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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

GEF Project *“Determination of Priority Actions for the
further Elaboration and Implementation of the
Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea”*

Second Meeting of the Inter-agency Steering Committee

Tirana, 21 March 2002

**REPORT
OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY STEERING COMMITTEE**

Introduction and participants

1. The Second Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee was convened at the Tirana International Hotel, Tirana, Albania, on Thursday 21 March, 2002, to review the progress and operation of the GEF Project "Determination of Priority Actions for further Elaboration and Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea".
2. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. Mr Francesco-Saverio Civili (MED POL Coordinator) opened the Meeting at 10.00 a.m, on behalf of Mr. Chabason, MAP Coordinator, and welcomed the participants. He conveyed the best wishes of Mr Chabason, who regretted that he could not be present due to his heavy workload, but who fully recognized the importance of the GEF Project in encouraging Mediterranean countries to take practical action for the reduction of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. Mr Civili recalled that the GEF Project had become operational in January 2001. Although there had been some initial delays in its implementation, due in particular to the fact that the project manager had only been appointed in June 2001, these delays had mainly been made up

4. It was noted that the representative of FFEM had not been able to attend the Meeting. In this respect, the Meeting recalled the important contribution that FFEM was making to the implementation of the GEF Project, particularly through the provision of assistance for the preparation of pre-investment studies and national action plans and the organization of capacity-building activities in several countries. The presence of a representative of FFEM at the Meeting would therefore have been valuable.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

5. The Meeting adopted the agenda contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.199/1. The Agenda of the Meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

Agenda items 3 and 4: Progress report on the activities carried out in 2001 and briefing and discussion on the activities planned for 2002

6. Discussion of these two items, which were mainly addressed together during the Meeting, was based on the *Progress report for the period 1 January-31 December 2001 and activities proposed for 2002* (UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.199/2), attached as Annex III to this report, as revised at the Meeting.

Project coordination

7. Mr Ante Baric (GEF Project Manager) recalled that from January to June 2001 the Project had been managed by an interim Project Manager, before his own appointment at the end of June 2001. He indicated that, while some of the project activities had fallen behind schedule in the early months of project implementation, the delays had mostly been made up already, or would be during the course of 2002. He reviewed the various activities of the project management and the documents produced, as indicated in the progress report. He said that the countries had been requested to initiate activities for the setting up of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMCs) and that memoranda of understanding (MOUs) concerning the activities of IMCs had been prepared for signature. The countries had also been contacted concerning the application of socio-economic criteria for the prioritization of pollution hot spots, with a view to the preparation of pre-investment studies. No final decision had yet been reached concerning the list of hot spots for which pre-investment studies would be

prepared, due to the lack of the necessary information. However, it was proposed that the assistance to be provided to countries in this respect would include consultant expert missions to assess the situation and meet all those involved in the proposed action for the selected hot spots. Assistance would be provided at the national level with a view to the preparation of the National Diagnostic Analysis, sectoral programmes and National Action Plans to address pollution from land based activities.

8. Mr Civili added that the FFEM, related to the pre-investment studies, had decided to focus its contribution on four countries, namely Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Consultant missions had already visited Algeria and Tunisia to obtain information for the preparation of pre-investment studies, terms of reference and budgets for action in the selected hot spots. A similar mission was due to go to Morocco at the end of March and another was being planned for Lebanon.

9. Mr Sherif Arif (METAP) expressed concern at the delays experienced in the implementation of the project. While appreciating the work done by Mr Baric, he wondered whether a management team consisting essentially of one person was sufficient for such a complex project. If the project were to be successful, it would be necessary to see how best the delays in obtaining information from the countries and in getting them to take action could be overcome.

10. In the discussion of this point, it was indicated that the project management received support in the implementation of the Project from all the MAP structures, and particularly MED POL, PAP/RAC, CP/RAC and WHO. The opinion was also expressed that Mr Baric worked in a very efficient manner and that delays in project implementation were due principally to the slowness of the countries involved in taking the necessary action. The officials who had been nominated as GEF National Coordinators often fulfilled many other roles and their workload made it difficult for them to focus sufficiently on the complex demands of the GEF Project.

11. Several proposals were made concerning the manner in which assistance could be provided to GEF National Coordinators to speed up their work as a means of facilitating project implementation. A structure of subregional consultants for groups of three or four countries, such as those in the Adriatic or the Maghreb countries, had proven successful in the context of PAP/RAC. In some countries, GEF had found it valuable to fund a small secretariat of one or two persons for specific activities. However, it was pointed out that the provision of a consultant to help the GEF National Coordinators in each of the GEF eligible countries would be expensive and that it would not be easy to identify the appropriate persons. Whatever support was provided should be covered by strict terms of reference, the Project should have a say in the consultants selected and should be in direct contact with them, through the GEF National Coordinator. It was also noted that, although funds had already been earmarked for support at the national level for a number of the activities covered by the Project, and particularly the preparation of National Action Plans and pre-investment studies, it would be necessary to transfer funds from other items to provide the support that was being discussed, which would cover, among other activities, the gathering of information on hot spots, support for the meetings of the IMCs and the identification of partners and the organization of meetings with them for project activities.

12. It was decided that an amount of money should be identified for each country for this purpose, which might for example be in the region of US\$5,000. Such an amount would not cover a full-time person for the duration of the Project, but should allow for part-time support to the GEF National Coordinators to speed up project implementation. It would be left to the Project Manager to propose the relevant practical arrangements, which could be decided upon through e-mail consultation with the other members of the Steering Committee.

13. In a review of the programme of meetings of the bodies set up within the framework of the GEF Project, namely the Inter-Agency Steering Committee, the Coordination Committee and the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee, it was noted that a donors meeting was planned to be held towards the end of 2002. Mr Sherif wondered whether this might be too early for such a meeting, as the proposed projects and activities were not yet at a sufficiently advanced stage specific to expect a firm commitment from donors. He emphasized that such a meeting could be counterproductive unless it was very carefully prepared. A more effective course of action might be to approach individual donors first on an informal basis to sound out possible areas of interest.

14. Mr Civili and Mr Baric explained that two donors meetings were planned within the framework of the GEF Project. The purpose of the first of these meetings was to inform potential donors and involve them in the projects right from the planning stage. They would be presented with the results of the country expert missions and with background documents on each of the selected hot spots. They could then decide whether they were interested in being involved in the preparation of the pre-investment studies. A second meeting would be held once all of the pre-investment studies had been completed. Clearly, some preliminary contacts would have to be made before either of the meetings were held.

Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

15. Mr Civili recalled that a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for the region had first been completed in 1997 as a basic element for the preparation of the Strategic Action Programme. While the 1997 TDA had broadly been well received by the countries in the region, it did not cover a number of issues and it had been felt that it was important for the image of the region and the success of the SAP for it to be improved and updated. An eminent team leader and a number of expert consultants had been engaged and the new TDA had been expanded to include the issues of mariculture, urban run-off and a chapter on the prospective impact of socio-economic development in the region. An issue/impacts matrix would also be introduced for scoring and scaling the environmental issues covered by the updated TDA, based on the methodology currently being developed by the GEF Global International Water Assessment project (GIWA). He added that the analysis was based on existing data provided by the countries and gathered through MAP's monitoring programmes, and not on any new sampling programme. The first drafts of most of the chapters of the TDA had now been received and were under review.

16. Mr Fouad Abousamra (MAP Programme Officer) explained that the TDA focused on activities which generated pollutants, and particularly those targeted in the SAP, such as trace metals, chlorinated hydrocarbons and POPs. He added that it was now being realized that mariculture activities introduced a risk of deforming existing species in the Mediterranean, while urban run-off included pesticides and used oil, which had clear transboundary effects. The possible impacts of the various pollutants were then examined in specific sectors, such as tourism, land use and health. One chapter of the TDA contained prospective scenarios for development in the region in such areas as agriculture, industry, urbanization and free trade.

17. In the discussion of this point, it was recalled that the definition of pollutants which had transboundary effects raised a range of problems in practice. While oil pollution was highly mobile and affected the whole Mediterranean Sea, as did any loss of biodiversity, many of the pollution hot spots were caused by problems which did not necessarily affect other countries. However, the GEF Project was of a regional nature and the TDA provided an excellent opportunity to identify the main transboundary pollutants and to underline the argument that environmental problems in individual countries were of concern to neighbouring countries and to the region as a whole. In particular, it was important to show evidence of the movement of pollutants which had a clear impact in such fields as public health and the development of tourism in neighbouring countries. The problem of the high

level of mercury found in fish in the Balkanic region was cited in this respect. However, it was recognized that it would be difficult to measure impacts in other countries with any precision in a study that was based essentially on data from national sources.

18. Mr Vladimir Mamaev (UNEP Division of GEF Coordination) informed the participants of the progress made by the GEF GIWA project in developing a methodology for the measurement of pollutants over a large area. The methodology had been applied in the Russian Arctic with interesting results. He noted that the TDA included an analysis of hot spots and sensitive areas with a view to identifying issues which had transboundary effects and those which were common to several countries.

19. Mr Sherif recalled that METAP had joined the GEF Project at a fairly late stage and that it was therefore important to allow it opportunities to give as much input as possible with a view to ensuring that the best possible products were obtained from project activities. In the case of the TDA, METAP was interested in refining the methodology as much as possible and in preventing duplication with other project activities, such as the Regional Action Plan.

20. It was agreed that once the TDA had been finalized by the expert hired for that purpose, it would be circulated to the countries and executing agencies, particularly with a view to ensuring that it took into account the latest methodological advances, such as those developed within the framework of the GIWA project.

Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

21. Mr George Kamizoulis (WHO/EURO Scientist) recalled the parallels between the activities carried out with regard to pollution hot spots and the preparation of the TDA. An earlier analysis of hot spots had been carried out in 1997-98. In view of the misgivings expressed by certain countries concerning this analysis, it had been decided to develop criteria agreed by all the parties for the prioritization of hot spots, taking into consideration the potential risk of transboundary effects. These criteria had been agreed to in a meeting held in Athens in April 2001 and then circulated to all Mediterranean countries for comment. Based on the resulting criteria, all Mediterranean countries had been requested to revise their national reports on pollution hot spots. Considerable assistance had been provided for this purpose to the GEF eligible countries, of which eleven out of twelve had submitted updated reports, including tables indicating the potential transboundary effects of the pollution hot spots. The above reports had been submitted to the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee for the selection of Mediterranean hot spots for pre-investment studies. The countries had also been requested by the Project management to apply the socio-economic criteria prepared by METAP with a view to the prioritization of hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies. In prioritizing the hot spots, the best match had therefore been sought between technical and socio-economic criteria. The next steps in the development of the pre-investment studies would consist of the organization of exploratory missions and the preparation of terms of reference, followed by negotiations with the countries and the signature of the relevant project documents for each of the selected hot spots.

22. Mr Sherif emphasized that the process leading up to the preparation of pre-investment studies for the hot spots was very complex and labour-intensive and that little progress would be made if specific personnel were not assigned to the task at the national level. He therefore welcomed the assurance by Mr Civili that the project management would lay emphasis on the provision of assistance to the countries in this respect, including the payment of national experts for the task through the resources earmarked for that purpose in the Project budget.

Regional cooperative actions

23. Mr Civili indicated that the preparation of guidelines and regional plans, as indicated in the progress report, was well under way, with the exception of the guidelines on the river pollution monitoring programme and data quality assurance for rivers, where problems had been encountered in identifying the appropriate expert. However, this difficulty had now been overcome and the delay should be made up over the coming months.

24. Mr Kamizoulis added that the draft regional guidelines on environmental inspection systems had been prepared and circulated for comments. The final draft would be completed in the next few months. The other regional guidelines being prepared by WHO/EURO, namely those on sewage treatment and disposal, urban solid wastes (with particular emphasis on coastal litter) and industrial wastewater, would be submitted for comments and finalized in the spring of 2003.

25. Ms Esther Monfà (CP/RAC) reported delays in the preparation of the regional guidelines for which CP/RAC was responsible due to the difficulties in finding suitable experts. However, the regional guidelines on the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilizers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture were now being prepared, and CP/RAC would continue with the preparation of the other guidelines.

26. The discussion on this subject focused on the need to provide countries with an indication of the cost of taking action in the various fields covered by the guidelines, where possible by providing information on the estimated cost of eliminating pollutants per unit (for example by weight), together with the various options available and their related costs. In view of the differences in costs between countries, a practical approach to this would be to indicate precisely the respective parameters, including such items as the volumes of raw materials and energy required. In this respect, it was pointed out that, in view of the high costs involved, a straightforward cost estimate for the proposed options could be discouraging for the countries. A more practical approach would be to provide guidance on the feasibility of the various options and on economic instruments which could be applied to cover the cost of the proposed remedies. In this way, countries would be able to develop a more balanced view of the technical and financial feasibility of the various options.

27. In response to a comment by Mr Mamaev that care should be taken not to duplicate work carried out under similar projects elsewhere, Mr Abousamra commented that the responsible experts had been instructed to take fully into account the activities that were being carried out within and outside the region, with particular reference to other GEF and METAP projects.

Capacity building

28. It was noted that certain delays had occurred in organizing the capacity-building activities planned within the framework of the Project. This was the case in particular with the training course on river pollution monitoring, which was now scheduled for the end of 2002. The regional workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was now scheduled to be held in Tunis in May 2002, and would benefit from expertise provided by staff members of the World Bank, particularly on such subjects as biodiversity and industrial pollution. Two workshops for trainers on this subject would also be held, one in English and the other in French.

29. Mr Kamizoulis reported the progress achieved in capacity-building activities in the field of wastewater treatment. A regional course on the operation and management of municipal wastewater treatment plants, held in Athens in October 2001, had been attended by 16 trainers from 15 Mediterranean countries. Once they had been translated into the appropriate language, the participants would use the materials prepared for courses in their

own countries. Some of the national courses had been postponed due to be financed by the FFEM. All unspent balances from 2001 from the GEF/WHO sub-project would be allocated to capacity building so that most of the planned national activities could be held in 2002. These national activities would cover personnel from wastewater treatment plants, including those responsible for managing these plants.

30. Mr Baric indicated that he had had many contacts with FFEM, which was prepared to provide financial support for capacity-building activities in certain countries, such as Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, as well as for regional activities in the field of wastewater treatment. However, another solution would have to be found to finance the capacity-building activities originally planned to be undertaken by CP/RAC with FFEM support, such as the reallocation of a sum of around US\$35,000 for a single regional activity on cleaner production.

31. Mr Mamaev emphasized that, in the capacity-building activities carried out within the context of the Project, use should be made of other related materials, such as the database of best practices that was being developed by the GEF International Waters Learn Project. This database was interactive, and experience from Mediterranean activities could also be fed back into it. Another opportunity for the sharing of experience in this and related fields would be the International Waters Conference to be organized in China.

Sustainability of SAP MED

32. Mr Ivica Trumbic (PAP/RAC) recalled the work that had been carried out over the previous year to build support in the countries of the region for the introduction of economic instruments to ensure the sustainability of the SAP MED. These included the selection of National Focal Points for Economic Instruments, the sending out of questionnaires to assess the application of economic instruments in the countries covered by the Project, the holding of an expert meeting to examine the responses and the selection of seven pilot projects to be developed and implemented. He indicated that the situation in the region was very static concerning the use of economic instruments in the environmental field and that much therefore needed to be done to encourage the wider application of such instruments. A serious problem in the implementation of the project had been the slowness of certain countries to react, which had led to delays. The multiplicity of actors involved in each pilot project also meant that it was a slow process getting all of them to take the necessary action.

33. In response to a question from Mr Sherif as to whether it had been possible to find economists to act as National Focal Points for Economic Instruments, in view of the need for economic analysis in this component of the project, Mr Civili indicated that it was only possible to make such a suggestion informally to the countries.

34. Mr Trumbic added that during 2002 work would continue on the baseline pilot project in Croatia and the six other pilot projects. In the context of the baseline project, it was planned to implement a tourist eco-charge in one tourist resort during the year. The results would then be analysed. A list of economic instruments for use in the other pilot projects would be prepared and the projects would get under way at the end of the year. In addition, further progress would be made on the development of a clearing-house for information on integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), including the establishment of a web page on the development of economic instruments. A number of training activities were also planned, although there might need to be a reallocation of resources within the project to finance them.

Public participation

35. Mr Civili reported on the progress achieved in the field of public participation, with a view to the preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy on Information, Awareness and Public Participation. Three components were currently being developed, covering respectively: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia; Cyprus, Israel, Malta and Turkey;

and the Arab countries. Brochures were also being prepared on the GEF Project and the SAP, which would be ready in April.

36. Mr Mamaev expressed agreement with the need to develop a regional strategy to promote public participation. He emphasized that this should also include the private sector, which had a vital role to play in the sustainability of action taken to improve the environmental situation, particularly through the provision of financing. He noted that the forthcoming International Waters Conference would include a private sector day. Private sector involvement should therefore be promoted throughout the GEF Project and this component might be better entitled "stakeholder participation".

37. In further discussion of this subject, it was pointed out that the term "public" included the private sector, which was a recognized component of civil society. Many of the national workshops that were planned would place emphasis on the involvement of partners from the private sector, alongside other stakeholders. However, it was also recalled that in many Mediterranean countries, utilities which were elsewhere run by the private sector remained under the control of public companies, despite a growing trend towards their privatization. Finally, it was proposed that the IMCs that were being set up could also involve representatives of the private sector, such as chambers of industry and commerce.

National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities (NAPs)

38. Mr Civili emphasized the importance of sectoral and National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based activities, the preparation and implementation of which were the ultimate outputs of the whole GEF Project. In view of the need for the rapid and effective launching of the process of the preparation of the NAPs, he recalled that the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, held in Monaco in November 2001, had adopted a SAP Operational Plan. The process of developing NAPs involved building on the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) covering all the major sources of pollutants targeted by the SAP and the development of a Baseline Budget for these pollutants, which consisted of a pollutant load assessment establishing the baseline loads of the pollutants from which the targeted reductions would be calculated. By the end of 2003, countries would therefore be required to indicate the pollutants that were being released. Assistance would be provided to countries at the various stages of the preparation of NDAs, Baseline Budgets and NAPs. Guidelines were being prepared and meetings would be organized for this purpose, particularly at the subregional level. It was recommended that, where possible, local data on emissions of pollutants should be used, or emission factors or where local data were not available, to assess pollution loads for the purposes of establishing a Baseline Budget of pollutants. An important component of the NDAs would be the preparation of specific sectoral plans of action to reduce pollution in the various sectors. Finally, he emphasized that the NAPs concerned pollution from land-based sources. However, it was very important for them to be developed in harmony with the various other plans at the national level, such as those covering biodiversity, sustainable development and National Environmental Development Plans (NEAPs).

39. Mr Sherif pointed out that the whole process leading up to the development of NAPs involved much time-consuming work and many complex decisions. It was therefore very optimistic to hope that they could be prepared on schedule, namely by the end of 2003. He also emphasized the need to include clear indications in the NAPs of the associated costs of the proposed action. To be practical, the pollution load assessments included in the Baseline Budget should always be accompanied by the estimated abatement costs.

40. Mr Civili confirmed that the NAPs should include specific dates, targets and economic indications for the various pollutants.

Development of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO)

41. Mr Baric, after recalling that the development of the Strategic Action Plan for Diversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) did not fall within the terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee or the Coordination Committee, noted that the necessary network had been established in Mediterranean countries, national experts hired and the first drafts of the national reports prepared. The next step was the preparation of a draft regional SAP BIO, which should be completed by early 2003. This component of the project was going ahead without any delay.

Agenda item 5: Conclusions and recommendations

42. The Meeting recalled the conclusions reached during the discussion, and particularly the need to offer countries more assistance for coordination at the national level to help speed up the implementation of the Project.

43. The discussion under this agenda item then focused on how the Inter-Agency Steering Committee could ensure that the Project was on the right track and, based on a review of the progress made as it reached its mid-term, make any necessary adjustments in good time to ensure its successful implementation. It was therefore decided that the Inter-Agency Steering Committee would hold its next meeting early in 2003 to decide on any action that might be needed to ensure the effective implementation of the Project.

Agenda item 6: Closure of the Meeting

44. The Meeting rose at 6 p.m.

Annex I**Provisional List of Participants****Mr Sherif Arif**

METAP Coordinator
WORLD BANK
Middle East and North Africa Region
The World Bank
Washington D.C.
United States of America

Tel: +1 202 4737315
Fax: +1 202 4771374
E-mail: sarif@worldbank.org

Mr Jaafar Friaa

METAP Consultant
The World Bank
Middle East and North Africa Region
Tunis
Tunisia

Tel: + 216 98 206727
Fax: + 216 71 707255
E-mail: jfriaa@gnet.tn

Mr George Kamizoulis

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

Tel: +30-107273105
Fax: +30-107253196-7
E-mail: whomed@hol.gr

Mr Gennaro Longo

Director
Area of Earth, Environmental and Marine
Sciences and Technologies
ICS-UNIDO
Area Science Park, Building L2
Padriciano 99
34012 Trieste
Italy

Tel: +39 040 9228104
Fax: +39 040 9228136
E-mail: gennaro.longo@ics.trieste.it

Mr Vladimir Mamaev

Senior Programme Officer
International Waters
Division of
UNEP/GEF Coordination
UNEP Nairobi
P. O Box 30552
Nairobi
Kenya

Tel: +254 2 624607

Fax: +254 2 623557

Email: Vladimir.Mamaev@unep.org

Ms Esther Monfà

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

Tel: +34 93 4151112

Fax: +34 93 2370286

E-mail: cleanpro@cema-sa.org

Mr Ivica Trumbic

Director
Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity
Centre (PAP/RAC)
11 Kraj Sv. Ivana
P.O Box 74
HR-21000 Split
Croatia

Tel: +385 21 343499

Fax: +385 21 361677

E-mail: ivica.trumbic@ppa.tel.hr

SECRETARIAT**Mr Francesco-Saverio Civili**

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

Tel: +30-10 7273106
Fax: +30-10 7253196/7
E-mail: fscivili@unepmap.gr

Mr Ante Baric

GEF Project Manager
Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean
Action Plan
P.O Box 18019
48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue
11610 Athens
Greece

Tel: +30 10 7273102
Fax: +30 10 7253196/7
Email: abaric@unepmap.gr

Mr Fouad Abousamra

Programme Officer
Coordinating Unit for the Mediteranean
Action Plan
P.O Box 18019
48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue
11610 Athens
Greece

Tel: +30 10 7273116
Fax: +30 10 7253196/7
Email: fouad@unepmap.gr

Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
The MAP Coordinator will open the Meeting at 10.00
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
The MAP Coordinator will propose the Agenda and organization of work and the Meeting has to decide on the proposal
3. Progress report on the activities carried out in 2001
The GEF Project Manager, MED POL Coordinator, WHO/EURO Representative and RACs Representatives will review activities carried out in 2001. Discussion will follow the presentations
4. Briefing and discussion on the activities planned for 2002
The GEF Project Manager, MED POL Coordinator, WHO/EURO Representative and RACs Representatives will introduce activities planned for 2002. Discussion will follow the presentations
5. Conclusions and Recommendations
The meeting may discuss and propose conclusions and recommendations to be presented to the Second Meeting of GEF Coordination Committee
6. Closure of the meeting
The meeting is planned to be closed by the MAP Coordinator at 18.00

Annex III
Progress Report
for the Period 1 January - 31 December 2001
and Activities proposed for 2002

Table of Contents

	Page
INTRODUCTION	2
1. Progress Report for the period 1 January-31 December 2001	3
1.1 Project Coordination	3
1.2 Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)	5
1.3 Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas	5
1.4 Regional cooperative actions	6
1.5 Capacity building	8
1.6 Sustainability of SAP MED	9
1.7 Public participation	11
1.8 National Action Plans to address pollution from land based activities (NAPs)	12
1.9 Development of a Strategic Action Plan for biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO)	12
2. Activities planned for 2002	13
2.1 Project Coordination	13
2.2 Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)	14
2.3 Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas	14
2.4 Regional cooperative actions	16
2.5 Capacity building	19
2.6 Sustainability of SAP MED	20
2.7 Public participation	24
2.8 National Action Plans (NAPs)	25

ANNEX

Development of A Strategic Action Plan For Biodiversity In The Mediterranean (SAP BIO)
 (Informative only)

Introduction

Being aware of the importance of land-based activities for the pollution of the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean countries adopted in 1997, at the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona convention held in Tunis, the Strategic Action Programme of regional and national activities to address pollution from land based activities (SAP MED). The SAP MED is an action-oriented initiative, identifying priority target categories of substances and activities to be eliminated or controlled by the Mediterranean countries, through a planned timetable for the implementation of specific control measures and interventions. It is a basis for the implementation of the Land-based Sources Protocol by the Mediterranean countries over the next 25 years.

The key land-based activities addressed in the SAP MED are linked to the urban environment, (particularly municipal wastewater treatment and disposal, urban solid waste disposal and activities contributing to air pollution from mobile sources), to industrial activities, targeting those responsible for the release of toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative substances into the marine environment, giving special attention to persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and to activities that contribute to the destruction of the coastline and coastal habitats.

In order to provide the support for the implementation of the SAP MED, the GEF Project "Determination of Priority Actions for the further Elaboration and Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" (MAP/GEF) was approved by the GEF Governing Council in May 2000, while the project document was signed on 15 December 2000. 12 GEF eligible Mediterranean countries will receive support from the Project. The project was initiated on 1 January 2001.

The main aim of the Project is the creation of necessary conditions at regional and national levels for the implementation of SAP MED. An additional objective of the project is to develop and adopt a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) in conformity with the provisions of the protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity.

The main purpose of this report is to review the activities undertaken within the Project in the past, to point out the main obstacles in the action implementation, to elaborate the programme and recommendations for 2002, and to present the budget for 2001 and the proposed budget for 2002.

The structure of this report follows the logic of other Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) reports. After this first introductory chapter, the second chapter presents the progress report for the period 1 January-31 December 2001. This chapter is highly synthesised and essentially presents activities undertaken. The third chapter briefly presents the programme, timetable and recommendations, where appropriate, for the year 2002. The report on the development of SAP BIO is given in the Annex, for information only, since it is without the terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee.

1. PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2001

1.1 Project Coordination

The project is managed by the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, where a Project Management team was established. The management consists of Project Manager, Administrative Assistant and Secretary. The Project Manager reports directly to the MAP Coordinator. An acting Project Manager was hired on 1 January 2001. He managed the project until the end of June 2001, when the Project Manager, who was hired on 25 June 2001, took over the project management. The GEF project Administrative Assistant responsible for financial matters was hired on May 15 2001, and the GEF Secretary was hired on 9 July 2001.

Apart from the coordination of the implementation of all activities specified in the project document, ensuring the timely completion of each one, liaising closely with the executing agencies, the GEF National Coordinators and the representatives of the GEF partners and other donors, preparation of terms of reference and contracts with consultants, preparation of substantive, managerial and financial reports, the GEF Project management prepared the following:

- Background document for the first meetings of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee
- Terms of Reference for activities of national GEF Coordinators;
- Terms of Reference for activities of Inter-ministerial Committees (IMC);
- Memorandum of Understanding to support activities of IMCs;
- Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank, and
- Terms of Reference for the cooperation with UNIDO-ICS.

The countries were requested to initiate activities on the setting up of the IMC and adequate MOU and TOR for the activities of IMC were distributed. IMCs are expected to coordinate actions and activities directed at the effective preparation of the NAPs, in the spirit of building a consensus at the national level. A small number of countries informed on the existence of similar national body, which may undertake the role of IMC in the preparation of NAPs.

In addition, the Project Management contacted countries regarding the application of socio-economic criteria for the prioritisation of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies, and nomination of candidates for EIA workshops.

The following committees have been established, in accordance with the provisions of the project document:

Inter-Agency Steering Committee

This committee is composed of the implementing and donor agencies. It is chaired by the leading implementing agency (UNEP), in accordance with the agreed procedures for GEF International Waters Projects and includes

representatives from the UNEP GEF Coordination Unit, UNEP/MEDU, UNEP/MED POL, WHO/MED POL, GEF, UNDP, the World Bank, METAP, French GEF (FFEM) and UNIDO-ICS, as well as other potential donors. The first meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee was held in Athens on 8 March 2001. The meeting was informed on the project activities and particularly discussed the issues of the selection of pollution hot spots by the implementation of additional socio-economic criteria and the preparation of pre-investment studies. The report of the first meeting was prepared and disseminated to the participants of the meeting.

Coordination Committee

This committee is composed of the members of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and by nationally nominated coordinators for activities undertaken in the framework of the project. All Mediterranean countries nominated their national GEF coordinators. The Committee met for the first time in Athens on 9 March 2001. The national GEF coordinators were informed on the details of planned activities, particularly on the process for the formulation of National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities. It pointed out the establishment of the close cooperation between the countries and implementing agencies for the success of the project. The report of the first meeting was prepared and disseminated to the participants of the meeting.

Ad-hoc Technical Committee

This committee is composed of representative from MAP/MED POL, WHO/MED POL, the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Plan (METAP) and its partners, GEF, FFEM and UNIDO-ICS. It is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the pre-investment studies. METAP will follow up technically the implementation of these studies, which will be undertaken under the responsibility of the Governments, themselves, with the guidance of the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee. The first meeting of the Committee to select pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies was planned for September 2001, but it was postponed until January 2002, because of the late responses from countries in the receiving of the revised country reports prepared taking into account transboundary effects and socioeconomic criteria.

Donors meeting

The Donors meeting planned for September 2001 is postponed until 2002, because of the delay in the adoption of the priority list of hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies. However, preparatory activities for its organization, such as collection of addresses of institution for the invitation to attend the meeting and preliminary contacts with potential donors and partners were undertaken.

1.2 Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

MAP/ MED POL started preparing the ground for the updating of the TDA report during the biennium 2000-2001 where the 1997 TDA report was reviewed and commented on by a teamwork. It was decided to update the table of contents by including new environmental issues such as mariculture, urban runoff as well as a chapter on prospective impacts of the future socio-economic development in the region. An issue/impacts matrix was also introduced as an innovative technique for scoring and scaling the environmental issues covered by the updated TDA report, in line with the GIWA methodology.

As soon as the GEF project was initiated in January 2001, contacts were established with a selected number of regional experts, who were chosen according to their CVs and experience, to prepare the different chapters of the updated report. One eminent scientist was also selected as an Experts Team Leader with two major duties: a) to coordinate, ensure scientific consistency of, and follow up, the work of the individual experts; b) to assist the secretariat in preparing and editing the final report.

The administrative arrangements related to the preparation of the TORs as well as the contracts were finalized in October 2001. The first draft chapters are expected by the end of February 2002.

1.3 Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

In order to implement the activity related to the pollution hot spots in the Mediterranean and in particular the part related to the pre-investment studies, an expert meeting was organized to examine and finalize appropriate criteria for the prioritization of transboundary pollution hot spots.

The expert's Consultation Meeting was organized by WHO/MED POL in joint collaboration with MAP/MED POL, supported by MAP/GEF, in Athens, Greece from 5-6 April 2001. The meeting was attended by eleven participants, out of which eight were from GEF eligible countries. The meeting formulated the criteria for the prioritisation of the pollution hot spots taking into consideration the potential risk of transboundary effect.

Following the meeting of experts, all Mediterranean countries were consulted, in order to provide their consensus on the criteria to be followed. Only minor remarks were made to the criteria to be used for the selection of priority hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies. These remarks were incorporated into the proposed criteria by the meeting of experts and formed the material that was sent to the GEF eligible countries, asking them to prepare a country report and to also fill in appropriate tables indicating the potential risk of transboundary effect. The same was also followed for the GEF non-eligible countries.

Due to the complexity of the above mentioned work, MAP/GEF, under the technical responsibility of WHO/MED POL, covered financially, the experts from each country, who provided considerable assistance to the whole exercise. It resulted in rather a difficult exercise, which finished at the end of December 2001,

although it started early in June 2001. At the end, eleven GEF eligible countries out of twelve, revised their national reports on pollution hot spots, which were originally compiled in 1997. They have also prepared the indicated tables to show the potential risk of transboundary effect of the pollution hot spots, which at the end were reviewed by the national MED POL Coordinators for approval. As a result, the picture presented the hot spots which reflect the situation in the country, after having being endorsed by the national authorities.

The documents containing the above material were submitted by WHO/MED POL to the GEF Project Manager in order to be used by the *ad-hoc* Technical Committee for the selection of Mediterranean hot spots for pre-investment studies.

Countries were asked by the GEF Project Management to apply socio-economic criteria, prepared by METAP, for the prioritisation of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies. Up until the time the report was written, ten countries submitted their report.

The criteria for the pollution sensitive areas were not considered, as they will be examined at a separate meeting and since the issue doesn't include any follow-up within the GEF Project, it was decided to postpone the activity until 2002.

1.4 Regional cooperative actions

Under regional cooperative actions, MAP/MED POL is in charge of the preparation of the guidelines and the regional plans listed below, which were planned to be prepared in the period September 2001-September 2002:

Guidelines:

development of ecological status and stress reduction indicators
river(including estuaries) pollution monitoring programme

Regional Plans:

- collection and disposal of all PCBs waste
- reduction of input of BOD by 50% by 2005 from industrial sources
- management of hazardous waste
- regional inventory of quantities and uses of nine pesticides and PCBs as well of industries which manufacture or condition them
- establishment of regional pollution monitoring reporting and data quality assurance programme for rivers
- establishment of regional pollution monitoring reporting and data quality assurance programme for marine environment
- collection of information on levels and loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean.

To ensure cost/effectiveness to the work as well as consistency to the information that would be included in the guidelines and regional plans, the following was decided:

- to include the regional inventory for pesticides and PCBs in the regional plan for collection and disposal of PCBs
- to include an inventory for hazardous waste in the regional plan for hazardous waste management
- to consider that the two regional plans on marine pollution monitoring (the last two plans above) have been prepared as part of MED POL Phase III and are being applied under the trend, biological effects and compliance monitoring activities.

Four experts from the region were appointed, chosen according to their CVs and experience, to prepare the related guidelines and regional plans. However, the process of appointing expert(s) for river pollution monitoring, and a regional plan concerning the establishment of regional pollution monitoring reporting and data quality assurance programme for rivers is underway due to problems in the identification of appropriate consultant(s).

According to the contracts signed, the first drafts of the guidelines and regional plans are expected by the end of April 2002.

The activity of WHO/EURO related to the preparation of regional guidelines on the environmental inspection system was launched according to the contents and directions that Contracting Parties agreed upon during their meeting in Catania, Italy, 28-30 March 2001. The draft guidelines are ready and will be reviewed by the countries by the end of 2002, as scheduled.

Concerning the preparation of Guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal, on disposal of urban solid waste, and on industrial wastewater treatment, experts who will assist in this exercise have been identified and preliminary contacts and draft terms of references have been made.

Under this component RAC/CP should elaborate 3 regional guidelines and 1 regional plan:

1. Regional Guidelines for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilisers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture.
2. Regional Guidelines for the application of BATs and BEP in industries
3. Regional Guidelines for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial installations which are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids
4. Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation

The Regional Guidelines for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilisers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture has been initiated, the expert was appointed and the first report on the guideline structure and contents was prepared. The main reason for the delay in the activity is

because it was very difficult to identify and recruit an appropriate consultant that could carry out activities on the preparation of the guidelines. There are few people that know about BEPs in agriculture. The first contacts were made in February 2001 and the agreement with the expert was signed in August 2001. For the preparation of other documents, several contacts have been made in order to find the suitable experts to carry out the work. Some contacts with the IPTS in Seville (which is in charge of formulating the BREF documents that include BATs for the industrial sectors) have been carried out as well as with those recommended experts in some Spanish universities, but up to now the suitable consultants to carry out the activities were not found.

1.5 Capacity building

The regional workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) planned for September 2001 is postponed until May 2002, due to latter signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank, as administrator of METAP. A "train the trainers" workshop at national level for environmental impact assessment planned for October 2001 is postponed until February 2002, due to the same reason.

MAP/MED POL could not implement a regional training course on river pollution monitoring in 2001, because of problems in identifying appropriate consultant(s) to assist the preparation and implementation of the training course.

A regional course to train trainers on the operation and management of municipal wastewater treatment plants (Athens, Greece, 16-20 October 2001), was organized by WHO/MED POL in joint collaboration with MAP/MED POL. Sixteen trainers from fifteen Mediterranean countries attended the course. In their turn, the participants will hold training courses on the subject in their home countries. The regional course consisted of lectures, presentations, discussion, field demonstrations and simulators at the training centre. Participants will use the lecture material during the courses in their countries, after they have been translated into the appropriate languages. The original document prepared in English has been already translated into French and Arabic. WHO/MED POL has also funded the translations into Croatian, Greek and Turkish, which are expected soon.

A national training course on the above subject was scheduled to take place in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at the end of December, but due to unforeseen difficulties it wasn't finally held. In fact, although the Arabic translation of the document is ready, it still needs to be reviewed in order to check the quality of the work performed. All preliminary contacts with members of the Environment General Authority in Libya have already been made, and as soon as the document is ready for use, the course will be held. The same counts for the other national training course.

The regional training course on pollution monitoring and inspection could not be implemented in 2001, as FFEM's contribution was their only source of money. Namely, FFEM would like to follow their own priorities in the capacity building and

the negotiations on their involvement in the capacity building component are still underway.

Under this component RAC/CP has to make the preparation of one regional training course and 3 national training courses on cleaner production techniques and practices. Due to financing problems related to FFEM's contribution, this component should be modified and re-adapted.

1.6 Sustainability of SAP MED

The Regional Activity Center for the Programme of Priority Actions (PAP/RAC) has been entrusted with the implementation of the SAP project component entitled "Sustainability of SAP MED". Within this activity, PAP/RAC is expected to develop, together with its Mediterranean national counterparts, economic instruments for sustainable development of the SAP MED, and to assist in implementing these instruments. PAP/RAC is also expected to assist the Mediterranean countries in the incorporation of economic instruments into the National Action Plans.

The first activity to be undertaken under this project component in the year 2001 was to appoint the National Focal Points for this project. Since the project component requested a specific type of person, with experience in the economic instruments application in a country, particular attention was paid to the selection of a National Focal Point for Economic Instruments (EI NFP). It was intended to engage in this project the persons responsible for the economic instruments application within the national authorities of relevant countries.

At the same time, a Project Implementation Plan was prepared specifying project objectives, needs, results, foreseen activities, workplan, responsibilities, outputs, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the project.

In order to assess the application of economic instruments in the countries of the project, a Questionnaire and accompanied Filling-in Instructions were prepared and distributed to 12 GEF eligible countries of the project. The documents were submitted, in draft form, to the expert team at the meeting which was held on 18-19 May in Split, at the PAP/RAC premises. Approximately 15 international experts in economic instruments in environmental protection together with the representatives of MAP, CP/RAC, EC, UNEP/GPA and PAP/RAC team discussed the details of the project preparation and implementation. The experts also discussed the preparation of pilot projects and capacity building component of the project.

After the meeting contracts on filling-in the questionnaires were made with EI NFPs, and the Questionnaire on the application of economic instruments and the Instructions on how to fill the questionnaire were distributed. The first completed questionnaires were received by mid August, but 3 questionnaires, 2 of which are supposed to arrive soon, are still missing (January 2002).

In October, pilot projects were announced and the Pilot Project Application Form was distributed to the countries. Countries were invited to propose their pilot

projects, and to prepare the draft pilot project application form to be presented and discussed at the Instructive Seminar.

The Draft Analysis of 8 completed questionnaires were prepared in October and discussed at the instructive Seminar, which was held on 9-10 November, at the PAP/RAC premises in Split. Twenty-five participants attended the Seminar, including the National Focal Points for this project, the National GEF Project Co-ordinators, experts in economic instruments from the UK, France, EC and Switzerland, the GEF Project Manager and the PAP/RAC team. Four PAP/RAC experts in economic instruments shared their experience with the participants discussing the problems and obstacles to applying economic instruments in the Mediterranean coastal areas. The successful stories from all around the world enhanced the ideas about the possibilities of introducing economic instruments in the GEF eligible countries. PAP/RAC presented the idea of establishing a virtual data-base on economic instruments used in the Mediterranean countries of this project, on its web site. This idea was more than welcomed by the participants, who stressed that such a form of sharing information, experience and assistance, is exactly what they need.

Eight Pilot Project Application Forms were submitted in December to PAP/RAC, and 4 PAP/RAC experts in economic instruments, together with the PAP/RAC team selected 7 pilot projects to be developed and implemented. The following Pilot Project Proposals were selected:

1. **Albania:** Introduction of the sewage water charges for the protection of the Ionian coast of Albania as part of the Mediterranean
2. **Algeria:** Utilisation des instruments économiques au niveau du sous bassin versant côtier Algérois « Oued El Harrach »
3. **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Implementation of economic instruments for a sustainable operation of wastewater utilities in the Mediterranean region of Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. **Croatia:** Development of economic instruments regarding collection, transport, treatment and disposal of used oils and oily waters from ships in the Adriatic region/ pilot project for the Kvarner bay
5. **Croatia:** Combating the land-based pollution in the coastal sea of the town of Hvar
6. **Egypt:** The use of economic instruments for the integrated coastal lake management in Egypt: a pilot project on lake Burullus
7. **Morocco:** Réhabilitation et restructuration d'une zone industrielle

The Croatian project "Combating the land-based pollution in the coastal sea of the town of Hvar" has been selected as a baseline pilot project.

The report on the Instructive Seminar was prepared in December 2001, and distributed in January 2002.

Problems Encountered and actions taken to solve them

During the implementation of the above mentioned activities several problems were encountered.

1. Slow reaction from the countries is one of the most important difficulties. From some of the countries there is no reaction at all. This sometimes causes delays in our activities. In relation to that, the biggest difficulty, at present, is to publish the Final Analysis of the application of economic instruments in 12 countries of the project, since we are still missing 3 questionnaires.
2. A similar problem was created in organising the Instructive Seminar. Apart from the complicated system of authorising potential participant by relevant authorities, more time is needed for issuing visas prevented some of the invited participants to attend the Seminar in Split.
3. Substantial difficulty encountered, lied in the quality of the existing information on application of economic instruments in the countries.

The actions taken to solve the problem consisted of the following:

1. Dedicating more time to permanent contacts with the NFPs, as well as finding alternative ways to additionally motivate our colleagues to work on this project.
2. Engaging high-quality consultants and striving to have high quality teams in the countries should ensure better results, in terms of quality and time.
3. Efforts are taken to start with the preparation of the workshops and meetings as soon as possible.

The lack of information, and the bad quality of available information is to be tackled by our capacity building and participatory programme activities. In the framework of the participatory programme, PAP/RAC will work on raising public awareness on the advantages of economic instruments. These activities are to be organised for the decision makers, as well as for the private sector, scientific institutions, G and NG organisations, and the general public.

1.7 Public participation

The guidelines for the elaboration of a report-survey on the status of three components of the strategy on Information, Awareness and Public Participation in the East Adriatic countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania) and Turkey, Malta, Cyprus and Israel are prepared under the responsibility of MAP/MEDU. An appropriate consultant was identified and hired under the relevant terms of reference. The consultant is to collect input from national experts and concerned NGOs in each one of the above-mentioned countries.

A publication on the SAP for the wide public is in preparation. The first draft of the text was prepared before the end of 2001. The preparation of the layout for this publication is ongoing and the final print is scheduled for April 2002.

1.8 National Action Plans to address pollution from land based activities (NAPs)

In view of the need for a rapid and effective launching of the process of the preparation of the NAPs, a SAP Operational Plan was prepared by MAP/MED POL and was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their 12th meeting held in Monaco in November 2001. In order to enable the concrete application of the Operational Plan by the countries, a draft "Guidelines for the preparation of the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) and the Baseline Budget (BB) of pre-targeted pollutant releases" were prepared as the first step for the preparation of NAPs.

The Guidelines are prepared following a dynamic approach, which takes into consideration the possible developments of the environmental scientific and technical knowledge that would occur during the implementation of the SAP. The Guidelines describe in detail the methodology to be used by the national authorities to prepare the NDA and consequently to set up the BB for each SAP targeted pollutant. They also propose pollutant emission factors that could be considered at national level in case of lack of the necessary data.

1.9 Development of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO)

The development of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) is outside the terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee, therefore the relevant Progress report and planned activities for 2002 are attached, for information, as Annex I to this report.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2002

2.1 Project Coordination

The communication between the countries and the GEF Project Management in 2002 will be intensified in comparison with 2001 due to planned increased activities within the countries. The first priority will be given to the finalization of the setting up of the Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC) at the national level. IMC are expected to coordinate actions and activities directed at the effective preparation of the National Action Plan, in the spirit of building a consensus at the national level. The assistance for the activities of IMC will be provided under the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) which are already prepared for signature.

The countries will be provided with assistance for a variety of activities at the national level aiming for the preparation of the National Diagnostic Analysis, the sectoral programmes and finally the National Action Plan. Furthermore, the preparation of pre-investment studies for selected hot spots would require a lot of coordination activities during the preparation phase in the selecting and recruiting of national experts, and execution of the pre-investment studies. The assistance for the preparation of the above- mentioned documents will be provided to the countries under the appropriate MOUs, project documents and contracts.

Inter-Agency Steering Committee

The second meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee is planned for 21 March 2002 in Tirana (Albania). The main tasks of the meeting are to evaluate the activities undertaken during 2001 and to decide on the precise modalities for execution and coordination of the activities in 2002.

Coordination Committee

Following the conclusion of the first meeting of the Coordination Committee the second meeting is planned for 22 March 2002 in Tirana (Albania). The main tasks of the meeting are to evaluate the activities undertaken during 2001 and to be briefed on the planned activities and decisions of the Inter-agency Steering Committee regarding the modalities for execution and coordination of the activities in 2002.

Ad-hoc Technical Committee

The first meeting of the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee to select pollution hot spots for the preparation pre-investment studies is planned for 28 and 29 January 2002. The meeting will select and propose to countries the hot spots selected for the preparation of pre-investment studies.

The Committee will be responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the pre-investment studies, while METAP will follow up technically the implementation of these studies and report to the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee.

Donors meeting

Regarding the organization of the Donors meeting, it is not defined when and where to organize it. For the meeting an informative document will be prepared. The document will contain information on hot spots potentially attractive for donation and partnership. However, it will be prepared in close cooperation with the countries and will contain only the hot spots approved by the countries.

2.2 Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

The first draft chapters of TDA are expected to be prepared by the end of February 2002 and final report for the distribution in September. For the TDA updating the GIWA methodology will be applied. The complete timetable for finalizing the updated TDA report is given in the following table.

Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
Preparation of draft chapters by consultants	November 2001-February 2002	MAP/MED POL
Review of the chapters	March 2002 -April 2002	MAP/MED POL
Finalization, of the draft report	May 2002-September 2002	MAP/MED POL
Distribution of the draft report to countries and implementing agencies	October-November 2002	MAP/MED POL
Finalization of the final report and its distribution	December 2002	MAP/MED POL

2.3 Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

The country reports as well as the data and information on the potential risk of transboundary effects, and on the application of socio-economic criteria for the prioritisation of pollution hot spots will be considered by the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee for the Pollution hot spots to be selected for pre-investment studies, at its meeting at the MEDU premises, in Athens, from 28-29 January 2002.

After the priority list of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies is prepared and adopted by the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee, it will be communicated to the counties by mid February. The countries will be required to express their opinion regarding the proposed hot spot(s) in the country for the preparation of pre-investment study and to provide their position either at national or local level regarding the follow-up investment. This would be required in order to avoid the preparation of pre-investment studies for hot spots having high uncertainty for investment. The final priority list of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies will be prepared by the *Ad hoc Technical Committee* after receiving the country's opinion.

Identification missions to the countries will be organized in order to re-validate the selected hot spots, definition of the scope of pre-investment studies and tailoring TORs and studies cost in accordance to the hot spot characteristics and complexity.

For the selected pollution hot spots, pre-investment studies will be prepared by national consultants in the period June 2002 - October 2003. METAP will assist countries to define the scope and objective of the studies, prepare the terms of reference and work plan for the studies, assist countries, when required, for the selection of national consultants to carry out the studies and assist in the contract negotiations, and technically supervise the work carried out by the consultant. METAP will also report to the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee on the progress of work and will clear payment to national consultants based on the satisfactory performance at successive stages of the pre-investment studies preparation. Project documents for the preparation of the selected pre-investment studies will be signed between MAP/GEF and the countries and appropriate funding will be provided.

The meeting to select criteria for the classification of pollution sensitive areas, will be held by WHO/MED POL as planned, probably in November 2002, the venue is yet undecided.

Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Responsibility	Timing
1. Draft List of priority pollution hot spots	<i>Ad hoc</i> Technical Committee	January 2002
2. Approval process of the final list of pollution hot spots	Countries (by Ministries for Finance, Planning and Implementing Agencies)	February - 15 March 2002
3. Selection of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies	<i>Ad hoc</i> Technical Committee	21 March 2002
4. Preparation of Generic TORs by sectors/processes	METAP	15 March 2002
5. Identification field mission in order to: Re-validation of selected hot spots Definition and agreement of scope of PIS Tailoring TORs and costing study	MAP/GEF, FFEM with the assistance of METAP	April - June 2002
6. Review and finalization of TORs with consultant's selection criteria	METAP	May - July 2002
7. Negotiations with countries and signing of relevant Project Document	MAP/GEF and countries	June - December 2002
8. Preparation of Request for Proposal (RFP) and its announcement	Countries according to their national regulations	July - December 2002
9. Release of RFP	Countries according to their national regulations	August 2002 - January 2003
10. Evaluation of technical and financial proposal	Countries according to their national regulations	October 2002 – March 2003
11. Draft Evaluation Report (ER) and its submission to MAP/GEF	Countries according to their national regulations	November 2002 - April 2003
12. Review of ER	MAP/GEF with assistance of METAP if required	December 2002 - May 2003
13. Negotiation on consultant's contract and contract award	Countries after the approval of ER	January- June 2003
14. Consultants mobilization	Countries and consultants	February – July 2003
15. Review of Work plan and Inception Report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM with the assistance of METAP	March - April 2003
16. Review of progress report(s) and draft pre-investment report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM with the assistance of METAP	June - November 2003
17. Review of final report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM countries with the assistance of METAP	April - December 2003
18. Dissemination of report	MAP/GEF, FFEM	September - December 2003
19. Coordination of overall activities	<i>Ad hoc</i> Technical Committee	January 2002 - December 2003
20. Meeting of experts to select criteria for pollution sensitive areas	November 2002	WHO/MED POL

2.4 Regional cooperative actions

For the preparation of regional guidelines for river (including estuaries) pollution monitoring programme and the regional plan concerning the establishment of regional pollution monitoring, reporting and data quality assurance programmes for rivers, which are under MAP/MED POL responsibility, an expert was identified, TORs were prepared and they will be developed by May 2002. The other guidelines and regional plans, which are under MAP/MED POL responsibility and the work of their preparation was initiated in 2001, will be prepared by March 2001.

The following regional guidelines to be developed by WHO/MED POL, are expected to be ready in a draft form before the end of June 2002:

- i) regional guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal,
- ii) regional guidelines on urban solid wastes with particular emphasis on coastal litter and,

- iii) regional guidelines on industrial wastewater.

During the second semester of 2002, the draft guidelines will be reviewed by a small team of experts.

Under the responsibility of RAC/CP the draft of the following regional guidelines and a regional plan will be prepared by the end of 2002:

- i) Regional Guidelines for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilisers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture.
- ii) Regional Guidelines for the application of BATs and BEP in industries
- iii) Regional Guidelines for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial installations which are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids
- iv) Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation

Regional Cooperative Actions – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
1. Regional guidelines on the development of ecological status and stress reduction indicators	March 2002	MAP/MED POL
2. Regional plans concerning: collection and disposal of all PCBs waste reduction of input of BOD by 50% by 2005 from industrial sourcesmanagement of hazardous waste regional inventory of quantities and uses of nine pesticides and PCBs as well of industries which manufacture or condition them	March 2002	MAP/MED POL
3. Recruitment of expert for the preparation of a regional guidelines for river (including estuaries) pollution monitoring programme and regional plan concerning the establishment of regional pollution monitoring, reporting and data quality assurance programmes for rivers	February 2002	MAP/MED POL
4. Preparation of the draft guidelines for river (including estuaries) pollution monitoring programme and regional plan concerning the establishment of regional pollution monitoring, reporting and data quality assurance programmes for rivers	May 2002	MAP/MED POL
5. Preparation of the draft version of regional guidelines on: Sewage treatment and disposal urban solid waste/coastal litter industrial wastewaters	June 2002	WHO/MED POL
6. Review of the above mentioned guidelines and the one on environmental inspection system	December 2002	WHO/MED POL
7. Preparation of the draft version of regional guidelines on: (i)Regional Guidelines for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilisers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture. (ii) Regional Guidelines for the application of BATs and BEP in industries (iii) Regional Guideline for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial installations which are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids	December 2002	RAC/CP
8. Preparation of the draft of Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation	December 2002	RAC/CP

2.5 Capacity building

A regional workshop on EIA is planned in May, while two "train the trainers" workshops, one in English and one in French are planned for February, in the organization of CITET in their promises in Tunis, under the sponsorship of METAP.

Regional guidelines for river (including estuaries) pollution monitoring programme and regional plan concerning the establishment of regional pollution monitoring, reporting and data quality assurance programmes for rivers will be used as background documents at one regional and one national training course on river pollution monitoring.

The regional training course and one national training course, out off the two planned, for rivers, monitoring, under the responsibility of MAP/MED POL, is scheduled for 2002, in September and October, respectively. Bearing in mind FFEM's partial involvement, as was mentioned before, an adequate portion of the unspent balance from the fiscal year 2001 within the GEF Umbrella project will be allocated for this activity.

The regional training course on pollution monitoring and inspection will be held in 2002. The exact days can't be defined yet, as the training material will be ready for use in May. Four national training courses on wastewater treatment plant operation and management, as well as three national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection are scheduled for 2002. As was mentioned above, all unspent balances from fiscal year 2001 within the GEF/WHO Sub-project will be allocated to capacity building, to allow the implementation of the said activities with no or partial contribution from FFEM.

Due to the earlier mentioned financial problems RAC/CP will prepare material and organize one regional training course on cleaner production techniques and practices (Barcelona, Spain). Three planned national training courses will be postponed until the appropriate amount of money is secured.

Capacity building – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
1. Two EIA "training the trainers" workshops	February 2002	METAP
2. Regional EIA workshop	May 2002	METAP
3. Preparation of training material for training course on river pollution monitoring	July 2002	MAP/MED POL
4. Regional training course on river pollution monitoring	October 2002	MAP/MED POL
5. National training course on river pollution monitoring	November 2002	MAP/MED POL
6. Regional "training the trainers" workshop on pollution monitoring and inspection	July 2002	WHO/MED POL
7. Four national training courses on wastewater treatment plant operation and management	December 2002	WHO/MED POL
8. Three national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	December 2002	WHO/MED POL
9. Preparation of training material for the regional training course on cleaner production techniques and practices	January - September 2002	RAC/CP
10. Training course on cleaner production techniques and practices (Barcelona)	September - October 2002	RAC/CP

2.6 Sustainability of SAP MED

By the end of the year 2001, the proposals for the pilot projects to be developed and implemented in 2002 and 2003 were submitted. In January 2002, PAP/RAC revised pilot projects which needed revision. A General Pilot Project Implementation Plan (GPPIP) is to be prepared in January 2002 and to be distributed to the countries. Each pilot project will have an expert in economic instruments working together with the EI NFP and national institutions. In January, they will prepare a Pilot Project Implementation Plan as instructed by the GPPIP. Also, in January, EI NFPs will be requested to identify and contact potentially interested organisations and institutions in each of the 12 countries of the project.

In February, EI NFPs, national institutions and experts in EI will start with the preparation of a Diagnostic Analysis, while PAP/RAC will prepare a framework for the training courses to be held in all 12 countries of the project.

In March, a workshop will be organised in Split, with the aim to discuss the implementation plan for the pilot projects, and the methodology to be implemented in the particular pilot project and the capacity building component of the pilot projects.

In the same month, PAP/RAC will start creating the new WEB page, dedicated to the development of economic instruments in the framework of the SAP MED project (if approved). The TORs and MOUs will be prepared for each country of the pilot project.

In March and April, the elaboration of the implementation procedure and supporting measures for the development and implementation of the baseline pilot project will be done. The results will be presented to the relevant authorities, institutions, organisations and involved stakeholders at the pilot project meeting in April. During April, the comments will be taken into account and, if needed, the instrument will be revised, and criteria and procedure of evaluation of EI efficiency for the baseline pilot project will be elaborated. The 1st stage of the project will be finalised in May, a new instrument (tourist-eco charge) presented to the authorities, institutions, NGOs and local public at the public presentation. The instrument will be implemented from June 2002. During the summer of 2002, the new instruments will be analysed through testing of public opinion (survey). If needed, the instrument will be revised during winter.

Measures for the development and implementation of the additional 6 pilot projects will be elaborated from April, to June 2002. Criteria and the procedure of evaluation of EI efficiency for the additional 6 pilot projects will be elaborated in May and June, and from June the training courses will start. The foreseen period for 12 training courses is up to October 2002. In the countries of the pilot projects, the training courses will be followed by the pilot project meetings, where new instrument(s) will be proposed. The authorities are expected to give their opinion, and if needed, instrument(s) will be revised.

In December, the additional 6 pilot projects will be presented at the public presentation where all interested parties are expected to participate. After presentation, the pilot projects are to be implemented (2003).

Sustainability of SAP MED – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Output	Responsibility
1. Revision of the Pilot Project Proposals	January 2002	Revised pilot project proposals, adopted by the countries	PAP/RAC, EI NFPs
2. Preparation of the General Pilot Project Implementation Plan and the preparatory activities for the workshop	January 2002	General Pilot Project Implementation Plan for development of new or/and adaptation of existing EI	PAP/RAC
3. Dissemination of the General Pilot Project Implementation Plan (GPIP)	January 2002		PAP/RAC
4. Identifying and contacting potentially interested organisations and institutions in 12 countries of the projects	January 2002	List of organisations and institutions, NGOs and experts to be involved in the project, and to participate to the training course	EI NFPs
5. Preparation of the Pilot Project Implementation Plan for 7 Pilot Projects	January 2002 March 2002	Pilot Project Implementation Plan for 7 pilot projects	EI NFPs and N experts PAP/RAC experts
6. Workshop to discuss the methodology for the pilot projects and the Pilot Project Implementation Plans	March 2002	7 Pilot Project Implementation Plans Training materials Workshop Report	EI NFPs PAP/RAC experts
7. Preparation of the web site on EI in the countries of the project	March 2002 – June 2002	Filled in forms for web site Opening of the site	EI NFPs PAP/RAC experts
8. TOR for the pilot projects; 9. Signing country agreements	March 2002	TOR for pilot projects Country agreements	EI NFPs Involved authorities PAP/RAC
10. Preparation of the Diagnostic Analysis for all pilot projects	February 2002 – April 2002	Diagnostic Analysis	EI NFPs and N experts PAP/RAC experts
11. Preparatory activities for the training courses	February 2002 - March 2002	Announcement of the Training Courses Leaflet on economic instruments for decision-makers	EI NFPs and N experts PAP/RAC experts
12. Elaboration of implementation procedure and supporting measures for the baseline pilot project	March 2002 – April 2002	Report on Procedure of and measures for development and implementation of economic instrument(s) for combating land-based pollution	EI NFP and N experts PAP/RAC experts
13. Pilot project meeting to discuss identification, development and implementation of EI for the baseline pilot project	April 2002	Pilot project meeting Report	EI NFP and N experts Involved authorities Involved institutions NGOs PAP/RAC experts
14. Relevant authorities response, and revision of the measures for the baseline pilot project, if needed	April 2002- May 2002		Involved authorities EI NFP and N experts PAP/RAC experts
15. Definition of criteria and procedure of evaluation of EI efficiency for the baseline pilot project	April 2002	Report on procedure of evaluation of efficiency of implemented economic instrument(s) for combating land-based pollution	EI NFP and N experts PAP/RAC experts
16. Elaboration of implementation procedure and supporting measures for 6 additional pilot projects	April 2002 – June 2002	Reports on Procedure of and measures for development and implementation of economic instrument(s) for combating land-based pollution	EI NFPs and N experts PAP/RAC experts

17. Public presentation of the baseline pilot project	May 2002	Presentation materials	EI NFP and N experts Involved authorities Involved institutions NGOs PAP/RAC experts
18. Definition of criteria and procedure of evaluation of EI efficiency for 6 additional pilot projects	May 2002 – June 2002	Reports on procedure of evaluation of efficiency of implemented economic instrument(s) for combating land-based pollution	EI NFPs and N experts PAP/RAC experts
19. Twelve Training courses	June 2002 – October 2002	Training materials Trained National experts Training courses Reports	EI NFPs and N experts Involved authorities Involved institutions NGOs PAP/RAC experts
20. Six National expert meetings to discuss identification, development and implementation of EI for 6 additional pilot projects	June 2002 – October 2002	6 National Expert meeting Reports	EI NFPs and N experts Involved authorities Involved institutions NGOs PAP/RAC experts
21. Implementation of the baseline pilot project	June 2002 – (September 2003)	Progress Report Implemented economic instrument(s) to combat land-based pollution	Involved authorities EI NFP and N experts Involved institutions NGOs PAP/RAC experts
22. Relevant authorities response, and revision of the measures for the 6 pilot projects, if needed	July 2002- November 2002		Involved authorities EI NFP and N experts PAP/RAC experts
23. Public presentation of the 6 additional pilot project studies	December 2002	Presentation materials	EI NFPs and N experts Involved authorities Involved institutions NGOs PAP/RAC experts

Recommendations

The following innovative elements are recommend to be included in the project:

Introduction of a “participatory programme”

In the framework of this activity the public involvement in the project should be encouraged. To that end, several new initiatives should be introduced, as follows:

- ❖ assessment and contacting of all potentially interested institutions, organisations, the private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders;
- ❖ pilot project meeting (of all above mentioned subjects);
- ❖ public presentation of the newly developed or adapted economic instrument(s);
- ❖ preparation and distribution of a leaflet on the advantages of economic instruments directed primarily towards decision-makers, but also to be distributed to the private sector, national institutions, organisations, NGOs and other interested subjects (in national language, if possible);
- ❖ establishment of a WEB site on economic instruments (described below)

Establishment of a web site of the SAP MED project on economic instruments in the framework of the PAP/RAC web site.

In this way a data-base on economic instruments would be established in the countries of the project. It is believed that there is a great need for this initiative, and our idea is strongly supported by the countries. At the seminar in Split, the representatives of the countries supported this idea and emphasised a huge gap in networking and a vast lack of information in this field. A network of experts, which we have established in the countries, should be encouraged to initiate the new, and enforce the existing cooperation among the environmental economists in the Mediterranean countries.

Enforcement of capacity building component

This component should be enforced, because it was noticed from the completed questionnaires, that there is a great need for capacity building in all countries of the project. Therefore, it is recommended to organise a short training courses in all 12 GEF eligible countries. The representatives of all subjects mentioned under the 1st activity would be invited to such courses.

It is believed that all the above-mentioned proposals would have a strong effect on the level of success of our project. Economic instruments can be effective only if accepted by the population, industry and authorities. Polluters and beneficiaries of the use of economic instruments should be informed, and their awareness of the problem should be improved. This is one of the key components for the success of our project.

2.7 Public participation

The draft report-survey on the status of three components of the strategy on Information, Awareness and Public Participation in the East Adriatic countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania) and Turkey, Malta, Cyprus and Israel will be submitted by the consultant for its review and final drafting for a workshop. The MAP/MEDU workshop is planned for April 2002 in Split, with the participation of experts from the countries involved. The outcome of the workshop, a report and a set of recommendations, will represent the sub-regional component of the Mediterranean Strategy.

The outcome of the meeting will be merged with the existing sub-regional component referred to the Arabic countries in the region, leading to the final proposal of the Mediterranean Strategy on Information, Awareness and Public Participation. This will take place through two main activities: a meeting to harmonise the two sub-regional components; and a meeting to review their merging into one regional strategy.

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
1. First draft	February 2002	MAP/MEDU
2. Final draft	March 2002	MAP/MEDU
3. Workshop in Split	April 2002	MAP/MEDU
4. Meeting to harmonize two sub-regional component	June 2002	MAP/MEDU
5. Meeting to prepare regional strategy	December 2002	MAP/MEDU

2.8 National Action Plans (NAPs)

As a result of the finalization and dissemination of the Guidelines for the preparation of the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA), which should include the development of Baseline Budget (BB) for sub-targeted pollutants, by March 2002, it is expected that countries would start, as soon as possible, the implementation the methodology described in the guidelines. This challenging national activities could be confronted to some difficulties related to specific national and local conditions. Thus, it is planned to call the national experts who are actively involved in this process for small follow up meetings at the sub-regional/country levels to review, case by case, the achievements and bottlenecks being faced during the preparation of the NDA. The meetings are scheduled starting from May 2002. Countries would be able to receive the technical assistance for the implementation of this activity, when necessary.

The formulation of the Sectoral plans and NAPs can be considered as the final output of all the activities of the GEF project and as part of the ultimate implementation of the SAP. It is therefore planned to prepare Guidelines for the preparation of the NAPs and Sectoral plans that would complement the NDA Guidelines. The Guidelines is planned to be ready by the end of May 2002. Additional support document and guidelines are planned to be prepared as support to the overall activities to prepare the NAPs and the Sectoral plans. These documents and guidelines are as follows:

- ❖ Assessment of the national institutions set up by selected Mediterranean countries to assist the industrial and municipal sectors in their environmental activities. The assessment would focus on Tunisia, Morocco, France, Spain and Turkey experiences
- ❖ Guidelines for tracking BB for sub-targeted pollutants for industries
- ❖ Guidelines for the compliance under the provision of the SAP operational strategy.

National Action Plans (NAPs) – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
1. Finalization and dissemination of Guidelines for the preparation of NDA, including BB	December - March 2002	MAP/MED POL
2. Preparation of NDA, including BB	April -September 2002	Countries with MAP/GEF assistance
3. Sub-regional meetings of national experts preparing NDA	May-September 2002	MAP/MED POL
4. Preparation and dissemination of Guidelines for the preparation of NAPs, which includes preparation of Sectoral plans	May 2002	MAP/MED POL
5. Preparation of Sectoral plans	June-October 2002	Countries with MAP/GEF assistance
6. Preparation of NAPs	November 2002- June 2003	Countries with MAP/GEF assistance
7. Preparation of supporting documents and guidelines	March-May 2002	MAP/MED POL

ANNEX I

DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (SAP BIO) (INFORMATIVE ONLY)

1. PROGRESS REPORT (1 January - 31 December 2001)

The activities foreseen in the project work plan for the year 2001 have been completed as they were planned. The activities can be subdivided as follow: meetings (UNEP convened meetings and minor meetings) missions (Staff missions and international consultants missions), national processes, regional processes.

Meetings

The following meetings were organised in the year 2001:

First Meeting of the Advisory Committee (UNEP convened meeting)

The first Meeting (Tunis, 22-23 February 2001) was asked to: (i) define in detail the role of the organizations involved and the expected outputs; (ii) discuss the profile and role of the National Correspondents; (iii) establish coordination mechanisms; and (iv) prepare guidelines for the outline of the SAP BIO and for the National Reports. Moreover a series of recommendations concerning approaches, the Advisory Committee, the national Correspondents, the SAP BIO content and the national reports have been produced and annexed to the final report.

The following organisations attended the meeting:

WWF-International, Mediterranean Programme,

IUCN-Mediterranean Programme,

The MedWet Initiative, under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971),

FAO,

Council of Europe (Secretariat of the Bern Convention),

ALECSO (Arab League),

Interim Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS).

COPE MED and ADRIA MED confirmed their interest at being represented on the Advisory Committee. However, due to previous commitments; their representatives were unable to attend the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee. In addition, the Co-ordinating Unit of MAP was represented. RAC/SPA acted as the secretariat of the Meeting.

Meeting to finalise the draft guidelines for national reports and the draft guidelines for SAP BIO document (Tunis 11 - 12 May 2001)

A two-day-meeting was organised in Tunis with two consultants to finalise the draft guidelines for national reports and the draft guidelines for SAP BIO document. A discussion on both documents and division of tasks between the two consultants was made. Following the meeting both documents are being finalised by the consultants under the supervision of RAC/SPA.

First Meeting of the National Correspondents (UNEP convened meeting)

This First Meeting of National Correspondents (Alicante, 2-4 July 2001) was asked to: (i) finalize an outline for the SAP BIO; (ii) define terms for preparing the National Reports (guidelines, responsibilities, format, schedule, etc); and (iii) define the role on National Correspondents. Seventeen countries and eight organisations (ADRIAMED, COPEMED, FAO, MedWet, MIO-ECSDE, the ACCOBAMS Interim Secretariat, SHORELINE, Alicante University) and UNEP/MEDU attended the meeting. The following working documents were been presented, discussed, and approved during the meeting:

"Guidelines for National Correspondents of SAP BIO project",
"Guidelines for the preparation of national reports", and
"Guidelines for national correspondents of SAP BIO project".

The following documents were distributed as information documents;

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/Inf.3: Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of biological diversity in the Mediterranean Region

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.191/Inf.4: Draft inventory of activities and outputs developed in the Mediterranean region, dealing with SAP BIO project

Ecosystem effects of fishing in the Mediterranean - An analysis of the major threats of fishing gear and practices to biodiversity and marine habitats

Legal analysis of the measures provided for by Mediterranean coastal states to minimise the impact of fishing activities on marine ecosystems and threatened and non-target species.

An individual discussion with each national correspondent concerning the work plan and the calendar for the implementation of the national process of SAP BIO project in his country has been carried out. This "*vis à vis*" discussion constituted an opportunity of analysing, country by country, the sheet for the implementation of the project, prepared by each correspondent before the meeting, and deciding the first steps for the implementation of the national processes.

During the meeting, in order to satisfy the requests of the countries, a shift of three months (from July 2001 to October 2001) of the deadline for the recruitment of national consultants in charge of preparing the national reports was decided.

Coordinating Meeting of International Consultants for the supervision of National Process of SAP BIO Project (Tunis 3-4 September 2001)

Four international consultants were recruited to give assistance and technical/scientific advice to the National Correspondents and the National Consultants for the preparation of National Reports. Each international consultant supervises the process for the preparation of the National Report and of the National Action Plans in two or three countries.

A coordinating meeting to present the project to the international consultants and to discuss their role and the methods of implementation of the project was held.

Meeting on the use of the GIS on the SAP BIO project (Tunis, 26 -27 October 2001)

The national reports should be supported, as appropriate, by maps, as discussed during the first meeting of national correspondents. It is hoped that the annexed maps are made using the GIS (Geographical Information System).

In order to establish the methodology and the means to produce these GIS outputs, a two day meeting with a company operating in the field of the use of environmental GIS tools was held. Following the meeting a sub set of GIS data, which will be the starting point for the preparation of the GIS maps and a questionnaire to collect information for updating maps, was finalised for each country.

Missions

Six missions of the RAC/SPA staff were undertaken in order to participate in various meetings organized by RAC/SPA or collaborative institutions. In addition, four mission of international consultants in charge of following the national process were organized in order to support the implementation of the SAP BIO Project in countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Lebanon and Turkey) and in particular to assess and elaborate, in consultation with the national correspondent, a work plan for future actions and activities in relation to the preparation of the national report and to meet the member of the National Steering Committee and the national consultants in charge of preparing the national report.

Activities at national level

At national level during 2001 it was foreseen the launching of a series of activities aimed at producing the national reports in each country (by July 2002).

Identifying and Recruiting of national consultants

National consultants were identified by national correspondents and recruited by RAC/SPA. In each country one principal consultant in charge of preparing the report and one or more consultants in charge of giving inputs to the report were recruited. In total, 31 contracts with national consultants and 3 memorandums of understanding with organisations have been established in order to prepare the national reports.

Setting up of National Steering Committees

In order to supervise the process of developing the SAP BIO at national level and give the necessary support to the national consultants, 14 countries decided to set up SAP BIO's National Steering Committees (or the use of the existing one). The features of these committees are not standardised but adapted to the situation of each country (some countries utilise existing committees developed in the framework of the CBD or Natura 2000).

National consultation processes

Meetings of co-ordination with focal points or representatives of other organisations and projects were held by the majority of countries.

National meetings for the presentation and improvement of the first draft national report and to achieve the larger consensus on the report will be organised from February 2002. The first exchange of correspondences with five countries for the setting up of MOUs with RAC/SPA for the organisation of these meetings has already taken place.

Preparing the National Reports

Seventeen countries are preparing the draft of the national report. A first version of this draft is foreseen by the end of January 2002. To carry out this activity, countries are assisted directly by RAC/SPA or through the four international consultants recruited by RAC/SPA. Two countries will prepare a different national contribution to the SAP (a document which collects the main national experience that can give inputs to the Mediterranean strategy for biodiversity). With one country contacts are ongoing to define its contribution to the SAP.

Frequent exchange of information and contacts (telephone, fax, e-mail) between RAC/SPA and the National Correspondents has been established during the first phases of the preparation of the national report. In addition to the "Guidelines for the preparation of national report" discussed and approved during the first meeting on national correspondents, a series of minor outputs have been produced by RAC/SPA to assist countries in the implementation of this activity (TOR for national consultants, "Additional page to the guidelines for the preparation of national reports", which give common interpretation to some tables present in the document, "the conservation of marine and coastal birds in the national reports" which present some useful elements and suggestions concerning the inclusion of marine and coastal avifauna in the national report.).

Activities at regional level

A series of documents at regional level are foreseen, some of these regional outputs are expected to integrate data and information emerging from the national processes, while others are expected to provide input to those processes. In this framework an MOU has been established with FAO aimed at producing technical documents and guidelines aimed at facilitating the national processes for the elaboration of strategic action plans to face the impact of fishing activities on biological diversity.

The first three documents were finalised during the year 2001.

Ecosystem effects of fishing in the Mediterranean - An analysis of the major threats of fishing gear and practices to biodiversity and marine habitats The objective of the study is to assess the impact on threatened species and habitats of regional significance rather than on targeted species

Legal analysis of the measures provided by Mediterranean coastal states to minimise the impact of fishing activities on marine ecosystems and threatened and non-target species. The analysis includes recommendations to have management regulations extended to ensure also conservation of species associated with or dependent upon the target species.

Guidelines for the elaboration of national action plans for the control of fishing practices and gear which is harmful to threatened species and habitats, and for the reduction of ecosystem alteration resulting from fishing pressure.

The lack of scientific knowledge in the marine and coastal biodiversity is expected to be one of the major issues the national reports will highlight. Therefore it would be appropriate to elaborate a regional analysis on this issue. In view of preparing this document a questionnaire aimed at identifying the gaps in scientific knowledge has been prepared and distributed among about a hundred Mediterranean scientists concerned about marine and coastal biodiversity. The completed questionnaires will be the main inputs to the document.

A contract has been established with a consultant in charge of preparing the "Guidelines for the elaboration of action plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds". The document will be finalised by January 2002.

Problems encountered and actions taken to solve them

No major problems were encountered during the first years in project implementation.

- Two countries didn't attend the first meeting of national correspondents, other countries changed their national correspondents when the national process were ongoing. Remedial meetings, with absentees and new national correspondents, were made (often exploiting travels of RAC/SPA staff, or presence of the correspondent in Tunis, for other meetings)

- During the first meeting of national correspondents, the national correspondent of one country was not yet appointed. Once she was appointed, she was invited to attend a remedial meeting in Tunis (14 November 2001). During the meeting all the necessary information for the implementation of the national processes and the participation of the country in the SAP BIO project were discussed.

- During the first meeting of National correspondents (Alicante 2-4 July 2001) a shift of three months (from July 2001 to October 2001) of the deadline for the recruitment of national consultants in charge of preparing the national reports was decided.

In any case the final deadlines for the presentation of the draft national reports (March 2002) and the final version (July 2002) will be respected.

- The shifting by one month (May instead of April) of the second Advisory Committee is necessary because of an overlapping of meetings during the month of April.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2002

The activities at the national levels as far as the regional reports should be finalised during 2002. Moreover the first draft of the SAP BIO document is expected by the end of the year (November 2002).

In order to attain these objectives the following main activities are foreseen during 2002.

Development of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) – Work plan and Timetable

ACTIVITY	TIMING
<p>Activity at national level: finalisation of national reports and preparation of national action plans addressing specific biodiversity issues</p> <p>When the draft national reports are finalised (March 2002), in each country, one or more national meetings, with the involvement of all the concerned actors will be organised, to achieve a larger consensus on the report and to improve it. Taking into account the National Consultation process, the guidance from the National Correspondent and from RAC/SPA, national consultants will finalise the national report.</p> <p>Some of the actions identified in the national report should be amplified on National Action Plans. A consultation process will be organised to identify these actions. Workshops at national and sub-regional level on specific biodiversity issues to give elements for the preparation of national action plans could be organised.</p> <p>Consultants will be recruited to prepare the national action plans.</p>	<p>Feb. 2002 July 2002</p>
<p>Preparation of regional reports</p> <p>The following two outputs are expected by FAO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft regional (Mediterranean) strategy to reduce the impact of fishing activities on sensitive habitat and species. The draft will be prepared by compilation of the national action plans prepared according to the above mentioned guidelines - Report on the introduction in the Mediterranean of marine and brackish water species for aquaculture purposes. The report will include (i) inventory of the non-indigenous species imported and cases of indirect introduction of species transported along with the aquaculture species; (ii) impact assessment of the recorded introduction of species by aquaculture activities and (iii) recommendations on how to control negative impact on biodiversity in the Mediterranean of new introductions of species for aquaculture purposes. <p>Moreover, the recruitment of international consultants in charge of preparing documents on some important issues (i.e. Biological diversity indicators, Ecosystem approach, alien species, etc) is foreseen.</p>	<p>Jan. 2002 - July 2002</p>
<p>Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee</p> <p>The meeting will discuss and adopt guidelines for preparing the SAP BIO priority National Action Plans (NAPs) and a detailed outline for preparing the SAP BIO document. Furthermore, it will make recommendations related to the finalizing of National Reports.</p>	<p>May 2002</p>
<p>Elaboration of the draft SAP BIO</p> <p>Taking into account the document "General outline for the preparation of SAP BIO document" and the recommendations of the second Advisory Committee, a team of consultants will prepare the draft SAP BIO</p>	<p>May 2002 - November 2002</p>