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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 GEF Coordination Committee

Tirana, 22 March 2002

**REPORT
OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

Introduction and participants

1. The Second Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the GEF Project "Determination of Priority Actions for further Elaboration and Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" was convened at the Tirana International Hotel, Tirana, Albania, on Friday 22 March, 2002.
2. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. The Meeting was opened by H.E. Mr Lufter Xhuveli at 10.00 am, Minister of the Environment of Albania, who welcomed the participants to Tirana. He noted that the establishment of the Ministry of the Environment in his country seven months ago was an indication of Albania's commitment in the field of the environment. Government policy in this respect was designed to strengthen institutional capacities, improve the legal framework and its enforcement, strengthen action to prevent and mitigate environmental problems and promote the participation of the public and the business community in sustainable environmental management, all within the context of creating the conditions for his country's gradual integration into the European Union. The implementation of many environmental studies and projects had begun in Albania. The role of environmental NGOs was growing steadily and the media were giving increased attention to environmental issues. The Mediterranean Action Plan constituted an important element in the regional cooperation strategy of his country in this field, and the organization of the present Meeting in Tirana demonstrated its increased interest and commitment to a more active role and participation in regional cooperation processes. He recalled that Albania had ratified the new text of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and that the instrument of ratification had been handed over to the depositary country. Finally, he said that the Ministry of the Environment had identified the formulation of a national action plan to address land-based pollution as one of the tasks of the recently approved National Environmental Action Plan. Preparations were also under way for the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to assist and lead the implementation of the various activities.

4. Mr Francesco-Saverio Civili (MED POL Coordinator), welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr. L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator. He commended the progress made by Albania in the field of the environment over the past two years and hoped that MAP would be able to provide effective assistance to the country in the efforts that were being made in this field. After giving thanks to the Albanian authorities for hosting the Meeting, he recalled that, following a long period of assessing the situation with regard to pollution in the Mediterranean, MAP was now moving towards a phase of providing more active assistance to countries to help them take practical measures to control and reduce pollution. The identification of action to reduce land-based pollution as an important priority in the region was of great importance to the Mediterranean Basin as a whole. He welcomed the action taken by Albania to establish an Inter-Ministerial Committee and a National Action Plan and hoped that Albania's cooperation with MAP would be further strengthened in future years.

5. Mr Vladimir Mamaev (UNEP Division of GEF Coordination), speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr Klaus Töpfer, thanked Albania for hosting the

Meeting and welcomed its commitment to addressing environmental problems. He recalled that the GEF Project was of great importance for the region as a whole.

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

6. The Meeting adopted the agenda contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.200/1. The Agenda of the Meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

7. The Meeting elected its Officers as follows:

Chairperson:	Ms Tatjana Hema	(Albania)
Vice-Chairperson:	Ms Reem Abed Rabboh	(Syrian Arab Republic)
Rapporteur:	Mr Asim Açikel	(Turkey)

Agenda items 4 and 5: Progress report and discussion on the activities carried out in 2001 and briefing and discussion on the activities planned for 2002

8. 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.200/2), attached as Annex III to this report, as revised by the Second Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee. Agenda item 6 (Actions needed at the national and regional levels for the smoother implementation of the project) was also covered during this discussion.

Project coordination

9. Mr Ante Baric (GEF Project Manager) recalled that he had taken over as Project Manager after his appointment at the end of June 2001. He reviewed the documents, terms of reference and memoranda of understanding that had been prepared by the project management. He described the contacts that had been made with the GEF eligible countries with a view to initiating project activities, and particularly with a view to the establishment of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMCs). Finally, he recalled the meetings that had been held and were planned in the context of the GEF Project. In this respect, he noted that the proposed donors meeting had been put back due to the delay in receiving country reports and consequently in finalizing the process of selecting the hot spots to be covered by pre-investment studies. He emphasized that the donors meeting would have to be very well prepared if it were to be successful.

10. Mr Civili, reporting on the deliberations of the second meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee, held in Tirana the previous day, indicated that the Steering Committee had looked carefully at both the positive and negative elements related to the first phase of the implementation of the GEF Project. This needed to be done carefully at the beginning of the Project in order to avoid problems at a later stage. The Steering Committee had recognized the importance of the Project for the Mediterranean and had acknowledged that it was both ambitious and complex, requiring a high level of commitment and effort from the countries in order to achieve the Project's principal objectives of developing National Action Plans (NAPs) and pre-investment studies for the selected hot spots within a three-year period ending in December 2003. The project management had experienced some delays, particularly in the appointment of its Project Manager, but these were in general being successfully overcome. Some slowness had also been noted in the responses of countries. While it was recognized that there was a

high level of commitment and understanding of the issues at stake at the country level, the tremendous efforts required from Ministries of the Environment to undertake such a complex task needed to be taken fully into account. Any problems at this level should be examined carefully with a view to finding a solution. While the main responsibility for project implementation at the national level lay with the respective Governments and Ministries of the Environment, an assessment could be made for each country of the assistance which could be provided, particularly to help in the development of NAPs and pre-investment studies and in the establishment of IMCs. With regard to the IMCs, he also emphasized the need for them to include representatives of ministries covering such areas as the economy, industry, public works and tourism.

11. Ms Rabboh (Syrian Arab Republic) informed the Meeting that some delays had been experienced in her country in the establishment of an IMC. She proposed that a mission be sent from MAP/GEF to clarify the purpose and objectives of the IMC. Such a mission would be able to emphasize the importance of an IMC and might succeed in obtaining the necessary commitment for its establishment.

12. Dr Mostafa Fouda (Egypt) agreed with the above proposal. He said that a body such as the proposed IMC already existed in his country, but was not fully functional. It would therefore be beneficial if a MAP/GEF mission visited his country and discussed the issue. He emphasized that Ministries of the Environment and environmental agencies were in their early stages in many Mediterranean countries. They were very overworked and even attending a meeting such as the present one placed a heavy burden on the available resources. The lack of infrastructure for environmental matters undoubtedly explained in large part the delay experienced in receiving country responses. It would therefore be valuable if the human resources working on the Project could be strengthened. He noted in this respect that GEF already had a representative in almost all the countries covered by the project, who greatly facilitated the expedient implementation of all GEF-related activities at the national level.

13. Ms Mastrovic (Croatia) also emphasized the lack of human resources in her country to deal with environmental issues, particularly in view of the heavy workload imposed by such events as the World Summit for Sustainable Development. She added that, although an IMC had not been established in Croatia, a Parliamentary Committee existed which could be used for this purpose. Various committees already existed for environmental issues, including the SAP and the SAP BIO, and it was therefore necessary to avoid a multiplicity of such bodies. She agreed that a visit by a MAP/GEF mission could help to speed up the response by her country.

14. Mr Nader (Lebanon) concurred that the delays in meeting deadlines for the submission of reports and the establishment of IMCs were mainly due to the heavy workload in Ministries of the Environment, particularly in view of the multiplicity of regional and international environmental conventions. This made it particularly difficult to dedicate the time required to obtain the necessary background data from the variety of data sources in the country.

15. Mr Haraoui (Tunisia) agreed with previous speakers concerning the shortage of human resources in environmental ministries. One solution which had proven successful in this respect was the administrative assistance provided at the national level within the context of the Montreal Convention. He added that further delays would be experienced if the IMCs included representatives of more ministries.

16. Mr Kupusovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) also emphasized the importance of good national coordination for the implementation of the GEF Project. In this respect, he noted that the European Union and other donors had provided his country with a great deal of support with a view to strengthening its institutions. He added that a number of environmental laws were due to be adopted in his country over the coming months, after which it would be possible to complete the process of the ratification of the protocols to the Barcelona Convention.

17. Ms Hema (Albania) said that many countries were experiencing problems in establishing IMCs, particularly since not all of the concerned ministries were interested in participating in such committees. However, she reported on some positive developments in her own country in this respect. The creation of an IMC had now been proposed, which would include the ministries of the public economy, finance and transport. It was also hoped that it would involve representatives of local authorities. Although the countries were undoubtedly committed to the implementation of the Project, she agreed that it would be very useful if contracts could be drawn up specifying the assistance that could be provided to them, the details of which should be adapted to the needs of each country. A visit from a MAP/GEF mission would also be useful in building up momentum at the national level.

18. Mr Baric noted that delays had occurred in country responses even though the Project had not yet entered the phase at which a high volume of input would be required at the country level. The most important task that countries had been requested to undertake up to now had been to update their reports on national pollution hot spots. Future activities, and particularly the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) and pre-investment studies for hot spots would require much more work. It was therefore important for the countries to provide the project management with an indication of the support that would be needed for the various tasks. He added that, before the final selection of hot spots was made, exploratory missions would be organized at the country level to meet the persons responsible for action in relation to the proposed hot spots, and for the follow up investment which would follow the preparation of pre-investment studies. These would provide a basis for developing terms of reference setting out the financial and other assistance to be provided to help in the development of the pre-investment studies.

19. In the discussion of the form that could be taken by the assistance to be provided under the Project for its coordination at the national level, several speakers indicated that a full-time dedicated person would be very useful, although it would be difficult to identify the right person to carry out this work. However, it was recognized that the funds that could be made available for this purpose would not cover a full-time person for the whole duration of the Project. It was therefore agreed that each country would make a specific proposal to the project management concerning the assistance that was required on a part-time basis to help the National Coordinators, and which would be under their control. While it might be possible to fix upper limits for the resources that could be made available for this purpose, the actual assistance provided would depend on the needs identified for each country.

20. Mr Mamaev emphasized that the success of the Project depended on this mechanism working efficiently in supporting the National Coordinators, to help take some of the heavy load of project coordination off them and improve response times.

However, he recalled that the Project was based on the principle of co-financing. While the project management was offering countries assistance for project coordination, Governments also needed to make their contributions to its implementation. The assistance on offer could not, for example, be used to cover the payment of full salaries for public officials.

Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

21. Mr Civili recalled that a first Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) had been prepared in 1997. The updating of the TDA had been included in the GEF Project as an important step in assessing pollution in the Mediterranean. In the updated version of the TDA, all the chapters were being redrafted and three new subjects were being included, namely mariculture, urban run-off and the prospective impacts of future socio-economic development in the region. An issue/impacts matrix was also being introduced as a technique for scoring and scaling environmental issues. Throughout the TDA, use was being made of the latest methodology developed by the GEF Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) project. A project leader had been recruited for the updating of the TDA, first drafts had been prepared for many of the chapters and the process was on schedule. Once the available data and draft chapters had been reviewed, they would be sent to the countries and executing agencies for their comments.

Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

22. Mr George Kamizoulis (WHO/EURO Senior Scientist) recalled that it had been considered necessary to update the list of pollution hot spots compiled on the basis of the country reports submitted in 1997, taking into account the potential transboundary effects. With assistance from experts, updated reports on hot spots had been received from eleven GEF-eligible and three other countries. It was to be hoped that updated reports would be received from all countries with a view to the selection of hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies. He added that a meeting concerning pollution sensitive areas, for which no follow-up is planned under the GEF project, would be initiated towards the end of 2002.

23. Mr Baric emphasized that the selection of hot spots for pre-investment studies was one of the most important aspects of the GEF Project. It was of particular importance that, once the pre-investment studies were made, the selected hot spots should be considered as sites on which action would be taken to concretely reduce pollution. It was therefore planned to organize expert missions to visit all the selected hot spots in May and June 2002, as a basis for the preparation and negotiation with the countries of the respective project documents.

24. Mr Jaafar Friaa (METAP Consultant) recalled that METAP had prepared and sent out guidance on the integration of socio-economic aspects in the process of selecting hot spots. The countries had been requested to supply information as a basis for assessing the impact that the proposed investments could have in such areas as improving the quality of life and health of the affected populations, and for measuring the integrated cost of the various remedies proposed. While the quality of the data provided had been somewhat variable, awareness appeared to be growing of the importance of taking such socio-economic criteria into account. He added that it was of the utmost importance for the success of the Project that the pre-investment studies contained all the elements and data required to seek funding from donors and countries. The missions

sent to countries once the hot spots had finally been selected should therefore reconfirm the technical and other data to provide a firm basis for the respective terms of reference. The missions should also identify the principal partners who would be involved in action related to the hot spots. METAP had established generic terms of reference which were designed to help in this respect through their adaptation to the local situation. Countries are responsible for the whole tendering procedure including the preparation and issuing of RFP, Consultants' offers evaluation, selection of consultant and signature of consultant's contract. Mr. Friaa has also explained that the Composition and qualification of the PI study team (national and/or international expertise) will be included in the relevant Terms of References. These ToRs will be drafted by a hired consultant based on the above generic ones and discussed with concerned national institutions during the planned country missions. Furthermore, METAP will assist countries in reviewing consultants' selection criteria and supervising all consultants' reports. It was also mentioned that any country request for METAP assistance should be done through the project Coordinating Unit.

25. Mr Kamizoulis added that countries would of course be free to submit hot spots other than those selected within the framework of the GEF Project for funding by donors. The purpose of carrying out the pre-investment and pre-feasibility studies was to facilitate the process of finding donors and raising the necessary resources for the action that was needed.

26. Mr Baric indicated that FFEM was intending to provide financial and technical assistance to four countries, namely Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, in the process of preparing pre-investments studies and project documents. FFEM-sponsored expert missions had already visited Algeria and Tunisia for this purpose. Another would be visiting Morocco shortly and arrangements still had to be finalized concerning the mission to Lebanon. ICS-UNIDO was also a partner in this respect and was providing donor support for the hot spot selected in Croatia.

Regional cooperative actions

27. Mr Civili reviewed the progress in developing guidelines and regional plans under this component of the GEF Project. He indicated that in the case of PCBs and hazardous waste, in particular, the work involved had consisted of the rationalization of the many existing documents into one plan. He added that the work on river pollution monitoring had been delayed, due to difficulties in identifying a regional expert on the subject. However, the delay should be made up soon. CP/RAC had also experienced difficulties in identifying the necessary experts for the preparation of regional guidelines on BEPs and BATs. Despite these delays, this work was now in progress.

28. Mr Kamizoulis reported that regional guidelines were being prepared on the pollution inspection system. Once these had been circulated for comments, it was planned to hold a meeting in 2003 to review them. Work had also started on regional guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal, the disposal of solid urban waste and wastewater treatment. These guidelines would also be circulated for comments and reviewed in meetings in 2003. Once the regional guidelines had been finalized, it would be possible for MAP to provide assistance to countries to adapt them to their national context.

Capacity building

29. Mr Friaa reported on the holding of the delayed workshops for trainers on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), one for English-speaking and another for French-speaking experts, both of which had taken place in Tunisia. A regional EIA workshop was planned for May and it was hoped that it would be attended by several high-level international experts. He welcomed statements from several speakers that the workshops had been of a high standard and that it was planned to use the materials provided for capacity-building activities at the national level.

30. Ms Rabboh regretted that the experts nominated by the Syrian Arab Republic to attend the EIA workshop for French-speaking trainers had not been accepted on linguistic grounds, despite the efforts made by Mr Baric in this respect. She emphasized that it was for national governments to verify the linguistic abilities of their nominees.

31. Mr Civili indicated that it had not been possible to hold the planned regional training course on river pollution monitoring in 2001 due to the difficulties experienced in finding the respective expert. It was expected that the postponed activities would be carried out in 2002.

32. Mr Kamizoulis reported on the regional training course for trainers on the operation and management of wastewater treatment plants, held in Athens in October 2001. The materials for the course had been especially prepared so that they could be easily adapted for use at the national level. The original materials prepared in English had been translated into Arabic, Croatian, French and Turkish. Efforts would be made to find resources for the planned national training courses on this subject, which had been originally planned with contributions from FFEM. He added that a similar approach had been adopted to capacity-building activities in the field of environmental inspection systems. It was hoped that the regional training materials would be finalized in the summer of 2002 so that they could be translated into national languages.

33. Mr Civili indicated that the training activities planned by CP/RAC had been postponed due a reallocation of the resources originally earmarked for the purpose by FFEM. The possibility would be examined of obtaining the necessary funds under the GEF Project.

Sustainability of SAP MED

34. Mr Baric explained that this activity covered the development of economic instruments through which the implementation of the SAP could be rendered sustainable. Based on the replies to a questionnaire, the current situation with regard to the use of economic mechanisms for environmental purposes had been assessed. Following proposals from the countries, seven pilot projects had been selected for initial action, with the assistance of consultants. He noted that he will do his best to secure additional funds for the financing of other proposals, including those from the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia. He also indicated that activities in this area had been delayed by a slow response from countries and acknowledged the explanations provided by several speakers that the questionnaire had been found to be very complex and to require a large amount of data. He added that PAP/RAC was being active in endeavouring to raise public awareness concerning the role of economic instruments, for

example through the preparation of information materials and the establishment of a web site.

35. Mr Civili pointed out that this was one of the most innovative components of the GEF Project and that the important results expected from it would substantially contribute to the long-term implementation of the SAP.

Public participation

36. Mr Civili indicated that the work of preparing a Regional Strategy on Information, Awareness and Public Participation was based on work covering three groups of countries, namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia; Cyprus, Israel, Malta and Turkey; and the Arab countries. It was planned to hold a workshop in Split in April 2002 to finalize the subregional component of the strategy for the first two groups of countries, which would then be merged with the component covering the Arabic countries. A brochure was also being prepared which would be ready shortly.

37. Several GEF National Coordinators indicated that they had not received any information concerning this component of the GEF Project and they emphasized the importance that the National Coordinators should be provided with full information on project activities and the various documents produced.

National Action Plans (NAPs)

38. Mr Civili emphasized that the full development and subsequent implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) was the culminating point of the whole GEF Project. The NAPs covered action to prevent and reduce pollution from land-based sources. As such they needed to be harmonized with any broader national environmental action plans which had been prepared, such as those developed with the support of METAP. He recalled that a SAP Operational Plan had been approved by the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Monaco, setting out a detailed plan for the implementation of the SAP. He noted that the development of NAPs was a complex process with a number of stages, including the preparation of National Diagnostic Analyses, Baseline Budgets for emissions and releases of pollutants and sectoral action plans. The support provided to countries to assist in the development of NAPs and their components would include the holding of several subregional meetings and the payment of consultants to provide help at the national level. In response to a request for clarification, he indicated that the guidelines being prepared for NAPs and Baseline Budgets were going to be available in Arabic as well.

39. Ms Rabboh expressed the hope that one or more subregional workshops would be held in the Syrian Arab Republic. Such events would help to impress upon national leaders the importance of the issues involved.

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

40. Mr Baric reported on the work carried out for the development of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO), even though this activity was not included in the terms of reference of the GEF Coordination Committee. He indicated that the activities were being carried out on schedule, national correspondents

had been nominated and national and regional experts recruited. National reports were due to be received from all countries early in the year.

41. The GEF National Coordinators from Albania, Croatia, Lebanon and Morocco indicated that their national reports were either completed or would be finalized soon.

Agenda item 7: Other business

42. The participants thanked the Government and authorities of Albania for organizing the Meeting.

Agenda item 8: Closure of the Meeting

43. The Meeting rose at 6 p.m.

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Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
The Meeting will be opened by the MAP Coordinator at 9.30 am
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. Election of Officers
The Meeting shall elect from among the GEF National Coordinators the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur
4. Progress report and discussion on the activities carried out in 2001
The GEF Project Manager, MED POL Coordinator, WHO/EURO Representative and RAC Representatives will review activities carried out in 2001, which will be followed by discussion
5. Briefing and discussion on the activities planned for 2002
The GEF Project Manager, MED POL Coordinator, WHO/EURO Representative and RAC Representatives will introduce activities planned for 2002, which will be followed by discussion
6. Actions needed at the national and the regional levels for the smoother implementation of the project
The Meeting shall discuss and agree on actions, proposed by the Secretariat or the participants, needed at the national and the regional levels for the smoother implementation of the project
7. Other business
Any other issues relevant to the GEF Project implementation which might be brought to the attention of the meeting by the participants or by the Secretariat, will be discussed under this agenda item.
8. Closure of the meeting
The Meeting is planned to be closed by the Chairman at 18.00.

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

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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	WHOMED 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 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	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 premises 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	WHOMED POL
7. Four national training courses on wastewater treatment plant operation and management	December 2002	WHOMED POL
8. Three national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	December 2002	WHOMED 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>	Feb. 2002 - July 2002
<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>	Jan. 2002 - July 2002
<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>	May 2002
<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>	May 2002 - November 2002

