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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to
the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean
Sea against Pollution

Catania (Italy), 11-14 November 2003

REPORT

OF THE MEETING OF MAP NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS



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Athens (Greece), 15-18 September 2003

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Introduction

1. Pursuant to the programme of work approved by the 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Monaco, 14-17 November 2001), a meeting of MAP National Focal Points was convened at the Holiday Inn, Athens, from 15 to 18 September 2003, to consider the progress of the Action Plan and finalize the 2004-2005 programme and budget.

Participants

2. The following Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols were represented at the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, European Community, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey.

3. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and Convention Secretariats were represented by observers: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe/EIA Convention (UNECE/ENHS), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), World Health Organization (WHO), Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP/World Bank), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR).

4. The following intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations were represented by observers: League of Arab States, IUCN-World Conservation Union, Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), Amici per la Vita Onlus, ARCHELON (the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece), Association des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie Méditerranéens (ASCAME), Centre Méditerranéen de l'Environnement (CME), Cyprus Conservation Foundation (CCF), Clean Up Greece (Ellada Kathari), ENDA Maghreb, Forum per la Laguna, Friends of the Earth Middle East, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA), International Juridical Organization for Environment and Development (IJOED), Institute for Sustainable Development and Management of Natural Resources (INARE), International Ocean Institute (IOI), MAREVIVO, Mouvement Ecologique Algérien (MEA), Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), Mediterranean SOS Network, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture, and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Organisation des Communicatrices Méditerranéennes (OCOM), Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

5. The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Regional Activity Centre for the Blue Plan (BP/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) and the Regional Activity Centre for Environment Remote Sensing (ERS/RAC) were also represented.

6. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

7. Mr Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), welcomed the participants and opened the Meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 15 September 2003.

8. Mr Alexander Lascaratos, MAP National Focal Point of Greece, welcomed the participants to Athens on behalf of Ms Vasso Papandreou, Minister of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works of Greece, and on behalf of Ms Rodoula Zissis, Deputy Minister of Environment of Greece. He underlined the importance of the current Meeting in the lead up to the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, scheduled to be held in Catania, Italy, in November 2003, and wished the participants success in their deliberations. He noted that the two key MAP Meetings were being held in the aftermath of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg in 2002, which had laid down new goals and tasks for sustainable development and which, in turn, called for the implementation of new activities.

9. In terms which were echoed by the other participants, he expressed sincere thanks to Mr Chabason for his successful term of office, ending on 30 November 2003, as Coordinator of MAP and for his outstanding contribution to its transformation into a successful and effective environmental instrument.

10. Mr Elik Adler, Regional Seas Coordinator, Division of Environmental Conventions, UNEP, speaking on behalf of Mr Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, and Ms Veerle Vandeweerde, Coordinator of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), said that MAP set an example for collaborative efforts and synergies, and was considered by UNEP to be a flagship among the regional seas conventions. MAP was currently undergoing an evolution, in line with the global change in the environmental agenda and also at its own initiative. It was becoming a pioneering programme, integrating the environmental, the social and the economic components of sustainable development. MAP had developed close working relations with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA-MEL), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO-IOC, UNEP/GPA and the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes.

11. He expressed thanks to the Government of Italy for its significant contribution to the GPA for activities related to land-based sources of pollution in southern Mediterranean countries. He further noted that the Mediterranean GEF Project, which was well integrated within MAP's activities, represented a major contribution to the management and eventual control of land-based pollution, and UNEP and GEF were seriously considering the follow-up project for MAP, which would be concentrated on the implementation of the SAP.

12. As Europe and the Mediterranean regions were coming closer together, with the welcome cooperation between MAP and the European Union, UNEP encouraged the further involvement of Contracting Parties, collectively or individually, in the activities of other regional seas conventions and programmes, such as those for the Black Sea, the Oslo-Paris Accord (OSPAR), the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) or even the North-West Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). MAP set high standards: the MEDPOL programme, the latest developments related to REMPEC and the revised Emergency Protocol programme, the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD), the network of excellent regional activity centres and the CAMP activities were just a few of MAP's programmes, which could serve as a model for replication in other regions.

13. However, MAP could benefit from better support, involvement and a "sense of ownership" from its Member States. UNEP called upon those governments that had not yet done so to ratify, as soon as possible, the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, some of which had been agreed upon some six to eight years ago.

14. He was glad to note that, for the coming biennium, UNEP had renewed its financial contribution to the Mediterranean Trust Fund. Although the contribution was modest, and

definitely smaller than what UNEP would have liked to contribute, it was symbolic and morally significant. The UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-second session, held in Nairobi in February 2003, had identified several key elements of a new global strategy for the regional seas, whereby the regional seas conventions and action plans would contribute to global sustainable development, and would be used as platforms for the regional implementation of global conventions, programmes and initiatives.

15. He paid tribute to the vision, leadership and professional and diplomatic skills of Mr Chabason, and extended warm gratitude and appreciation to him. UNEP was currently finalizing the recruitment process of the new Coordinator, in full cooperation with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, strictly following the rules and procedures of the United Nations and with full objectivity and transparency. He assured the Meeting that UNEP would do whatever was necessary to pursue its close and friendly cooperation with MAP in its future work.

16. In his opening address, Mr Chabason expressed thanks to UNEP, and in particular to the Executive Director and the regional seas programmes, for the unwavering support provided to MAP. He also expressed gratitude to the Government and authorities of Italy for hosting the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania in November 2003. The main tasks of the current Meeting included the review of the implementation of the programme and budget for the past biennium.

17. The Bureau had been very dynamic in the preparation of the documents for the current Meeting. A number of significant developments had occurred, such as WSSD and the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which directly impacted on MAP and its activities. In addition, accidents such as those involving the "Prestige" and the "Erika" had demonstrated the risks posed to the marine environment and the urgent need for prevention, as well as for rapid response. MAP was therefore working closely with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the European Union to set up a mechanism to protect the Mediterranean environment as a priority.

Agenda item 2: Rules of Procedure

18. The Meeting decided that the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols would apply *mutatis mutandis* to its deliberations (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

Agenda item 3: Election of Officers

19. In accordance with Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure and after informal consultations, the Meeting unanimously elected the following Bureau:

Chairperson	Mr P. van Klaveren (Monaco)
Vice-Chairperson	Mr B. Baraj (Albania)
Vice-Chairperson	Mr M. Khalil (Egypt)
Vice-Chairperson	Mr A. Perrone (Italy)
Vice-Chairperson	Mr A. Gannoun (Tunisia)
Rapporteur	Mr P. Lacoste (France)

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

20. Considering the provisional agenda (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/1), the annotated provisional agenda ((UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/2), and the draft programme of work, several MAP National Focal Points emphasized the importance of devoting sufficient time to

the consideration of the key issues of the budget and contributions, the evaluation of MAP, relations between MAP and the European Union and the preparation of the agenda for the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

21. The Meeting considered the possibility of preparing one or more declarations for adoption by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Catania in November. A proposed declaration concerning the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from ships was submitted to the Meeting as document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/15. Another declaration on cooperation with the European Community to prepare and implement the European Marine Strategy had been circulated by the European Commission. Finally, the representative of Spain proposed the adoption of a political declaration.

22. The Meeting generally welcomed the idea of the adoption of a political declaration, on the understanding that the detailed recommendations to be adopted by the Contracting Parties were mainly of an internal nature addressed to the MAP components, while such a declaration would contain political commitments at the ministerial level, or better at the level of the States themselves. There was some discussion on whether three separate declarations should be adopted, or whether all three proposals should be combined. Although two of the proposals were on technical matters which might stand better alone, it was also felt that a multiplicity of declarations might weaken their combined effect. It was pointed out that, for such an important document to achieve consensus support at the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, it would be necessary to make rapid progress on its formulation and to circulate it well before the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

23. The Meeting therefore decided to set up a working group with a broad mandate to discuss and develop a declaration or declarations for circulation and adoption by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

24. Subject to the above comments and arrangements, the Meeting adopted the provisional agenda and draft programme of work. The Agenda is attached as **Annex II** to this report.

Agenda items 5 and 6: Report by the Coordinator on the activities carried out during the 2002-2003 biennium and Financial implementation report of MAP Programme

25. The Coordinator, highlighting some of the main activities carried out during the biennium in relation to coordination (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/3, sections 1.A.1 to 1.A.6), drew attention firstly to the legal framework. Reviewing the status of acceptance and ratification of the amended Convention and Protocols and the new Protocols since 2001, he observed that, as at 18 July 2003, only the new Specially Protected Areas (SPA) and Biodiversity Protocol had entered into force. He added that the ratification process for the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol was nearing completion and further progress had been made on the acceptance of the amendments to the revised Convention. He appealed to the Contracting Parties to expedite and, if possible, finalize their ratification and acceptance procedures in time for the meeting of the Contracting Parties in November.

26. Regarding developments relating to the legal framework, the very ambitious new Prevention and Emergency Protocol involved additional responsibilities for MAP, and more specifically REMPEC, whose resources had been strengthened for the purpose. On the question of liability and compensation, the issue at stake was the need to avoid overlapping and ensure synergy with other liability regimes. He added that the meeting had before it recommendations on the reporting system, following the implementation of the reporting format on a trial basis, as well as on a mechanism for monitoring enforcement of MAP legal instruments.

27. Concerning the institutional framework, work had continued on the overall evaluation of the MAP structure, including the MCSD, together with the evaluation of REMPEC and SPA/RAC. Following the somewhat critical evaluation of the 100 Historic Sites Programme, a new programme was being formulated and a firm proposal on this subject would be submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania. In addition, he recalled that the recommendations adopted by the 8th Meeting of the MCSD (Cavtat, Croatia) on the evaluation of the MCSD and the strategic orientations for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) would be an important item on the agenda at the November Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

28. He indicated that MAP's cooperation and partnership with United Nations agencies, the European Union (EU) and other intergovernmental international and regional organizations, programmes and conventions had been considerably expanded and intensified during the period under review and he suggested that the Contracting Parties might wish to determine a philosophy for such cooperation in response to the increasing demands on MAP in that area. With regard to cooperation with the European Union and the European Commission (EC) in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, he referred to the high profile given to MAP in the Athens Declaration of Euro-Mediterranean Ministers for the Environment and the resulting increase in regular contacts with the EC's Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme (EC/SMAP). The strengthening of MAP's involvement in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership had led to strong financial support for several MAP projects.

29. Successful outcomes of MAP's active participation in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and its preparatory process had included the incorporation of the Mediterranean as a framework for WSSD cooperation in the Plan of Implementation. An important Mediterranean side event at the Johannesburg Summit had been effectively organized in close cooperation with MIO-ECSDE.

30. In the period under review, the issue of MAP's relations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had been clarified and established on a more formal basis, through a set of criteria; moreover, cooperation and support to NGOs had been strengthened through the conclusion of 18 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with partner NGOs in 2002. He emphasized that the Mediterranean network of NGOs was very active and supportive of MAP.

31. On the subject of information and public awareness, he said that work on the MAP website was progressing and further updates were in progress. In view of the importance of improving media coverage of environmental issues, a programme of workshops for communication professionals had started. In cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA), an updated global report on the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean was planned. Requests for information from the MAP Library had increased considerably and the number of institutions regularly receiving MAP publications had risen to 3,500.

32. With regard to financial and administrative issues, Mr Khaled Ben Salah, Fund Administrative Officer (UNEP/MAP), drew attention to the information on the financial implementation of the MAP Programme and Budget contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/Inf.4. The document covered the Programme and Budget for the biennia 2000-2001 and 2002-2003, and its introduction set forth MEDU's mandate in that context. With regard to the current biennium, he pointed out that work programme activities were ongoing and in administrative terms could be carried out until March 2004. It was also important to note that implementation of the MAP work programme was facilitated by in-kind contributions, in addition to ordinary and voluntary financial contributions.

33. He specified that Annex IV of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/3, concerning contributions to the Trust Fund, referred to the status of those contributions as at 30 June 2003. Since that date, Croatia, Greece and Turkey had paid all the amounts due. He pointed out that, in general, the collection of contributions had been improved by the implementation of the measures adopted by the Bureau at its meeting held in Monaco. In response to questions concerning the most recent information available on the contributions paid by Contracting Parties, he explained that MEDU received confirmation of the payments made only on a monthly basis.

34. A number of speakers emphasized the importance of submitting to the meetings of the National Focal Points and the Contracting Parties the most up-to-date information possible on the contributions paid and it was agreed that in future the Secretariat would make every effort in future to issue such information.

35. There was general agreement that, in addition to the information already provided on voluntary financial contributions, it would be helpful if overall information on in-cash and in-kind contributions could be provided as well. Such contributions often represented considerable amounts, particularly in comparison to the contributions of smaller countries. The identification of voluntary contributions could act as an incentive for national authorities to make greater efforts in this respect.

36. While welcoming the improved transparency of the Coordinator's report on MAP's activities during the biennium, the opinion was expressed that it could be further enhanced by including reference to any commitments that had not been met, in addition to what had been achieved. The report ought to specify which activities had been completed and, in the case of activities to be continued, how much longer it had been agreed that they would be pursued.

37. The Coordinator introduced Ms Zeineb Belkhir, the new Director of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and paid tribute to the achievements of Mr Hentati, the former Director of SPA/RAC.

38. The National Focal Point of Tunisia announced that the Carthage Declaration on protection of the Mediterranean had just been issued, at the outcome of the meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Conference on marine environment held in his country. The text of the Declaration would be made available to participants as soon as possible.

Pollution prevention and control

39. Mr Saverio Civili, MED POL Coordinator, recalled that the biennium 2002-2003 had been crucial for MED POL as it was expected to confirm the shift in emphasis in the region from pollution assessment to pollution control. The project financed by GEF, FFEM and other partners for the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was of tremendous importance for the implementation of the LBS Protocol throughout the region as it was intended to provide the necessary basis for ensuring the long-term implementation of the SAP. The main achievement of the biennium was the fact that the SAP had become fully operational and integrated the full range of MED POL activities, namely pollution monitoring, pollution reduction, assessment and reporting. Guidelines and action plans had been prepared, of which those relating to the reduction of biological oxygen demand (BOD) from industrial sources and the reduction of hazardous wastes, prepared by CP/RAC in the context of its strengthened cooperation with MED POL, were of particular importance. National diagnostic analyses (NDAs) and baseline budgets of emission releases, as the first steps in the development of national action plans (NAPs) for the reduction of pollution, had also been prepared (16 countries had submitted NDAs and 11 had prepared baseline budgets). Pre-investment studies for selected hotspot areas were also being developed.

40. He added that trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring were also fully operational in nine countries and had been brought closer to the objectives of the SAP. A new database had been developed and the historical data compiled through these programmes between 1975 and 1992 had been published on a CD-ROM. Further work had been carried out on the development of a reporting system for the implementation of the SAP, although this was still separate from the MAP reporting system and the two would only be integrated at a later stage. Pollution reduction and transfer registers (PRTR) had been launched in Egypt for six large industrial complexes and plans were being made for the preparation of these registers in other countries. Another very significant development was the updating of the list of pollution hotspots and the preparation of an updated transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) covering all the environmental aspects in the region. The draft TDA was submitted to the Meeting as document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/Inf.7. He called on all the countries to review the document so that an updated and finalized version could be submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania.

41. He also briefly recalled the activities undertaken to build capacities in the areas of environmental inspection systems and wastewater management, as well as the technical meeting held on desalination, which had recommended that desalination should be considered an industrial activity falling under the LBS Protocol. He added that the last two guidelines related to the 1995 Dumping Protocol had been prepared and a report was being drafted assessing dumping in the Mediterranean (1995-2001) with a view to reaffirming the importance of the Protocol and of the problem of dumping in the region.

42. Finally, he recalled that the MED POL programme was implemented in close cooperation with many partners, including United Nations Agencies (WHO, IAEA-MEL, IOC), sub-regional agreements (RAMOGE and the Adriatic initiative) and the European Union. In addition to the support provided by GEF and FFEM, he said that MED POL also worked in close association with UNEP-GPA and with many NGOs.

43. Mr Ante Baric, GEF Project Manager, drew attention to the pre-investment studies that were being carried out to lay the groundwork for the implementation of the SAP, and to the developments related to the strategic action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity. He explained that, of the \$12.2 million total cost of the GEF Project, GEF provided \$6 million, FFEM provided some \$2 million, and MTF provided \$0.8 million. He described the administrative structure of the Project and explained that, following the favourable evaluation of the Project in January 2003, it had been proposed to extend it until 2004. Terms of reference for the preparation of pre-investment studies had been adopted by five countries, which had signed letters of agreement to carry out the action. Two countries had completed the procedures for procurement of a consultant, and one country had a consultant in place. ICS-UNIDO was supporting a pre-investment study in one country, and FFEM would directly support such studies in four countries.

44. One observer, while glad that activities had been initiated before the entry into force of the Protocol, expressed concern about its future implementation, particularly with regard to persistent organic pollutants and endocrine disruptors. In reply it was explained that, the first phase of implementation of the SAP had been successfully achieved even though the Protocol had not yet entered into force. However, for the next phase, and in particular the preparation of National Action Plans with the necessary political backing, the entry into force of the Protocol would be essential. Since only a few ratifications were still needed, it was to be hoped that the amended LBS Protocol would enter into force in the near future.

45. In answer to the observation that the Project needed to be financially sustainable, since GEF funding was time-limited, it was explained that the sustainability of the structure and system to be set up was a major concern of the Secretariat. For certain types of implementation activities, such as those related to the modernization of industry, it was proving possible to find additional funding for the future. MAP was working with countries to

identify issues and to implement as much capacity-building as possible. However, there were some activities, such as those related to municipal waste management, for which it was difficult to find donors, and countries had to accept that they might have to find certain resources themselves. MEDPOL was working with GEF to identify alternative financial instruments at the national level to promote the sustainability of the Project. In that connection, the Secretariat was also aware of the interest of, and possibility of further cooperation with UNEP-GPA, and a number of joint projects were under preparation.

46. Mr Sherif Arif, METAP/Environment Coordinator for MENA, said that GEF had approached METAP concerning the development of an environmental fund to enable countries to take action to tackle hotspots. He hoped that the concept would be further discussed later in the year.

Marine pollution prevention and control (REMPEC)

47. Mr Roberto Patrino, Director of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), introducing the relevant section of the report (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/3), described the main axes of REMPEC activities in the period under review. He described the activities to implement the recommendations of the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, including those concerning the implementation of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and noted that the preparation of a proposed strategy for the implementation of the Protocol would continue in 2004, with a final draft expected to be presented to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties. He also described the activities concerning a draft convention on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft. Concerning the development of national and regional preparedness and response strategies, he described the proposed projects for the assessment of maritime traffic; the status of national contingency plans; the support for countries of the Mediterranean region in case of emergency; and the revision of the regional information system. With regard to capacity building, he described the training and exercise activities undertaken and the cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. In this respect, he welcomed the significant financial support for REMPEC activities provided by the IMO technical cooperation project, as well as the support from the French and Italian oil industries, which continued to second two junior officers to the centre. He also informed the meeting that the evaluation exercise of the centre had been completed in May 2003.

48. Several representatives, stressing the important role of REMPEC at the subregional level, pointed to the need to enhance cooperation in the field of subregional contingency plans. The observer from the Worldwide Fund for Nature, as an end-user of the CLEOPATRA monitoring system, considered that it was necessary to launch a policy and operational initiative to seriously tackle the problem of illicit discharges by shipping, which were destroying the Mediterranean environment. In reply, the MAP Coordinator pointed to the great discrepancy in the data available on the levels of illicit discharges and highlighted the need for data on the issue that would be acceptable to everyone. MAP could be of assistance in compiling such data.

49. The representative of Malta reiterated his Government's full support for the REMPEC centre, which it had hosted since its inception, and congratulated the centre and the Secretariat on the achievements to date, and especially on the efforts to finalize the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol. As a sign of the value of REMPEC's work, and of the importance Malta attached to it, his Government was planning to put new premises at its disposal and he looked forward to continued good relations and successful cooperation with REMPEC in the future.

Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC)

50. Mr Victor Macia, Director of CP/RAC, outlined the centre's activities as set out in document UNEP (DEC)/MED WG. 228/3. He highlighted CP/RAC's contribution to the implementation of the LBS Protocol, with inter alia, the production of several sets of guidelines and plans. Capacity building and training activities had included workshops on the Minimization Opportunities Environmental Diagnosis (MOED) methodology. He drew attention to the centre's periodical and new publications and information dissemination activities, including the updating of the website and development of databases, observing however that some difficulties were encountered in dissemination. A number of new studies, both general and sectoral, had been produced. In addition to CP/RAC's involvement in the GEF Project, the centre had participated in other projects, including one for the creation of a cleaner production centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

51. The representative of Tunisia welcomed the ongoing cooperation between CP/RAC and the International Centre for Environmental Technologies in Tunisia.

Biological diversity and specially protected areas

52. Ms Zeineb Belkhir, Director of SPA/RAC, presented the activities of the centre in the period under review, as set out in the relevant section of the progress report (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/3). They included: the SAP/BIO project; activities for the implementation of the Action Plans for the monk seal, marine turtles, cetaceans and the marine vegetation of the Mediterranean; the elaboration of new Action Plans for cartilaginous fishes in the Mediterranean, for the conservation of the bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, and for species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean; assistance to countries in the selection, establishment and management of specially protected areas; training activities; and other activities, including collaboration in relation to the implementation of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol and/or action plans at the bilateral or subregional levels. In this context, she thanked the national authorities and the European Commission for the financial support provided to SPA/RAC.

53. Several speakers praised the continued excellent cooperation between the centre and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly in such areas as developing the typology of coastal wetlands and activities for the conservation of marine turtles. However, while noting the increased coordination between SPA/RAC and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its components, it was also recalled that the recent Meeting of SPA National Focal Points had considered that the centre should establish further links with other international organizations and bodies. Moreover, greater emphasis should be placed on capacity-building activities. It was also emphasized that the SAP BIO incorporated many different subjects and, as such, represented the backbone of the future work of the centre, which should be further developed.

Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

54. Mr Ivica Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC, referring to section II.C of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/3, reviewed the action taken by PAP/RAC to promote a practical approach to Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) in the region, including the adaptation and simplification of tools and techniques; new publications; analysis of specific coastal issues; and policy and technical recommendations to national and local authorities and other stakeholders. He drew attention to a renewed interest in coastal area management programmes (CAMPs). Seven such projects were now under way and efforts had been made to improve coordination, integration and follow-up. He noted the emerging trend in the region towards improving the legal basis for coastal management, with increasing institutional support at the national level and the preparation of a feasibility study

for a regional legal instrument on ICAM. He outlined the centre's main capacity-building, training and information activities.

Environment Remote-Sensing Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC)

55. Ms Monique Viel, senior consultant, ERS/RAC, gave a presentation on the activities undertaken by the centre during the period under review. She outlined the role of the centre in the prevention and control of pollution; its activities for the sustainable management of coastal zones; Web-related activities to set up a database of specialized information; collaboration on indicators, particularly the preparation of inventories in Tunisia and the convening of a workshop on remote-sensing as a tool; and the current status of the centre.

56. The representative of Italy explained that the delay in submitting the draft proposal on ERS/RAC had been due to the restructuring activity carried out in May 2003. His Government wished to strengthen the role of the centre and would provide consistent financial support for the remote sensing activities of the centre, with particular emphasis on emerging technologies. The operating costs of the centre would be funded by a counterpart contribution from the Government of Italy and the Sicilian Region. The draft proposal, to be prepared jointly by the Sicilian Region and the Secretariat, would refocus the role of ERS/RAC and would be presented for consideration by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC)

57. Mr Guillaume Benoit, Director of Blue Plan, presented the activities of the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre during the biennium 2002-2003. The first prospective report on the future of the environment and development in the Mediterranean region for over a decade was being finalized; a first draft would be submitted to the Contracting Parties in Catania for their opinions, and the final text should be ready by summer 2004. In terms of sectoral issues, most progress had been made in the water sector; a regional forum on water had been attended by national water directors, NGO representatives, donors and private enterprise to evaluate progress and difficulties in the implementation of water demand management policies. Memoranda of understanding had also been concluded with FAO and CIHEAM to identify ways to improve the integration of sustainability in forest and rural development policies. With regard to indicators and statistics, much had been done to remedy the serious lack of comparative statistical information in Mediterranean countries through the MedStat Environment programme. National environmental statistical services had been set up in eight southern and eastern Mediterranean countries and an important regional workshop had been held in Istanbul in February 2003.

58. Several speakers paid tribute to the quantity and quality of the activities carried out by Blue Plan. In reply to a question about the problem of forest fires, the Director of Blue Plan said that the longstanding Mediterranean forest network (*Silva Mediterranea*), overseen by FAO, was in the process of being revitalized with the objective of integrating sustainability more fully into forestry policies, for example through the prevention of fires and action to combat desertification and poverty. Asked what criteria were used when selecting projects to be given priority, bearing in mind the overall strategic aims of MAP, the Director said that while the Blue Plan attempted to react comprehensively to the problems facing the Mediterranean, it inevitably focused on those areas where added value could be achieved. That was why Blue Plan, in accordance with the recommendations of the Contracting Parties, had focused on issues such as water and energy demand management.

59. It was agreed that one way in which the Blue Plan could lend assistance to the Contracting Parties, for example in coastal area management, was in helping them to make the right choice of indicators for the purpose of monitoring the main socio-economic and environmental changes and developing a long-term vision for these areas. It was suggested

that, in that connection, efforts should be made to improve coordination between BP/RAC and PAP/RAC. Attention was drawn to the need to ensure that regional disparities were fully taken into account when pilot projects were implemented. The need to involve the maximum number of funding partners in Blue Plan projects was emphasized. A request was made for all the regional activity centres to present a strategic analysis so that the Contracting Parties could assess their needs and guide the centres accordingly.

Agenda item 7: Budget and recommendations for 2004-2005

60. Mr Arab Hoballah, Deputy Coordinator, introducing the discussion on the budget, reported on the difficult but successful negotiations that had been conducted with the United Nations system to allow MAP to use the euro as its reference and operating currency, in accordance with the decision of the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. In so doing, MAP had become the first United Nations programme to use the euro as a reference currency and would undoubtedly be followed by other programmes. The move would improve the stability of the Mediterranean Trust Fund by reducing fluctuations in exchange rates and would facilitate joint programmes with the European Community and other partners. Thus the budget for the biennium 2004-2005 was presented in euros, based on the approved 2002-03 budget in euros, and as of 1 January 2004 all contributions and all expenditures would be in euros. Currently, 92 per cent of contributions and over 90 per cent of expenditures were in euros. Almost all meetings were held in countries of the euro zone, or in countries where the euro would increasingly become the operating currency.

61. In the discussion that followed, all speakers welcomed the move to the euro and congratulated the Secretariat on the outcome of the negotiations with the United Nations on this subject. The ensuing discussion focused on the exchange rate to be used for the calculation of contributions in euros. The National Focal Point of Spain recalled that the budget agreed upon at the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties had been adopted in US dollars, the equivalent sums being given in euros only as an indication. As a matter of principle, the Contracting Parties would need to be given a specific exchange rate on a fixed date, which should preferably be closer to 1 January 2004 to allow for the necessary calculations. If the exchange rate adopted resulted in a decline in the funding available to MAP, the Contracting Parties should be ready to increase their contributions accordingly. The representative of France expressed the wish that an additional rationale and several options would be presented by the Secretariat.

62. A number of representatives emphasized that the overriding concern of MAP was to prevent pollution in the Mediterranean basin. The activities and priorities necessary for strengthening the Barcelona Convention should therefore be discussed first, and the issue of the budget and the problem of exchange rates should be resolved subsequently. The representative of Italy said that there were three options: to use the exchange rate applicable at the time of the Contracting Parties' meeting in Monaco in November 2001; to respect the current rate applicable and decide which activities could be implemented and which would have to be abandoned; or to use an exchange rate fixed at a parity level.

63. The Coordinator reiterated that the change to euros would lead to a more stable budget. The 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties had approved the budget in both US dollars and euros. During the present biennium, because of fluctuations in the dollar/euro exchange rate, the MAP budget, especially for the functioning of the Secretariat, had had to be supplemented from the MAP Revolving Fund, but such disbursements could not continue indefinitely. The actual cost to MAP of the functioning of the Secretariat in US dollars had risen by 20-25 per cent over the past two years due to currency fluctuations. If an unfavourable exchange rate were to be adopted, it would be necessary to envisage a drastic reduction in activities.

64. It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a memorandum reflecting the discussion that had taken place and outlining possible options. The note could be discussed at the beginning of the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties with a view to agreeing on a clear proposal for the consideration of the Ministers.

Agenda item 7: A Coordination

Legal Framework

Status of ratifications of the Convention and Protocols

65. Introducing the subject, the Coordinator drew attention to the relevant section of the report on recommendations and programme budget for the 2004-2005 (UNEP(DEC)/WG 228/4, paragraphs 1 to 5). He noted that, despite the recommendations on the subject made by the Contracting Parties at their 12th Meeting, due to the slow rate of ratification, acceptance and accession, the amended text of the Convention and most of the new and amended Protocols adopted had still not entered into force. The situation of the Madrid Offshore Protocol and the Izmir Hazardous Wastes Protocol was worrisome. Each had been ratified by only four Contracting Parties and the other signatories to the Protocols had not given any clear official indication of their intentions to ratify. It was thus necessary to look at the reasons why the process had stalled, and to see the future perspective for those Protocols.

66. The Chair recalled that the President of the Bureau had written to the Contracting Parties in an effort to speed up the ratification processes in countries. While he appreciated that national legal procedures for ratification could be time-consuming, he hoped that extra efforts could be encouraged to ensure the entry into force of the relevant instruments before the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

67. In the course of the discussion, several representatives pointed out that one of the main reasons for the delay in the ratification of the Izmir and Madrid Protocols lay in the fact that, to date, only four of the signatories themselves had ratified them. They wondered why that was so, and were thus hesitant to step in and ratify the protocols themselves.

68. The representative of Spain reported that his Government expected to complete the ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol by the end of 2003. In addition, Spain had initiated procedures for the ratification of the Madrid Protocol, but continued to have problems with the Izmir Protocol. He considered that, as each of the two latter Protocols required only two further instruments of ratification, it was still possible that they could enter into force soon.

69. The representative of Serbia and Montenegro said that her Government was in the process of ratifying the amended text of the Convention and its Protocols and expected the process to be completed in the near future. As a new Party to the Convention, she expressed a wish for assistance in participating in MAP projects and activities and looked forward to future cooperation and sharing of experiences.

70. The representative of Croatia announced that her Government had ratified the amended text of the Convention and three of its Protocols: the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol; the Prevention and Emergency Protocol; and the Dumping Protocol. Ratification of the LBS Protocol was under preparation. Initially, the Government had considered that the Izmir Protocol was not in line with the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, but that concern had subsequently been eliminated.

71. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic announced that the Depositary had been informed that a Presidential decree had been issued concerning ratification of the

amended text of the Convention and the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol. Her Government was currently taking steps to ratify the LBS Protocol and the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

72. The representative of the European Commission said that the Community expected to complete the ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol in the first quarter of 2004, although no steps were planned to initiate ratification of the Madrid and Izmir Protocols.

73. The representative of Morocco announced that his Government had taken measures to complete the ratification of the amended text of the Convention and the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol in the near future.

74. The representative of Slovenia said that his Government had ratified the amended text of the Convention and the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, and expected to complete the process of ratifying the Prevention and Emergency Protocol by the end of 2003. Concerning the Izmir Protocol, his Government still considered that the Protocol was not completely in line with the Basel Convention. There were no plans to work on ratifying the Madrid Protocol.

75. The representative of Algeria said that the procedures to ratify the amended text of the Convention and the new and amended Protocols had been initiated, but had been delayed by the work to revise the legal and regulatory framework in his country. Now that that work had been completed, he hoped that the ratification processes would be completed before the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

76. The representative of Italy said that the ratification of the Izmir Protocol and of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol was with Parliament. His Government wished to strengthen REMPEC in the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and would make available an additional \$130,000 to that end. In addition, the Italian oil industry had provided a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) for REMPEC in Malta to serve the implementation of the Protocol.

77. The representative of Albania said that his Government had ratified all the relevant MAP instruments with the exception of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, for which the procedures were expected to be completed in the near future.

78. The representative of Lebanon announced that procedures were under way for the ratification of the amended text of the Convention.

79. The representative of Tunisia said that his Government had ratified all the relevant MAP instruments. He noted that, even though the amended text of the Convention and some of the Protocols had not yet entered into force, Tunisia had started to implement activities in support of their aims.

80. Summing up the status of ratifications, the Coordinator said that a further three instruments of ratification were still needed to enable the amended text of the Convention, as well as the Dumping Protocol, to enter into force. It was expected that the Prevention and Emergency Protocol would be able to enter into force soon, once the notifications of one additional ratification had been officially received. The LBS Protocol required a further four instruments of ratification. He thus urged those that had not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification.

81. Noting that the appropriate legal documents had already been updated, and in light of the possible entry into force of the amended text of the Convention, he proposed that the legal texts be made public, with a view to official publication in the course of 2004.

Experience had shown that national courts of law had recognized the validity of MAP legal instruments even before they had officially entered into force.

82. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Feasibility study for a new legal instrument on integrated coastal areas management (ICAM)

83. Introducing the item, the Coordinator drew attention to the relevant section of document UNEP(DEC)/WG.228/4, noting that the Contracting Parties at their 12th Meeting had adopted a recommendation (II-C-4) calling for the preparation of a “feasibility study for the regional protocol on sustainable coastal management”. PAP/RAC had been entrusted with the preparation of the study, which was before the Meeting in document (UNEP(DEC)/WG 228/8. He stressed that the study did not represent a binding text but, rather, set out elements proposing the advisability of the activity.

84. Mr Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC, presented the feasibility study for a legal instrument on integrated coastal area management in the Mediterranean, contained in document UNEP(DEC)/WG.228/8. Summarizing and synthesizing the main points therein, he underlined the overall finding that, despite the improvements in the situation concerning the management of coastal areas, there was a strong case for some kind of legal instrument to respond to the increasing pressures. He noted that the European Union had already adopted a recommendation on the management of coastal areas. After describing some of the potential dangers of adopting a “do-nothing” approach to coastal area management, he described the legal justification for an instrument as regards both national and international legislation, noting that it would also be in line with the requirements of WSSD and existing treaties relating to the environment. Furthermore, the preparation of a legal instrument on coastal area management would represent a logical step within the system of the Barcelona Convention. He pointed to the possible options for an instrument set out in the study, and to the draft recommendation on the subject before the Meeting.

85. The Meeting expressed thanks to Mr Trumbic for the excellent work carried out by PAP/RAC to prepare the feasibility study.

86. The representative of the European Community explained that the recommendation it had adopted on coastal management was not binding, and represented a flexible framework within which countries were free to act. While the concept of creating a regional instrument was of interest, she stressed that, for it to be implemented, it would have to be adaptable and allow for such flexibility. The recommendation sent to the Contracting Parties thus had to be more open and allow for an analysis of the possible content of such an instrument. She proposed amendments to the draft recommendation proposed by the Secretariat. Her views were supported by several other representatives.

87. Some representatives, pointing to the need to devote budget resources to activities which had a real chance of being successfully implemented, noted the great divergence in the situations of the different coastal areas of the countries of the Mediterranean and the potential difficulties in formulating and implementing one single instrument.

88. A number of representatives stressed that the existing guidelines and local legislation governing coastal area management were insufficient to cope with the rapidly increasing pressures on the Mediterranean coastal area. Such pressures, which were worsening, were often the result of factors such as tourism or general economic forces, which were external to the individual regions and areas. Environmental issues in coastal areas were subject to a fragmentation of responsibilities among various bodies and ministries; the Ministry of Environment, in managing newly emerging environmental issues, was often weak in the face

of pressure from other ministries; the traditional planning instruments were unable to deal with the complex issues of coastal area management. For all those reasons, a single, modern, regional instrument, acceptable to all Contracting Parties, needed to be developed to manage the coastal areas in an integrated way. It was necessary to consider and analyse the various options for such an instrument. It was also proposed that a forum be held to assess the implementation of the MCSD's recommendations on sustainable coastal management.

89. A number of observers from environmental non-governmental organizations, pointing to the spiraling pressures on the coastal areas of the Mediterranean, stressed the inadequacy of the existing guidelines and legislative structures and strongly supported the development of a new regional instrument for integrated coastal area management. A well-developed, harmonized regional instrument would respond to an urgent need, and the Secretariat should be given a clear mandate to proceed with its development. One observer underlined the need for provisions to enforce such an instrument.

90. The Coordinator, noting that it would be technically possible to draft a widely acceptable instrument for integrated coastal area management in the Mediterranean region and that such an instrument would bring added value to the body of existing legislation on the subject, underlined the importance of Contracting Parties showing sufficient political will to support such an initiative and to make it a success.

91. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Liability and compensation

92. Mr Evangelos Raftopoulos (MAP Legal Adviser) retraced the background to the discussion on the advisability of developing a specifically Mediterranean liability and compensation regime and developments since the Brijuni expert meeting in 1997. The process had been interrupted for several years on account of developments relating to legal instruments outside the region, but had recently been revived. The basis for such a regime could be found in Article 16 of the Barcelona Convention. The understanding had emerged that such a regime would enhance compliance with the Convention and Protocols and promote their implementation, and that a new legal instrument such as a protocol could be of added value if there was no overlapping with existing convention-based liability regimes and if it focused only on activities not covered by other regimes. Before proposing any specific action to the Contracting Parties, however, and in the light of WSSD, it was necessary to conduct further investigations to determine the economic, social and financial implications of such a regime, establish a partnership with all the stakeholders and socio-economic actors involved and hold further consultations with the Contracting Parties. A feasibility study along those lines was therefore proposed in the draft recommendation now before the Meeting.

93. Most representatives who took the floor were in favour of a preliminary feasibility study, cautioning against undue haste in determining the nature of such a regime and the legal instrument governing it, one adding that no deadline for submission to the Contracting Parties should be specified at the present juncture and that a thorough investigation of questions of substance and compatibility with other regimes was a prerequisite for a sense of ownership by the Contracting Parties and their ultimate acceptance of a new legal instrument. The matter of overlapping with other regimes was a matter of concern to all. One representative drew attention to the inconclusive discussions held so far and to the many unresolved questions, such as those relating to identification, insurance and the liability of states. Another asked whether consideration could not be given to expanding the scope of the Convention and Protocols to include provisions on liability and compensation rather than drafting a new instrument.

94. Mr Adler said that the main question was not feasibility but necessity. Experience with other instruments, notably the Hazardous Wastes and Offshore Protocols, indicated that the region could “live without” such instruments. The proposed feasibility study might usefully begin by determining whether there was in fact a need for such a regional regime in the light of existing global instruments.

95. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendation proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, which is contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Reporting system and mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance with the Barcelona Convention

96. Ms Tatjana Hema, MEDU Programme Officer, reviewed the trial reporting exercise and the findings and recommendations as reported in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/9. There was now a clear picture of the direction to be taken for a credible reporting system, with improved reporting formats. It was recommended that implementation of Article 26 of the Convention should commence for the biennium 2002-2003 on the basis of the updated reporting format. The proposals concerning a mechanism for promoting implementation of and compliance with the Convention were prompted by a concern to reduce the efforts required of the Contracting Parties by rationalizing the substance and timing of reporting. The draft recommendations before the Meeting were to be considered in conjunction with the proposal in Annex V to document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/9 on a compliance control mechanism to be proposed by a Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Implementation and Compliance. Should that option be accepted, the group should preferably, for budgetary reasons, be restricted to six to eight representatives of Contracting Parties, but open to other Contracting Parties. Another of its tasks would be to work towards the harmonization of reporting procedures with other multilateral agreements and EU directives. Provision was also made for assistance to the Contracting Parties to strengthen their reporting capacities and systems

97. In the ensuing discussion, the importance of improved reporting and compliance monitoring was stressed, and support was expressed for the establishment of a Working Group, with one representative emphasizing the legal and technical expertise required for such a group. Representatives of Contracting Parties that had participated in the trial reporting exercise said they had benefited from the exercise, one of them stating that it had enabled his country to establish a data collection, processing and updating system, enabling it to meet its reporting obligations effectively. Such experience might usefully be extended to other Contracting Parties. Another suggested that improved procedures for data collection should be developed in the future. Others pointed to the difficulty of collecting data from all relevant bodies and the need both for assistance and for refinement of reporting procedures and formats. It was suggested that more indicators should be used in the model formats. Some questions remained to be clarified about the timing of reporting and how the information was to be used. Concern was expressed about the heavy reporting obligations of States in general, which called for the harmonization of procedures. The proposed Working Group could play a significant role in examining all those issues. Explanations were given on the form that assistance to countries might take, with reference to paragraph 29 of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4. Reporting procedures and assistance were to be country-driven.

98. In reply to a question from the floor, Ms Hema confirmed that the proposed compliance control mechanism would apply to the binding MAP legal components, but that consideration would be given to applying a similar mechanism to the non-legal components.

99. It was suggested that, because the proposed Working Group was to be limited in size, its terms of reference (TORs), composition and tasks should be clearly specified to

ensure that other Contracting Parties were informed about its work so that all were involved in assessing implementation of the Convention.

100. It was further suggested that the establishment of the Working Group might provide an ideal opportunity for introducing electronic means of communication in its methods of work in order both to lighten its structure and to make for greater participation by all interested parties.

101. In reply to the suggestion that the MED POL reporting system might, with the Working Group's assistance, be incorporated into the overall system in order to ease the reporting burden, Mr Civili pointed to the great differences between the SAP and other MAP components which explained why at the outset a separate SAP reporting system had been introduced, although testing in the forthcoming biennium might ultimately result in its incorporation in the overall system

102. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(MED)/MED WG.228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Evaluation of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre

103. Mr Michael Smart, Consultant, presented the draft report on the evaluation of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/6. The report (produced by Mr Smart, Dr. Ghazi Bitar and Prof. Giulio Rellini of the Universities of Lebanon and Genoa respectively) was the result of extensive consultations of all partners by means of a questionnaire and discussions at the Sixth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (Marseille, June 2003). It had been concluded that the centre's main strengths were the strong involvement and support of the Government of Tunisia, its pan-Mediterranean nature, its success in training and capacity-building and its unique expertise in marine biodiversity. Nonetheless, the centre's international status needed strengthening, so that States were encouraged to ratify and implement the Protocol; the monitoring and implementation of Action Plans needed simplifying; and MEDU should help the Contracting Parties to improve their contributions to the centre's work. More staff ought to be recruited in order to cope with the work volume, in particular for scientific activities; the post of Scientific Director should be formalized; and a strategic review needed to be carried out of the centre's role and activities. Above all, efforts should be made to increase the number of partnerships with other organizations and to increase the centre's visibility through improvements in communications and media contacts.

104. Ms Belkhir, Director of SPA/RAC, thanked the consultants for their constructive recommendations and said that particular attention would be paid to stepping up the centre's cooperation with other organizations, including NGOs.

105. The representative of Tunisia welcomed the largely positive report and said that his country's Government would do all it could to ensure the centre's continuing success, taking into account the shortcomings highlighted in the report. For the time being, however, the Contracting Parties should be invited to "take note" of the recommendations, rather than "approve" them. The centre's work could then be re-evaluated at the end of the forthcoming biennium.

106. A number of other representatives praised the report, in particular for its brevity, clarity and constructiveness, although doubts were expressed about the need to increase the centre's staff and the centre's ability to influence States with regard to the ratification and implementation of the Protocol. It was agreed, however, that the lack of clarity of the centre's status and its low visibility were major causes for concern. The surprising fact that the post

of Scientific Director lacked official status also needed to be rectified. Moreover, it was pointed out that any change in the centre's status might have financial implications.

107. Observers from environmental NGOs emphasized their satisfactory cooperation with the centre. Although increasing staff numbers was not a panacea, there was no doubt that the centre was understaffed, especially if it was to meet new challenges; one solution might be to hire staff specifically for given projects, such as SAP/BIO. On the other hand, whereas the centre was undoubtedly best placed to carry out certain activities such as training and capacity-building, many other activities could be left to other organizations, such as NGOs. The need to make a vast improvement to the centre's communications strategy, the source of much frustration, applied equally to MAP and even UNEP as a whole. Another suggestion was that the centre's publications might gain in prestige if they carried the names of eminent scientists.

108. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC) MED WG. 228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Evaluation of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre (REMPEC)

109. Mr Peter Hayward, Consultant, introduced the report on the evaluation of REMPEC, including the management performance audit of REMPEC, contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG228/7. Briefly summarizing the evaluation, he outlined its scope and methodology, based on analysis of the mandate and objectives of the centre. He noted REMPEC's role in project management, highlighting the need for REMPEC to continue to access funds from the European Community for projects to meet its objectives and to have appropriate staff resources to carry out the supplementary tasks inherent in undertaking the management of such projects. He drew attention to the summary of the recommendations of the evaluation contained in section 11.2 of the report. It had been concluded, *inter alia*, that REMPEC represented a strong force for provision of assistance and information and capacity-building, and was a framework for effective cooperation. Nevertheless, there was much to do and the workload was expected to increase. Additional financial and human resources were needed to enable REMPEC to continue to do its job effectively.

110. Mr David Pace, Consultant, briefly presented those aspects of the evaluation dealing with financial management and project implementation. He outlined the scope of the audit and the monetary objectives. From among the identified financial constraints, he highlighted the incompatibility of the accounting systems for reporting to the European Union and to IMO, which used different standards, and the need for IMO to use the Euro as its reporting currency, which would bring advantages for the actual level of funds allocated to the centre. Comparison over time had shown that the disbursement of the budget had improved, as had the number of budget revisions. It had been concluded that, in light of the workload, the staff were doing their best with the available resources, and it was clear that more funding was needed to support REMPEC.

111. Mr Patruno, Director of REMPEC, thanked the evaluators, as well as all those who had filled in the questionnaires and contributed to the evaluation process. Among the recommendations in the evaluators' report, some could be, and indeed already had been, implemented by direct action by REMPEC staff themselves. Concerning the recommendations related to staff levels and grades, it was not practical to address the issue by automatically requesting an increase in the Contracting Parties' contributions to the MTF. There existed the possibility for REMPEC to use alternative and innovative instruments, such as voluntary and in-kind contributions, and the mutually beneficial temporary secondment of personnel.

112. The representative of Malta reiterated his Government's commitment to support REMPEC and its activities. The Meeting expressed thanks for the quality of the report prepared on the evaluation. Several representatives stressed the importance of the subregional role of REMPEC, and expressed appreciation for its role in facilitating collaboration with the countries of the Adriatic, and in providing training and capacity building. One representative, expressing concern over the financial implications, questioned the need for the Focal Points of REMPEC to meet every two years and for such meetings to include representatives of both Ministries of Environment and Ministries of Transport. One representative welcomed the idea that REMPEC should pursue the use of innovative sources of funding for its activities and proposed that the Contracting Parties be requested to investigate the use of such funding.

113. In reply to a query as to why it was recommended that the Director of REMPEC should consult with IMO officials to discuss the role of REMPEC and IMO within the context of the effective implementation of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, Mr Hayward explained that the idea arose from the REMPEC Focal Points' discussions, where concern had been expressed that the tasks involved might be beyond REMPEC, since IMO would also be involved. Consultations between REMPEC and IMO would help to ensure that they were both on the same wavelength.

114. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

MAP Evaluation

115. The Coordinator introduced the Draft Strategic Assessment of the General Framework of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/5). He recalled that the Contracting Parties at their 12th Meeting had requested the Secretariat to commence the preparation of the strategic assessment, and had allowed the Bureau to select the method and timetable. The Bureau had decided upon the establishment of a Think Tank, to prepare a global assessment of MAP. The work to date should thus be seen as the outcome of the initiative of the Bureau and of the three meetings held by the Think Tank, and represented a step before the full evaluation. The MAP evaluation report had been drafted by the Secretariat on the basis of the findings, conclusion and recommendations of the overall evaluation process, as guided by and led by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties. He invited the National Focal Points to give their views on the report and to make suggestions concerning the full-scale evaluation to be conducted in the biennium 2004-2005. He suggested an amendment to the first proposed recommendation on this subject set out in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, so that the Contracting Parties would be recommended to take note of the report "On the MAP evaluation" and to transmit it to the Bureau with a view to the external evaluation of MAP to be completed by 2005.

116. The representative of Spain welcomed the proposed amendment, although regretting the fact that the report on the MAP evaluation would, in effect, be submitted to the Contracting Parties at Catania without being finalized. In other words, the Contracting Parties had not been properly consulted, as decided in Monaco, and the Focal Points had not been given an opportunity to contribute fully to the process.

117. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

118. The Coordinator explained that administrative and financial matters relating to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) were traditionally presented to the National Focal Points, so that their opinions could be expressed. The relevant section of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4 placed emphasis on the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), planned for the biennium 2004-2005. The proposed budget allocation had been kept as low as possible but, if the preparation of the MSSD were to be truly participatory, meetings involving all partners would have to be held. He hoped that countries or organizations would make proposals in that regard at the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania.

119. Several representatives expressed their support for the MCSD and its work, stressing that it should be fully representative of all sensitivities and take into account all the components of sustainable development. Specifically, the proposed Advisory Group, to assist in the preparation of the MSSD, needed to strike a balance between North and South. Similarly, the membership of the MSSD Steering Committee ought to be as broad as possible.

120. One representative asked why the MCSD, unlike other components, was not considered in full by the Focal Points, thus placing excessive onus on the Contracting Parties in this regard. It was also regretted that the MSSD would not be completed until 2005, effectively leaving the MCSD without guidance for another two years. Another representative suggested that it might be recommended, therefore, that the Contracting Parties should commit themselves to ensuring that the MSSD was completed by 2005. Several representatives emphasized the need to secure the involvement of as many stakeholders as possible in the preparation of the MSSD. The evolution of the notion of sustainable development since 1995 had to be taken into account, while emphasis needed to be placed on practical measures and major issues such as renewable energy, financial resources, the role of the private sector and the involvement of civil society.

121. Verdicts on the MCSD meeting in Cavtat, in May 2003, varied: some representatives felt that further impetus should be given to progress towards developing a strategy, whereas others saw it, taken together with the two well-attended meetings held in Barcelona, as an exercise in evaluating the MCSD's aims, which perhaps initially had been over-ambitious. The Task Force set up in Antalya had been working on identifying a new global vision of the region's needs, taking into account the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Several representatives pointed out that sustainable development was an immensely complex and inherently catch-all issue and that the MCSD, cited at various international forums as pioneering, was a new body, facing teething problems that were being solved. The MCSD's bottom-up, partnership-based approach was praised, since it avoided the unilateral imposition of a sustainable development policy in the region.

122. The Coordinator said that the Secretariat would take note of all the suggestions. Although he had always resisted any unnecessary post creations, he felt that there was a case, implicit in the discussions, for the creation of a new post, perhaps temporarily, for the purpose of coordinating the preparation of the MSSD. He hoped that the budget proposals would be accepted and appealed for external funding to complement the budgetary allocation. It was pointed out that MAP spent proportionately far less on staff than similar bodies and the representative of Spain stressed the need to prioritize activities so that sufficient funds were available for the most important operations, such as preparing the MSSD.

123. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4), as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

100 Historical Sites Programme

124. In response to a request for information about progress made on the renewal of the 100 Historical Sites Programme, the Coordinator said he hoped that proposals for restructuring would be finalized in time for the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Cooperation and partnership with United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations

125. The Coordinator said that cooperation with the European Commission would grow during the next biennium for the geopolitical and thematic reasons set forth in document UNEP (DEC)/MED WG.228/4. He had recently visited the European Commission and it had been agreed that MAP and the European Commission would step up their cooperation in 2004 through the development of a joint work programme which would among other things help to increase MAP's visibility.

126. The representative of the European Commission, endorsing the Coordinator's comments, said that it was necessary to explain the Commission's suggestions for some substantive amendments to the proposed recommendation to the Contracting Parties, as contained in a document distributed to all participants. Above all, it was felt that the proposal to develop cooperation between MAP and the European Environment Agency (EEA) needed to be presented as a separate recommendation since the EEA is a separate organism from the European Commission.

127. Several representatives supported the proposal for a separate recommendation concerning the EEA. One representative pointed out that, regardless of the European Union's enlargement plans, its increasing involvement in environmental matters alone justified enhanced cooperation between MAP and the European Commission. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was also highly relevant. Another representative proposed that the Secretariat should produce a report as MAP's contribution to the preparation of a European strategy for the protection and conservation of the marine environment. The European Commission could, in return, offer MAP invaluable advice in matters such as coastal area management. A request was made, however, for the budgetary implications of MAP's contribution to the European strategy to be made explicit in the budget.

128. With regard to cooperation with other regional organizations, in response to the questions raised, the Secretariat provided supplementary information concerning the proposed recommendations. The reference to the outputs of the Environment for Europe process should be taken to mean achievements such as the harmonization of reporting systems and other useful outcomes. The Euro-Arab Management School was an excellent network of decentralized universities and training centres based in numerous European and Arab countries, offering capacity-building in various languages and involving the private and public sectors. The School was currently preparing an environmental programme based on MAP priorities and a memorandum of understanding was expected to be prepared in this context. The School was likely to offer valuable capacity building to Mediterranean officers and experts, at no cost to the programme. The specific reference to the Ionian Adriatic Initiative was welcomed, but suggestions were made that the recommendations should refer explicitly to other regional organizations and conventions. It was pointed out that many of the Contracting Parties had ratified the ESPOO Convention or were about to do so; an invitation was issued to all Contracting Parties to attend an ESPOO Convention meeting in Cavtat, Croatia, in 2004. It was agreed that MAP needed to be represented at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in its own right and the Coordinator said that he would endeavour to bring that about, if the Focal Points agreed. One representative urged MCSDD to increase its visibility in New York.

129. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

NGOs and other partners

130. Ms Hema recalled MAP's active policy of cooperation with NGOs and other partners, which now numbered 70. Drawing attention to the draft recommendations contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, she said that the recommendation to the Contracting Parties to mandate the Bureau to decide on new applications was intended to shorten the time for approval of prospective partners meeting the approved criteria. In view of the new criteria for inclusion and retention in the list of partners, it was considered important for NGOs and other partners to be consulted on their cooperation with MAP. An initial consultation could be organized in parallel with the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

131. Several representatives and observers, welcoming the suggestion to hold a consultation at the Catania Meeting, regretted the weak participation in MAP activities of partners other than NGOs. The representativity of MAP partners was at stake and a key partnership tool was missing. One representative suggested that research centres might be added to the category of educational and university institutes.

132. The budget proposal raised various comments. Further information was needed on what and for whom the funds – considered unduly limited by one observer – were intended. In response, it was explained that allocations, determined by the Secretariat, were based on NGO proposals, often for specific projects or activities, which corresponded to MAP programme priorities and, though small, were seen as an added contribution to the partners' own budget resources.

133. Several representatives and observers stressed the importance of building bridges with civil society and making full use of the consistently dynamic contribution that NGOs made and could make to MAP. It was time for all MAP components to be asked to look into innovative ways of cooperating with MAP's partners, NGOs and others, and developing proper synergies rather than simply providing funds – necessarily limited – for specific projects. The question of developing links with networks of organizations, such as the now enlarged SeaM network managed by Forum per la Laguna covering 35 countries of the Mediterranean region and Black Sea Basin, was raised and the observer for SeaM called for support for the initiation of the Euro-Mediterranean/Black Sea Observatory. One observer inquired about follow-up to the recommendations made to the MAP National Focal Points by a workshop held in Rome in May 2003 at the conclusion of a two-year campaign on Mediterranean "rights, obligations and control for a sea of quality". The important political message conveyed in those recommendations was confirmed by one representative.

134. Serious doubts were expressed about mandating the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to decide upon applications from prospective partners and indeed taking any decisions that were the prerogative of the Contracting Parties. It was explained that the purpose of the proposal was a practical one, namely to shorten the time taken for applications to be reviewed and approved. Having to wait up to two years for a Meeting of the Contracting Parties might discourage interested parties with sound credentials and good projects. The Bureau would not in any case act without a mandate from the Contracting Parties and would keep the latter informed. Following that explanation, it was stated that the Bureau should have clear terms of reference and suggested that it could decide on new proposals after consulting the Contracting Parties by e-mail or letter, with a deadline for the replies.

135. In response to a query, participants were informed that an updated list of NGOs would be available in time for the Catania Meeting. The suggestion that a summary of the objectives, scope and activities of NGOs on the list should be produced was well received.

136. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Meetings

137. The Coordinator drew attention to the relevant section of the programme budget document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, paragraphs 62 to 64), which included a list of meetings planned for the biennium, together with their budgeted costs. In view of the rising costs of organizing meetings, as reflected in the budget, the Secretariat had done its best to keep costs down. Nevertheless, the transfer to a euro-based budget and the recent fluctuations in the dollar exchange rate had meant that the hosts of the current meeting had had to make an exceptional extra contribution, and he expressed sincere thanks to the Government of Greece. One way of reducing costs and rationalizing the number of meetings was the convening of joint meetings. Noting the plans to hold a joint MEDPOL-CP/RAC meeting in the coming biennium, and referring to the joint meeting between BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and ERS/RAC Focal Points, he sought the views of the Focal Points on the policy question of whether to continue to hold such joint Focal Point meetings.

138. In reply to a query, he explained that, to date, it had not been the practice to include in the budget the costs of Meetings of the Contracting Parties, since those costs were covered by external funds from the host country. That practice did not encourage offers to host meetings by countries that were unable to meet such costs. If no offer were made to host a Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the MTF might have to pay for it, although there existed the possibility of sharing costs.

139. The Chair proposed, and the Meeting agreed, that the projected costs of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties would be included in the budget in a separate budget line.

140. Many representatives, underlining the financial and logistical advantages, expressed a preference for the convening of joint meetings of the Focal Points, particularly the proposed joint MEDPOL and CP/RAC meeting. Such meetings also served to better coordinate the activities of the different Focal Points and RACs and to create synergies and improve action in the field. One representative noted the cost advantages of asking delegates from developed countries to pay for their own travel to meetings. Some representatives wondered whether certain very specialized Focal Point meetings could be held every two years, instead of annually. Attention was also drawn to the possibility of saving costs by having only one individual serve as Focal Point for both PAP/RAC and BP/RAC.

141. A number of representatives considered that joint meetings could be more productive if the procedures were improved: the duration of meetings could be reduced by better advanced preparation for delegates, possibly through e-mail; the delegates themselves could be subjected to a more rigorous selection process to ensure the required expertise; and the agendas of the meetings could be made more focused. Attention was drawn to the problems of drawing up selection criteria for the delegates to attend joint meetings, and to the need to seek the views of the Directors of the RACs.

142. On the question of whether further savings could be made by not inviting all of the Focal Points from the entities involved in joint meetings, one representative considered that any reduction in the number of invited participants would be a distinct disadvantage. She believed that joint meetings needed to be attended by delegates with the required knowledge and expertise of all the areas involved.

143. Some representatives, referring to the proposed joint MEDPOL and CP/RAC meeting, noted the need to examine why past joint meetings of other Focal Points had not been considered productive. It was crucial for delegates to be adequately prepared, since the effective implementation of the SAP would increase the workload and give rise to the need for in-depth discussions. One representative considered that, since it was expected that the LBS Protocol would soon be legally binding and the issues to be presented to Ministers had to be well prepared, it was necessary to establish a technical sub-group of MEDPOL which could meet to address such questions.

144. One representative, pointing to the role and purpose of joint meetings, considered that specific RACs were directly linked to, and responsible for implementing, a specific Protocol or area of activity, while others supported an overall process. In the case of a joint meeting involving RACs without responsibility for a specific Protocol, the Focal Points needed to have an agenda that was directly related to the objectives of the Barcelona Convention, in order to ensure a programmatic approach and support the implementation of the Convention. For example, for joint PAP/RAC and BP/RAC meetings, the Contracting Parties, based on the advice of the MCSD, should develop an agenda that expressed the Parties' needs vis-a-vis sustainable development. Some other representatives concurred with the need to analyse the roles of the centres in following-up the implementation of specific Protocols and to define precisely who was responsible for what.

145. The representative of Italy stressed the difficulty of identifying Focal Points for ERS/RAC and said that the subject would be taken into account in the refocusing of ERS/RAC. He requested that the Secretariat place an item on the agenda of the upcoming Meeting of the Contracting Parties to allow for a formal discussion of the refocusing of ERS/RAC and the usefulness of its role.

146. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Information, awareness and public participation

147. Mr Bahar Kamal, MAP Information Officer, introduced the recommendations in the relevant section of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, noting that the recommendation to the Contracting Parties was needed to dynamize the implementation of the provisions of Article 15 of the Barcelona Convention. The recommendations to the Secretariat were intended to elicit both technical assistance, in the form of guidelines, and financial support. A certain amount of success had been achieved in forming networks among interested journalists in different countries. The last recommendation would also include mention of the MAP web site and library. Through the web site, links existed with all MAP partner NGOs that had web sites and to about 450 other organizations. The number of citations of MAP on the Internet was around 4,500.

148. In his responses to the ensuing discussion, he concurred with suggestions that the recommendations to the Secretariat should focus not only on environmental issues in general, but also on sustainable development. He explained that a workshop would be organized with MED POL in relation to activities that were of interest to the media. It had been difficult to target all the specific audiences simultaneously in view of the broad interest in the work of MAP. The journalistic technique that had been used in many cases was to highlight a specific MAP activity, but to take the opportunity to cover other programmes. Other centres had been involved in information activities, as exemplified by the joint workshop for media professionals held with CP/RAC and PAP/RAC. Workshops had been held to improve the skills of the information officers attached to the RACs.

149. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of involving civil society in the work of MAP, primarily through the increased participation of NGOs. The information strategy should be aimed not only at increasing the visibility of MAP but also at enhancing the participation of civil society at the national level, as requested in Article 15 of the Convention. The representative of Spain suggested that the recommendation to MED POL on participation and ownership should be considered a pilot exercise, which could be expanded to other activities. It was proposed that press conferences should continue to be held after important MAP meetings which addressed subjects other than internal or political issues.

150. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Financial issues and personnel matters

151. The Coordinator, introducing the recommendations to the Contracting Parties contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, noted that the countries that had devolved from the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia – had an agreement for settling the issue of the debt of the former State. They should therefore find a solution to the problem of its debt to MAP before the end of the next biennium.

152. He also agreed that voluntary complementary contributions should be encouraged by listing the Contracting Parties and the amounts they had offered as voluntary contributions in the budget document.

153. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

B. Components

Pollution prevention and control

Pollution from land-based sources (MED POL)

154. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, introduced the relevant sections of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, focusing on the strategic and policy issues of the MED POL programme. The main target areas for the coming biennium were policy and cooperation, the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP, the Dumping Protocol and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol. The recommendations to the Secretariat included the preparation of the next phase of MED POL, covering 2006-2013, and the strengthening of cooperation with partners and donors, including UN agencies, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency, subregional agreements, the GPA, GEF and a closer operational link with CP/RAC.

155. Concerning the preparation of MED POL Phase IV, he stressed that the new programme would include the ecosystem-based approach and would contain targets and activities prepared on the basis of an analysis of their regional and national social and economic implications. Finally, MED POL Phase IV would functionally integrate monitoring, assessment and pollution control activities and would be harmonized and synchronized with similar activities of the EU and other programmes and agreements.

156. Concerning the two last guidelines relating to the 1995 Dumping Protocol, presented by the Secretariat for adoption, he recalled that before their submission to the Contracting

Parties, it had to be ensured that the guidelines related to the dumping of inert materials were in line with the decisions of the IMO meeting to be held in October 2003.

157. During the discussion, several representatives expressed satisfaction at the work proposed by MED POL for the 2004-2005 biennium. It was stressed that before starting with a new phase, MED POL had to go through an evaluation which had to be carried out during 2004.

158. One representative questioned the inclusion of the assessment of the impact of rivers in the new MED POL programme. The inclusion of rivers in MED POL's competence was due to the enlargement of the scope of the amended LBS protocol, but referred only to the assessment of their impact on the marine environment.

159. Support was expressed for the inclusion in the recommendations of a reference to the phasing out of POPs, as well as endocrine disrupters. The Contracting Parties should be urged to ratify the Stockholm Convention, as well as the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter.

160. A number of representatives raised the issue of the inclusion of air pollution in the remit of MED POL, and it was proposed that that modest activity proposed be minimized.

161. In response to a number of comments on the recommendation to the Contracting Parties on industrial pollution, Mr. Civili said that the approach adopted to the reduction of BOD was based on the concept of prevention, and that the date of 2010 had been decided upon only after long discussions among experts from the countries. The representative of Spain said that guidelines were also needed for the placement of material for purposes other than disposal, such as artificial reefs.

162. General support was expressed for the new reporting system prepared for the SAP, although it was emphasized that it should at a later stage be incorporated into the MAP reporting system. The representative of Egypt said that the PRTR project in Alexandria had provided results that could be used as a model in other developing countries, but that additional funds and technical support would be needed to expand the reporting to other pollutants and other industries.

163. Mr. Adler recalled that UNEP had begun to address the problem of coastal litter, which was not dealt with specifically in any regional or global legal instrument. MAP could be a partner in that initiative.

164. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Cleaner production

165. Mr Macia, Director of CP/RAC, drew attention to the two sets of recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 228/4. The first more general recommendation to the Contracting Parties on the adaptation of CP/RAC's role was prompted by the need for the centre to be more directly involved in the process of implementing the SAP. The second, more specific, recommendation concerned the proposed regional plan for the reduction of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations by 20 per cent by the year 2010. Among the recommendations to the Secretariat, he drew particular attention to the strengthening of cooperation with MED POL.

166. In the ensuing discussion, there was broad agreement on the need to adapt the role of CP/RAC as a tool for the achievement of sustainable development, drawing on its specific

experience in dealing with industrial pollution. While one representative suggested that an external evaluation of CP/RAC should preferably be undertaken before any such decision was made, another pointed out that the proposal was in keeping with the requirements of the SAP and did not mean a change of course, but a shift in emphasis in CP/RAC's work. Moreover, that did not preclude evaluation. The Director of CP/RAC agreed that an evaluation would be welcome.

167. The recommendation to adopt the regional plan for the reduction of the generation of hazardous industrial waste prompted several comments. In particular, the question was raised of the reference date or starting point for the proposed reduction by 2010. The answer given was that the reference point for proposed reductions would be 2003, based on the results of the national baseline budgets of emissions and releases currently being calculated by countries as part of the implementation of the SAP. Some representatives and observers expressed doubts about the possibility of meeting such targets in so short a time.

168. In response to a question, Mr Macia indicated that the methodology and recommendations included in the plan were based on cleaner production alternatives which avoided the transfer of pollution from one environmental vector to another.

169. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/ MED WG. 228/4, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Marine pollution prevention and control

170. Mr. Patruno, Director of REMPEC, outlined the activities planned for the biennium 2004-2005, as described in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, the rationale for which was provided by the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol. He emphasized the need for a strong impetus on activities relating to prevention, and particularly the preparation of a strategy for the implementation of the new Protocol. External funding was also expected to support two main projects in the field of prevention, the first for the assessment of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and the related risks (in collaboration with BP/RAC and SPA/RAC). The second concerned the prosecution of offenders in relation to operational pollution, based on monitoring by satellite and ariel platforms. Capacity building in the field of prevention would be addressed through the continuation of the project on port reception facilities, financed by the EC/MEDA fund, the implementation of which in non-MEDA countries would be covered by the Mediterranean Trust Fund. The additional staff required to cope with the extensive programme would be met by voluntary donations or secondment from national administrations.

171. The representative of Malta, supported by other representatives and the Director of REMPEC, suggested that, since the issue regarding the centre's new premises had been resolved, the proposed recommendation to the Contracting Parties on this subject was redundant and should be deleted.

172. The representative of Tunisia thanked REMPEC for its vital role in bringing about an agreement on pollution from ships between Morocco, Algeria and his country, which could serve as an example for similar subregional accords. The representatives of Croatia and Slovenia also thanked REMPEC for its assistance with the subregional contingency plan involving their countries and Italy.

173. The representative of Italy referred to the public and private initiatives originating in his country to provide REMPEC with additional financial and human resources, setting an example to other countries. He added that the Italian Government had decided to hold a European Union meeting to commemorate the Prestige disaster in Catania, at the same time as the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

174. The representative of the European Commission said that adjustments might be made to the budget proposals concerning European Union financial contributions, which were only indicative at the current stage.

175. It was suggested that a meeting of governmental experts on pleasure craft should be held in 2004 and a call was made for an offer to host it. There was agreement that all references in the recommendations to the preparation of a strategy should be broadened from a strategy for the implementation of the new Protocol to a strategy to combat marine pollution by ships in general. Support was expressed for a recommendation to the Contracting Parties regarding the drafting of a regional instrument on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities. The MAP Coordinator warned that the drafting and adoption of a legal instrument would be extremely costly and time consuming; he suggested that for the time being the Secretariat should be invited to develop a roadmap.

176. While some representatives felt that REMPEC Focal Points needed to meet annually, it was pointed out that the workload of the centre and the financial burden would be substantially increased. It was suggested that savings could be achieved by sending only one representative per country to the 7th REMPEC Focal Points Meeting, instead of the two included in the proposed budget; some representatives disagreed on the grounds that it could be beneficial to send representatives from both the maritime and environmental authorities.

177. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4), as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Biological diversity and specially protected areas

178. Mr. Rais, Scientific Director of RAC/SPA, introduced the RAC/SPA programme for the coming biennium, with reference to the relevant section of the programme budget document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, paragraphs 170 to 200) and the draft recommendations contained therein. He enumerated the activities planned, and drew attention to the following additional relevant documents: the Draft SAP BIO (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/17); Action Plans in the framework of the SAP and Biodiversity Protocol (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/18); and the draft criteria and procedures for awarding the "Mediterranean Diploma" (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/Inf.14). He emphasized that RAC/SPA would fulfill its commitments with regard to the provision of assistance to countries in the development of SPAs.

179. Many representatives expressed appreciation to RAC/SPA for the significant work it had undertaken, and a number of them expressed thanks for the assistance and cooperation provided, particularly in preparing for the SAP BIO. Countries hoped for further assistance for the Action Plans. Observers from environmental NGOs also expressed their gratitude for the cooperative activities undertaken and the synergies created with RAC/SPA.

180. Several representatives observed that, with regard to some of the draft proposals before the Focal Points, RAC/SPA was not expected to show expertise in all the areas with which it dealt. The Centre should only work to identify the expertise that was required, to link up with such expertise, and to make it available to the Barcelona Convention. With particular reference to taxonomy training, it was considered that the subject was too specialized for the Centre and should be left to other bodies and networks, particularly in light of the Global Taxonomy Initiative currently being implemented under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

181. One representative awaited the results of the evaluation of RAC/SPA, which she considered would be important in the light of the budget for the Centre to be adopted by the Contracting Parties.

182. One representative proposed that the draft recommendation on the Mediterranean Monk seal reflect endorsement of the findings of the expert meeting on the species, held in the Syrian Arab Republic. In reply, it was recalled that the meeting of Focal Points for RAC/SPA had not endorsed the results of that expert meeting, but its findings could be referred to the Contracting Parties.

183. The representative of Monaco, stressing the urgent need for continued efforts to protect the Mediterranean Monk seal, said that his Government would provide financial support to protect the species in areas where they were sparsely distributed.

184. Some representatives, noting that additional elements needed to be incorporated into the SAP BIO, questioned the status of its finalization. In reply, Mr. Rais explained that the version of SAP BIO to be submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties would be finalized in line with the decision taken by the National Focal Points and the GEF Secretariat recommendations. He also indicated that the Action Plan on traditional fishing in Morocco would be incorporated into the final version.

185. With regard to the Action Plan on conservation of cartilaginous fishes in the Mediterranean, the representative of the European Commission explained that, as fisheries management was an exclusive Community competence within the European Union, she was obliged to reserve its position on the subject of cartilaginous fishes management until appropriate consultations had been undertaken. That also applied to a number of aspects of the SAP BIO that touched upon issues of fisheries management. In addition, the EC was unable to accept the obligation to land shark specimens whole, as contained in the draft Action Plan (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/18, Annex II, paragraph 19). She hoped that the consultation process within the European Union could take place in time for the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

186. Also with regard to the conservation of cartilaginous fishes in the Mediterranean, one representative considered that Contracting Parties should also take into account the work of other bodies and initiatives on the conservation of the species, such as CITES or the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

187. The representative of Spain expressed thanks to the Focal points of RAC/SPA for agreeing to include the Parque Nacional Marítimo-Terrestre del Archipiélago de Cabrera, as well as the Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo in the list of SPAMIs, and pointed to the additional information on the areas contained in document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/Inf.12)

188. Concerning the proposal to categorize SPAMIs as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), established under IMO, some representatives cautioned that it could lead to problems and called for further in-depth examination of the legal issues involved.

189. On the subject of SPA/RAC's information activities, one representative considered that the RAC/SPA web-site represented an important informational tool and should be improved and more regularly updated.

190. With respect to the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles, the observer from the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, drawing attention to the draft recommendation on turtle rescue centres, said that their total effect on survival and rescue rates might not be highly significant, they played a very important role in raising public awareness of the

importance of turtle conservation. The observer from MEDASSET stressed the importance of follow-up to the activities undertaken for marine turtle conservation.

191. A number of National Focal Points proposed, and the Meeting approved, specific amendments to the draft recommendations on RAC/SPA.

192. The Meeting endorsed a proposal to recommend that the Contracting Parties confirm Mr. Chedly Rais in the position of Scientific Director at RAC/SPA.

193. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4), as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

Sustainable management of coastal zones

194. Mr. I. Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC, outlined the proposed activities for PAP/RAC in the coming biennium, which would revolve around three major orientations: the continued development of technical tools in coastal management, notably work on a regional legal instrument for ICAM and on a regional strategy for coastal management; the practical application of the CAMP policy, and the integration of environment and development in the coastal context. Persistent gaps and obstacles to the effective implementation of coastal area management would be vigorously tackled. He drew attention to the key features of the recommendations before the Meeting.

195. Several representatives stressed the benefits of PAP/RAC's activities, praising its practical approach in pursuing implementation of the ICAM strategy and the innovative CAMP projects. Such activities added value, moreover, to ongoing regional and subregional processes such as the implementation of the European strategy for integrated coastal zone management and prospective transboundary projects. It was suggested that a reference to the latter should be included in the recommendations. The representative of Croatia expressed her country's continued commitment to supporting PAP/RAC.

196. One representative said that, although the proposals commendably referred to the broad involvement of all stakeholders in putting the ICAM policy into practice, she regretted that no mention was made of the need to ensure a synergy between the future Mediterranean ICAM Strategy and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. On the CAMP projects, she welcomed the recommendations concerning follow-up, a weak point in the past, while another representative announced that his county had finalized the feasibility study for a new CAMP project. It was pointed out that, in the recommendation addressed to the authorities in Algeria, Cyprus and Slovenia, the wording failed to reflect the prime role of the national authorities in implementing CAMP projects.

197. An enquiry about the budget tables relating to the regional activity centres prompted a brief discussion in which emphasis was placed on the need for greater transparency concerning their financing.

198. The National Focal Points approved the draft recommendations proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/4, as amended, which are contained in **Annex III** to the present document.

Integrating environment and development

199. Mr. Benoit, Director of Blue Plan, presented the main orientations for the Centre's programme in the next biennium. The *Environment and development report* was due to be finalized by the middle of 2004. Efforts would be made to ensure that the centre's work, including spin-off publications, was disseminated to the widest possible public. Among the

sectoral policies, emphasis would be laid on agricultural and rural development, as had been decided by the MCSD, and the centre would therefore be cooperating with FAO and CIHEAM. With regard to indicators and statistics, Blue Plan would continue its involvement in the work of the MEDSTAT Environment Programme. In collaboration with the Contracting Parties, it would undertake a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the recommendations relating to sustainable development indicators adopted in 1999.

200. There was general agreement among representatives that the recommendations to the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat were too lengthy, too detailed, too complex and, in many cases, ambiguous. Many of the recommendations were a matter for micro-management and not for general policy-making. It would take too long to discuss them in full and several representatives grudgingly agreed to them, provided that in future recommendations were not presented in such a format. The Secretariat offered to edit the recommendations for their presentation to the Contracting Parties.

201. In particular, one representative suggested that the second recommendation to the Secretariat should be reworded to apply to all RACs, and not only the Blue Plan, and that it should accordingly be moved to page 23 in the English version of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 228/4. Several representatives asked for the 7th recommendation to the Contracting Parties to be deleted since it was too vague. A request was made for the reference to indicators in the 8th and 10th recommendations to the Secretariat to be specifically tied to the policy-making process.

202. The Director of Blue Plan pointed out that the first ten recommendations in the list concerned the Blue Plan, while the others concerned PAP/RAC. He added that the 4th recommendation to the Contracting Parties had already been addressed with respect to REMPEC and could therefore be deleted from the list. The centre would take care to link the use of indicators with policy as it had done in the past. Responding to the doubts expressed by some representatives as to the legitimacy of Blue Plan's involvement in the tourism sector, he pointed out that the Contracting Parties and the MCSD had specifically mandated the centre in that respect; in practice, the implementation of activities concerning sustainable tourism had so far been delayed, since the centre had had to set other priorities.

203. The representative of Spain emphasized the vital importance of inviting the Focal Points to all meetings of concern to them, something that had not always been done in the past.

Agenda item 8: Review of the draft agenda for the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Catania 2003)

204. The Secretariat proposed a draft agenda for the Contracting Parties meeting in Catania as presented in **Annex IV** to this report.

205. The meeting of the MAP National Focal Points agreed on the proposed draft.

Agenda item 9: Any other business

206. No particular issues were raised during the discussion of item 9 of the agenda.

Agenda item 10: Adoption of the report of the meeting

207. The meeting adopted its report at its meeting held on Thursday 18 September 2003. In view of their final adoption, the meeting left for the consideration of the Contracting Parties the budget and some of the recommendations.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the meeting

208. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Vice-Chairperson declared the meeting closed on Thursday, 18 September 2003 at 16.30 hrs.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**ALBANIA
ALBANIE****Mr Besnik Baraj**

Deputy Minister of Environment
Ministry of Environment
27 Rruga e Durrës
Tirana
Albania

Tel: 355-4-225134

Fax: 355-4-270625

E-mail: albnea@albnet.net

Head of Delegation**Ms Mirela Kamberi**

Director of Preventing Pollution
Ministry of Environment
27 Rruga e Durrës
Tirana
Albania

Tel: 355-4-224985

Fax: 355-4-270625

E-mail: mkamberi@icc-al.org

**ALGERIA
ALGERIE****M. Mohamed Si Youcef**

Directeur Général de l'Environnement
Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de
l'Environnement
rue des Quatre Canons
16000 Alger
Algeria

Tel: 213-21-432802

Fax: 213-21-432845 or 49

E-mail: msi-youcef @environnement-dz.org

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE****Mr Tarik Kupusovic**

Special Advisor to the Minister of Physical Planning
and Environment
Hydro Engineering Institute
S. Tomica 1
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: 387-33-207949

Fax: 387-33-207949

E-mail: mapbh@bih.net.ba

**CROATIA
CROATIE****Mr Nenad Mikulic**

Head of Department
Department for Strategic Environmental Assessment
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical
Planning
Ulica grada Vukovara 78
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

Tel: 385-1-6106558

Fax: 385-1-6118388

E-mail: nenad.mikulic@duzo.hinet.hr

Head of Delegation**Ms Margita Mastrovic**

Alternate Head of Delegation
Head of Marine and Coastal Protection Unit
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical
Planning
Uzarska 2/I
51000 Rijeka
Croatia

Tel: 385-51-213499

Fax: 385-51-214324

E-mail: margita.mastrovic@mzopu.hr

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE****Ms Soledad Blanco**

Head of Unit - DG Environment-Enlargement and
Neighbouring Countries
Environment Directorate E - International Affairs (DG
ENV-E-1)
Commission Européenne
Office: BU9 05/139
Tel: 32-2-2995182
Fax: 32-2-2994123
E-mail: Soledad.Blanco@cec.eu.int

Head of Delegation**Ms Anne Burrill**

Principal Administrator
Environment Directorate E - International Affairs (DG
ENV-E-1)
Commission Européenne
Office: BU9 05/132
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles
Belgique

Tel: 32-2-2954388

Fax: 32-2-2994123

E-mail: Anne.Burrill@cec.eu.int

EGYPT

EGYPTE

Mr Mohamed Sayed Khalil

Chief Executive Officer
Cabinet of Ministers
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)
30 Misr-Helwan El-Zyrae Road
P.O. Box 955 Maadi
Cairo
Egypt

Tel: 20-2-5256445

Fax: 20-2-5256454

E-mail: khalil@eeaa.gov.eg

Head of Delegation

Ms Christine Abdalla Iskandar

Specialiste de Relations Internationales et de
Conferences
Cabinet des Ministres
Ministere de l'Etat des Affaires de l'Environnement
30 Misr-Helwan El-Zyrae Road
P.O. Box 955 Maadi
Cairo
Egypt

Tel: 20-2-5256452

Fax: 20-2-5256457

E-mail: christineiskandar@yahoo.fr

Mr Mohamed Al Hawary

Second Secretary
Egyptian Embassy in Athens
3 Vassilis Sofia
Syntagma
Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-3618612

E-mail: malhawary@yahoo.com

FRANCE

FRANCE

M. Philippe Lacoste

Sous-Directeur de l'environnement
Direction des Affaires économiques et financières
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
37 Quai d'Orsay
75007 Paris
France

Tel: 33-1-43174432/5353

Fax: 33-1-43175745

E-mail: philippe.lacoste@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Chef de la Délégation

FRANCE - continued

FRANCE

Mme Emmanuèle Leblanc

Chargée de Mission Méditerranée
Ministère de l'Ecologie et de Développement durable
20 avenue de Ségur
75302 Paris
France

Tel: 33-1-42191705

Fax: 33-1-42191719

E-mail: emmanuele.leblanc@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Mr Daniel Silvestre

Administrateur Civil
Chargée de Mission
Secrétariat Général de la Mer
16 Boulevard Raspail
75007 Paris
France

Tel: 33-1-53634153

Fax: 33-1-53634178

E-mail: daniel.silvestre@sgmer.pm.gouv.fr

Mme Sabine Ghikas

Attachée Sectorielle
Ambassade de France en Grèce
Mission Economique
2 Michalakopoulou
115 28 Athens
Greece

Tel : 30-210-7240517-19

Fax : 30-210-7246318

E-mail : sabine.ghikas@dree.org

GREECE

GRECE

Mr Alexander Lascaratos

Assistant-Professor of Oceanography
Department of Applied Physics - Laboratory of
Meteorology and Oceanography
University of Athens
Building Phys -V
Panepistimioupolis
157 84 Athens
Greece

Head of Delegation

Tel: 30-210-7276839

Fax: 30-210-7295282

E-mail: alasc@oc.phys.uoa.gr

GREECE - continued
GRECE**Ms Anastasia Lazarou**

Head of Water Section
Ministry of the Environment, Physical Planning and
Public Works
147 Patission Street
112 51 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-8650106
Fax: 30-210-8647420
E-mail: alazarou@edpp.gr

Ms Rania Spiropoulou

Ministry of the Environment, Physical Planning and
Public Works
36 Trikalon Street
115 26 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-6918202
Fax: 30-210-6918487
E-mail: tdfp@minenv.gr

Ms Maria Chatziyanni

Ministry of the Environment, Physical Planning and
Public Works
147 Patission Street
112 51 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-8645762
Fax: 30-210-8647420
E-mail: alazarou@edpp.gr

Ms Anneta Mantziafou

Physical Oceanographer
University of Athens
Department of Physics
Building PHYS-V
Athens 15784
Greece

Tel: 30-210-7276839
Fax: 30-210-7295281
E-mail: amand@oc.phys.uoa.gr

Ms Aikaterini Stamou

Lieutenant Junior Grade (HCG) Hellenic Coast Guard
Ministry of Mercantile Marine
Ipsilantou 109 and Tsamadou Street
Piraeus
Greece

Tel: 30-210-4191504
Fax: 30-210-4220440
dpthap@yen.gr

ISRAEL**ISRAEL****Ms Ori Livne**

Director
Division of International Relations
Ministry of the Environment
P.O. Box 34033
95464 Jerusalem
Israel

Tel: 972-2-6553745
Fax: 972-2-6553752
E-mail: ori@environment.gov.il

ITALY**ITALIE****Mr Antonio Perrone**

Director of Policy Implementation Instruments
Division
Ministry for the Environment and Territory
Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44
00135 Rome
Italy

Tel: 39-06-57225970
Fax: 39-06-57225999
E-mail: antonio.perrone@svs.minambiente.it

Head of Delegation**Mr Aldo Iacomelli**

Expert, Head of Mediterranean Unit

Tel: 39-06-57228117
Fax: 39-06-57228168
E-mail: iacomelli.aldo@minambiente.it

Alternate Head of Delegation**Mr Dario Giardi**

Expert

Tel: 39-06-57228118
Fax: 39-06-57228173
E-mail: giardi.dario@minambiente.it

Mr Francesco Presicce

Expert

Tel: 39-06-57225082
Fax: 39-06-57228175
E-mail: fpresicce@virgilio.it

Ms Luisa Samarelli

Expert

Tel: 39-3287140975
Fax: 39-06-57228175
E-mail: pia-sdg@minambiente.it

Ms Angelica Carnelos

Expert

Tel: 39-06-57228152
Fax: 39-06-57228168
E-mail: carnelos.angelica@minambiente.it

ITALY - continued
ITALIE

Mr Silvestro Greco
Research Director
Ministry of the Environment
ICRAM
Via di Casalotti 300
00166 Rome
Italy

Tel: 39-06-61520499
Fax: 39-06-
E-mail: S.Greco@icram.org

Mr Franco Andaloro
Research Director
ICRAM

Tel: 39-09-16114044
Fax: 39-09-16114060
E-mail: andalaf@tin.it

LEBANON
LIBAN

Ms Sanaa Sairawan
Head of Service of Planning and Programmes
Ministry of Environment
P.O. Box 70-1091
Antelias
Lebanon

Tel: 961-4-523161
Fax: 961-4-524555
E-mail: s.sairawan@moe.gov.lb

MALTA
MALTE

Mr Paul Mifsud
Permanent Secretary
Ministry for Resources and Infrastructure
The Ministry Block B
CMR 02 Floriana
Malta

Tel: 356-21-241644
Fax: 356-21-250335
E-mail: paul.mifsud@gov.mt

MONACO
MONACO

M. Patrick Van Klaveren
Délégué à l'Environnement International et
Méditerranéen
Direction des Relations extérieures
Ministère d'Etat
Villa Girasole
16, Boulevard de Suisse
Monaco-Ville
Monaco

Tel: 377-93-158333
Fax: 377-93-509591
E-mail: pvanklaveren@gouv.mc

Chef de la Délégation

M. Frédéric Platini
Administrateur à la Coopération Internationale pour
l'Environnement et le Développement
Ministère d'Etat
Monaco

Tel: 377-93-158333
Fax: 377-93-509591
E-mail: fplatini@gouv.mc

MOROCCO
MAROC

M. El Hassane Doumi
Administrateur
Division de la Coopération Internationale
Secrétariat de l'Etat chargé de l'Environnement
Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire, de
l'environnement, de l'urbanisme et de l'habitat
No 9 Imm: 106
Hay El Fath
CGI
10000 Rabat
Morocco

Tel: 212-66-142438
Fax: 212-37-777697
E-mail: dcop@minenv.gov.ma

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
SERBIE ET MONTENEGRO

Ms Jelena Knezevic
Advisor
Ministry for the Protection of the Environment and
Physical Planning
PC Vektra
81000 Podgorica
Serbia and Montenegro

Tel: 381-811-482313
Fax: 381-811-482121
E-mail: jelenaeko@yahoo.com

Head of Delegation

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO - continued
SERBIE ET MONTENEGRO**Ms Aleksandra Ivanovic**

National Coordinator
Environmental Advisor
Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management
Montenegro
u. Popa Jola Zeca BB
85310 Budva
Serbia and Montenegro

Tel: 381-67-652007
Fax: 381-86-452685
E-mail: jpmcdcg@cg.yu

SLOVENIA
SLOVENIE**Mr Mitja Bricelj**

Adviser to the Government
Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning
48 Dunajska
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Tel: 386-1-1787384
Fax: 386-1-4787420
E-mail: mitja.bricelj@gov.si

Mr Vladimir Kolmanic

Counsellor, C.A.A.I.
Embassy of Slovenia
10 Mavili Street
Paleo Psychiko
Greece

Tel: 30-210-6775683
Fax: 30-210-6775680

SPAIN
ESPAGNE**Mr Victor Escobar**

Direccion General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz s/n
28071 Madrid
Spain

Tel: 34-91-5976356
Fax: 34-91-5975980
E-mail: VAEscobar@mma.es

Head of Delegation**SPAIN - continued**
ESPAGNE**Mr Javier Cachon**

DG Costas
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz s/n
28071 Madrid
Spain

Tel: 34-91-5975689
Fax: 34-91-5975907
E-mail: jcachon@mma.es

Mr Javier Pantoja

Marine Programme Officer
DG Conservacion de la Naturaleza
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Gran Via de San Francisco, 4
28005 Madrid
Spain

Tel: 34-91-5964611
Fax: 34-91-5964809
E-mail: JPantoja@mma.es

Mr Adrian Vecino

Direccion General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz s/n
28071 Madrid
Spain

Tel: 34-91-5976732
Fax: 34-91-5975980
E-mail: AVecino@mma.es

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE**Ms Reem Abed-Rabboh**

Director
Water Safety Directorate
Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs
P.O. Box 3773
Tolyani Street
Damascus
Syrian Arab Republic

Tel: 963-11-3336027
Fax: 963-11-3335645
E-mail: reemabedrabboh@mail.sy

Mr Elias Dib

Syrian Embassy
Diamandidou 61
Paleo Psychiko
Greece

Tel: 30-210-6725575-7

**TUNISIA
TUNISIE**

M. Abderrahmane Gannoun

Directeur General de l'Agence Nationale de
Protection de l'Environnement (ANPE)
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Environnement et des
Ressources Hydrauliques
Rue du Cameroun
B.P. 25
1002 Belvedere - Tunis
Tunisia

Tel: 216-71-740221
Fax: 216-71-890032
E-mail: anpe.dg@anpe.nat.tn

M. Bechir Ben Mansour

Chargé de Mission
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Environnement et des
Ressources Hydrauliques
Centre Urbain Nord - Bâtiment I.C.F.
B.P. 52
2080 Tunis - Ariana
Tunisia

Tel: 216-71-719493
Fax: 216-71-706395
E-mail: boc@mineat.gov.tn

Mr Abdelmajid Ferchichi

Conseiller
Ambassade de Tunisie
2 Atheon
Paleo Psychiko
Grèce

**TURKEY
TURQUIE**

Mr Ufuk Kucukay

Expert
Foreign Relations Department
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Eskisehir Yolu 8 Km
06100 Ankara
Turkey

Head of Delegation

Tel: 90-312-2879963/4301
Fax: 90-312-2853739
E-mail: ukucukay@hotmail.com

Mr Ahmet Rifat Ilhan

Assistant Expert
Environmental Management General Directorate
Marine and Cost Management Department
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Eskisehir Yolu 8 Km
06100 Ankara
Turkey

Tel: 90-312-2879963 Ext:2423
Fax: 90-312-2855875
E-mail: arilhan@cevre.gov.tr

Mr Hakan Abaci

First Secretary
Turkish Embassy
Vassileos Georgiou B'
Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-7268000

**UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND SECRETARIAT UNITS
SECRETARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES**

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

Mr Elik Adler

Regional Seas Programme Coordinator
Division of Environmental Conventions
UNEP
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi
Kenya

Tel: 254-20-624033 - 624544
Fax: 254-20-624618 - 624300
E-mail: Elik.Adler@unep.org

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
COORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT
UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE**

Mr Lucien Chabason

Coordinator

Tel: 30-210-7273101
E-mail: chabason@unepmap.gr

Mr Arab Hoballah

Deputy Coordinator

Tel: 30-210-7273126
E-mail: hoballah@unepmap.gr

Mr Francesco Saverio Civili

MED POL Coordinator

Tel: 30-210-7273106
E-mail: fscivili@unepmap.gr

Ms Tatjana Hema

Programme Officer

Tel: 30-210-7273115
E-mail: thema@unepmap.gr

Mr Khaled Ben Salah

Fund/Administrative Officer

Tel: 30-210-7273104
E-mail: bensalah@unepmap.gr

Mr Fouad Abousamra

Programme Officer

Tel: 30-210-7273116
E-mail: fouad@unepmap.gr

Ms Colpan Polat-Beken

Programme Officer

Tel: 30-210-7273132
E-mail: scpb@unepmap.gr

Mr Baher Kamal

Information Officer

Tel: 30-210-7273103
E-mail: baher@unepmap.gr

Mr Ante Baric

GEF Project Manager

Tel : 30-210-7273102
E-mail: abaric@unepmap.gr

Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan
P. O. Box 18019
48, Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue
116 10 Athens
Greece

Tel switchboard: 30-210-7273100

Fax: 30-210-7253196-7
<http://www.unepmap.gr>

Mr Evangelos Raftopoulos

MAP Legal Adviser
Professor of International Law
Panteion University of Athens
136 Syngrou Avenue
Athens 17671
Greece

Tel : 30-210-9201841
Fax : 30-210-9610591
E-mail : eraft@hol.gr

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
CENTRES D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA
MEDITERRANEE**

**REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)
CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEEN POUR
L'INTERVENTION D'URGENCE CONTRE LA
POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE**

Mr Roberto Patruno

Director
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
(REMPEC)
Manoel Island GZR 03
Malta

Tel: 356-21-337296-8
Fax: 356-21-339951
E-mail: rempec@rempec.org

Ms L. Khodjet El Khil

Technical Officer
REMPEC
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response
Centre for the Mediterranean
Manoel Island GZR 03
Malta

Tel: 356-21-337296-8
Fax: 356-21-339951
E-mail: assistant4@rempec.org

Mr David Pace

Consultant
REMPEC
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response
Centre for the Mediterranean
Manoel Island GZR 03
Malta

Tel: 356-21-337296-8
Fax: 356-21-339951

Mr Peter Hayward

Consultant
REMPEC
Peter Hayward Associates
Court Lane Gardens
London SE21 7DZ
United Kingdom

Tel 44-20-86936282
Fax: 44-20-86932005
E-mail: hayward.assoc@btinternet.com

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR THE
BLUE PLAN (BP/RAC)
CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES DU
PLAN BLEU (CAR/PB)**

M. Guillaume Benoit

Directeur
Plan Bleu, Centre d'Activité Regional
(PB/CAR)
15 rue Ludwig van Beethoven
Sophia Antipolis
F-06560 Valbonne
France

Tel: 33-4-92387130/33
Fax: 33-4-92387131
E-mail: gbenoit@planbleu.org

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR THE
PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME (PAP/RAC)
CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES DU
PROGRAMME D-ACTIONS PRIORITAIRES
(CAR/PAP)**

Mr Ivica Trumbic

Director
PAP/RAC
Priority Actions Programme
11 Kraj Sv. Ivana
21000 Split
Croatia

Tel: 385-21-340470
Fax: 385-21-340490
E-mail: ivica.trumbic@ppa.tel.hr
<http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org>

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR
SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS (SPA/RAC)
CENTRE D-ACTIVITES REGIONALES POUR
LES AIRES SPECIALEMENT PROTEGEES
(CAR/ASP)**

Mme Zeineb Belkhir

Directrice
RAC/SPA
Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
Boulevard de l'Environnement
La Charguia
1080 Tunis
Tunisia

Tel: 216-71-795760 or 216-71-771323
Fax: 216-71-797349
E-mail: zeineb.belkhir@rac-spa.org.tn

Mr Chedly Rais

Scientific Director
RAC/SPA
Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre
Boulevard de l'Environnement
La Charguia
1080 Tunis
Tunisia

Tel: 216-71-783034
Fax: 216-71-782868
E-mail: chedly.rais@rac-spa.org.tn

Mr Michael Smart

UNEP Consultant
143 Cheltenham Road
Gloucester GL2 0JH
United Kingdom

Tel: 44-1452-421131
Fax: 44-1452-381784
E-mail: smartmike@smartmike.fsnet.co.uk

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR CLEANER
PRODUCTION (CP/RAC)
CENTRE D-ACTIVITES REGIONALES POUR
UNE PRODUCTION PROPRE (CAR/PP)**

Mr Victor Macià

Director
CP/RAC
Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre
184, Paris Street
3rd floor
08036 Barcelona
Spain

Tel: 34-93-415112
Fax: 34-93-2370286
E-mail: vmacia@cema-sa.org

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR
ENVIRONMENT REMOTE SENSING CENTRE
(ERS/RAC)
CENTRE D-ACTIVITES REGIONALES POUR
LA TELEDETECTION EN MATIERE
D-ENVIRONNEMENT (CAR/TDE)**

Mr Gianluca Borzelli

ERS/RAC - Telespazio
Environment Remote Sensing/Regional Activity Centre
Via G. Giusti, 2
90144 Palermo
Italy

Tel: 39-06-40793684
Fax: 39-06-40796202
E-mail: gianluca_borzelli@telespazio.it

Ms Monique Viel

ERS/RAC
Environment Remote Sensing/Regional Activity Centre
Via G. Giusti, 2
90144 Palermo
Italy

Tel: 39-091-342368
Fax: 39-091-308512
E-mail: ctmrac@tin.it

Ms Esther Monfa

International Coordinator
CP/RAC
Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre
184, Paris Street 3rd floor
08036 Barcelona
Spain

Tel: 34-93-415112
Fax: 34-93-2370286
E-mail: cleanpro@cema-sa.org

**REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTANTS DES INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES DES NATIONS UNIES ET
AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES**

**UNECE/ENHS
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**

Mr Wiek Schrage

Executive Secretary
EIA Convention
Environment and Human Settlements Division
UNECE/ENHS
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations
8-14, avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: 41-22-9172448
Fax: 41-22-9170613
E-mail: wiecher.schrage@unece.org
<http://www.unece.org/env/eia>

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE

Ms Georgia Feliou

Public Information Assistant
United Nations Information Centre
36 Amalias Avenue
105 58 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-5230640
Fax: 30-210-5233639
E-mail: unicgre@mbox.unicc.org

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr George Kamizoulis

WHO/EURO Senior Scientist
WHO/EURO
UNEP/MAP
48 Vass. Konstantinou Ave
P.O. Box 18019
116 35 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-7273105
Fax: 30-210-7253196
E-mail: gkamiz@unepmap.gr

WORLD BANK

Mr Sherif Arif

METAP
Environment Coordinator for MENA
World Bank
1818 H. Street N.W.
20433 Washington DC
United States of America

Tel: 1-202-473-7315
Fax: 1-202-477-1374
E-mail: sarif@worldbank.org

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Mr Stephen de Mora

Head
Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory
Marine Environment Laboratory (MEL)
IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
B.P. No 800
4, Quai Antoine 1er
98012 Monaco-Ville
Monaco

Tel: 377-97-977236
Fax: 377-97-977276/73
E-mail: MEL@monaco.iaea.org
or S.de-Mora@iaea.org
www.iaea.org/monaco

IUCN

The World Conservation Union

Mr Jamie Skinner

Director
Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
IUCN
The World Conservation Union
Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía
C/Marie Curie 35
29590 Campanillas
Malaga
Spain

Tel: 34-952-028430
Fax: 34-952-028145
E-mail: jamie.skinner@iucn.org

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Mr Salah M. Idris

Head of Resources Division
Environment and Sustainable Development
Department
General Secretariat
League of Arab States
P.O. Box 11642
Tahrir Square
11642 Cairo
Egypt

Tel: 20-2-5750511 – 5752966 Ext.: 3662

Fax: 20-2-5740331

E-mail: idrissalah@hotmail.com

RAMSAR

Mr Spyros Kouvelis

MedWet Coordinator
RAMSAR
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
especially as Waterfowl Habitat
Kifissias and Lambraki Ave
Villa Kazouli
Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-8089270

Fax: 30-210-8089271

E-mail: kouvelis@medwet.org

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES**

AMICI PER LA VITA ONLUS

Mr Sergio Illuminato
President

E-mail: president@amiciperlavita.org
www.amiciperlavita.org

Mr Marco Scapagnini

Amici Per la Vita Onlus
40, Via Cagliari
00198 Rome
Italy

Tel: 39-06-84242226
Fax: 39-06-8542475
E-mail: info@amiciperlavita.org
www.amiciperlavita.org

**ARCHELON
The Sea Turtle Protection Society of
Greece**

Mr Dimitrios Dimopoulos
Director
Archelon
The Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece
Solomou 57
Athens 104 32
Greece

Tel: 30-210-5231342
Fax: 30-210-5231342
E-mail: stps@archelon.gr

**ASSOCIATION DES CHAMBRES DE
COMMERCE ET D'INDUSTRIE
MÉDITERRANÉENS**

Mr Chris Kontoveros
ASCAME
Association des Chambres de Commerce et
d'Industrie Méditerranéens
1 Loudocikou Street
Odissos Square
185 31 Piraeus
Greece

Tel: 30-210-5595661
Fax: 30-210-5596357
E-mail: chriskontoveros@attglobal.net
or ascamesecretariat@mail.cambrabcn.es

**CME
CENTRE MÉDITERRANÉEN DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

Ms Isabelle Bouchy
Coordinatrice actions internationales
Centre Méditerranéen de l'Environnement
Polynikous 2
17455 Alimos
Greece

Tel: 30-210-9887630
Fax: 30-210-9887565
E-mail: medcenv@hellasnet.gr

Centre Méditerranéen de l'Environnement
41 Cours Jean Jaurès
84000 Avignon
France

Tel : 33-4-90855115
Fax : 33-4-90868219
E-mail : cme@apare-gec.org

CYPRUS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Ms Artemis Yordamli
Executive Director
CCF
Cyprus Conservation Foundation
P.O.Box 50257
3602 Limassol
Cyprus

Tel: 357-25358632
Fax: 357-25352657
E-mail: ccf@globalsoftmail.com
www.conservation.org.cy

CLEAN UP GREECE - ELLADA KATHARI

Ms Margaret Wynnberry-Tomsche
Member of the Board
Clean Up Greece - Ellada Kathari
30 Troias Str
112 57 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-8812440
Fax: 30-210-8213525
E-mail: desk@cleanupgreece.org.gr
www.cleanupgreece.org.gr

ENDA MAGREB**M. Magdi Ibrahim**

Coordinateur
 ENDA Magreb
 Environnement et Développement au Maghreb
 196 Quartier OLM
 Rabat Souissi
 Morocco

Tel: 212-37-756414/15

Fax: 212-37-756413

E-mail: endamaghreb@enda.org.ma

or magdi@enda.org.ma

www.enda.org.ma

FORUM PER LA LAGUNA**Ms Giosella Di Felice**

Vice President
 Forum per la Laguna
 Calle Vitturi 2923
 P.O.Box 459
 Rialto
 30124 Venice
 Italy

Tel: 39-041-5212830

Fax: 39-041-5212831

E-mail: giosella.difelice@forumlagunavenezia.org

www.forumlagunavenezia.org

**INTERNATIONAL JURIDICAL
 ORGANIZATION FOR ENVIRONMENT
 AND DEVELOPMENT****Mr Mario Guttieres**

President

Ms Mary Ellen Baugh Sikabonyi

General Secretary
 IJOED
 International Juridical Organization for
 Environment and Development
 3 Via Barberini
 00187 Rome
 Italy
 Tel: 39-06-4742117
 Fax: 39-06-4745779
 E-mail: ijoed@ijoed.org
 http://www.ijoed.org

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MIDDLE EAST**Ms Hanan Awwad**

Trade and Environment Project Manager
 Friends of the Earth Middle East
 P.O. Box 55302
 85 Nehalat Banyamin Str
 66102 Tel Aviv
 Israel

Tel: 972-3-5605383

Fax: 972-3-5604693

E-mail: info@foeme.org

or hanan@foeme.org

www.foeme.org

HELMEPA**Hellenic Marine Environment Protection
 Association****Mr Constantinos Triantafillou**

Helmepa Secretariat
 Maritime Sector
 HELMEPA
 Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association
 5 Pergamou Str
 Nea Smyrni
 171 21 Athens
 Greece

Tel: 30-210-9343088

Fax: 30-210-9353847

E-mail: helmepa@helmepa.gr

Mr Panagiotis Panagiotopoulos

Helmepa Junior
 Public Awareness Sector
 HELMEPA
 Zefyrou 60
 Paleo Falirou
 176 74 Athens
 Greece

Tel: 30-210-9343088

Fax: 30-210-9353847

E-mail: helmepajunior@helmepajunior.gr

**INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE
 DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF
 NATURAL RESOURCES****Ms Athena Veneti**

President
 INARE
 Institute for sustainable development and
 management of natural resources
 15, G. Bakou Street
 115 24 Athens
 Greece

Tel: 30-210-6981173

Fax: 30-210-6981173

E-mail: info@inare.org

or aveneti@ath.forthnet.gr

www.inare.org

INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE

Mr Charles Galdies

Programmes Manager
IOI
International Ocean Institute
P.O. Box 3
GZR 01 Gzira
Malta

Tel: 356-21-346528
Fax: 356-21-36502
E-mail: ioihq@ioihq.org.mt
www.ioinst.org

MAREVIVO

Mr Giovanni Guerrieri

Expert
Marevivo
Associazione Ambientalista
100 Lungotevere A. Da Brescia
00196 Rome
Italy

Tel: 39-06-3222565 or 39-06-3202949
Fax: 39-06-3222564
E-mail: marevivo@marevivo.it
www.marevivo.it

MOUVEMENT ECOLOGIQUE ALGÉRIEN

Mr Abdelhafid Chalabi

MEA
Mouvement Ecologique Algérien
17 Rue Shakespeare
16000 Alger
Algérie

Tel: 213-21-604650
Fax: 213-21-604650
E-mail: abdelhafid_chalabi@yahoo.fr

MEDITERRANEAN ASSOCIATION TO SAVE THE SEA TURTLES

Ms Lily Venizelos

President

Ms Ioanna Lepinioti

Environmentalist

MEDASSET

Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
1c Lykavitou Str
106 72 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-3613572
Fax: 30-210-7243007
E-mail: medasset@medasset.org
or medasset@hol.gr
<http://www.medasset.gr>

MEDITERRANEAN SOS NETWORK

Mr Nikos Chrysoyelos

President of the Board
Mediterranean SOS Network
Antheon 24-26
111 44 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-8228795
Fax: 30-210-8228795
E-mail: medsos@medsos.gr

Mr M. Theodoropoulos

Substitute Member of the Board
Mediterranean SOS Network
Mamai 3
104 40 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210-8228795
Fax: 30-210-8228795
E-mail: medsos@medsos.gr

MEDWET INITIATIVE

Mr Spyros Kouvelis

MedWet Coordinator
E-mail: kouvelis@medwet.org

Ms Maria Anagnostopoulou

Communication Officer
E-mail: anagno@medwet.org

MEDWET

MedWet Initiative Coordination Unit
Kifissias and Lambraki Ave 1
Villa Kazouli
Kifissia -Athens 14561
Greece

Tel: 30-210-8089270
Fax: 30-210-8089271

**MIO - ECSD
MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION
OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT , CULTURE
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Ms Anastasia Roniotes
Programme Officer

Ms Barbara Tomassini
Programme Officer

MIO - ECSD
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment
, Culture and Sustainable Development
28 Tripodon Str
105 58 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30-210 32 47 267
Fax: 30-210-3225240
E-mail: mio-ee-env@ath.forthnet.gr

**ORGANISATION DES
COMMUNICATRICES
MÉDITERRANÉENES**

Mme Néfissa Berrejeb
Presidente
OCOM
Organisation des Communicatrices
Méditerranéenes
18 avenue Habib Bourguiba
2025 Salamambo
Tunisie

Tel: 216-98-356851
Fax: 216-71-784768
E-mail: berrejeb@yahoo.com
or ocome@ocomo.org

**TURKISH MARINE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**

Mr Bulent Topaloglu
Secretary General
TUDAV
Turkish Marine Research Foundation
P.O. Box 10
Beykoz
81650 Istanbul
Turkey

Tel: 90-216-4240772
Fax: 90-216-4240771
E-mail: tudav@superonline.com
www.tudav.org

**WWF
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND FOR NATURE**

Mr Paolo Guglielmi
Head of Marine Unit
Mediterranean Programme Office
WWF
World Wildlife Fund for Nature
Via Po 25/c
00198 Rome
Italy

Tel: 39-06-84497358
Fax: 39-06-8413866
E-mail: pguglielmi@wwfmedpo.org
www.panda.org/mediterranean

ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Rules of procedure
3. Election of officers
4. Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work
5. Report by the Coordinator on the activities carried out during the 2002-2003 biennium
6. Financial implementation report of MAP Programme
7. Recommendations and Programme Budget for 2004-2005 biennium:

7.A COORDINATION

- 7.A.1 Legal framework: status of ratification of the Convention and related protocols; feasibility study for a legal instrument on integrated coastal area management (ICAM); liability and compensation; reporting; monitoring compliance and implementation.
- 7.A.2 Institutional matters: MAP evaluation; RAC/SPA and REMPEC evaluation.
- 7.A.3 Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development; preparation of the Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development.
- 7.A.4 Cooperation and partnership with EU, United Nations Agencies, IGOs, NGOs and other partners.
- 7.A.5 Information, awareness and public participation

7.B COMPONENTS

7.B.1 Pollution Prevention and Control

- 7.B.1.1 Activities related to land-based pollution assessment and control (Med Pol)
 - Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), Dumping Protocol, Hazardous Wastes Protocol.
- 7.B.1.2 Activities related to sea-based pollution prevention and control (REMPEC)
 - Strategy for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol,
 - Ministerial Declaration for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from ships.
- 7.B.1.3 Cleaner production
 - Sustainable development and enterprise; Contribution in the implementation of Strategic Action Programme; capacity building.

7.B.2 Conservation of Biological Diversity and Specially Protected Areas

- 7.B.2.1 Adoption of the Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region(SAP BIO)
- 7.B.2.2 Planning and management.
- 7.B.2.3 Implementation of Specially Protected Areas & biodiversity protocol.

7.B.3 Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones

- 7.B.3.1 Sustainable management of coastal zones.
- 7.B.3.2 Prospects and future of MAP activities in the field of coastal area management programme (CAMP) and integrated coastal area management (ICAM).
- 7.B.3.3 Coastal areas management programme (CAMP).

7.B.4 Integrating Environment and Development

- 7.B.4.1 The environment and development report.
- 7.B.4.3 Thematic activities, free trade, financing, tourism, statistics, indicators and data base.

7.C BUDGET

- 8. Review of the draft agenda for the XIIIth meeting of the Contracting Parties (Catania, 2003)
- 9. Any other business
- 10. Adoption of the report of the meeting
- 11. Closure of the meeting

ANNEX III

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were approved by the Meeting for transmission to the Contracting Parties.

I.A COORDINATION

I.A.1 Legal framework

I.A.1.1 Status of ratification of the Convention and the Protocols

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To urgently accept the amendments to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (the Barcelona Convention); the Protocol for Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (the Dumping Protocol); and the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (the LBS Protocol).
2. To ratify, accept, approve or accede as soon as possible to the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (the Prevention and Emergency Protocol).
3. Also, as soon as possible, to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Protocol concerning Specially-Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol).
4. To request the depositary country (Spain), together with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, to take an active role in encouraging the Parties to speed up the ratification process.

(b) Recommendation to the Secretariat:

To undertake the necessary actions to assist the Contracting Parties in their efforts with a view to the entry into force of the MAP Phase II legal instruments.

I.A.1.2. Regional Instrument for ICAM

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To affirm the urgent need to address the continuing degradation of the Mediterranean coastal zone through a process of integrated management.

2. To take note of the feasibility study and its various options for the regional legal instrument on coastal management.

(b) Recommendation to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC):

To prepare a draft text of the regional protocol on integrated coastal management, on the basis of a broad process of consultation among experts and all other interested parties in view of its consideration by the CPs.

I.A.1.3 Liability and compensation

Recommendation to the Secretariat:

To prepare a feasibility study for submission to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005 covering the legal, economic, financial and social aspects of a liability and compensation regime based on the organization of a participatory process with the Contracting Parties and socio-economic actors and with a view to avoiding overlapping with any other liability and compensation regime.

I.A.1.4. Reporting system and mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance with the Barcelona Convention

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To commence the implementation of Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention starting from the biennium 2002-2003 on the basis of the updated reporting format, as indicated in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/9.
2. To approve the establishment of a Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts to be assigned the following tasks:
 - a. to elaborate a platform to promote the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention to be submitted for consideration to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005;
 - b. to provide guidance for the preparation of the regional report on the status of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention in the biennium 2002 – 2003;
 - c. the Working Group should be composed of six experts nominated by the Contracting Parties, respecting geographical distribution, along with one representative from the MAP partners with a view to sharing continuously with all the Contracting Parties the progress achieved in the process.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat:

1. To provide assistance to the Contracting Parties to strengthen their reporting capacities and systems.
2. To prepare a regional report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention in the biennium 2002-2003 for submission to the Meeting of MAP National Focal Points and of the Contracting Parties in 2005.

3. To prepare reporting formats and guidelines for the non-legal component of MAP with a view to having a draft for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their 2005 Ordinary Meeting.
4. To further work towards the harmonization of reporting procedures with other multilateral environmental agreements and the respective European Union directives with a view to having updated formats for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their 2005 Ordinary Meeting.

I.A.1.5. Assistance to countries in legal matters

Recommendation to the Secretariat:

To strengthen support to countries on legal matters related to the protection of marine and coastal zones in the Mediterranean.

I.A.2 Institutional framework

I.A.2.1. MAP and RACs evaluation

Recommendations to the Secretariat

1. To launch the external overall evaluation of MAP, including the evaluation of the MED POL Programme with a view to presenting it to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005. In this process the document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/5 "Draft Strategic Assessment of the General Framework of the Barcelona Convention (MAP evaluation)" could be considered as an input, while ensuring the consideration of other inputs from Contracting Parties.
2. To take note of the recommendations included in documents UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/6 "Draft Report on "Evaluation of SPA/RAC: Programme Assessment and Prospects"; and UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/7 "Evaluation of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)" including the "Management Performance Audit of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)" and to propose positive follow-up .
3. To submit a proposal in cooperation with the Government of Tunisia and UNEP to the Bureau during the next biennium related to the future status of SPA/RAC.

I.A.3 Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To provide the necessary support and contribute to the preparatory process of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD);
2. To establish a Steering Committee to supervise the preparation of the MSSD.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat:

(MEDU and concerned MAP components)

1. To organize the preparatory process for the MSSD on the basis of a broad participatory approach and to submit the Strategy document to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption.
2. To establish an Advisory Group composed of between five and eight experts to assist in the preparation of the MSSD.
3. To improve cooperation with major groups and partners for a more active contribution to MCSD activities, and in particular the MSSD.
4. To provide assistance to countries and partners for the implementation and follow-up of the MCSD's recommendations.

I.A.4 Cooperation and partnership with United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners

I.A.4.1. Cooperation with international and regional organizations:

(a) Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To support the strengthening of partnership and cooperation between MAP and the European Commission.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat:

1. To undertake the necessary steps to request the accreditation of the Barcelona Convention with UN-ECOSOC, so as to improve the visibility of the Mediterranean and be able to participate directly in UNCSD as an observer.
2. To elaborate a work programme for cooperation with the European Commission, for adoption by the Bureau at its first meeting in 2004, based on the following priorities:
 - strengthening the cooperation between MAP and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in conformity with the Athens Declaration, 2002;
 - association of the European Commission with the implementation of the SAP MED and SAP BIO;
 - participation of the European Commission in the process of preparing the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;
 - involvement of MAP in the process of implementing the European Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management ;
 - cooperation with the European Commission for the development of the strategy for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.
 - involvement of MAP in the process of preparing and implementing the European Marine Strategy [as confirmed in the Declaration proposed for adoption at the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties], with a view to providing a holistic framework to deal with the protection and conservation of the marine environment.

3. To elaborate a work programme for cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) for adoption by the Bureau at its first meeting in 2004, in order to rationalize the already fruitful collaboration between MAP and EEA.
4. To provide support for the Secretariat in promoting cooperation and coordination with the relevant intergovernmental organizations and Conventions through the exchange of information and joint activities.
5. To strengthen cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies including IMO and their regional offices or commissions, as well as with the Secretariats of environmental conventions and other intergovernmental organizations; by taking into consideration the outputs of the "Environment for Europe" process.
6. To promote cooperation with the Ionian Adriatic Initiative and the Arab Region cooperation programme (through the League of Arab States, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia/ ESCWA, UNEP/Regional Office for West Asia/ROWA and CEDARE), and if possible through memoranda of cooperation with joint activities.
7. To prepare joint projects to be submitted for external funding by relevant intergovernmental organizations, and particularly their regional offices or commissions, including MEDA/SMAP , UNEP/GPA and other programmes.
8. To strengthen cooperation with regional institutions such as the Regional Environmental Centre for East and Central Europe/ REC, ReREP programme, Baltic 21 Programme, and MedWet and the conventions under the United Nations Regional Seas Programme and other regional seas agreements and programmes.
9. To develop a joint programme of work with the Euro-Arab Management School to promote training and capacity building on issues of interest to the Contracting Parties such as preparation and management of projects, legal framework and reporting to strengthen cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies and their regional offices or commissions, as well as with the Secretariats of environmental conventions and other intergovernmental organizations.

I.A.4.2 NGOs and other partners

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To approve the revised list of MAP partners as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/Inf.6
2. To include the following NGOs in the list of MAP partners, as indicated in the progress report UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/3, such as: Institute for Sustainable Development in Management of Natural Resources (INARE), Greece; Union of Northern Associations for Sustainable Development, UNSAD Lebanon, already considered by the Bureau, together with two newly proposed ones: Mediterranean SOS Network (Greece), ECAT Tirana (Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology, Albania).
3. To mandate the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to review and decide upon, after consultation with the Contracting Parties, applications in conformity with the criteria

decided upon by the Contracting Parties and to inform them of any changes in the list of MAP partners at their ordinary meetings.

(b) Recommendation to the Secretariat:

To further strengthen its cooperation and assistance to Mediterranean NGOs included in the list of MAP partners, giving priority to those active in the East and South of the Mediterranean.

I.A.5 Meetings

Recommendations to the Secretariat:

1. To continue convening the joint Meeting of the National Focal Points of BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and ERS/RAC while enhancing its preparation and coordination.
2. To hold joint meetings of the MED POL National Coordinators and the CP/RAC Focal Points and share the experience gained by the two programmes in the framework of the implementation of the SAP, with a view to offering countries the necessary assistance in relation to the reduction of industrial pollution.

I.A.6 Information, public awareness and public participation

(a) Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To promote public participation and access to information on environmental and sustainable development related issues in the region in general and in MAP's fields of activity in particular.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat:

1. To further consolidate MAP's activities in the fields of information, awareness and public participation, with increased focus on:
 - Providing assistance to countries to promote public participation and access to and dissemination of information while promoting the involvement of the main actors in civil society;
 - Further networking with communication and media professionals, organizing thematic workshops and regularly disseminating press releases and features;
 - Initiating the process of preparing an updated publication on the state of the environment in the Mediterranean region in collaboration with concerned partners;
 - Consolidating MAP information tools, in particular MAP web site ,the MAP *MedWaves* magazine and other publications; such as the MAP Technical Reports Series, as well as the library services and the MAP information dissemination system.
2. Starting the preparation of a strategic approach to information, public awareness and public participation, in the context of Article 15 of the Barcelona Convention.

I.A.7 Financial matters

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To approve the conversion to euro currency of the unpaid pledges for previous years, as they appear in the status of contributions table.
2. To delete the name Yugoslavia from the status of contributions table.
3. To encourage the settlement of the arrears of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the concerned countries by the end of 2005.
4. To approve the integration of participation of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro in the budget for the 2004-2005 biennium.
5. To encourage and support the introduction of a yearly voluntary contribution.
6. **[To approve the proposed 2004 – 2005 budget].**

II. COMPONENTS

II.A. POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

II.A.1. Pollution from land-based sources (MED POL)

II.A.1.1 Programme policy and coordination

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties

1. To sign and ratify the Stockholm Convention by 2004 in view of the complementarity of SAP MED and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
2. To sign and ratify the 1996 London Protocol to the 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (MED POL)

1. To evaluate the MED POL Programme and formulate a new phase of MED POL (2006-2013) responding to the needs of Mediterranean countries in terms of the assessment, prevention and control of marine and coastal pollution, including the impacts of rivers on the marine environment. The programme should represent an effective tool for achieving sustainable development by examining the modalities and implications of implementing the ecosystem-based approach as a management framework for MED POL and other components of MAP, taking into consideration the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and European Union legislation and the Strategy for the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment;
2. To take into account throughout the implementation of the SAP the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and particularly the issues of: energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy, water and sanitation, and new financial arrangements.
3. To discuss and negotiate, in consultation with the MED POL National Coordinators, the formulation and the launching of possible additional projects with partners/donors for the implementation of the SAP objectives and targets.
4. To explore ways of ensuring increased participation and ownership of the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in all MED POL activities through their involvement in:
 - the identification of activities and issues to be addressed by MED POL;
 - the preparation of draft technical and policy documents to be submitted for consideration to the MED POL National Coordinators, which could be achieved by the identification of leader country(ies) or observer(s) responsible for undertaking such a task or tasks.

II.A.1.2 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To prepare National Action Plans to address pollution of marine and coastal zones from land-based activities as part of the implementation of the SAP; the Plans should

be operational by 2005, should focus at least on the identified pollution hot spots and should take into account the objectives and targets of the SAP, as well as the guidelines and regional plans developed by MED POL and CP/RAC.

2. **[To adopt the approach proposed by the Secretariat in the Regional Plan for a 50 per cent reduction in BOD from industrial sources considering the target date of 2010 to be reviewed in 2007, and to ask the Secretariat to update the data and information included in the Plan on the basis of the national baseline budgets of pollutant releases.]**

II.A.1.3. Monitoring

Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To consider monitoring as an essential tool for assessing and controlling pollution, as well as the effectiveness of measures taken within the framework of sustainable development, and therefore to formulate, implement and operate permanent monitoring programmes, including the newly adopted eutrophication programme, in accordance with the agreed MED POL objectives and methods, including the assessment of the resulting status of transitional, coastal and marine waters.

II.A.1.4. Reporting

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To adopt the concept of the reporting system on the implementation of the SAP, as proposed by the Secretariat.
2. To consider the document containing guidelines for the use of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) formats (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.233/2) and its annexes on: (i) the reporting format; (ii) codes to be used to complete the reporting format; (iii) industrial sectors for PRTR reporting; and (iv) list of substances released onto land, water and air for PRTR reporting as the basis for the development of national PRTR systems.
3. To integrate the PRTR concept as part of the national environmental policy.
4. To consider environmental and industrial associations and other relevant stakeholders as important partners in the implementation of national PRTR pilot projects.
5. To explore ways of fully integrating small and medium-sized enterprises into the PRTR system.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (MED POL):

1. To launch pilot projects to test the feasibility of the reporting system on the implementation of the SAP.
2. To continue to provide assistance to the Mediterranean countries for the implementation of national PRTR pilot projects (potential beneficiaries include Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia).

3. To strengthen cooperation with ICS-UNIDO for the implementation of future PRTR systems.
4. To enhance the regional communication programmes in the field of PRTR through the development of regional information dissemination networks.
5. In view of the importance of the sustainability of PRTR reporting, to continue working with the Alexandria project, taking into consideration the possibility of covering additional industries.

II.A.1.5. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To adopt the guidelines on the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures proposed by the Secretariat, which were prepared in close consultation with national authorities.
2. To adopt the guidelines on the dumping of inert uncontaminated geological materials proposed by the Secretariat, which were prepared in close cooperation with national authorities.

(b) Recommendation to the Secretariat (MED POL)

To start the preparation of Guidelines for the placing of matter for a purpose other than dumping such as artificial reefs

II.A.2 Marine pollution prevention and control (REMPEC)

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To support the preparation of the strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships with a view of its adoption by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005.
2. To support REMPEC's efforts for the development of monitoring activities in the Mediterranean to detect, prevent and combat pollution in conformity with the relevant international Conventions and regulations.
3. To support the implementation of the proposed projects for the assessment of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and the related risks, and on the prevention of operational pollution (illicit discharges).
4. To support the preparation of a regional legal instrument on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea.
5. To provide REMPEC with the additional human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, either by seconding professional officers to the Centre or by sponsoring their recruitment.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat:

1. To extend the network of REMPEC correspondents to national authorities responsible for maritime affairs
2. To continue the process of preparation of the strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in close cooperation with the relevant national authorities, inter-governmental organizations, the European Union and the socio-economic and environmental actors.
3. To proceed with the preparation and examination of the feasibility of a draft regional legal instrument on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea and to organize a national legal and technical expert meeting in 2004 accordingly.

II.A.3 Cleaner production**(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:**

1. To readapt the role of the CP/RAC as a tool for the achievement of sustainable development by Mediterranean industry, within the framework of the implementation of the SAP, on the basis of its evaluations.
2. **[To adopt the approach proposed in the regional plan for the reduction of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations by 20 per cent by the year 2010 to be reviewed in 2007, and to ask the Secretariat to update the data and information included in the Plan on the basis of the national baseline budgets of pollutant releases.]**

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (CP/RAC):

1. To assist the countries in the implementation of the regional plan for the reduction of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations and in particular to:
 - a. check the data included in the plan, on the basis of the national baseline budgets required by the SAP;
 - b. assist countries in reviewing their legal framework;
 - c. study the financial mechanism required for implementation of the plan;
 - d. review periodically the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan.
2. To promote the exchange of knowledge between the various actors who play an influential role in terms of the Mediterranean environment
3. To collaborate in initiatives aimed at spreading eco-efficiency in the Mediterranean at the regional, sub-regional, national or local levels, taking into consideration the priority issues established by the SAP, the MCSD and other relevant MAP programmes and activities.
4. To strengthen cooperation with other programmes and components of MAP, and particularly with MED POL, for the implementation of the SAP

II.B. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

II.B.1. Collection of data and periodic assessment of the situation

(a) Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To adopt the reference list of coastal (terrestrial and wetland) habitat types for the selection of sites, as approved by the meeting of SPA Focal Points, to be included in the national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest, and to apply the classification as an indicator.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To integrate the reference list of coastal (terrestrial and wetland) habitat types for the selection of sites to be included in the national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest into the standard data-entry form (SDF) and to provide assistance to countries for its use.
2. To assist countries in carrying out case studies of inventories of natural sites of conservation interest, using the standard data-entry forms (SDF).

II.B.2. Planning and management

II.B.2.1 Implementation of the action plans

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To invite all the concerned parties to hold a high-level meeting to define appropriate ways of urgently implementing action for the effective protection of the Mediterranean Monk seal, on the basis of the reports of the expert group convened by SPA/RAC in 2002.
2. To promote when necessary the creation of protected zones in those areas where Mediterranean monk seals are concentrated.
3. To take the necessary steps for a more efficient application of the Action Plan, including the protection of the turtle habitats.
4. To take note of the Guidelines to improve the involvement of marine turtle rescue centres as an additional tool to reduce their mortality and raise public awareness, and to support the creation of rescue centres where necessary. Existing centres should follow the above guidelines as appropriate.
5. To take note of the ACCOBAMS-SPA/RAC guidelines for the development of national networks of cetacean strandings and promote the development of such networks at the national level.
6. To take note of the document on recommendations for a code of conduct for whale-watching in the Mediterranean Sea and recommend the use of the guidelines finalized by ACCOBAMS, and SPA/RAC.

7. To invite Parties which have not yet done so to join ACCOBAMS.
8. To promote research programmes to identify/define critical areas for the threatened *Tursiops truncatus* and *Delphinus delphis* populations and discover the wintering areas of *Balaenoptera physalus*.
9. To take the necessary steps to carry out, within the programmed deadlines, the activities envisaged in the implementation calendar of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea.
10. To grant, in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 26 of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea, the status of Action Plan Associate to the Greek National Centre for Marine Research (NCRM, Greece) and of Action Plan Partner to Nautilus (Italy).

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To provide assistance to countries to implement urgent actions for the effective protection of monk seals in the Mediterranean, on the basis of the report of the expert group convened by SPA/RAC in 2002.
2. To prepare an evaluation report on the status of the Mediterranean monk seal for submission to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
3. To translate the fishermen's guide into local languages and to adapt it to national circumstances.
4. To organize a coordination workshop for the standardization of tagging programmes and the centralization of information.
5. To establish collaboration with the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of FAO to undertake educational campaigns for fishermen to haul, handle, release and record correctly turtles that are caught accidentally.
6. To create a permanent website assembling the available data of interest for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean. The site of the Mediterranean Conference will be used and will also include a Mediterranean newsletter, as recommended by the Action Plan.
7. To organize the second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles in collaboration with the relevant organizations.

In the framework of SPA/RAC-ACCOBAMS cooperation:

8. To assist countries in the creation of national stranding networks and attempt to set up a regional network for strandings in close coordination with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.
9. To assist countries in the elaboration of National Action Plans for the Conservation of Cetaceans.
10. To assist countries in the promotion of practices aimed at broadening the activities of coastal fishermen to include alternative activities that are more compatible with the conservation of dolphin populations.

11. To collaborate with the relevant organizations to assess the level and effect of by-catch on cetacean populations in Mediterranean fisheries.
12. To assess the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea and to prepare a report on this subject for submission to the next meeting of SPA National Focal Points.

II.B.2.2 Elaboration of new action plans

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To adopt and implement the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fish (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea and consider, as appropriate, the proposals for the conservation of these species by other relevant international bodies, CITES in particular, and the advice of the appropriate fisheries bodies.
2. To adopt and implement the Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species listed in Annex II to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.
3. To adopt and implement the Action Plan on Species Introduction and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To promote the implementation of the action provided for in the Action Plan according to its timetable:
 - establish a network and directory of collaborators;
 - support the definition of Protocols for: (i) monitoring commercial landings and discards by species; and (ii) recording data on rarely observed, endangered and protected species;
 - contribute to information campaigns and publish materials for public awareness;
 - create guidelines for the reduction of the presence of sensitive species in by-catch and for their release if caught, to be prepared and published in the appropriate languages;
 - organize a symposium on Mediterranean chondrichthyan fish;
 - support the establishment of/or support existing centralized databases.
2. To work in collaboration with the Action Plan partners for the implementation of the action provided for in the Action Plan in accordance with the timetable for implementation.
3. To promote the implementation of the actions provided for in the Action Plan according to the timetable for implementation.

II.B.3. Public information

Recommendation to the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

To optimize the dissemination of information on the activities carried out, particularly through the preparation of materials in various forms, including new electronic formats

(CD-ROMs, etc), and the improvement and regular updating of the SPA/RAC web site.

II.B.4. Selection, establishment and management of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To investigate the possibility of approaching IMO to propose that a number of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance be designated as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas, and to assess whether the current legal status of the Mediterranean would allow the establishment of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas.
2. To include on the SPAMI list the following sites:
 - Parque nacional maritime terrestre del Archipelago de Cabrera;
 - Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo.
3. To establish contingency plans for the protection of SPAMIs in case of accidental pollution.
4. To adopt the criteria and procedures for awarding the Mediterranean Diploma for SPAMIs envisaged in MAP Phase II.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To cooperate with IMO with a view to starting the process of designating SPAMIs as PSSAs.
2. To assist countries in improving the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
3. To assist countries in preparing and implementing prevention and contingency plans for MPAs.

II.B.5. Training activities concerning specially protected areas and species conservation

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To take note of the Mediterranean Initiative on Taxonomy and promote its implementation at the national and regional levels.
2. To invite representatives of the concerned international and regional organizations to participate in the implementation of this initiative.
3. To promote the training of taxonomists by inviting the concerned university institutions to encourage post-university specialization in taxonomy and by organizing national and/or bilateral cooperation systems to encourage students to specialize in taxonomy (fellowships, grants, etc.).

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

1. To develop, through bilateral cooperation and other appropriate channels, a regional training programme on the management of protected areas, taking into account existing initiatives at the national and regional levels.

2. To contact the relevant international organizations and collaborate with them in implementing the Mediterranean Initiative on Taxonomy, particularly through training courses for taxonomists.

II.B.6. Project for the elaboration of the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)

(a) Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

[To adopt the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) and take the necessary measures for its implementation at the national and regional levels].

(b) Recommendation to the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

[To carry out the action provided for in the follow-up chapters of the SAP BIO concerning the preparatory phase and the launching of the SAP BIO, and to identify bilateral and multilateral mechanisms with a view to facilitating the financing and implementation of the SAP BIO]

II.B.7. Cooperation and synergy

(a) Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To facilitate linkages with other regional intergovernmental processes which can assist in the implementation of agreed actions in the context of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol.

(b) Recommendation to the Secretariat (SPA/RAC):

To reinforce existing partnerships for the implementation of national and regional action and identify additional opportunities for joint implementation and fund-raising with international and national partners, thereby increasing cooperation and synergies.

II.C SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES

II.C.1 Sustainable management of coastal area

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To urge the relevant authorities to improve the implementation of the MCSD's recommendations on the sustainable management of coastal areas.
2. To continue efforts for the adoption and/or improvement of national legislation for sustainable coastal management, taking into account the work carried out by PAP/RAC and other international organizations.
3. To support subregional activities for the sustainable management of coastal areas, with a view to developing subregional strategies, programmes, action plans (such as the Adriatic Action of Plan) and projects in related fields.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC):

1. To support and assist countries in the implementation of ICAM methodologies and to undertake thematic studies with a view to developing relevant guidelines and action plans on the issue of coastal landscapes and the sustainable financing of ICAM activities.
2. To assist countries to prepare their national reports on integrated coastal management.
3. To undertake the necessary analyses and prepare a report on the state of Mediterranean beaches, and to develop a regional plan to combat coastal erosion.
4. To pursue the development and implementation of ICAM tools and instruments, and specifically the coastal information systems, rapid coastal environmental assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in coastal environments, economic instruments for coastal management, Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) for tourism and Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) plans.
5. To assist countries in the development of subregional initiatives for ICAM and ICARM taking into account and creating synergies with similar initiatives.

II.C.2. Implementation of CAMPs**(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:**

1. To invite the authorities in Algeria, Cyprus and Slovenia to continue their efforts to support the implementation of CAMP projects in their countries and to invite Morocco and Spain to commence preliminary activities with a view to launching the projects in their countries.
2. To call on the authorities in the countries where CAMP projects have been completed to implement follow-up activities by securing the necessary financial and human resources, with the support of MAP and PAP/RAC.
3. To invite countries where there have not yet been any CAMP projects to propose new projects and to prepare the respective feasibility studies. Countries that have already implemented CAMP projects are invited to consider new projects in light of the recommendations of the proposed ICAM/CAMP strategy, particularly bearing in mind the new types of CAMP projects.

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC):

1. To coordinate MAP activities in relation to CAMP projects under the overall responsibility of MEDU, including the development of new types of CAMP projects, such as the transboundary projects.
2. To prepare CAMP feasibility studies, CAMP programmes and agreements, to implement the ongoing MAP CAMP projects and the projects whose implementation has been decided on.
3. To propose to countries where MAP CAMP projects have been completed the introduction of new and/or the adaptation of existing instruments for environmental

management, which would enable the follow-up of CAMPs, and to assist those countries to prepare viable projects in continuation of completed MAP CAMP projects.

II.C.3. The future of coastal zone management and CAMPs within MAP activities

(a) Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

To prepare regional, national and local ICAM strategies and programmes, using the methodologies, tools and instruments for the implementation of ICAM, and to aim to adopt the regional strategy on integrated coastal area management (ICAM) and CAMP in 2005.

(b) Recommendation to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC):

To prepare, in consultation with regional stakeholders and in coordination with MEDU and the concerned MAP components, the regional strategy for integrated coastal area management and CAMP, ensuring a strong synergy with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

II.C.4. Capacity building and training

Recommendation to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC):

To continue institutional strengthening and capacity building of national and local institutions by means of traditional and internet-based training courses, regional conferences and workshops on strategic and thematic issues relevant to ICAM.

II.C.5. Information dissemination and awareness

Recommendation to the Secretariat (PAP/RAC):

To continue the exchange of information on ICAM through the clearing-house mechanism, assist countries to prepare their own national clearing-houses for ICAM, maintain the informative website and publish and disseminate guidelines, thematic papers, programme results and other achievements.

II.D Integrating environment and development

As decided by the MAP National Focal Points meeting, the recommendations of the chapter "Integrating environment and development" have been re-edited by the Secretariat for the consideration and approval of the Contracting Parties in Catania.

(a) Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

- 1. [To contribute to the finalization and dissemination of the Mediterranean Environment and Development Report (and spin-off publications) and, where necessary, have them translated into languages other than English and French].**
- 2. [To ensure broader dissemination of MAP/Blue Plan documents dealing with environment and development integration (water demand management, free trade and environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context,) among competent authorities and professional bodies].**

3. [To support activities related to financing and cooperation for sustainable development and to agricultural and rural development].
4. [To improve the implementation, of the MCSD's recommendations related to indicators and evaluate the progress and difficulties encountered].
5. [To support the implementation by national statistical offices of the MEDSTAT, Environment program and favour the conclusion of an agreement between MAP and EUROSTAT in order to guarantee the optimum use of the outputs by the Contracting Parties].
6. [To encourage national and local authorities, associations in the hotel sector and profit and non-profit organizations to apply the Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) for tourism activities as a common tool for sustainable development of tourism].
7. [To support efforts to introduce better practices for urban water resources management, in particular the implementation of the relevant guidelines].
8. [To support activities related to soil erosion/desertification control and management as an essential element of sustainable development in the region, and to support the partnership of MAP with the relevant international organizations and institutions].

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat:

BP/RAC

1. [To finalize the Mediterranean Environment and Development Report in cooperation with other MAP components and support the elaboration of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development].
2. [To proceed with the activities related to cooperation, financing and economic tools for sustainable development and to take part in the consultation process of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area sustainability impact assessment launched by the European Commission]
3. [To develop with competent regional organizations (*Silvamediterranea* /FAO, ICAMAS (International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies) a prospective vision on sustainable rural development to assist in the changes of policies].
4. [To deepen the prospective analysis on transports, urbanization and sustainability and to contribute together with REMPEC to the implementation of the proposed project for the assessment of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and the related risks].
5. [To proceed with the implementation of tourism and sustainable development related recommendations (assessment of economic tools for the management and protection of natural and cultural sites, feasibility study of a cooperation mechanism)].

6. [To implement, together with national statistical offices, the *MEDSTAT-Environment* project, Phase II, and to improve synergy with Ministries of the Environment and data producers].
7. [To draw up a regional assessment of progress made in the implementation of recommendations adopted relating to indicators and observatories in order to contribute to the strengthening of sustainable development policies and strategies].
8. [To evaluate the usefulness of compound indices of sustainability for the Mediterranean region].
9. [To assist countries implementing sets of indicators for sustainable water management, while taking other regional initiatives into account].

PAP/RAC

1. [To assist countries in their endeavors to implement the MCSDD' recommendations on urban management and sustainable development through the development of appropriate urban management tools and instruments, and by establishing mechanisms for the exchange of experience of good urban management practices].
2. [To assist countries in the implementation of the guidelines for urban regeneration and in the incorporation of ICAM into urban management].
3. [To promote the use of Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) as a tool for the sustainable development of tourism through the enhancement of the capacity of national and local institutions by continuing to offer technical assistance, and to take steps to incorporate it in the ICAM process].
4. [To support local authorities in implementing guidelines for sustainable urban water resources management].
5. [To develop partnerships with international and regional organizations active in the field of the control and management of soil erosion/desertification, and to implement the sub-regional project on the control and management of soil erosion and desertification in the Maghreb countries].

II.E ERS RAC

(a) Recommendation to the Contracting Parties:

[The readapt the role of ERS/RAC with activities in remote sensing, space techniques, information and communication technology, e-governance as a tool for helping the implementation of SAP MED and SAP BIO towards sustainable development]

(b) Recommendations to the Secretariat (ERS/RAC):

1. [To support MED POL programme and SAP through specific pilot projects, information dissemination, training, capacity building based on use of remote sensing for water quality and dynamics assessment]

2. [To support REMPEC for oil spill detection and monitoring through the integrated use of remote sensing and GIS techniques and other advanced tools (e.g. space-based localization, high-speed satellites communications)].
3. [To support REMPEC for the activities related to the assessment of the risks of marine environment pollution in the Mediterranean in relation to maritime traffic relying on space techniques (e.g. space-based localization, high-speed satellite telecommunication)]

ANNEX IV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties Catania (Italy), 11-14 November 2003

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Rules of procedure
3. Election of officers
4. Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work
5. Credentials of representatives
6. Adoption of Recommendations and programme budget for 2004-2005; future of the RAC/ERS
7. Implementing the Johannesburg Plan in the Mediterranean
8. Implementing the strategy for the reduction of LBS pollution
9. Adoption of the Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity (SAP BIO)
10. Promoting European Commission/MAP partnership
11. Adoption of the Catania Declaration
12. Date and place of the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005
13. Other business
14. Adoption of the Report
15. Closure of the Meeting