance of using integration instruments such as impact assessments and fiscal instruments although not extensively applied is gradually being recognized. Their effective utilization within a relevant comprehensive policy still requires a lot of effort.

Mechanisms and initiatives are in place in all countries to foster multi stakeholder participation. The level of the engagement of the different stakeholders varies significantly across countries.

In most countries, modern communication techniques are being used to foster dissemination. Although such activities have contributed to raise awareness, their effectiveness in changing behavior and influencing governance needs to be assessed.

Regarding indicators, the situation is gradually being improved, with common indicators being developed. All frameworks incorporate review provisions. Monitoring and assessment is improving.

Measures have, and are, been constantly taken or intensified and a lot of initiatives are in place to address sectoral issues. However, it is doubtful whether such action is being driven by NSSDs. Some sectors (e.g. energy) are being given more priority and show better results than others that require more sweeping behavioral changes, such as social inclusion.

It is still difficult to ascertain actual progress in the alleviation of the underlying causes of the plethora of sectoral problems aimed to be tackled through sustainable development. They do require concerted and sustained action over time and the problems are such that improvements are slowly recognizable.

1.2 Support to NSSD formulation and implementation

Since the adoption of the MSSD, the Secretariat has been encouraging and supporting MAP countries to develop and implement their NSSDs. In respect to some of the countries this has been done with success. Thanks to the financial support of Italy and Monaco, four countries Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco and Syria, have been supported in the formulation of their NSSD in 2005.

As agreed in the 2008-2009 MCSD programme of work, the Secretariat has started collaboration with four other countries Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia. The process of the elaboration of the NSSD is complex on account of the need for coordination among all stakeholders at the national level, including the respective international agencies. Efforts are being made by the Secretariat to use an integrated approach with a view to organizing joint missions with the RACs that would certainly contribute to increase the visibility of MAP as a coordinated system as well as the perception that sustainable development is a shared endeavor of all MAP components.

1.2.1 NSSD and Adaptation to Climate Change

In view of the theme chosen for this meeting of the MCSD, studies have been launched on adaptation to climate change in three countries that have already prepared their NSSDs such as Egypt, Montenegro and Syria. The study will consist of an assessment of vulnerabilities to climate change variability and to extreme events, and the identification of key adaptation measures (policy reforms, improved legal and institutional frameworks, mobilization of appropriate economic instruments, capacity building, etc.).

For this purpose, assistance is being extended to the concerned countries with the view to sharing experience and identifying possible strategic elements for adaptation to climate change. Some of the supported countries will share their first findings and challenges with regard to adaptation to climate change and their streamlining in their NSSD, at the 13th MCSD meeting.

2. Implementation of the thematic multi-annual MCSD programme of work

The Contracting Parties, at their meeting in 2005 in Portoroz, Slovenia approved the multi-year thematic programme of work of the MCSD which is organized on the basis of two-year cycles each cycle addressing thematic clusters of issues from the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

The 2008/2009 cycle focused on the thematic clusters of sustainable tourism, sustainable rural development, marine pollution (LBS Protocol) and biodiversity, while the 2009-2010 cycle on sustainable urban development, sustainable transport, energy & climate change and integrated coastal zone management.

2.1 Sustainable Tourism

With a view to assessing how the relevant MSSD provisions on national policies and strategies for tourist development were taken into account, and measuring the progress made since 1999 with respect to the recommendations adopted on tourism and sustainable development as well as to identifying good practices, six national studies were conducted in Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Croatia, Turkey and Malta.

In addition, four regional studies dealing respectively with (a) tourism and climate change, (b) tourist numbers and preserving biodiversity, (c) the results and prospects of sailing and cruising in the Mediterranean and (d) employment and pay in the tourism sector were also conducted in parallel.

The findings of this work were presented and discussed at a regional workshop organised by MAP/Blue Plan RAC on 2 -3 July 2008 in Sophia Antipolis, that brought together over sixty participants from 14 riparian States, major international organizations, institutions and agencies involved in development aid. Funding for the event was provided by the EIB and the PACA Region. The workshop concluded on a number of recommendations for the 13th MCSD meeting consideration, that are presented as [Part A of the Annex](#) ~~appendix I in the Annex~~ to the present report. The workshop report is currently being published in English and French as part of the MAP Technical Reports series.

At the invitation of UNEP/DTIE, a Handbook on Sustainable Tourism in Coastal Areas was prepared by MAP/PAP-RAC. The main objective of the Handbook was to promote sustainable use of resources in coastal areas by focusing on sustainable tourism planning and management. The Handbook is one of the first attempts to use the ICZM framework for a specific sector and to create a practical manual to be used by planners and managers. The publication is currently being disseminated throughout the Mediterranean basin and worldwide.

PAP/RAC, UNEP DTIE and WTO jointly organized a seminar "Coastal Tourism in the Mediterranean: Adapting to Climate Change" (Cagliari, Italy, 8-10 June 2009). It was designed for decision makers and tourism experts with the aim of assisting them to pro-actively address the issue of climate change and tourism. This training seminar showed how a specific methodology/tool like CCA could be used to solve a strategic issue such as adaptation to climate change.

Following the initial phase of the establishment of the Diagnostic Analysis, the Destinations project funded from the EU financial scheme LIFE Third countries, progressively implemented in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, entered the phase related to the Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) for tourism that includes the reinforcement of national capacities to apply the method of CCA through the organization of five training courses. In parallel with this work, files for obtaining the EC eco-label for selected hotels in all three countries were also prepared in collaboration with CP/RAC. Also, guidelines were developed for tourism investors that would help assess the sustainability of their investments in coastal zones in terms of environmental risks. Also, countries proposed tourism development strategies that will be presented at the final presentation meetings in three countries (October - November 2009), as well as the final international conference to be organized by the end 2009.

2.2 Quality Agriculture & Sustainable Rural Development

Eleven national studies, in partnership with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), were conducted in Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Greece, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey to assess a) the sustainable/unsustainable nature of the policies and strategies chosen for agricultural and rural development; b) evaluate their cost and c) identify good practices and current trends.

In addition four regional studies were also conducted at the same time, looking at (a) how the district level is taken into account in rural development policies in the Mediterranean, (b) agriculture and climate change in the Maghreb, (e) collective pastureland management in the Mashrek/Maghreb and (d) the economic aspects of desertification.

A workshop organized in Bari (Italy) by MAP/Blue Plan RAC and attended by some forty participants from around twenty institutions analyzed the findings of these studies confirming the importance of placing agricultural and rural development issues back at the top of the political agenda. The recommendations resulting from this workshop are presented in [Part B appendix II](#) of the [Annex](#) to the present report for consideration by the 13th Meeting of the MCSD.

2.3 Sustainable Transports - Urban Mobility

Six case studies for Istanbul, Tunis, Cairo, Algiers, Aleppo, and Tangiers were conducted in 2008 and 2009 with the support of MAP/Blue Plan RAC as a follow-up to a recommendation on setting up a platform of good urban mobility practices. These studies were intended on the one hand to document 11 specific indicators of environmental impact and the socio-economic characterization of mobility and, on the other, to provide more in-depth knowledge about urban and peri-urban mobility determinants.

All of these studies will be presented first to an experts meeting that would take place in November 2009 and then to a regional forum for the exchange of experience on urban mobility and sustainable development in the Mediterranean in 2010, in order to demonstrate in summary fashion the interactions of transport and land use, energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions relating to urban transport. It will also allow lines of action to be identified for submission to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development for future work in the region.

2.4 Energy and climate change

Following the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and Almeria Declaration, Blue Plan prepared a background note summing up the current scientific state of play- « The Mediterranean- a hot spot for climate change » - presented at different regional and international events

At the sectoral level, with a view to enhancing knowledge about the foreseeable impact of climate change on resources and the Mediterranean countries water demand for 2050 and 2100; and updating the respective prospective scenarios in order to inform players and decision-makers; as well as to promoting measures for adapting to climate change, including water demand

management measures, a study on the theme of “Water and Climate Change in the Mediterranean” was programmed over three years.

In 2008 a state-of-the-art study and a summary of the knowledge available and work conducted at national and regional level on the « water and climate change » issue was also initiated. Other related activities include a regional study on desalination in the Mediterranean; two national studies in Egypt and Morocco and the holding of a “Mediterranean” session within the framework of the international symposium on "Resolving the water energy nexus" (UNESCO, Paris, November 2008).

Another regional study on « Energy and climate change in the Mediterranean » with financial backing from the European Investment Bank has evidenced possible climate change in the Mediterranean and its effects, characterized the region’s energy systems by identifying and quantifying low CO₂ emission scenarios that would likely to put the region in a position to contribute to the mitigation of climate change. It has shown that energy efficiency has to be at the very heart of adaptation strategies.

The workshop on “Climate Change” that was organized by Blue Plan in Marseille on 22 and 23 October 2008 analyzed the results and findings of all studies and concluded on a number of recommendations that are presented as information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 339/Inf. 8

The CP/RAC has also worked to identify new ways to fight against Greenhouse Gas Emissions and mitigate Climate Change in the Mediterranean Region. This efforts can be resumed in the different studies published about Climate Change, such as the “Climate Change and Consumption Study”, the “Transport and Consumption Study”, the “Consumption and National Climate Change” or the “A consumption-based approach to greenhouse gas emissions in a Global Economy – A pilot experiment in the Mediterranean – Case Study: Spain”. The conclusions of this work were showed in different forums along the year, including a parallel event at the UNFCCC CoP meeting in Poznan, Poland. The Centre also organized an Expert Seminar on Consumption and Climate Change (Barcelona, November 2008). The conclusions of this seminar ~~as~~are presented as information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 339/Inf. 8

2.5 Follow up MCSD recommendations on water

The 2008 work in the water sector focused particularly on sectoral and total water use efficiency. Eight national studies were conducted and presented at an experts’ workshop held in Sophia-Antipolis in November 2008. The workshop recommendations would be useful to the riparian states to improve the collection of necessary information as well as the production of indicators. In addition the results of studies on the links between water and energy were reported at a special session of the World water forum, held in Istanbul in March 2009.

Activities undertaken in the water sector and their results are inputs for the preparation of the future Mediterranean Water Strategy as decided by Water Ministers in Jordan 2009. Indeed, taking account of climate change in water resource management and water demand management is one of the priorities of work chosen for this Strategy and for the specific related projects within the Union for the Mediterranean framework. Another priority is related to the identification of sustainable and new water resources such as water re-use and sea water desalination and in general in the integration of these new resources in the framework of IWRM. In this context, MED POL is promoting waste water re-use in urban centers and industry, the

conservation of sea water quality for desalination purposes and the sound management of desalination plant in the Mediterranean, through the implementation of its activities.

PAP/RAC was a partner in the Nostrum-DSS project, funded by the EU under the Sixth Framework Programme. This was a Network on Governance, Science and Technology for Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean. The main objectives of the project were to contribute to the achievement of improved governance and planning in the field of sustainable water management, by establishing a network between the science, policy, and civil society spheres, by fostering active involvement of the relevant stakeholders, and through the development and dissemination of Best Practices Guidelines for the design and implementation of Decision Support System (DSS) tools.

PAP/RAC has prepared and published the guidelines on "Integrated Coastal Urban Water System Planning in Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean" in English and French, and distributed to the interested parties. The Guidelines are divided into two volumes: Volume I Principles and Planning, and Volume II Tools and Instruments.

MAP through its RACs, PAP/RAC and Blue Plan, played an active role in the preparation of the Mediterranean Session during the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009.

Following the inventories of municipal sewage treatment plants for coastal towns of more than 2,000 inhabitants completed in 2003 and 2006, the MED POL Programme carried out an additional assessment of the treatment facilities in cities discharging their effluents in rivers ending up into the sea. The assessment enabled MED POL to complete the overall evaluation of the municipal pollution load entering into the Mediterranean Sea as a contribution to the process of monitoring trends of pollution inputs, needed to assess the implementation of the SAP and the NAPs. In the framework of capacity building, and as a follow up to the training activities organized in the past on municipal wastewater treatment plants operation and management, one additional national training course was held in Turkey in July 2009.

Following the request of a number of countries to organize national training courses on the re-use of wastewater, three courses were organized in Malta, Albania and Greece. In view of the success and the relevance of the activity as a contribution to the issue of water management, additional courses are being organized in 2009 in Lebanon, Syria and Montenegro.

3. Implementation of the MSSD

3.1 Contribution to implementation of the chapter on integrated coastal zone management

After the signing of the ICZM protocol in January 2008, an Expert Meeting on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol was held in Split, Croatia, on 17-18 June 2008. The objective of the meeting was to explore possible activities to be undertaken in this intermediate period when the signing and ratification of the ICZM Protocol is still in progress.

Two major Mediterranean conferences: "Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean, from Local to Regional: How to Stop the Biodiversity Loss?", held in Nice on 18-19 December 2008, in the context of the French /Egypt co Presidency, of the Union for the Mediterranean and the "Second International Conference on the State of the art of ICM in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea", which took place in Akyaka, Turkey, on 14-18 October 2008 were supported by three MAP RACs.

In addition awareness about the ICZM protocol was promoted in numerous events that were held in the Mediterranean, Europe and elsewhere, as well as through publications of a large number of articles in a variety of scientific, technical and popular publications.

A number of activities took place in the framework of [SDMAP III](#) project, in order to make best use of this Euro-Mediterranean programme to promote ICZM and to contribute to the implementation of the MCSD initiatives.

- Assistance to the Algerian Government in the finalization of 2 coastal management projects (CAMP Oran and CAMP Anaba).
- a Mediterranean Workshop on ICZM Policy (Alghero, Sardinia, on 19-21 May 2008). The Sardinia Charter was adopted and a local-level ICZM network established.
- On May 8, 2008 a National Workshop to Promote Syria's ICZM Policy Brief and an Inter-ministerial Committee was established for ICZM as a new ICZM body at the highest political level.
- Assistance in the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy for Egypt on a basis of a wide participatory approach, involving all line ministries related to coastal zones.
- The initiative to celebrate the Coast Day annually on 24 October was launched in 2008. Celebrations of the Coast Day took place in many Mediterranean countries involving NGOs and civil society and aimed at promotion of the value of the coast and called for an active engagement in its management.

3.1.1 Prevention and reduction of pollution from ships

During the period under review, REMPEC continued to support the implementation of the section related to prevention and reduction of pollution from ships of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), and consequently respective NSSDs, through the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, as adopted at the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005). In accordance with its mandate and taking into consideration the specific nature of the relevant section of the MSSD, the Centre's main target group remained the Maritime Administrations of the Contracting Parties. Nevertheless, the Centre continued to maintain close working relations with National Authorities, Non-Governmental Organizations and other partners in the field of environment and endeavored to create synergies between environmental and maritime transport sectors at both national and regional levels.

In supporting the relevant section of the MSSD through the implementation of the objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships reflected in its work programme, REMPEC focused its activities on capacity building with a view to assist Contracting Parties build up their human and institutional capacities for uniform and effective compliance with the international maritime regulatory framework to ensure safe and effective shipping services, and to protect their waters and coasts from the environmental degradation caused by ships thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development. In this regard, in addition to implementing its MTF programme of activities, the Centre also implemented relevant technical assistance activities forming part of and financed by IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) as well as two major regional projects, namely, the EU-funded SAFEMED Project and the GEF/UNDP/IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project. In particular, some of the objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships were achieved by implementing activities under the 2006 SAFEMED Project. When possible, a number of project tasks have been extended to other Contracting Parties to the

Barcelona Convention which are not benefiting from the Project. With respect to prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from ships, the activities carried out within the SAFEMED Project encompassed flag State implementation, safety of navigation, and IMO's conventions related to the marine environment. In view of the encouraging results achieved under the SAFEMED Project, the European Commission agreed on a follow up regional project, SAFEMED II, which will be implemented between 2009 and 2011.

3.1.2 Marine Pollution from land based sources (2008-2009)

The MSSD identifies objectives, orientations and actions aimed at preventing and reducing land-based pollution. Ensuring sustainability to the long-term implementation by the countries of the National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based sources has been the main objective of the MED POL Programme during the biennium 2008-2009.

To this end, an analysis was made of the institutional, financial and technical implications of the implementation in each country of the specific pollution reduction interventions listed in the NAPs. The result was that the financial burden and the technical and institutional capacities of a number of countries were clear obstacles to the full implementation of the NAPs. As a result, MED POL has worked on the formulation of a new draft strategy that would take into account the shortcomings, propose alternatives and ensure sustainability to the pollution reduction process. The new strategy is based on two major principles: the identification of priority contaminants to be eliminated and the identification and application of a differentiated mechanism for the implementation of the pollution reduction measures. The new strategy also takes also into account the need to prepare programmes and action plans eventually becoming legally binding, as required by art. 15 of the LBS Protocol, in force since May 2008.

A mechanism for the identification of priority contaminants was agreed upon including the preparation of a larger list of contaminants/issues of Mediterranean concern from which priority substances would be identified every biennium. Finally three action plans and programmes will be proposed for adoption at the next Meeting of Contracting Parties, namely: Reduction of BOD from urban wastewater; Elimination of Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlore, Mirex and Toxaphene; Phasing out of DDT. In parallel to the above, MED POL is substantially contributing to the process of ensuring financial sustainability to the long-term implementation of the NAPs, particularly in the process of implementation of the pollution reduction component of the Horizon 2020 initiative. In addition to providing the European Investment Bank (EIB) with the basis for action (i.e. the NAPs and the specific pollution reduction interventions planned by the countries), MED POL was fully involved in the identification of over 40 bankable projects covering reduction of municipal and industrial pollution in the framework of the Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme (MeHSIP).

The CP/RAC worked in 2008 in the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) of 18 different Mediterranean countries, with regard to promoting treatment and gathering Industrial Oils, one of the main pollutants in the region.

Concerning other wastes, the CP/RAC has launched the project "Environmental sound management of equipments, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries". Playing its new role as Regional Centre under the Stockholm Convention, the CP/RAC has assisted Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunis to develop their respective national implementation plans.

3.1.3 Conservation of Biodiversity

In line with the MSSD objectives, the RAC/SPA has focused its work in synergizing with relevant actors to promote the implementation of the SAP BIO and paying particular attention to the cooperation with General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) on fisheries.

Sustainable fishing will be encouraged by way of activities designed to be implemented through the above mentioned Partnership, both in trans-boundary areas (FAO, GFCM), and coastal MPAs (RAC/SPA and other partners). Collaboration was done with FAO and GFCM to design regional activities aimed to reduce by-catch and to apply the ecosystem approach to fisheries in the region. The activities will be implemented by FAO through the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem.

A document for the GFCM to reduce impacts of by-catch on Monk seals is developed, and Guidelines to reduce impacts of by-catch on seabirds' currently preparing'. Activities within the MAP Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fish are also on this line. The sub-regional implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fish in the Adriatic through designing a program of work for the area was also promoted. It also elaborated a regional overview on the needs of legislation improvement in the Mediterranean to optimize conservation of elasmobranches. A workshop on the interaction between fisheries and marine turtles was convened during the Third Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles (Tunisia, October 2008).

Regarding habitat protection, a questionnaire has been established in collaboration with GFCM and sent to NFPs for SPAs and GFCM members. Its aim is to identify fishery reserves and fishery restricted zones in the different countries. The preliminary results have been discussed during the GFCM SAC sub-committee meeting.

The objective of protecting High Sea zones is going on through the collaboration with ACCOBAMS on the establishment of some protected areas in High Seas, in the central and western parts of the Mediterranean. Furthermore, funding was granted by the EU ENV D2, Water and Marine Environment, to support the creation of Protected Areas in the Open Seas, including Deep Sea. Currently, RAC/SPA is working since 2008 in identifying priority locations, also setting for that purpose a Steering Committee integrated by representatives of regional organizations.

In view of implementing the relevant decisions of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols Contracting Parties meeting, with assistance from the EC, progress was made with regard to the assessment of potential sites on the high seas. In addition MedMPAnet will be assisting single countries in establishing, better managing and networking marine protected areas that satisfy the criteria of SPAMI.

A working group constituted by a team of international experts complemented by Parties' national experts was set to develop a detailed insight on vulnerability and impacts of climate change on Mediterranean biodiversity, in accordance with the outcomes of the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the Almeria Declaration. Three sub-regional meetings were organized to present and discuss national overviews and to draw up a sub-regional synthesis on the issue. A final meeting aimed at discussing the final recommendations and conclusions at regional level took place mid-December 2008. It allowed also an updating on climate change issues of the SAP BIO Programme. Priorities to be set for a proper management of the CC implications on Marine biodiversity have been identified.

3.1.4 Sustainable consumption and production

The First Mediterranean Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) gathered more than 150 participants from the public administration, civil society, business and industrial sectors of the Mediterranean countries in order to discuss and exchange ideas to move towards SCP in the Mediterranean Region. It was agreed that the best way to change unsustainable patterns of production among SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) is the promotion of Green Competitiveness (being environmentally friendly while making profits).

The GRECO Initiative has already published a Technical Report about Green Competitiveness and an informative report to SMEs. The Initiative has been presented in relevant forums in Morocco and Egypt, and has been followed up in these countries through capacity buildings "Training of trainers". The GRECO Initiative will be presented during the following years to all the Mediterranean Countries. The recommendations of the workshop are presented as appendix III in the annex to the present report.

The Centre published two magazines about sustainable consumption and translated the UNEP's Resource Kit on sustainable consumption and production from English to Spanish, Catalan and Arabian. The CP/RAC is also working in a web page for the final consumer "Consumpedia" that explains the reality about different products and will give advises about the best ways to consume various usual goods.

3.2 Monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

The « Water » indicators were filled in within the framework of specific national studies and cooperation with the SEMIDE covering Morocco, Cyprus, Tunisia and France made it possible to get a better grasp of the means for producing priority indicators; As far as the coasts are concerned, the 33 indicators selected in December 2006 were tested on several critical areas in the Mediterranean. Blue Plan furthered its cooperation on this theme with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its Barcelona-based European thematic centre (ETC-LUSI). The indicators on tourism chosen in 1997 were tested and completed in 2008;

Finally, 22 « rural » indicators were chosen and defined, which will be filled out and analyzed within national and regional studies conducted in cooperation with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

Picking up on the post2007 discussions about measuring the overall performance of Mediterranean countries towards sustainable development, in conjunction with the CEFI the Blue Plan worked out an econometric method to facilitate the evaluation of indicator weightings and subsequently raised the initial results for discussion. By lack of robustness, there has been no specific publication of this work, which was presented to the steering committee at its meeting in Sophia-Antipolis in June 2008.

4. MCSD governance

During the period under review the Secretariat work in cooperation with MAP components focused on the following directions

4.1. Support to the 12th and 13th MCSD steering committee meetings

The MCSD steering committee meetings were respectively held on 19-20 June 2008 and 30-31 March 2009.

The MCSD steering committee meetings addressed important issues related to progress achieved with regard to sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean, MCSD/MSSD governance, implementation of MSSD and MAP component contribution, establishment of working groups and the task force on adaptation to climate change, cooperation and partnerships with relevant actors, the Terms of References for the evaluation of the MSSD. In addition, the MCSD Steering Committee provided valuable guidance to the Secretariat and MAP components work. The reports of both MCSD steering committee meetings are presented as information documents UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 339/Inf.4 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 339/Inf.5.

4.2 Implementation of Governance Paper

4.2.1 MCSD New ToRs

The Contracting Parties at their 15th Meeting in Almeria, Spain in January 2008 adopted the Governance Paper ~~that~~ with the view to enhancing and making more effective the whole MAP governance system. In this respect the Governance Paper provides for new ToRs for the MCSD that highlight the need for greater representation and ownership by the entire Mediterranean community. The new ToRs for the MCSD provide *inter alia* for:

The MCSD is an advisory body and represents a forum for debate with essentially the following missions:

- *Assist the Mediterranean countries and other stakeholders active in the region in the adoption and implementation of sustainable development policies, including the integration of environmental consideration into other policies*
- *Ensure the follow up of MSSD implementation through appropriate tools, mechanisms and criteria*
- *Promote the exchange of experience and good practice regarding the integration of environmental and socio economic policies*
- *Identify the obstacles encountered and support regional and sub-regional cooperation for the implementation of sustainable development principle*
- *Coordinate the periodical drafting of the report on the state of implementation of the MCSD recommendations*
- *Produce opinions of the overall MAP programme of work and the functioning of the Coordinating unit and the RACs with the aim of integrating sustainability considerations into the MAP/Barcelona Convention system as a whole.*

4.2.2 *New MCSD members*

The governance paper also provides for nominating new members from civil society category namely eminent experts, scientific community and IGOs, which appointment criteria and procedure approval was mandated to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties. Decision IG 17/5 On Governance paper is presented as information document UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG. 339/Inf. 6

With the view to implementing this decision, the Secretariat in consultation with the ECP has prepared draft criteria and procedures for the selection of MCSD members representing the scientific community, IGOs and eminent experts' categories for the consideration of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties. The criteria and procedure for appointing the MCSD members from the new categories, as approved by the Bureau at its first meeting in September 2008, Madrid, Spain are presented as information document UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG. 339/Inf. 7

On this basis the Secretariat in February 2009, made some proposals to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties with regard to eminent experts, scientific community and IGOs. The Bureau approved the proposal of the Secretariat with regard to IGOs. It also recommended the extension of the application deadline with a view to receiving a larger number of nominations on eminent experts and scientific community.

The following IGOs were endorsed by the Bureau as MCSD members: CEDARE- Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab region and Europe; The WB and the UN-World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO).

With regard to the other categories, the Secretariat's work for collecting new proposals is ongoing. The Secretariat, together with the MAP Components and through consultations with Regional organizations and Contracting Parties is preparing other proposals for submission to the Bureau.

4.2.3 *MCSD constituency documents*

In accordance with MCSD meeting rules of procedures, the MCSD members from major actors should be elected by the meeting of the Contracting parties on biannual basis. On account that the MCSD meeting will be held every two years, the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the MCSD that it might be useful to consider the possibility of extending the term of office for MCSD members from major actors from 2 to 4 years.

The adoption of the Governance paper and in particular the new ToRs for the MCSD as well as procedure and criteria for nominating eminent experts, scientific community and IGO representatives, imply important changes with regard to the constituency MCSD documents, its rule of procedures and composition adopted in 1996 in Montpellier, France by the extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7, Annex V). In the views of the Secretariat there is a need to update such documents to fully reflect the Governance paper requirements.

The Secretariat would like to request the MCSD approval and mandate to work, in close cooperation with MCSD steering committee, during the next biennium for the preparation of necessary updated documents for their submission to the 14th MCSD meeting in 2011. This process should also take into account the outcome of the in-depth assessment of the MSSD implementation during the next biennium.

4.3 Preparation and Organization the 13th MCSD meeting

Apart from the MCSD statutory agenda, the 13th MCSD meeting will address the main theme that was agreed by the 12th meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee "Climate Change Adaptation – Experiences and Strategies in the Mediterranean".

The main objective of the meeting is to forge a common understanding and voice as appropriate of the Mediterranean region and present it at important international and regional events such as the UNCSD and UNFCCC meetings, in particular at the Copenhagen summit with regard mainly to adaptation. In this respect the purpose of the thematic session is to determine and outline the most appropriate level of action (local, national, regional) for undertaking priority adaptation measures in the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal regions

This objective is in line with the Almeria Declaration, Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) approved by the Contracting Parties in 2005 as well as UNEP's Climate Change Strategy. The meeting will also respond to the call made by the Contracting Parties in Almeria in 2008 for climate change to be seriously addressed in order to reduce their effects on the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity for information and experience sharing experience as well as build relationships on regional efforts to combat climate change. Close interactions are being sought with lead institutions/organizations in this domain, including UNFCCC Secretariat, UNEP Climate Change Adaptation Unit, the World Bank, UNDP, etc. The discussions at MCSD meeting are expected to nourish ministerial consultation at the 16th meeting of the Contracting Parties with regard to climate change and Marrakech Declaration.

Annex I

Thematic Recommendations for approval by the 13th MCSD meeting and submission to the 16th Contracting Parties meeting

A. Recommendations on Sustainable Tourism

Having regard to the central role which tourism plays in the development of the Mediterranean riparian states and the new constraints being forced upon it by an increasingly competitive market, impending climate change, the rising cost of raw materials, fossil fuels in particular, and the crisis within the real estate sector;

Convinced that it is possible in the Mediterranean to achieve environmentally friendly tourism, which is at the same time financially viable and rewarding for all players in the industry;

Committed to implementing the provisions of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and particularly those relating to the promotion of sustainable tourism;

The participants at the regional workshop on « Promoting sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean », meeting in Sophia Antipolis on 2 and 3 July 2008 recommend that the political leaders of the Mediterranean countries:

- Develop long and medium term visions at national level, specifying the scope of the tourism sector within the national economy and taking best possible account of the global challenges to be addressed, particularly climate change and preserving biodiversity,
- Draw on strategic planning instruments to better organise the development of the sector, opening deliberations up to all of the players concerned and in particular the representatives of the private sector and of civil society,
- Share analyses of and approaches to the development of sustainable tourism within the framework of regional regular meetings gathering various actors,
- Introduce provisions at national level, which will provide for full and reliable information which is comparable between countries and is in a position to better characterise the tourism sector and monitor its development,
- Place particular emphasis on informing the public and training players regarding the promotion of sustainable tourism.

Moreover, participants invite the Blue Plan to:

- Continue its work on indicators in order to better characterise Mediterranean tourism and particularly its impact on the environment and the social balance,
- Further its prospective analysis work on tourism in order to pre-empt future developments,
- Draw up economic analyses in order in particular to better assess tourism's impact on the environment.

B. Recommendations on Agricultural and Rural issues

Some general considerations:

The Mediterranean is an area of contrasts, but of relevance for dealing with agricultural and rural issues;

Small and medium-scale farming have an essential role to play within the rural environment. As such, they also need to be mobilised to increase the security of local and national food supply in the Mediterranean basin, whilst environmental and soil-friendly farming practices such as the principles of conservation agriculture need to be encouraged;

Sustainable development needs to build on territorial dynamics tailored to the individual country but, just as rural areas cannot thrive without agricultural production being boosted and supported, so neither can there be agricultural development in the absence of dynamic rural areas. A share of the wealth generated by farming activity therefore needs to benefit the rural areas;

The Mediterranean lands are complex areas supporting multiple integrated functions (agro-food production, biodiversity, landscape preservation, cultural diversity...), and involving numerous stakeholders. Characterising them and establishing the conditions for their sustainability will depend on in-depth analysis, as yet virtually non-existent;

Territorial development must be based on a gradual process during which the various social stakeholders learn to shape a shared vision of the future and to work together in joint projects.

Some priorities:

- To include the promotion of a sustainable agricultural and rural sector amongst the development priorities, and to translate this political priority into budgetary terms in particular.
- To integrate climate risk, soil degradation and the effects of desertification, and ecosystem preservation into agricultural and rural development strategies; to anticipate, plan and assess the adaptation measures to be implemented to this end.
- Before 2012, to set up a regional sustainable agriculture and rural development information system in order to have reliable and harmonised data collected at regular intervals and be in a position to shape relevant policies.
- In particular to undertake work towards characterising and quantifying the diversity of agricultural production systems and the farms related thereto, as well as the diversity of territorial systems.
- To provide the stakeholders involved in agricultural research and rural development with the means to increase and share their work and knowledge in order by 2012 to propose measures to encourage mobility and exchange between Mediterranean research institutes.
- To invite stakeholders from research and the rural world according to their abilities and responsibilities to collectively identify environmentally friendly agricultural production

systems based on a system of property rights, access and secure usage modes, able to ensure a regular food supply for Mediterranean people.

- To draw up an inventory of territorial development projects, identifying the instruments used in order to involve local stakeholders and boost twinning and networking between projects conducted in different countries.
- To continue and reinforce the type of innovatory training for farmers and local stakeholders which enables them to take full part in the design, implementation and assessment of the operations which affect them.

Actions for the partners

- To assess on a two-yearly basis the progress made by Mediterranean riparian states towards implementing the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy's chapter on «sustainable agricultural and rural development».
- To establish a Mediterranean platform for exchange about the territorial development processes initiated by the riparian states, stressing in particular the various tools used to encourage the effective participation of the people concerned in the design, realisation and monitoring of their area project.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
AEWA	African Eurasian Migratory Water birds Agreement
BOD	Biological oxygen demand
BCRC	Basel Convention Regional Center
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Project
CCA	Capacity Carrying Assessment
CIHEAM	Centre international de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CP/RAC	Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre
ECP	Executive Coordination Panel
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIB	European Investment Bank
ELV	Environmental Limit Value
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ERS/RAC	Environment Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre
FFEM	Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GPA	Global Programme of Action
HELMEPA	Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA-MEL	International Atomic Energy Agency Marine Environment Laboratory
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICRAM	Central Institute for Research Applied to the Sea
ICS/UNIDO	International Centre for Science and High Technology of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zones Management
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	International Oceanographic commission
IUCN	International Union for the conservation of Nature
MARCOASTt	MARine and COASTal Environmental Information Services
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocols of 1978 and 1997 relating thereto
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MedGOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
MEDASSET	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
MEDU	Coordinating Unit for UNEP/MAP
MEPC	Marine Environment Protection Committee
MPI	Marine Pollution Indicators
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund
NAP	National Action Plan
NBB	National Baseline Budget

NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OME	Mediterranean Observatory Energy
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PCB	Poly chlorinated Biphenyl
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
RACs	Regional Activity Centres
RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
RAMOGE	Accord St-Raphael - Monaco – Gênes
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPAMIs	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
SP	Sectoral Plan
TLV	Threshold Limit Values
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
UNADEP	Union of Northern Association for Development
UNESCO/IOC	International Oceanographic commission of UNESCO
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GPA	UN Environment Programme / Global Programme for action
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WMU	World Maritime University