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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"

Third Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee

Athens, 28 January 2003

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

UNEP
Athens, 2003

Introduction and participants

1. The Third Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee was convened at the Headquarters of the Mediterranean Action Plan, Athens, Greece, to review the progress and implementation of the GEF Project "Determination of Priority Actions for further Elaboration and Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea".
2. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. Mr Lucien Chabason (MAP Coordinator) opened the Meeting at 9.30 a.m. and welcomed the participants. He introduced Mr Aldo Manos, former MAP Coordinator, who had been appointed mid-term evaluator for the GEF Project. He also informed the participants that the representative of FFEM would not be able to attend the Meeting.
4. Mr Chabason emphasized the great importance of the GEF Project for the Mediterranean region. The Project had been undertaken at a time when the MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were making a concerted effort to move forward from monitoring the state of the marine environment and assessing sources of pollution, and particularly land-based sources of pollution, to taking effective action to implement the new Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (the LBS Protocol). In addition to helping to prepare countries for the implementation of the LBS Protocol, the Project had also allowed MAP to gain a better understanding of the various sources of pollution and in this respect, in parallel to the GEF Project, he indicated that MAP/MED POL had launched the process of preparing country by country the baseline budget of pollution releases in the Mediterranean, which would provide the basis for setting objectives to be achieved in the reduction and elimination of pollution.
5. While expressing satisfaction at the participation of the GEF-eligible countries in the Project, Mr Chabason emphasized that the main challenge for the effective implementation and sustainability of the GEF Project was at the institutional level. As an international environmental agency, MAP's main counterparts at the national level were Ministries of the Environment. However, although responsible for environmental matters, Ministries of the Environment were normally not directly responsible for such areas as public works, where the main investments and decisions needed to be made to combat land-based sources of pollution. The great challenge for the focal points and for MAP was therefore to play a catalytic role in involving other agencies and ministries. In this regard he added that there had been a very positive reaction to the GEF Project at the national level and that, after some months of adjustment, there was a good feeling of the ownership of the Project by most of the countries concerned. However, major difficulties still had to be overcome. The Mediterranean was a region haunted by the sceptre of war and there were major differences in the financial capacities of the countries concerned. This was a very important factor in view of the very high cost of the measures required to reduce pollution releases from land-based sources. The financial dimension of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea (SAP) was

therefore of great significance. Indeed, one of the most important decisions to be taken by the present Meeting concerned the organization of a donors' meeting, which had been postponed from its original schedule. It was vital to find donors to help with the major investments to be made, but, in order to ensure its success, such a meeting would need to be prepared carefully and at the right time of implementation of the Project.

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

6. The Meeting agreed to follow the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG. 220/1/Corr. 1 (attached as Annex II).

Agenda item 3: Election of Officers

7. The Meeting agreed to carry out its business in an informal manner, with the MAP Secretariat acting as moderator.

Agenda items 4 and 5: Progress report and discussion of the activities carried out in 2002 and briefing and discussion of the activities planned until the end of the Project

8. Mr Ante Baric (GEF Project Manager) drew attention to the information contained in the *Progress report for the period 1 January – 31 December 2002 and activities planned until the end of the project* (UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG. 220/2.Rev.1) (attached as Annex III).

Coordination at the project level

9. Mr Baric reported that all the administrative work connected with the GEF Project had been completed on time, including liaising with the executing agencies and GEF National Coordinators, the preparation of progress and evaluation reports, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with national counterparts and the terms of reference and contracts for over 60 consultants hired in connection with the Project. The Second Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee had been held in Tirana in March, immediately followed by the Coordination Committee. Two Meetings had also been held of the Ad-hoc Technical Committee to adopt a final priority list of pollution hot spots. The GEF Project had been represented at the GEF Second Biennial International Waters Conference, September 25-29 2002, held in Dalian, China.

10. Mr Baric indicated that he had maintained contacts with donors, and particularly the FFEM, which was a co-financer of the GEF Project. Although late in commencing the Project, FFEM had decided to provide direct assistance to three countries in the field of capacity-building, namely Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. It would also be providing €100,000 for a regional component of three regional training courses. An amount of €1 million would be allocated for the preparation of pre-investment studies for selected pollution hot spots in Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, principally through the hiring of consultants selected according to the specific procurement procedures of FFEM. An additional €200,000 was to be channelled through MAP for assistance to countries with pre-investment studies. While the final decision to commit these funds had not yet been taken by FFEM, Mr Baric said that he had been invited to go to Paris to resolve the final issues so that the decision could be endorsed by the FFEM Steering Committee in March. Mr Chabason added that, although he had initially been sceptical,

FFEM had now decided to adopt the Project's approach and focus on its components. He was now assured of FFEM involvement in the Project.

11. Mr Vladimir Mamaev (Senior Programme Officer, International Waters, GEF Facility) recalled that FFEM was one of the biggest co-financers of the Project and encouraged Mr Baric to follow up this matter actively. As important partners in the Project, he hoped that FFEM would attend the Project's meetings so that it could participate in the discussion of the various issues involved.

12. Mr Baric recalled that the donors' meeting originally planned for September 2001 had been postponed in view of the delay in adopting the priority list of hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies, and the consequent delay in preparing pre-investment studies. A number of speakers emphasized the importance in this respect of making and maintaining contact with potential donors. A donors' meeting should only be organized as part of an ongoing process of involving donors in the project and building up their ownership of the proposed activities. This process was being followed by MED POL, which was envisaging its institutionalization through the setting up of a specific "donors' Committee in the framework of the implementation of the SAP MED.

Coordination at the country level

13. Mr Baric reported on the progress made in providing support to the GEF-eligible countries to assist in setting up Inter-Ministerial Committees. MOUs for the provision of such support had been signed by seven countries. In addition, following the decision of the Second Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee in Tirana to improve the efficiency of National GEF Coordinators by providing them with support for administrative assistance, such support had been provided to Albania and, following requests at the end of 2002, would also be provided in the coming months to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. The other eligible countries had been informed once again of the possibility of receiving such support at the Meeting of Country Designated Experts held in Catania in December 2002 in the framework of the MED POL activities and it was expected that other requests would be received. He added that some of the other countries were in the process of establishing Inter-Ministerial Committees, and that one of these had indicated that the support offered was not required.

14. Mr Mamaev emphasized the importance of Inter-Ministerial Committees in ensuring the sustainability at the national level of the action required by the GEF Project. The creation of such institutions was a requirement by GEF for any subsequent funding.

Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

15. Mr Francesco Saverio Civili (MED POL Programme Coordinator) recalled that the first TDA, which had been prepared in 1997, was one of the fundamental documents that had provided the basis for the development of the SAP, the other being the identification of pollution hot spots in the region. The updating of the first TDA had been considered to be very important by the Contracting Parties. For the updating process, twelve scientists had prepared new or updated chapters, and particularly a new chapter on economic aspects, which would all be subjected to peer review over the next few days. The coordinator, the eminent personality Prof. Albaiges, would then finalize the document. It was hoped that this process would be completed over the next few weeks.

16. Mr Civili emphasized that the SAP outlined a process for the reduction of pollution based on a baseline budget of pollution releases. The TDA could provide an important contribution to the process of establishing the initial levels of pollution releases. In this respect, one of the issues that was now arising consisted of the approach to be proposed for achieving the reductions. At present, the concept of a flat reduction of pollution releases for all countries was proposed. This approach should undoubtedly be maintained until a full picture could be obtained of pollution releases in the Mediterranean. However, the updated TDA also presented the alternative approach reductions of releases which could be re-discussed at a later stage of implementation of SAP MED.

17. Mr Mamaev drew attention to the importance of the TDA, which should be based on data provided by the countries themselves. He offered the assistance of GEF in proposing scientists for the peer review of the document.

18. Mr Chabason confirmed that a process of peer review was built into the programme of updating the TDA. The document, which could perhaps be issued on CD-ROM, should be submitted to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties as an information document so that it could be discussed and approved by them. The TDA was much more than just a technical document, and provided a serious basis for the development of a political approach to the environmental problems confronting the region. With reference to the issue of shared and differentiated approaches to combating pollution, he emphasized that the Mediterranean was a microcosm of the global situation, with its mix of rich and poor countries and the presence of a dominant entity, namely in this case the European Union. This raised the questions of economic and ecological efficiency, or in simpler terms, of the best use that could be made of the available resources. Significant improvements could undoubtedly be made in poorer countries with a much lower initial investment than in the wealthier countries. Although some partners might take unilateral action (reference might, for example, be made in this regard to the approach adopted by the European Union to issues of maritime safety), it was necessary to draw attention to the importance of solidarity and cooperation, using the Euro-Mediterranean partnership as a bridge. The Mediterranean should show the way forward towards the common implementation of the Rio/Johannesburg principles, particularly through solidarity at the subregional level, such as in the Adriatic, Ligurian Sea or, perhaps one day, the Aegean. The TDA provided a solid basis for moving in this direction and he hoped that a political discussion of the document by the next Contracting Parties Meeting in Catania would help to provide the necessary impetus.

Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

19. Mr George Kamizoulis (WHO/MED POL) described the process which had been followed to achieve consensus on the priority criteria for the selection of pollution hot spots with a view to the preparation of pre-investment studies. Of the twelve GEF-eligible countries, eleven had provided data and participated in this process, which was based on the updating of previous country reports on pollution hot spots. The twelfth country, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, had also indicated at the Catania meeting in December 2002 that it wished to be included in this process, although he was uncertain whether this request had subsequently been made on a formal basis.

20. Mr Baric added that, following the decision taken by the Inter-Agency Steering Committee at its meeting in Tirana, expert missions had been organized to help in the

process of revalidating the proposed pollution hot spots, and particularly to assist in specifying terms of reference (TORs) for pre-investment studies, assessing the cost of preparing pre-investment studies and identifying an implementing agency. The mission reports and draft TORS had been sent for comments to five countries, of which three (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Egypt) had indicated their approval of the TORS and signed a letter of agreement for the preparation of the pre-investment studies. Two other countries, despite reminders, had not reacted positively. One country, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, had so far undertaken the procurement procedure for the selection of a consultant, which would be contracted for the preparation of the pre-investment study. FFEM had decided that it would directly support the preparation of pre-investment studies in four countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia). ICS UNIDO was directly supporting the preparation of a pre-investment study in Croatia. Finally, Slovenia had indicated that it did not require this type of assistance, as pre-investment studies for the selected pollution hot spots had already been prepared.

21. Mr Jaafar Friaa (METAP Consultant) recalled that generic terms of reference had been prepared by METAP, in collaboration with UNEP and the World Bank, for measures to combat urban and industrial pollution and had been forwarded to MAP for use by the countries concerned. In addition, a set of criteria for use in the selection of appropriate consultants had also been prepared and forwarded to the countries. He expressed concern that, despite the assistance provided, only one country had so far selected an engineering firm to carry out the pre-investment study. Delays at this stage were liable to slow down the process of preparing the pre-investment studies and their subsequent implementation. During visits that had been made to the various countries, the response had been very positive. However, once the representatives of the Project left the country, in most cases very little was done. If any worthwhile progress was to be made by the GEF Project, it would be necessary to continue visiting the countries in order to maintain pressure for action at the national level.

22. Mr Gennaro Longo (ICS/UNIDO) recalled the offer of his Organization to contribute to the Project through the carrying out one pre-investment study in Croatia and referred to the situation in that country as an example of delays in the implementation of the Project. A few months previously, it had been expected that the contract would be signed with the consultant for the implementation of the pre-investment studies. However, new rules had been introduced for the selection of consultants, which had led to the need to reselect the consultant, with consequent delays in implementation and the need to reschedule the Project activities.

23. In a discussion of the difficulties involved in making progress and avoiding delays at the national level, the problems experienced in relation to several other countries were described. Particular difficulties arose where the focal points changed, for example, through their appointment to other positions. The qualities and energy of national focal points were of vital importance, although MAP had little influence over their appointment. It was agreed that the progress made at the national level and the sustainability of the Project depended on the establishment of Inter-Ministerial Committees to mobilize support from a broad range of Government departments, and also on the enlistment of public support for the objectives of the project, so as to create the necessary pressure and political will for action to be taken. The GEF Project focal points on their own could do little without broad public and inter-departmental support. Moreover, many of the national counterparts for the project were overloaded and needed encouragement, for example through more frequent visits from the Project team. Yet conditions existed in

many of the countries concerned, such as the ambition to exploit tourism, which made it necessary for them to take action to combat pollution, particularly in relation to pollution hot spots. Making sure that the countries concerned were aware of the issues involved was an integral part of ensuring the sustainability of the Project.

24. Mr Mamaev said that experience from other GEF projects showed that constant communication with the various Ministries concerned and close follow-up of the activities carried out could be effective in overcoming delays and problems in project implementation. In particular, it was a major GEF condition for the receipt of funds that Inter-Ministerial Committees should be set up and should be operational. If the MAP focal points were better established than the GEF focal points, the former should be used to help achieve progress in project implementation. The GEF Project had received support from all the countries concerned and every opportunity should be taken, for example at the UNEP Governing Council to be held in the next few days, to bring pressure upon the Ministers concerned to ensure that the necessary action was taken.

25. It was agreed that, in order to exert pressure, a letter could be sent from Mr Chabason to the Minister of the Environment in each of the concerned countries pointing out that time was short and the scheduled period for project implementation is limited. In addition, the GEF Manager should send a letter indicating the dead line for the issuance of a Request proposal. It was also agreed that, in order to speed up the process of the preparation of pre-investment studies, financing could be provided through the GEF Project for the recruitment of national experts to oversee the tendering process up to the selection and signature of contracts with the consultants, which would carry out the pre-investment studies. Generic terms of reference for these consultants would be circulated to the members of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee, who would also be informed of the action taken in each individual case. Finally, it was agreed that a second mission by the GEF Project Manager to the countries could be organized.

Regional cooperative actions

26. Mr Baric, Mr Kamizoulis, Mr Abousamra (MAP Programme Officer), Mr Torchia (SPA/RAC) and Ms Santacana (CP/RAC) all provided the Meeting with information on the progress made in preparing and finalizing the guidelines and regional plans listed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG. 220/2, including the process of their review by experts and the incorporation of comments made by countries. This information gave rise to a discussion of how best to ensure that the guidance contained in these documents was owned and taken into account in practice by Mediterranean countries. It was agreed that, particularly in the case of regional plans, they should be brought to the attention of the MAP Focal Points, who could decide whether they should also be submitted to the Contracting Parties for discussion and approval.

27. Mr Friaa described the progress made by METAP, in collaboration with the World Bank, in preparing the regional plan on the management of hazardous waste, based on a series of visits to countries. The regional plan, which would be completed by the end of March, included cost estimates of the investments that would be needed, covering in particular the Maghreb and Mashreq countries.

28. Several speakers emphasized the importance of including financial estimates of the investment required in regional plans, along the lines of the plan prepared under the auspices of METAP. Such estimates were important in focussing attention on the extent

of the problems to be addressed and would be very useful to show to donors at the donors' meeting.

29. In response to these comments, Ms Santacana indicated that the regional guidelines and plan prepared by CP/RAC contained components on economic considerations, but not detailed indications on the cost of implementation. The Centre would review the question of how to add more detailed economic indications to the regional plan for the reduction by 20 per cent by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installations. However, she warned that the approach of the plan focused on pollution prevention, a very complex subject to estimate economically, and it was not therefore sure that a viable total estimate for the implementation of the plan could be developed.

30. In a discussion of the relationship between the regional plans and the SAP, Mr Civili indicated that it was not planned to undertake a formal process of the updating of the SAP. However, the Contracting Parties had agreed that every two years proposals would be made for activities for the implementation of the SAP in practice, and that these proposals would possibly include new firm schedules and objectives. Based on the new TDA, this constituted a step-by-step approach to the implementation of the SAP and to reviewing its overall objectives.

31. Mr Chabason recalled that the SAP, the regional plans and the national action plans (NAPs) were all components of the process of implementing the new LBS Protocol, which had not yet entered into force. He added that 13 countries had now ratified the Protocol, the latest being Albania, Cyprus and Slovenia. Another three ratifications were now required for its entry into force, which might be received by the end of the year. Once the Protocol had entered into force, the SAP, the regional plans and the NAPs would have a firmer legal basis.

Capacity building

32. Mr Baric recalled that some of the planned training activities had had to be postponed due to the delay in FFEM's participation in the Project, although some of the national training courses had been financed through savings from the Project's budget for the previous year. A number of participants who were not from GEF-eligible countries had attended some of these courses using funds from other sources. For the courses which had been planned with FFEM funding, but which FFEM had now decided not to finance, he proposed that appropriate courses should be organized to the extent possible using savings from other activities.

33. Mr Kamizoulis added that funds from other activities had been reallocated for the organization of a regional training course for trainers on environmental inspections, held in Nicosia, Cyprus, in November 2002. The course had been attended by 16 trainers from 14 Mediterranean countries, who would in turn organize national training courses on this subject in their own countries based on the original materials prepared for the training course, and will be translated into four national languages. Three other national training courses were held in Libya, Croatia (with participants from Slovenia) and Albania in the language of the country. In one case, namely Croatia, permission had been sought to use these training materials for university courses. Finally, he indicated that the capacity building activities envisaged during the remainder of the GEF Project had been planned on the assumption that no funding would be available from FFEM, and

that they would therefore have to be financed through savings from other activities. Some meetings had also been planned for 2004.

34. Under this component, Ms Santacana provided also the Meeting with information on the regional training course on cleaner production techniques and practices that was carried out by RAC/CP from 30 September to 4 October 2002.

Sustainability of SAP MED

35. Mr Ivica Trumbic (Director, PAP/RAC) reported the progress made in the baseline pilot project on the introduction of a tourist eco-charge on the island of Hvar in Croatia. The level of awareness of the project and other similar activities had been high and the initial reaction had been positive. However, upon reflection, the local authorities had started to fear that the introduction of this new economic instrument might have a negative impact on the number of visitors to the island, the entire economy of which was based on tourism. Action had also been taken with a view to commencing pilot projects in five other countries, although plans for such projects had had to be cancelled in Egypt and Morocco due to lack of interest. A web site on economic instruments had been established in November 2002 and contained all the important outputs from this project component. A regional expert meeting to prepare proposals for the introduction of new and the adaptation of existing economic instruments in selected countries would be held in February 2003.

Public participation

36. Mr Baher Kamal (MAP Information Officer) reviewed the main activities carried out within the context of the GEF Project which had consisted, firstly, of the development at the sub-regional level of components of the Mediterranean Strategy on Information, Awareness and Public Participation, particularly through the holding of a workshop in Split attended by participants from eight countries, and secondly the publication in four languages of *Reducing pollution from land*, which was intended for a wide public. He explained that, although it had been planned to develop a regional plan for public participation, it was now felt that the efforts of the Project in this respect should focus more on promoting public participation at the national level in the context of the NAPs. Indeed, the originally programmed activity of developing a regional plan for public participation would tend to overlap with the regional information and public participation strategy that was already being prepared by MAP.

37. Mr Mamaev emphasized that GEF was placing ever greater emphasis on the actual involvement of the public in the implementation of projects. He expressed concern in this respect that the activities carried out within the framework of the GEF Project did not go far enough in involving the relevant stakeholders throughout the process of designing and implementing the project. The proposed regional plan, although it had benefited from some input from NGOs at the workshops that had been organized, ran the risk of merely telling national authorities and stakeholders what they should be doing with regard to public participation. It would be much better to involve all those concerned, including NGOs and other representatives of stakeholders, right from the beginning of the process, so that they could include their ideas in any national or regional plans that were developed and, crucially, so that they would continue to support their implementation once the GEF Project had come to an end.

38. In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that MAP as a whole, and its various components, including MED POL and the MCSD, attached great importance to the involvement of stakeholders in their activities. Indeed, the MCSD included representatives of environmental NGOs, socio-economic actors and local authorities as members on an equal footing with the representatives of Contracting Parties. It was also integral to the activities of MED POL in this context that each country identified the local stakeholders at the various levels and ensured their involvement. In relation to the GEF Project, this involvement would need to be based on a preliminary exercise of the identification of the relevant stakeholders. However, it needed to be borne in mind that national conditions with regard to access to information and public participation differed widely in Mediterranean countries, with many of the countries being aligned with the principles of the Aarhus Convention, while the situation was not so well advanced in other countries. It was therefore necessary to adapt procedures for public participation to the situation at the national level. For example, the Inter-Ministerial Committees could be requested to develop national strategies for public participation in the NAPs. The activities carried out in this respect had a strong legal basis in the new Barcelona Convention, Article 15 of which called for the Contracting Parties to ensure that the public had access to environmental information and had the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes relevant to the field of application of the Convention and its Protocols, as appropriate.

39. Following this discussion, it was agreed that: NGOs would be invited to participate in the Coordination Committee as observers; a common methodology for public participation will be developed and distributed to the countries; and countries would be encouraged to involve the public at the national level in the preparation, adoption and implementation of NAPs, which should all include a component on public participation. For the activities at the national level the countries would receive financial support.

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

40. Mr Abousamra recalled that the formulation of NAPs and sectorial plans could be considered the final output of all the activities of the GEF Project with a view to the implementation of the SAP. The first step towards achieving this was the preparation of national diagnostic analyses (NDAs) and national baseline budgets of pollutant releases. Guidelines had therefore been prepared for this purpose and sent to the national experts concerned and to MED POL and GEF national coordinators in March 2002. The national experts involved in the NDA and baseline budget exercises had then been convened in sub-regional meetings, four of which had been financed by the GEF Project and one by MED POL. Most national reports on the NDAs should have been received by the end of February, while the reports for the national baseline budgets were expected by the end of June, with a view to their finalization by the end of 2003. He added that guidelines for the preparation of NAPs had also been prepared and had been discussed and approved by country designated experts at the meeting in Catania in December 2002.

41. In view of the fact that these guidelines were based on the Global Plan of Action (GPA), the Secretariat for which was based in The Hague, Mr Mamaev called for collaboration between the two secretariats. It was agreed that the GPA Office in The Hague should be more closely involved in the work of the GEF Project.

42. It was agreed that, where there were no language problems, some of the planned national meetings could be converted into bilateral or small sub-regional meetings, which could often prove to be very stimulating for the participants.

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

43. Mr Torchia (SPA/RAC) recalled that the SAP BIO was outside the terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and that the progress made and the activities planned until the end of the project were being reviewed by the Meeting for informative purposes only. He explained that there were two main processes involved in the development of the SAP BIO. The first of these was at the national level and consisted of the preparation of national reports and action plans for the specific biodiversity issues identified at the national level. So far, 19 countries had submitted draft national reports, of which 16 had subsequently been finalized. A total of 53 national action plans on specific biodiversity issues had been prepared, of which 24 had been finalized and another five were expected. The second part of the process was at the regional level, for which six regional documents on various biodiversity issues had been prepared, in addition to a number of guidelines. Using these documents as a basis, consultants had been hired and a preliminary version of the SAP BIO had been prepared and submitted for comments to the Advisory Committee which had met in Tunis the previous week. The end products of the project would be the SAP BIO, annexed to which would be the national action plans and the regional action plan, together with an investment portfolio for each of the planned actions.

44. He added that the aim had been to develop a SAP BIO based on national inputs in order to ensure national ownership of the SAP BIO. In this process, a total of 74 national consultants had been directly involved, as well as several international consultants and a large number of national workshops had been organized. The SAP BIO was still at a preliminary stage of preparation, but would subsequently have to be submitted to the SPA focal points and the Contracting Parties. A start should also be made on contacting donors during the course of this process as it was intended, once the document had been approved by the Contracting Parties, to be ready to make a start on implementing the plan immediately. A major meeting would therefore be organized soon after the Meeting of the Contracting Parties at the end of the year to bring together the interested agencies, experts and sponsors. In response to a question concerning priorities, he explained that some species were more endangered than others and that this was normally the basis for establishing priorities in the field of biodiversity.

45. In the ensuing discussion, it was agreed that the progress made in developing the SAP BIO was very impressive. The main problems that would be faced would be in extracting a sufficiently general and concise SAP BIO from the wealth of material available and in focussing on issues with a transboundary dimension at the regional level. The SAP BIO should also clearly indicate the respective schedules, accompanied by financial estimates.

46. In response to a number of questions, Mr Torchia indicated that all of the Mediterranean countries, with the sole exception of France, had officially participated in the process of developing national action plans and a regional action plan. He confirmed that the SAP BIO for the Mediterranean would be linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Jakarta Mandate, although the SAP BIO would be more detailed and, clearly, more specific to the situation in the Mediterranean. The Secretariat of the

CBD could be invited to attend meetings related to the development of the SAP BIO. Finally, he indicated that, although he would be leaving his employment with SPA/RAC shortly, he would remain in contact with SPA/RAC during the process of the finalization of the SAP BIO.

Agenda item 6: Conclusions and recommendations

Extension of the Project

47. Mr Mamaev indicated that there were many reasons for proposing the extension of the Project within the existing financing, particularly in view of the fact that it had started late. The Meeting agreed that a formal request should be prepared, supported by all the relevant financial documents, for submission to GEF and UNEP seeking the extension of the Project up to the end of 2004.

Inter-Agency Steering Committee and Coordination Committee

48. It was agreed that back-to-back meetings would be held of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee in September/October 2003. No further meetings of the Ad-hoc Technical Committee would be held.

Donors' meetings

49. It was agreed that two donors' meetings should be held, the first in December 2003, after the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, and the second in the autumn of 2004. The first meeting would have to be carefully prepared and would be more of an information meeting. A well-prepared document on the financial aspects of the envisaged actions should be submitted to the first donors' meeting, and the possibility should be explored of recruiting a financial expert and seeking the support of METAP and the World Bank for the preparation of this document. In response to that document, donors would be invited to offer suggestions that may facilitate access to financing.

Agenda item 7: Other business

50. No other business was raised.

Agenda item 8: Closure of the Meeting

51. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the Meeting rose at 5 p.m.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

Corrigendum Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
The MAP Coordinator will open the Meeting at 9.00 a.m.
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 Coordinator will propose that the Meeting would carry its business in an informal manner, with the secretariat acting as moderator
4. Progress report and discussion on the activities carried out in 2002
The GEF Project Coordinator, MED POL Coordinator, WHO/EURO Representative and RACs Representative will review activities carried out in 2002. The participants may express their views on the report
5. Briefing and discussion on the activities planned until the end of the Project
The GEF Project Coordinator, MED POL Coordinator, WHO/EURO Representative and RACs Representative will introduce activities planned until the end of the project. The participants may express their views on the planned activities
6. Conclusions and recommendations
The Meeting will discuss and agree on conclusions and recommendations, proposed by the Secretariat or the participants, concerning the accomplishment of the project activities and organization of the third meeting of the Coordination Committee and Donors meetings
7. Other business
The Meeting will discuss any other business raised by the Secretariat or the participants
8. Closure of the meeting
The MAP Coordinator will close the Meeting at 17.00

The meeting will open at 0900 hrs
Working sessions will be between 0900 hrs – 1300 hrs and 1430 hrs – 1700 hrs
Coffee breaks will be at 1030 hrs and 1500 hrs

ANNEX III

ANNEX III

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2002 AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF THE PROJECT

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ANNEX

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

1. PROGRESS REPORT (1 January - 31 December 2002)
2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF THE PROJECT

APPENDIX

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 to the Mediterranean countries 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. Twelve GEF eligible Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Slovenia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) are receiving support from the Project. The project was initiated on 1 January 2001.

The main aim of the Project is the establishment of conditions at regional and national levels necessary for the implementation of SAP MED. An additional aim 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 during 2002, to point out the main obstacles in the action implementation, to identify corrective measures which were undertaken, to present lessons learned, and to elaborate the programme of activities until the end of the Project.

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 2002. This chapter is highly synthesised and essentially presents activities undertaken. The third chapter briefly presents the programme, timetable and recommendations, where appropriate, for the activities planned until the end of the project. The fourth chapter contains conclusions and recommendations concerning the possible extension of the project. The information 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.

1. PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2002

1.1 Project Coordination

1.1.1 Coordination at the project level

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. In his activity the Project Manager closely cooperates with the MED POL Coordinator, MED/WHO/EURO Officer and Directors of PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and CP/RAC.

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 all consultants hired under the umbrella project, preparation of half-yearly and yearly managerial and financial reports, preparation of self-evaluation reports, the GEF Project management has done the following:

Prepared the background document for the second meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee;
Organized second meetings of the Inter-agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee
Prepared the reports of the second meetings of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee and prepared reports of the meetings
Prepared background information for the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee meetings
Organized two meetings of the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee
Prepared the Progress report on the project implementation, requested by the UNEP/GEF;
Organized and participated in the expert's missions to five countries in order to revalidate the proposed priority hot spots and to prepare terms of references for the preparation of pre-investment studies;
Prepared relevant letters of agreement with three countries and terms of references for the preparation of pre-investment studies;
Participated at three subregional meetings of national experts designated to prepare BB and NDA;
Sub-organized two training courses and one regional workshop on EIA
Attended at the GEF Second Biennial International waters Conference held in Dalian, China, and presented the GEF Project.

The activities of the Project committees were as follows:

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 as the administrator of METAP, FFEM and UNIDO-ICS, as well as other potential donors. The second meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee was held in Tirana (Albania) on 21 March 2002. The meeting was informed on the project activities and particularly discussed the issues related to the preparation of pre-investment studies and NAPs. The meeting adopted a revised timetable for the implementation of specific activities in 2002. The report of the second meeting was prepared and disseminated to the members of the committee and 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 second time in Tirana (Albania) on 22 March 2002. 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 second meeting was prepared and disseminated to the members of the committee and the participants of the meeting.

Ad-hoc Technical Committee

This committee is composed of representatives 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 Committee met for the first time on 28 and 29 January 2002 in Athens. The main aim of the meeting was to select pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies. The meeting adopted a preliminary priority list which was sent to the countries for comments. In addition, the countries were required to provide their position either at national or local level regarding the follow-up investment. This was required in order to avoid the preparation of pre-investment studies for hot spots having high uncertainty for investment.

Based on information received from the countries, the committee at its second meeting (Tirana, March 2002) adopted a final priority list of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies.

Reports of both meetings were prepared and disseminated to the committee's members

Donors meeting

The Donors meeting planned for September 2001 was postponed, because of the delay in the adoption of the priority list of hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies and in the preparation of pre-investment studies. The general feeling within MEDU is that the meeting should be organized when concrete projects for investment are ready. 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.

1.1.2 Coordination at the countries level

In order to coordinate actions and activities directed at the effective preparation of the NAPs, in the spirit of building a consensus at the national level, the countries were requested to set up Inter Ministerial Committees (IMCs). Adequate support to the activities of IMCs was proposed and a related MOU was submitted to the countries. Seven countries signed the submitted MOU and received the proposed support. Following the decision of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee concerning improving the efficiency of the National GEF Coordinators by providing support for the administrative assistance, three countries requested such support. However, only one country received the support in 2002.

1.2 Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

MEDPOL started preparing the ground for the updating of the 1997 TDA report during the biennium 2000-2001, when a new outline was prepared, discussed and adopted by a teamwork.

A number of eminent regional consultants for TDA updating were hired in the second semester of 2001 and at the beginning of 2002. MEDPOL received most of the TDA expert reports by June 2002. Only one expert did not respect his contract which was cancelled and a new expert was contracted to undertake the activity. During June-August MEDPOL reviewed the reports and prepared **draft 1** which was dispatched to the expert team leader, by September 2002. The secretariat received from the expert team leader **draft 2** on 30 December 2002. This draft will be reviewed, and comments will be made by regional independent experts who are invited to meet at the MAP premises on 29-30 January 2003.

1.3 Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

The country reports with the data and information on the potential risk of transboundary effects, prepared by WHO/MED POL, and on the application of socio-economic criteria for the prioritisation of pollution hot spots, to be selected for pre-investment studies, were considered by the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee for the Pollution hot spots, at its meeting at the MEDU premises, held in Athens, from 28-29 January 2002. The Committee adopted the preliminary priority list of pollution hot spots for pre-investment studies.

The preliminary priority list of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies was communicated to the countries. The countries were required to express their opinion regarding the proposed hot spot(s) in the country for the preparation of a pre-investment study and to provide their position either at national or local level regarding the follow-up investments. This was 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 was prepared and adopted by the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee at its second meeting (Tirana, March 2002).

METAP has prepared two types of generic TORs for the preparation of pre-investment studies, which are used to tailor TORs for concrete projects.

Following the decisions of the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee and the Inter-Agency Steering Committee concerning the preparation of pre-investment studies, expert missions to revalidate the proposed pollution hot spots, (to prepare TORs for the preparation of pre-investment studies, to assess the costs for the preparation of pre-investment studies and to identify an implementing agency), have been sent to five countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Syria and Turkey) in the period May-September 2002.

The mission reports and draft TORs were sent to the countries for comments. Three countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Egypt) agreed with TORs and signed a letter of agreement for the preparation of the pre-investment study. Two other countries, despite several reminders, didn't react positively so far.

Only one country (Bosnia and Herzegovina), so far, accomplished the procurement procedure for the selection of a consultant, which will be contracted for the preparation of the pre-investment study.

FFEM, as the main partner for this action, has decided that it would directly support the preparation of pre-investment studies in four countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) by applying the same procedure as it is applied for the other countries. However, after the initial activities, contacts with the countries, and exploratory missions to the countries the activities on the preparation of pre-investment studies are not initiated so far. FFEM submitted in September 2002 the proposal for a framework agreement between FFEM and MEDU concerning their contribution to the GEF project. The negotiations on the proposed agreement are not accomplished and the agreement is not signed yet.

ICS/UNIDO is directly supporting the preparation of one pre-investment study in Croatia. The contract between ICS/UNIDO and the Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning for the preparation of the study has been signed, however the activities on the preparation of the study were not initiated because the new legislation enacted after the signature of the contract requires the application of procurement procedure for the selection of consultants.

So far, two GEF eligible countries are not participating in this activity, Libya and Slovenia. Libya never answered officially, only during the meeting in Catania (Dec.

2002), the Libyan's representative proposed to be considered for further activities, and very lately prepared the revised country's report, while Slovenia informed (by phone only) that they would not be interested in the activity since pre-investment studies for the selected pollution hot spots have already been prepared.

A consultation meeting on criteria for pollution sensitive areas was held in November 2002 in Athens. Following the recommendations made by the participants on the proposed criteria, a final draft was prepared which will be circulated for comments among the MED POL Coordinators.

1.4 Regional cooperative actions

Under regional co-operative actions, MAP/MED POL is responsible for 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; and
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 as 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; and
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 (see the minutes of GEF/MEDOL follow up meeting of 11 July 2001):

to combine the regional plan and the guidelines for river monitoring in one document;
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; and
to consider that the two regional plans on marine pollution monitoring and pollution loads have been prepared as part of MED POL Phase III and are being applied under the trend, biological effects and compliance monitoring activities.

The draft regional plans and guidelines have been submitted by the consultants, reviewed by the secretariat and translated into French.

WHO/MED POL is responsible for the preparation of four regional guidelines on:

sewage treatment and disposals;
industrial wastewater;
coastal litter; and
environmental compliance and enforcement.

The first draft of the first three guidelines were prepared on time and reviewed by a team of experts in the respective fields, and following their recommendations and comments, the final draft will be tabled for discussion during the proceedings of two meetings of Mediterranean experts, as envisaged in the project document. The guidelines on environmental compliance and enforcement have been reviewed by the MED POL National Coordinators.

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

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

The Regional Guideline for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilisers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture has been finalised and will be sent to the GEF National Focal Points for its revision and comments during 2003.

The Regional Guideline for the application of BATs and BEP in industries has been prepared in the first draft, which was revised and the final draft was prepared at the end of 2002.

The Regional Guideline for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial installations which are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids has been prepared in the first draft and after the review, the final draft was prepared at the end of December 2002.

The Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation has been prepared and its first draft has been reviewed, the final draft was prepared at the end of December 2002.

1.5 Capacity building

The regional workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) planned for September 2001 was organized in June 2002, due to the late signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank, as administrator of METAP. Twenty participants from 10 GEF eligible countries attended the workshop. Two "train the trainers" workshops at national level for environmental impact assessment, one in

English and other one in French were organized in February 2002. The workshops were attended by 33 participants from 11 GEF eligible countries. All workshops were organized at CITET in Tunis (Tunisia) and supported by METAP. MAP/MED POL postponed the regional training course on river pollution monitoring for 2003, as well as two national training courses due to the expected contribution from FFEM.

A regional course to train trainers on the operation and management of municipal wastewater treatment plants (Athens, Greece, 16-20 October 2001), was convened by WHO/MED POL and was attended by 17 participants from 15 Mediterranean countries.

So far, the national training courses have taken place in Libya (in Arabic), Croatia with Slovenia participation (in Croatian), and in Albania, based however on a more particular subject like treatment by stabilization points, to meet better their requirements. Two more national training courses are scheduled for Algeria and Syria. Funds for the above national training courses were provided from savings from other activities as the planned contribution by FFEM is still pending.

The regional training course on pollution monitoring and inspection could not be implemented in 2001, as FFEM's contribution was the only source of funding. Namely, FFEM would like to follow the countries' priorities in the capacity building and the negotiations on their involvement in the capacity building component are not yet finalized. In 2002, a number of funds from other activities were shifted in order to provide the financial background for the implementation of the above activity. Consequently, the regional training course for trainers on environmental inspections organized by WHO/MED POL was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 4-8 November 2002. Sixteen trainers from 14 Mediterranean countries attended the course, who in turn, will organize similar national training course in their countries, based on the original material prepared for the training.

Under this component RAC/CP prepared and organized one regional training course on Cleaner Production Techniques and Practices, which was held in Barcelona from 30 September to 4 October 2002. The aim of the course was to build and enhance the capacities of the Mediterranean countries for the formulation of National Action Plans (NAP) to combat pollution from land-based activities, the operational long-term output of the SAP. The idea was to specifically provide training on cleaner production as well as other related strategies and approaches of environmental management, in order to facilitate tools to the Mediterranean countries for the later elaboration of NAPs.

The course was organised through the national focal points of GEF, who were invited to participate in it or to designate the most suitable country representative bearing in mind the aim of the course.

A total of 15 participants from all the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries as well as from Cyprus, Israel, Malta and Spain attended the course.

Problems encountered during the organization of training courses

The reaction from the countries in proposing the implementation of national training courses was quite slow and probably occurred due to national administrative problems.

Another considerable issue remains the development of an accurate translation of the different documents, as the number of translators accredited in producing qualitative work is rather limited.

1.6 Sustainability of SAP MED

Preparation of the baseline pilot project on introducing the tourist eco-charge consisted of preparation of the 3 documents, presentation of the instrument to the local authorities, and organisation of the training course in collaboration with other Croatian pilot projects. The first of the 3 outputs was delivered in October 2002. The other 2 outputs are to be finalised in January 2003. During August, the activities on rising awareness were done, including the organisation of an info-point called "Eco-corner", which was situated in the centre of the town of Hvar for the 3 weeks. At the "Eco-corner", the promotional materials on economic instruments, and on the impact of tourism on the environment, were offered, as well as the questionnaire for the opinion poll on willingness-to-pay for environmental protection of the Hvar. The project was presented in the training course on EI in Opatija. The training course, as well as the project, was presented with an extensive article, in the 2 local newspapers, and at the local radio station. The project was also presented in the METAP/PAP training course on ICAM in Split. After that, the project was again presented at several local radio stations.

The new instrument was proposed in May 2002. The local authorities have still not responded. The entire economy of the Island of Hvar is based on tourism, and the risk of provoking negative impacts on the number of visitors is something nobody on the island would like to happen. The sale of the local hotel company "Suncani Hvar" is in progress. Taking the decision on the buyer of the big share of stocks has been delayed, mostly because of the political reasons. Therefore, the decision on the introduction of the new instrument has been postponed.

Preparation of five additional pilot projects in selected countries

The draft version of the Diagnostic Analysis has been prepared in 4 countries. Preparation of the Diagnostic Analysis has been significantly delayed, because of the weak response of the countries. Three training courses were organised from October to December (Croatia, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina). At present, the training courses are in preparation in Algeria and Morocco. Three presentations to the relevant authorities have been done. Upon the authorities' response, some changes have been done in the proposals. The pilot project in Egypt has been cancelled. Since EI NFP had left Egypt, the new contacts couldn't be established and the interest in this pilot project vanished. The pilot project in Morocco has been cancelled. Since the new Minister is not interested in this project, PAP/RAC has offered to organise a training course, and to present the results obtained by PAP/RAC expert. However, it has been concluded that the unspent funds be used for the implementation of the remaining 5 pilot projects.

Preparation of the web site and the web data base

The web site, which was established in November, contains all important outputs from this project component. PAP/RAC has received the results of the 6 countries questionnaires for the web data base, and the construction of the data base is in the course. The numeric data requested by the questionnaire were difficult to obtain in the

countries of the project. The results of the questionnaires are delayed, since the quality of the results obtained is questionable. These results were more or less expected, knowing the weak points in the region. However, the establishment of this data base is the first step in building information in the region.

Brochure on advantages of using economic instruments was published in May 2002. The brochure is translated and published in 3 national languages (Croatian, Bosnian and Albanian). The Algerian translation will be finished in January 2003. In some countries, the brochure was extended with the presentation of the state-of-art related to EI in the country. Translation, adaptation and printing of the brochure in national languages is slow.

Expert meeting to prepare proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments in selected countries, which has been foreseen for September 2002, is postponed for February 2003. The reasons for this postponement are in delay of finalisation of the Diagnostic Analysis and presentation of new instruments to the relevant authorities. These first outputs present an input for the preparation of proposals for introducing the EI.

1.7 Public participation

In the framework of the MAP Information Officer's Work Plan, which establishes providing the MED GEF Project with professional advice on activities related to Information, Awareness and Public Participation, the following activities were carried out in coordination with the MED GEF Project Manager and the MED POL Coordinator:

ACTIVITY 1 Mediterranean Strategy on Information, Awareness and Public Participation

As agreed with the Mediterranean GEF Project Manager, the MAP Information Officer supervised the elaboration of a report-survey on the status of three components of this strategy in the East Adriatic countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania) and Turkey, Malta, Cyprus and Israel, containing proposals for the drafting of a sub-regional component of the strategy.

A consultant, whose fees were funded by the MED GEF Project, collected inputs from national experts and concerned NGOs in each one of the above-mentioned countries

The MAP Information Officer selected the appropriate consultant and drafted the relevant terms of reference.

The MAP Information Officer supervised the work of the consultant, the preparation of the working paper and the organization of the relevant workshop, as well as all related documents and reports.

OUTCOME:

In the framework of this activity, the workshop took place in Split, Croatia, on 17 and 18 May 2002. Both the working paper of the meeting, the report of the meeting and the

final conclusions of the workshop, drafted under the supervision of the MAP Information Officer, were duly produced and delivered to the Mediterranean GEF Project Manager.

ACTIVITY 2 Publications on the SAP/MED for the wide public:

This activity, coordinated by the MAP Information Officer in close co-operation with the MED GEF Project Manager and the MED POL Coordinator, focused on:

The preparation, publication, and dissemination, in four languages (English, French, Arabic, and Spanish) of a publication on the SAP Programme, entitled “Reducing Pollution from Land”. This publication has been produced as part of the series for the Johannesburg Summit and it was widely distributed.

The preparation, publication, and dissemination, in three languages (English, French, and Arabic) of a leaflet on the SAP Programme. This leaflet has been produced by MEDU as part of the series of publications for the Johannesburg Summit and it was widely distributed.

OUTCOME:

Both publications, funded by the MED GEF Project, produced and widely disseminated.

The activities on the development of the regional plan for public participation were not continued, as it was planned, since a new proposal on how to continue with the action was made, which is explained under 2.7.

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

The “Guidelines for the preparation of the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) and the Baseline Budget (BB) of pollutant releases” were prepared as the first step for the preparation of NAPs and sectorial plans. It was dispatched to the national experts and MEDPOL and GEF national coordinators in March 2002.

The Guidelines were 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.

To increase the possibility of success of these two exercises, the national experts who are actively involved in the NDA and BB process were called to follow up meetings at the sub-regional level to review, case by case, the achievements and bottlenecks being faced during the preparation of the NDA and BB. The meetings were organized according to the following:

Activity	Timing	Responsibility	Venue
Subregional meetings			
Egypt, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine	10-11 September	MEDPOL/GEF	Syria
Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria	7-8 October	MEDPOL/GEF	Tunisia
Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia	17-18 September	MEDPOL/GEF	Croatia
Turkey, Malta, Cyprus, Israel	21-22 October	MEDPOL/GEF	Turkey
Greece, France, Italy, Monaco	16-17 October	MEDPOL/GEF	Monaco-Ramoge

The formulation of the NAPs and sectorial plans 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. Guidelines for the preparation of NAPs under the provisions of the SAP were therefore prepared and approved by Country Designated Experts at their meeting in Catania (Italy), December 2002. This activity is planned to be accomplished during 2003. The Guidelines will be sent to the MEDPOL and the National GEF Coordinators by the end of January 2003.

Additional support documents and guidelines are under preparation as support to the overall activities to prepare the NAPs and the sectorial 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;
 Guidelines for tracking the Baseline Budget for industries; and
 Guidelines for the compliance under the provision of the SAP operational strategy.

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

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 until the end of the project are attached, for information, as Annex I to this report.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF THE PROJECT

2.1 Coordination

2.1.1 Coordination at the Project level

Communication between the countries and the GEF Project Management in 2003 and until the end of the project will be intensified in order to initiate and stimulate activities on the preparation of NAPs and pre-investment studies. For those countries which have not yet established an Inter-Ministerial Committee, (IMC) the first priority will be given to the finalization of its setting up. 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).

The countries will be provided with direct assistance for a variety of activities at the national level aiming for the preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP). Following the assistance which was provided for hiring national experts for the preparation of National Diagnostic Analysis and Baseline Budget (BB), adequate assistance will be provided for the preparation of sectorial programmes and finally the National Action Plan, as well as for the organization of meetings of national stakeholders in order to discuss and review of draft sectorial programmes and NAPs.

In order to enhance the activities at national level concerning the preparation of NAPs, it is planned to recruit regional expert(s), who would assist national experts and authorities when such assistance is required.

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 countries would be able to receive assistance of international consultants, if required.

The above mentioned assistance would be provided to the countries under appropriate MOUs, project documents and contracts.

Inter-Agency Steering Committee

The third meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee is planned for 28 January 2003 in Athens. The main tasks of the meeting are to evaluate the activities undertaken during 2002 and to decide on the precise modalities for execution and coordination of the remaining activities until the end of the project.

Coordination Committee

Following the conclusion of the second meeting of the Coordination Committee the third meeting is planned for September 2003. The main tasks of the meeting would be to evaluate the activities undertaken during 2002 and the first half of 2003, particularly on NAPs development and pre-investment studies preparation.

Ad-hoc Technical Committee

The Committee is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the pre-investment studies, while METAP follows up technically the implementation of these studies and reports to the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee.

So far, a new meeting of the Committee is not planned. The committee members are informed by mail on the development of activities on the pre-investment preparation. However, a meeting may be organized when necessary.

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.

2.1.2 Coordination at country level

The preparation and adoption of NAPs is a rather complex process, which requires the active involvement of a large number of stakeholders. For the success of the action, a well-established coordination is essential. The IMC is the national body, which should coordinate all activities, at national level, aimed in order to prepare, discuss, review and adopt NAP. Therefore, additional effort should be made for setting up an IMC in those countries, which have not yet established one. Financial support will be provided to the countries to cover expenses of the IMC's activities, as well as for the administrative support to GEF National Coordinators, when such support is required. In addition, the countries would be able to receive the assistance of international consultant(s) at any stage of the NAP's development.

2.2 Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

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

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
Expert meeting to review draft TDA report	January 2003	MAP/MED POL
Finalization, editing, printing and dissemination of the report	Feb.-June 2003	MAP/MED POL

2.3 Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

After the relevant documents are signed between MEDU and FFEM concerning FFEM's contribution to the GEF project, and between FFEM and the relevant country related to FFEM support for the preparation of pre-investment studies, 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 consultant(s), who will be selected after the procurement procedure is performed in compliance with national legislation.

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

payments to national consultants based on the satisfactory performance at successive stages of the pre-investment studies preparation.

Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Responsibility	Timing
1. Signature of a agreement between FFEM and MEDU	MAP/GEF, MEDU and FFEM	Feb. 2003
2. Identification field mission to the remaining countries 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	Feb.- April 2003
3. Review and finalization of TORs with consultant's selection criteria	METAP	Jan. – May 2003
4. Negotiations with countries and signing of relevant Project Document	MAP/GEF and countries	Jan. –June 2003
5. Preparation of Request for Proposal (RFP) and its announcement	Countries according to their national regulations	Jan. – Sept. 2003
6. Release of RFP	Countries according to their national regulations	Jan. – Oct. 2003
7. Evaluation of technical and financial proposal	Countries according to their national regulations	Jan. – Dec. 2003
8. Draft Evaluation Report (ER) and its submission to MAP/GEF	Countries according to their national regulations	Jan. 2003 – Jan. 2004
9. Review of ER	MAP/GEF with assistance of METAP if required	Feb. 2003 - Feb 2004
10.Negotiation on consultant's contract and contract award	Countries after the approval of ER	March 2003- March 2004
11. Consultants mobilization	Countries and consultants	April 2003 – April 2004
12. Review of Work plan and Inception Report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM with the assistance of METAP	June 2003 - June 2004
13. Review of progress report(s) and draft pre-investment report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM with the assistance of METAP	July 2003 – July 2004
14. Review of final report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM countries with the assistance of METAP	Oct. 2003 – Oct. 2004
15. Dissemination of report	MAP/GEF, FFEM	Nov. 2003 – December 2004
16. Coordination of overall activities	<i>Ad hoc</i> Technical Committee	January 2003 – December 2004

2.4 Regional cooperative actions

It is considered necessary to review the information included in the Guidelines and Plans with the countries' representatives to ensure consensus and applicability. It is therefore proposed to send the documents to national coordinators for comments and to convene expert review meetings during 2003, where selected Government designated experts would be invited to discuss and review the draft documents and comments would be received from the countries.

Originally, it was planned to organize only one meeting of governmental designated experts to review the regional plans prepared by MED POL and two meetings to review the regional guidelines prepared by MED POL and WHO/MED POL, respectively. A meeting to review the regional plan and the regional guidelines prepared by CP/RAC was not planned at all. In order to treat all documents equally, it was agreed to review all the regional plans and guidelines at six meetings, so that at each of the meetings

more than one document would be reviewed. Documents are grouped taking into account the similarity of issues, as shown in the following table:

Regional cooperative actions – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Responsibility	Venue
Government designated experts meeting to review the guidelines for rivers monitoring	February-March 2003	MEDPOL/GEF	To be determined
Government designated experts meeting to review the Regional Plan for the management of hazardous wastes, Inventories of PCBs and nine pesticides, and Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation	February-March 2003	MED POL; CP/RAC, GEF	Tentative Egypt
Government designated experts meeting to review the Regional Plan for the reduction of 50% of BOD from industrial sources by 2005, Regional Guidelines for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial installations which are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids, First draft of Regional guidelines related to industrial wastewater, Regional guidelines for the application of BATs and BEP in industries	February-March 2003	MED POL, CP/RAC, WHO/MED POL	Tentative Split
Government designated experts meeting to review the Guidelines for ecosystem stress indicators	February-March 2003	MED POL	Syria
Government designated experts meeting to review the Regional Guidelines for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilizers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture	February-March 2003	CP/RAC	To be determined
Government designated experts meeting to review the Regional Guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal and Regional Guidelines on solid wastes wit emphasis on coastal litter	March-April 2003	WHO/MED POL	Athens
Adoption of the regional plans and guidelines by the meeting of national MED POL coordinators	May 2003	MED POL	

2.5 Capacity building

Capacity building – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Regional training course on river monitoring	2003	Report and manual of training courses	MED POL
Two national training courses on river monitoring	2003	Reports and manual of training courses	MED POL
Two national training courses on river monitoring	2004	Reports and manual of training courses	MED POL
Two national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	February - May 2003	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL
Two national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	May – Nov. 2003	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL
	Feb. – May 2004		
Two national training courses on wastewater treatment plants operation and management	May – October 2003	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL
Three national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	Jan. 2004 – Nov. 2004	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL
One national training course on wastewater treatment plant operation and management	September 2003 – June 2004	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL

As a result of the preparation of the guidelines for river monitoring together with a set of power point presentations to be used for training courses, one regional training courses will be held in Spain in 2003; two national training courses will be organized in 2003 and two more in 2004. Syria expressed their readiness to host one of the national training course in 2003.

The two national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection scheduled for 2002 are postponed to 2003 due to the delay in conducting the regional training course. Furthermore, the training material in Power Point format needs to be translated and this will contribute more to the delay.

It seems rather unfeasible to implement in 2003 five national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection, and therefore it is proposed to postpone one of them until the end 2003 and to hold the rest during 2004.

The national training course on wastewater treatment plant operation and management will be held, subject to availability of funds, in 2004, by shifting the eventually remaining funds from different budget lines.

2.6 Sustainability of SAP MED

Sustainability of SAP MED – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Expert meeting to prepare proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments in selected countries	February / March 2003	Expert meeting report	NFPs, PAP/RAC
Dissemination of the proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments	January - June 2004		PAP/RAC
Implementation of proposed measures in economic instruments' application at national and regional level, with special emphasis on making SAP MED programme sustainable	October 2002 – March 2004	Improvement of national legislation on economic instruments; sustainable implementation of SAP MED	National govt. institutions, NFPs
Preparation of the baseline pilot project	January 2002 – December 2003	Diagnostic Analysis Report on Procedure of and measures for development and implementation of EI Report on procedure of evaluation of efficiency of implemented EI	Countries - EI NFP PAP/RAC
Implementation of five additional pilot projects in selected countries	March 2002 – December 2003	Four Diagnostic Analyses Four Reports on Procedure of and measures for development and implementation of EI Four Reports on procedure of evaluation of efficiency of implemented EI	Countries - EI NFP PAP/RAC
Evaluation of newly introduced / adapted economic instruments at regional and national level	January - March 2004	Final evaluation paper on effects of the Project on introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments	National institutions and experts PAP/RAC

Expert meeting to prepare proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments in selected countries

This activity is to be performed in February/March 2003, since it depends on the draft results of the pilot project. It is expected that all 5 pilot projects will finalise their Diagnostic Analyses and have other 2 reports in the draft form, in January 2003.

Implementation of proposed economic instruments' application at national and regional level, with special emphasis on making SAP MED programme sustainable

The decision on implementation of proposed new instruments is in the hands of the relevant government. It is believed that more time we have, better possibilities there are, that the new instruments will be actually implemented. Having in mind the present deadlines of the project, it is agreed that the pilot projects, if their implementation will not be possible within such a short term, will implement a simulation exercise in May 2003. The possibility of extending the duration of the GEF project would permit the postponement of simulation exercise and provide some additional time for implementing the EI.

Evaluation of the newly introduced / adapted economic instruments at regional and national level

Evaluation of the newly introduced/adapted EI will be done for each pilot project, and the date of this evaluation depends on the duration of GEF project. If GEF project should be extended, the evaluation would be postponed, and again, chances for actual implementation of EI would be improved.

Dissemination of the proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments

Preparation of the proposals for introducing new/adapting existing EI in 12 GEF eligible countries of the project is to be done from July to November 2003. This output is foreseen in the form of a section for the National Action Plans (NAPs). According to past experience, a longer period of time is to be expected for the preparation of such an important document. The quality of this output would be increased, if some results of the pilot projects could be obtained.

2.7 Public participation

It was planned to develop a regional plan for public participation, which should be adopted by a regional meeting of governmental designated experts and NGOs. However, through the implementation of the whole project, it is more and more felt that it might be useful, efficient and relevant to induce and provide direct support to the countries for the promotion of public participation at the national level in the framework of NAPs.

As MAP is actually preparing an overall regional information and public participation strategy, it would be preferable to avoid overlapping with a regional SAP MED public participation strategy and devote direct attention to the identification, information, consultation and association of concerned partners at national level for the preparation of the NAPs in a more realistic way.

To that end, a common methodology based on the Aarhus Convention principles could be prepared by MAP as a reference framework. In this context, most of the fund allocated for the public participation would benefit the countries. If this approach is accepted, the further development of the action might be as shown in the following table:

Public participation – Work plan and Timetable - a new proposal

Activity	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Preparation of TORs for regional consultant(s)	Feb. 2003	TORs	MEDU/GEF MED
Hiring of regional consultant(s)	March 2003	Contract	GEF MED/MEDU
Drafting of common methodology	March-April 2003	Draft common methodology for public participation	Consultant
Review of draft common methodology for public participation by small team of experts	May 2003	Common methodology for public participation	MEDU/GEF MED
Editing, publication and dissemination common methodology for public participation	June-July 2003	Final common methodology for public participation	MEDU
Application at national level through NAPs and follow up of implementation	July 2003-Dec.2004		GEF and countries

If it is decided to prepare the regional plan for public participation, the further development of the action might be as shown in the following table.

Public participation – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Preparation of TORs for regional consultant(s)	Feb. 2003	TORs	MEDU/GEF MED
Hiring of regional consultant(s)	March 2003	Contract	GEF MED/MEDU
Drafting of regional plan	March-May 2003	Draft regional plan	Consultant
Meeting to review and adopt of draft regional plan	June 2003	Regional plan	GEF/MED POL/MEDU
Editing and publication of regional plan	July-Sept. 2003	Final regional plan	MEDU/GEF/MED POL

2.8 National Action Plans (NAPs)

During the period February-June 2003 the National Diagnostic Analysis reports and the National Baseline Budget (BB) of releases, should be received, and by the end of 2003 the secretariat will receive the National Action Plans (NAPs) to reduce releases from LBS activities. As soon as MEDPOL start receiving the NDA and BB reports, experts will

be contracted to assist the secretariat to review these reports, and contact the national authorities to complement the information if needed.

MEDPOL is keen to work in close cooperation with the national authority to elaborate the NAPs. To this aim, it will contract, with the assistance of the GEF project, national expert(s) to assist the national authority in the preparation of sectorial plans and NAPs and will also contract 4-5 regional experts to work closely and assist the national experts and authority in the preparation of these two plans.

National Action Plans (NAPs) – Work plan and Timetable

Activity (in each country)	Timing	Output	Responsibility
Dissemination of guidelines for the preparation of NAPs	January 2003		MEDPOL
Contract national experts for preparation of sectorial plans	March-April 2003	Contracts	MEDPOL/GEF
Contract regional experts for countries assistance	April 2003	Contracts	MEDPOL/GEF
Preparation of sectorial plans	March – September 2003	Draft sectorial plans	National experts
Meetings of national stakeholders to review and approve sectorial plans	September-October 2003	Approved sectorial plans	National authorities/ MEDPOL/GEF
Contract national experts for preparation of NAPs	June-July 2003	Contracts	MEDPOL/GEF
Preparation of NAPs	June – Nov. 2003	Draft NAPs	National experts
Meetings of national stakeholders to review and approve NAPs	November-December 2003	Approved NAPs	National authorities/ MEDPOL/GEF
Adoption of NAPs	Dec. 2003-Feb. 2004	Adopted NAPs	National authorities

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the above mentioned information, the following may be concluded:

The majority of the project activities are being implemented within the timeframe defined in the Project document, despite the fact that they were initiated at a later stage, due to the late recruitment of the Project manager. However, some activities are beyond the approved timeframe;

Those activities within the updating of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, regional cooperative actions, capacity building and public participation, are being implemented with a small delay, which will not delay the project as such;

Some activities on capacity building, both at regional and national levels, were postponed due to expecting contribution from FFEM. However, some of the training

courses planned to be supported by FFEM have already been organized using savings from other activities.

Activities on the prioritization of pollution hot spots for the preparation of pre-investment studies are finalized with significant delay due to late response from the countries. The process of the preparation of pre-investment studies is rather more complex, addressing many technical, environmental and socio-economic issues, bringing a large number of stakeholders, and would require more time than assumed on the Project document. Therefore, some additional time to accomplish this activity is expected. In order to minimize the delays and better manage the activity, closer contact will be established between the GEF Project management, GEF national coordinators, implementing agencies and contractors;

The preparation of National Action Plans is a specific process for countries, which requires the full engagement of national experts and officials, as well as adequate assistance from outside. In order to further stimulate the implementation of the process, the countries should be provided with reasonable assistance, as required. This will be done by establishing/strengthening the management structures related to entire process in each country;

The preparation of pre-investment studies and National Action Plans is based on a country driven approach. It is therefore up to the countries to manage these components of the project with our support. The GEF Project management will find a way to provide the assistance, when required.

Based on the above, and particularly on the above conclusions, the following is recommended:

To intensify the negotiation with FFEM in order to initiate the activities which will be supported by FFEM:

To consider the extension of the project until the end of 2004 in order to accomplish all planned activities, particularly those on the preparation of NAPs and pre-investment studies which are implemented by the countries and assisted financially and technically from the GEF project.

To intensify contacts with countries, in order to stimulate and support activities organized at the country level, by visiting the countries and providing regional consultant assistance during the preparation of NAPs and pre-investment studies;

To increase the financial support to countries in order to improve the quality of NAPs by the involvement of interested stockholders where possible in the process of the preparation and adoption of NAPs whenever possible;

To post all prepared documents on the MAP Web site in order to make them widely available.

ANNEX I

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

1. PROGRESS REPORT (1 January - 31 December 2002)

1. NATIONAL PROCESS

1.1. Progress so far made

1.1.1. Preparing the National Reports

Progress. So far 19 countries have sent the National Report to RAC/SPA: A first revision of these draft National Reports, was made by RAC/SPA with the support of the International consultants in charged of follow the national processes in the GEF eligible Countries.

15 National Reports were finalized, 4 are still draft but are expected to be finalised within the end of the year.

Support and coordination. RAC/SPA staff (or international consultants representative of RAC/SPA) carried out missions to support the preparation of National reports in the following countries: Albania, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Malta, Slovenia, and Cyprus.

RAC/SPA sponsored the organisation of National workshop to present the outputs of the national processes and to achieve the widest possible consensus on the Reports in 11 countries: Croatia, Morocco, Albania, Algeria, Greece, Israel, Libya, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Tunisia, Syria.

1.1.2. Developing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues

The project provides for developing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues starting from some of the main urgent priority actions identified within the context of the National Report.

Progress. National Correspondents have been asked to identify priority actions, through national consultation processes, and a team of National Consultants or institutions in charged of preparing the National Action Plans.

52 National Action Plans have been identified: 20 have been elaborated and finalised; 32 are draft and should be finalised within the end of the year.

Support and coordination. 42 National consultants, identified by National Correspondents, have been recruited by RAC/SPA and 3 MOU's were established with National institutions. 2 International consultants were recruited. Special national meeting aiming at identifying and elaborating National Action Plans was supported in one country.

To co-ordinate this activity, RAC/SPA has prepared draft general guidelines for preparing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues. To elaborate Action Plans concerning fishing and Action Plans dealing with the protection of birds, specific documents including some scientific information and ideas for actions have been prepared: "Draft guidelines for elaborating National Action Plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds", "Draft guidelines for elaborating

National Action Plans for the control of fishing practices and gear harmful to threatened species and habitats"¹.

As for Action Plans on fishing, RAC/SPA, jointly with the FAO's COPEMED project, has organized a specific workshop (Palma de Mallorca, 23-25 June 2002) involving the National Consultants in charge of preparing the Action Plans on fishery, the COPEMED Focal Points and representatives from the relevant organisations, in order to improve the draft plans prepared by the countries (see paragraph 4 for more details).

1.2. Problems encountered and actions taken to solve these

No major problems were encountered during the second year in project implementation. The following minor problems was faced:

- The different level of quality of the National Reports (scientific level and English language).

To reduce this problem a work of revision by RAC/SPA (RAC/SPA Staff and international consultants) and some missions to countries have been undertaken.

- Delay of some countries in finalizing the National reports. 4 countries haven't yet finalised the National Report.

Strongly invited by RAC/SPA to finalize the National Report, in some cases with even missions to the country, the latecomer countries will finalize their reports within the end of the year. In any case for the elaboration of the draft SAP BIO Document, which is started in September 2002, the draft reports of these countries have been used.

- Some countries have faced problems to elaborate investment portfolio's section of national report.

These sections needs to be revised in some reports in order to better elaborate the relevant section in the SAP BIO document. The recruitment of 1 or 2 international consultant to assist some countries in the revisions of this section of the national report should be scheduled for the beginning 2003.

- Insufficient level (scientific, technical and English language) of some National Action Plans (6-7 NAPs) elaborated by countries.

When the final version of the National action Plans was inadequate, even following the comments and suggestions sent to the countries by RAC/SPA, the recruitment of an international consultant to improve the documents was necessary. Then the new revised version of the National action Plans were sent to the country for approbation. The revision of the English language of all the National Action Plans and additional revision of their contents will be made during the 2003.

2. REGIONAL PROCESS

2.1. Progress so far made

In addition to the three regional documents finalised within 2001 further 6 regional documents listed below were elaborated during 2002:

- Impact of fishing technology in the Mediterranean

¹ This document was elaborated during the 2001

- Guidelines for elaborating Action Plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds.
- Report on the introduction in the Mediterranean of marine and brackish species for aquaculture purposes.
- Status of knowledge on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea
- White Coral community, canyon and seamount faunas of the deep Mediterranean Sea.
- The Coralligenous.

The first two documents above listed (originally in English) were already translated into French. The translation of the other 4 documents is in progress.

2.2. Problems encountered and actions taken to solve these

No major problems were encountered

3. PREPARING THE SAP BIO DOCUMENT

3.1. Progress so far made

The Outline of SAP BIO document, approved during the National Correspondents Alicante meeting (July 2002) was detailed for the II meeting of the Advisory Committee and improved following the meeting. This document was the foundation for the preparation of the SAP BIO Document and for the identification of the team of consultants in charged of supporting RAC/SPA in this task.

The National Reports, priority National Action Plans, and regional reports represented the major inputs to the SAP BIO (Appendix I "list of inputs to the SAP BIO Document"). In addition to the outputs elaborated within the framework of the project, the SAP BIO incorporated other inputs, mainly existing strategies and results obtained within the framework of other networks and/or organisations.

The steps taken for the preparation of the document were:

- Defining the structure and composition of the working team.
- Identifying potential members of the team (totally 10 consultant were recruited)
- Organising a two-day co-ordination meeting (Tunis, 6-7 September 2002) with team members to describe the tasks to be carried out, inputs, procedures and deadlines, distribution of tasks among team members, defining of phasing of preparation of individual parts/chapters and other logistical details as were appropriate.
- Preparing individual contributions (drafts) by team members, as defined by the distribution of tasks among members
- Editing the first draft SAP BIO

3.2. Problems encountered and actions taken to solve these

No major problems were encountered

4. INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

The following two international meetings were held during the 2002:

- **The Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee²**

This was the Advisory Committee's second meeting, organised by RAC/SPA in Tunis from 7-8 May 2002. The following Committee Members attended at the meeting:

WWF-Mediterranean International Programme, IUCN- (WESCANIA), IUCN (Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation), the MEDWET Programme, the FAO, the Council of Europe (Secretariat of the Berne Convention), the Centre Thématique Européen pour la Protection de la Nature et de la Biodiversité (CTE/PN), the Agreement on the Conservation of the Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Areas (ACCOBAMS).

The Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and Federcoopescas were represented at the Meeting.

At the Meeting, the following documents were discussed and improved on:

- 'Draft general guidelines for preparing Action Plans on specific biodiversity issues within the framework of the SAP BIO project' (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/4),
- 'Guidelines for the elaboration of National Action Plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds',
- 'Guidelines for the elaboration of National Action Plans for the control of fishing practices and gear harmful to threatened species and habitats',
- 'Detailed outline for preparing the SAP BIO document' (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/5).

- **The Workshop on developing National Action Plans concerning the impact of fishing on marine biodiversity (Palma de Mallorca, 23-25 June 2002).**

This workshop was jointly organized by RAC/SPA and the FAO-COPEMED project, and was held in the Centre of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography in Palma de Mallorca, Balearics, Spain.

The workshop was attended by experts from six countries³ (Algeria, Croatia, Libya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia), who generally representing two different ministries or sectors – the environment, and fishing. Representatives from the European Union (D.G. Pêche), the ACCOBAMS Agreement on the Conservation of the Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Area, the IUCN Mediterranean Centre for Cooperation, the IEO Spanish Institute of Oceanography, and the Cabrera marine park also attended the workshop.

Its objectives were:

- giving people in the fields of fishing and of environment protection the chance to meet and work together
- improving the National Action Plans on the impact of fishing on marine biodiversity that had been elaborated by various countries
- identifying common actions the implementing of which requires the participation of several countries.

The final report on this workshop was sent to all national correspondents and it will be available on the SAP BIO website (.).

² Meeting's final report: UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/6

³ The consultants recruited by RAC/SPA for elaborating the National Action Plans concerning the impact of fishing on biodiversity, and the same countries' COPEMED focal points, were invited to attend the Meeting

- Moreover a Meeting of the team of consultants in charged of elaborating the draft SAP BIO document was held in Tunis on 6-7 September 2002 (see previous paragraph).

5. OTHER

- The use of the GIS in the SAP BIO Project

In order to support the SAP BIO outputs, as appropriate, by maps, the following methodologies have been used:

- Following on the Meeting with a company operating in the field of the use of environmental GIS tools, a sub-set of data for each country was prepared and given to the countries. These databases will be the starting point for preparing maps.
- A questionnaire to collect information from the National Report for updating the database was finalised and given to each country. The completed questionnaire will be used to improve and enrich the databases of each country. When necessary, National Consultants have been recruited to fill in the questionnaire.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF THE PROJECT

ACTIVITY	TIMING	OUTPUT	RESP.
3rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee The Third Meeting of the Committee will examine the first draft of the SAP BIO document, the preparation of which is RAC/SPA's responsibility, and make proposals for revising and improving it.	23 – 24 January 2003	Proposal for revising draft SAP BIO document	RAC/ SPA
Revised draft of the SAP BIO Document Taking into account the recommendation of the third Advisory Committee RAC/SPA will improve the draft SAP BIO document. Within this framework a revision of the investment portfolio sections of some national reports (inputs to SAP BIO document), with the involvement of international consultants, is recommended	February 2003	Revised draft SAP BIO document	RAC/ SPA
Second Meeting of National Correspondents The main objective of this Meeting will be to examine a revised version of the SAP BIO prepared by RAC/SPA on the basis of the inputs received. The Meeting is expected to provide inputs for the further revision of the SAP BIO.	24-26 April 2003	Inputs for further revision of draft SAP BIO and for the finalizations of other outputs	RAC/ SPA
Final Draft of the SAP BIO Document Following the Meeting of the National Correspondents, a finalized draft will be produced under the authority of RAC/SPA.	May 2003	Final draft SAP BIO document	RAC/ SPA
Regional process – elaboration of further documents Analysing the national reports, in addition to the 9 regional documents already elaborated two further regional documents have been identified, these will be elaborated taking into account along with other inputs the National reports too: - A first document on the impact of tourism on marine and coastal Mediterranean biodiversity, in particular on sensitive species and habitats and on protected areas. - A second document looking into the role of coastal Mediterranean wetlands (coastal lagoons, estuaries) for the coastal biodiversity conservation. This document is being prepared jointly with MEDWET.	April 2003	Two further regional documents	RAC/ SPA
Finalization and "Visibility" of the Outputs of the Project The main outputs of the project will be finalized (revision of the texts, introduction of Photos, paging up) and printed. Other tools aiming at the "visibility" of the outputs of the project (posters, CD, ...) will be elaborated.	January - June 2003	Final revised version of all the regional documents, National action Plans, posters showing the national reports, CD on SAP BIO, etc...	RAC/ SPA

Appendix I - Inputs to SAP BIO Document - List of Documents

National reports (prepared by countries)

National report of Albania; Rapport National de l'Algérie; National report of Bosnia and Herzegovina; National report of Croatia; National report of Egypt; National report of Greece; National report of Israel; National report of Lebanon; National report of Libya; National report of Malta; Rapport National du Maroc; National report of Slovenia; National report of Syria; National report of Italy; Rapport National de la Tunisie; National report of Turkey; National report of Spain; National report of Cyprus; Contribution du Monaco

National Action Plans (prepared by countries)

Albania

- Action plan for the proclamation of the first Marine National Park of Karaburun.
- Action plan for the rehabilitation of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system habitats
- Action plan for the Dalmatian pelicans as a global endangered species
- Action plan for building and exploitation of artificial reefs for the fisheries along Albanian coast.

Algeria

- Mise en place d'un réseau de surveillance des herbiers à *Posidonia oceanica*
- Mise en place d'un programme de collecte de données sur le phoque moine
- Réduction de la pression des pêcheurs sur les zones côtières d'intérêt pour la biodiversité
- Inventaire et mise en place d'aires marines et côtières protégées en Algérie.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Identification and preservation of endangered marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitats, and plant communities in the Mediterranean zone of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Action plan on sustainable development of Marine and adjacent waters of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Croatia

- Impact of Fishery on threatened species and sensitive habitats
- Net of Mediterranean wetlands in Croatia – management and revitalisation
- Impact of hunting, poaching and commercial collecting on the coastal zone biodiversity, including introduction of new game species on islands.
- Preparation of management guidelines for sites with submerged karstic phenomena.
- Biodiversity conservation as a part of integral coastal zone management planning.

Israel

- Action Plan on coastal birds management and conservation
- Action Plan to reduce the impact of fishery on threatened species and sensitive habitats

Lebanon

- Organizing awareness campaigns for the Lebanese coastal communities and the public sector
- Updating of legislation and development of guidelines for marine and coastal conservation (*)
- Determine the physical parameters of the Lebanese marine environment
- Establish conservation strategies for coastal habitat.
- Develop monitoring strategies for coastal and marine biodiversity.

Libya

- Conservation of marine and coastal birds in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- National Action Plan on proposed new marines and coastal protected areas and national parks
- Conservation of Marine turtles and their habitats

Malta

- Action plans for Cetaceans.
- Action Plan for the estimation of the sustainability of Groupers fishing in the Maltese Islands
- Action Plan for the estimation of the sustainability of shark fishing (including accidental catches) in the Maltese Islands
- Action plans for Turtles.
- Micro-cartography, mapping and surveillance of the *Posidonia oceanica* meadows.

Morocco

- Cartographie des habitats de la côte méditerranéenne marocaine
- Programmes de recherche sur la biodiversité méditerranéenne du Maroc
- Elaboration des programmes éducatifs/sensibilisation et de projets incitatifs ainsi que l'élaboration d'un Guide des espèces et des écosystèmes menacés du Maroc
- Amélioration de la législation nationale
- Valorisation de la biodiversité marine méditerranéenne du Maroc
- Protection des espèces menacées par l'exploitation traditionnelle

Slovenia

- Habitat cartography supported by the Geographic Information System (Special emphasis on seagrass meadows)
- Biological invasions and possible effects on biodiversity
- The impact of alien populations used in mariculture on genome of wild populations of same species
- Slovene commercial fishery by-catch
- Sensitive ecosystems – *Posidonia oceanica* meadow (ecological conditions, cartography and monitoring based on the *GIS Posidonie* methodology)

Tunisia

- Impact de la pêche sur la biodiversité littorale
- Cartographie et suivi des herbiers de posidonie
- Protection des bancs et des fonds coralligènes
- Coordination formation aspects législatifs et institutionnels
- Etude des espèces invasives.

Turkey

- Conservation of marine turtles
- Creation of Marine protected areas along the Turkish coasts
- Reducing the negative impacts of detrimental fishing practices (trawl, purse seine, spear fishing, use of explosive) on sensitive ecosystems and on vulnerable species.
- Conservation of Monk Seals
- Conservation of marine mammals (cetacean)
- Conservation and Management of coastal Wetlands and associated bird communities.

Regional documents

- Effects of fishing on ecosystems in the Mediterranean – Analysis of the major threats from fishing gear and practices on biodiversity and marines habitats.
- Legal analysis of the measures envisaged by states bordering on the Mediterranean to minimize the impact of fishing activities on threatened marine ecosystems and non –target species.
- Impact of Fishing Technology in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Draft report on the introduction in the Mediterranean of marine and brackish water species for aquaculture purposes.
- Status of knowledge on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea.
- White Coral community, canyon and seamount faunas of the deep Mediterranean Sea.
- The Coralligenous.
- Guidelines for the elaboration of National Action Plans for the control of fishing practices and gear harmful to threatened species and habitats.
- General guidelines for elaboration Action Plans for the conservation of marine and coastal birds.