



# United Nations Environment Programme



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ENGLISH



## 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 Coordination Committee

Athens, 5 November 2003

### REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE



## **Introduction and participants**

1. The Third Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the GEF Project "Determination of Priority Actions for further Elaboration and Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" was convened at the Headquarters of the Mediterranean Action Plan, Athens, Greece, on Wednesday, 5 November, 2003.
2. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

3. The Meeting was opened by Mr Francesco-Saverio Civili (MED POL Coordinator) at 10 am. He welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr Lucien Chabason, MAP Coordinator, noting with satisfaction that most National Coordinators were present. He emphasized the importance of the GEF Project to MAP as a whole, especially with regard to pollution reduction and biodiversity. The implementation of the Project needed speeding up in its final year and, as in sporting events, the final straight would undoubtedly prove the most difficult. The aim of the Meeting was to ensure that, when completed at the end of 2004, the GEF Project would have registered concrete results of great utility. By learning about the countries' experience of the Project during the Meeting and by hearing of any pros and cons that the National Coordinators could identify, the Coordination Unit and the GEF Project Manager would be better able to find solutions to any existing problems and delays.
4. Mr Vladimir Mamaev (UNEP Division of GEF Coordination) recalled that the GEF Project was of great importance for the region as a whole and added that he and his colleagues would do all they could to ensure the successful completion of the Project.

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

5. The Meeting adopted the agenda contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.240/1. The Agenda of the Meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

### **Agenda item 3: Election of Officers**

6. The Meeting elected its Officers as follows:

Chairperson:	Ms Margita Mastrović	(Croatia)
Vice-Chairperson:	Ms Reem Abed Rabboh	(Syrian Arab Republic)
Rapporteur:	Ms Samira Nateche	(Algeria)

### **Agenda item 4: Progress report and discussion on the activities carried out in the period 1 January 2002-31 August 2003**

7. Discussion of item 4 was based on the *Progress report for the period 1 January 2002-31 August 2003 and activities planned until the end of the project* (UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.240/2), attached as Annex III to this report, as revised by the Third Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee.

#### *Project coordination*

8. Mr Ante Baric (GEF Project Manager) said that the coordination of the GEF Project had continued to meet with the approval of UNEP/DGEF. The independent evaluation carried out had made a positive appraisal of the Project, set out in detail in the Midterm Review

Report, published in March 2003 (available in both electronic form and hard copy). The report had followed a visit by the evaluator to UNEP/MAP in January 2003 when he had attended the Second Inter-Agency Steering Committee Meeting and the experts' meeting to evaluate TDA; he had met the MAP Coordinator, GEF Project Manager, MED POL Coordinator, the Director of PAP/RAC and others. His report included a set of recommendations at the project level, set out in the Progress Report. The first recommendation, in the light of delays concerning the pre-investment studies and national action plans (NAPs), was that UNEP should extend the project duration by one year, to the end of 2004. That recommendation had recently been officially approved by UNEP.

9. In respect of coordination at the countries level, Mr Baric said that five countries still had not set up Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMCs) as requested and he urged them to do so as they were considered of vital importance for the preparation and adoption of NAPs. Following the decision of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee at its second meeting to provide National GEF Coordinators with support for administrative assistance in that regard, three countries had requested and received that support; all others could still apply for it.

10. Mr Civili, stressing the crucial importance of coordination, asked the National Coordinators to make use of the present Meeting to describe the problems faced at the national level and to suggest ways of improving that coordination. The original idea of the IMCs had been to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the NAPs, which should not concern the Ministries of the Environment alone. He felt that there was a strong will to proceed at the country level and he reminded the National Coordinators that MED POL could provide assistance, especially of a material kind, where the GEF Secretariat was unable to do so; a letter requesting such assistance would suffice.

11. Ms Reem Abed Rabboh (Syrian Arab Republic) informed the Meeting of the political and administrative complex procedures in her country that had held up progress towards implementing certain components of the Project but gave her assurance that preparation of the Baseline Budget (BB) and National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) was nearing completion. She sought clarification of the support available for National Coordinators to address administrative problems.

12. Mr Samir Kaabi (Tunisia) described the situation in his country as rather complex and recalled recent changes in the Government. Nonetheless administrative changes had not affected the IMC but, far more importantly, the BB and NDA had been delayed for technical reasons. External circumstances compounded the internal difficulties and the pre-investment study funded by Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) had not yet been launched.

13. Mr Mohammed Chaoui (Morocco) said that both the BB and NDA were ready but had to be validated by the IMC. As far as the pre-investment studies were concerned their completion would depend on FFEM funds. Moreover, he wondered why the GEF Secretariat had been unable to satisfy his request for computer equipment.

14. Ms Samira Nateche (Algeria) said that considerable progress on implementation of the Project had been made in her country and it had been well integrated into the national environment strategy. The national coastal inventory could be likened to the NDA, for example, and once its findings were complete, probably at the end of 2003, they could be used to update the NDA. She emphasized that Algeria's coast was extremely long and subjected to multiple pressures. Progress had also been made towards formulating the NAP, since the IMC had already met. Preliminary contact had been made between FFEM and the Algerian Ministry and an expert hired by MAP would be visiting the country's hot spots at the end of Ramadan. She welcomed the extension of the Project until the end of 2004, which should give time for a necessary consensus over the NAP.

15. Ms Alenka Malej (Slovenia) agreed that the extension was welcome. There had been some initial delays in her country but both the NDA and BB were now ready thanks to much appreciated GEF Project support. Preparation of the pre-investment study was also on target, following the visit to Slovenia by the GEF Project Manager and an expert. As far as the IMC was concerned, however, she expressed doubts that it would be set up as there was ministerial resistance to the creation of yet another coordination body.

16. Mr Mohamed Bohran (Egypt) recalled that some difficulties arose from the need to coordinate action in his country that had to address problems also related to the Red Sea, but work towards the formulation of the NAP for the Mediterranean was promising since the NDA had already been prepared and the BB was available in draft form. The IMC had been set up in 1996 but its existence seemed not to have been properly notified. Aside from Alexandria, most of Egypt's pollution sources were not on the coast but located far inland, up the Nile valley, making his country a special case. He announced that Egypt would be assigning a single coordinator for the GEF Project until it was completed; she was Ms Passant Ahmed Maher whom he presented to the Meeting.

17. Mr Admir Ceric (Bosnia and Herzegovina) explained that environmental and related issues were the remit of local rather than national administration, under the institutional arrangements made in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accords. National coordination was complicated by that set-up and further by the need to harmonize legislation with European Union directives. The World Bank had been of great assistance to his country in overcoming those difficulties and the pre-investment study for his country's only outlet to the Mediterranean was under way. Although funding was causing some delays he expected the implementation of the project to be completed on time.

18. Ms Margita Mastrović (Croatia) said that she too found the extension extremely helpful since the administration in her country was being restructured and elections were due which would result in delays. The IMC had been established and the NDA had already been prepared and the BB was being finalized but the sectoral plans and NAP had not been started. On the other hand, the pre-investment study had been completed, albeit very rapidly, with the invaluable financial assistance of ICS-UNIDO.

19. Mr Baric, replying to the questions put by the National Coordinators, said that they would receive the requested information about financial support for administration available to them. GEF project budget normally ruled out material assistance, such as the provision of computers, which was why such requests had been refused. Should a further need exist, the GEF National Coordinators were reminded that they might also be eligible for such support out of the MAP/MED POL budget. The issue of the donors' meeting had been discussed in detail at the previous day's Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee, held in Athens, and it had been agreed to initiate the process, bearing in mind that careful and thorough preparation and appropriate timing were vital prerequisites for its success.

#### *Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)*

20. Mr Fouad Abousamra (MAP Programme Officer) recalled that the first Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for the Mediterranean Sea had been prepared in 1997 and work on its update had begun in 2001. The first draft of the new TDA had been reviewed by 20 regional experts at the meeting held in Athens in January 2003, after which more work had been done to make the document more policy-oriented. The resulting second draft had recently been sent to UNEP/DGEF for comments, following which the final version would be sent to the National Coordinators for their consideration. The current version of the document set forth the major environmental concerns, analysed the policy options and the stakeholders, and described the environmental quality objectives. It contained a detailed cost analysis with regard to SAP BIO but only estimates for SAP MED, in view of the lack of data.

21. Reservations were expressed by the National Coordinator of Egypt about circulation of the document, which might contain some sensitive data, in view of the conflict in the region.

22. Mr Civili distinguished between the synthetic TDA document due to be finalized in line with GEF Project criteria and just described by Mr Abousamra, on one hand, and on the other a broader MAP document, going beyond the GEF criteria, which would be presented for information purposes at the Meeting of Contracting Parties, to be held the following week in Catania (Italy). It was also planned to publish specific chapters of the document separately.

#### *Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas*

23. Mr Baric recalled that two sponsors were assisting with the preparation of the pre-investment studies, a *sine qua non* of the Project. ICS-UNIDO, as mentioned earlier, had already helped Croatia in that regard, whereas FFEM had agreed to provide four countries – Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia – with financial assistance. The related contracts had been signed between MAP and FFEM later than planned, in June 2003, and the French Fund had pledged to contact the countries directly through the Agence française de développement and make the necessary arrangements. The MAP would nonetheless help those countries with the preparation of the Terms of Reference (ToR), the selection of consultants and the supervision of those consultants' activities, wherever necessary. Algeria had already requested the assistance of a consultant and the consultant would visit the country in late November. Of the non-FFEM-eligible countries, progress towards completion of the pre-investment studies was at widely varying stages, although most of them were apparently on schedule. He appealed to be kept informed of all developments as soon as possible so that the GEF Project team could react in time.

24. Ms Nuray Tanery (Turkey) explained that the Union of Municipalities in her country had recently voted not to award control of the preparation of the pre-investment study to the Bank of the Provinces, the institution that usually took general responsibility for such projects, as it had been agreed during the exploratory mission organized to Turkey in June 2002. The municipalities themselves wanted to oversee the process, which had therefore been delayed. She would inform the Project Manager of further developments as soon as they occurred.

25. Mr Gennaro Longo (ICS-UNIDO) expressed his deep appreciation of the expert in Croatia whose vital work had enabled the country's pre-investment study to be completed very quickly and thanked Ms Mastrović for her important role in the matter.

26. Ms Mastrović returned Mr Longo's thanks, adding that the completion of the study had been the result of very hard work against the clock.

27. In response to some queries concerning the lack of participation of Libya in the project component related to pre-investment studies, Mr Civili reassured the Meeting that there had been a concerted effort to maintain contact with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The lack of participation in the Project by that country's Government was a cause for much concern since it created a missing link in the southern Mediterranean. It had therefore been decided to pay a full-scale visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to encourage it to play its full part in the Project.

#### *Regional cooperative actions*

28. Mr Baric announced that Regional Plans and Regional Guidelines had been prepared by selected consultants, and the draft documents had been reviewed internally and sent to the countries for their comments. In addition, most of the documents had been reviewed by the meetings of government-designated experts. He drew attention to the relevant table contained in the Progress Report that indicated the meetings concerned. The documents had

been drafted in English and translated into French. In addition the regional plans on the reduction of input of BOD by 50% by 2010, and on the reduction of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installations by 20% by 2010 had been translated into Arabic and Spanish; they had been approved by the latest meeting of MAP Focal Points and would be submitted to the next Meeting of Contracting Parties for approval. All documents would be published, in hard copy and on a CD-Rom, and distributed to the countries for dissemination, while it was planned that they would also be posted on the MAP website for consultation.

29. Mr Civili declared that the preparation of so many plans and guidelines was a major achievement and the result of excellent coordination. It had been however decided by the MAP Focal Points that in the case of the two abovementioned regional plans containing deadlines it would be more feasible to change the deadlines to 2010 in both cases. Progress made on such reductions could possibly reviewed in 2007. Since the other plans and guidelines contained no such targets and deadlines, their approval by the MED POL Coordinators would suffice but both the aforementioned regional plans would require political approval at the forthcoming Contracting Parties Meeting to be held in Catania. He said that data from the Baseline Budget would be used to update the information contained in the documents.

30. Mr Abousamra added that the documents had been based on inventories of hazardous waste and not theoretical considerations. Furthermore account had been taken of other Conventions such as Stockholm and Basel. There were plans for a pilot project on reporting in the framework of the SAP, to be implemented in 2004-2005, following the plans' adoption, as was hoped, by the Coordinating Parties. It would be up to each country to decide exactly how it would reach the pollution reduction targets.

31. Several speakers agreed with the decision to extend the deadlines but pointed out that the financial situation in each country would dictate compliance and that national reviews of the situation, perhaps in 2007, would be vital. Doubts were expressed about the methodology to be applied for measuring the planned pollution reductions but in-depth discussion of the subject clarified the matter.

#### *Capacity building*

32. Mr Baric said that there had been a rather slow reaction from the countries in proposing the holding of national training courses, probably because of administrative problems; they also suffered from a lack of quality translators for translating related documents into other languages from English. Despite that, a number of training courses had taken place at the national and regional levels, thanks in part to the support from METAP and WHO/EURO, and over 300 national experts had received training as a result.

33. Mr Sherif Arif (METAP Coordinator) said that three workshops had been held at the Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET), Tunisia, principally in connection with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the workings of the World Bank system. He announced that METAP had earmarked a further US\$ 180,000 for CITET to continue the training programme, with emphasis on strategic environmental assessment (water and coastal zone management), and on follow-up and implementation of environmental management. He drew attention to the active CITET website/database and thanked MAP for its participation in the programme.

34. Mr George Kamizoulis (WHO/EURO Scientist) gave details of the training courses on waste management and environmental pollution control. Every effort had been made to ensure that materials were available in national languages, so that all trainers and trainees in each country could fully benefit. More such courses were planned in several countries.

35. Ms Mar Santacana (CP/RAC) presented the regional training course held in Barcelona, in autumn 2002, on "Cleaner production techniques and practices". Details were to be found in the Progress Report but she further stipulated that the non-GEF-eligible countries that had participated had done so thanks to funds from other sources than GEF.

36. Ms Mastrović expressed her satisfaction with the capacity building component, such as the two workshops held in her country. She mentioned in particular a very recent workshop on environmental inspection, including water inspection, which had successfully forged dialogue among actors who did not usually have an opportunity to meet one another. She also welcomed the plans by METAP to continue its participation in training courses at CITET.

#### *Sustainability of SAP MED*

37. Mr Ivica Trumbic (PAP/RAC) said that the idea of the component was an ambitious one, namely to create financial platforms in order to secure sustainability of SAP MED after completion of the GEF Project. Owing to institutional problems in some countries fewer pilot projects had been carried out than originally envisaged. A regularly updated website provided detailed information and a brochure on advantages of using economic instruments had been published in May 2002, in several languages. An expert meeting to prepare proposals for introducing new and adapting existing economic instruments had been held in Split in March 2003. Replying to requests for further projects to be organized from countries that felt they had been left out of the process, he said that time was short and the budget had been reallocated. Efforts had been made to contact certain countries in that regard, but unfortunately the lack of response was such that projects had been implemented only in those countries where the response had been timely.

38. Ms Marjory-Anne Bromhead (World Bank) said that the World Bank was acutely aware of the financial difficulties facing countries in southeastern Europe, for example, and said that affordability should be borne in mind when deadlines and other constraints were imposed.

#### *Public participation*

39. Mr Baher Kamal (MAP Information Officer) said that the issue was being approached from three complementary angles: political, technical and financial. Article 15 of the Barcelona Convention made explicit provision for public participation, including in the decision-making process. Countries would therefore be issued with guidelines on how to integrate the concept of public participation into the NAPs in particular. A consultant had already prepared an initial paper, currently being discussed, due to be transformed into a set of guidelines on how to proceed; the opinions and suggestions of stakeholders had been taken into account from the outset. If governments were properly to implement the Project, they would have to rely on participation by all stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local and regional authorities, industry and business, which would give the latter a sense of ownership. MAP could provide the countries with albeit modest financial assistance for public participation exercises. Work on preparation of the guidelines had been divided between the Arabic-speaking countries and the remaining countries, in the light of meetings held in Cairo and Split, respectively; each part was being merged into a single set of guidelines for the whole region. It was also necessary to bear in mind that four EU States, members of the MAP (France, Italy, Spain and Greece) and other three (Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta) that will accede to the European Union in May 2004, would be in one way or another under the umbrella of the Aarhus Convention, in which the role of public participation was paramount.



*National Action Plans (NAPs)*

40. Mr Abousamra said that the subregional MED POL/GEF meetings listed in the table in the Progress Report had covered all countries and had effectively been informal get-togethers, involving experts and the secretariat in open discussions on NDA and BB and any problems encountered. Contacts were being made to ensure that the NDAs and BBs were completed shortly. A visit was planned to The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to urge the authorities to step up their participation. Otherwise, everything should be on target by the end of 2003 with regard to the NAPs. He informed the meeting that the NDAs and BBs did not have to be formally endorsed by the national authorities, whereas the NAPs would have to be; they should however be reviewed at national level.

41. Mr Civili said that the idea of preparing an overall summary of the NDAs and BBs at the Mediterranean level, as suggested by Slovenia, was an excellent one; however, MED POL funds might be set aside since GEF funds would probably not be available. With regard to endorsement of NDAs and BBs at the national level, he suggested that it might be useful in order to pave the way smoothly for ultimate national approval of the NAPs, but he repeated that in the case of BB it was not a formal requirement.

**Agenda item 5: Briefing and discussion on the activities planned until the end of the project**

42. Discussion of item 5 was also based on the *Progress report for the period 1 January 2002-31 August 2003 and activities planned until the end of the project* (UNEP(DEC)/MED/GEF WG.240/2). Furthermore **agenda item 6** (Actions needed at the national and the regional levels for the smoother implementation of the project) was covered during the discussion.

*Project coordination*

43. Mr Civili emphasized the fact that the Project had only one more year to run and that completion of the pre-investment studies and the NAPs within that timeframe was imperative. He added that official approval of the NAPs at national level – which in some cases could, he acknowledged, be a lengthy and complex process – was scheduled for 2005. He reminded the National Coordinators that some of their needs could be met out of the MAP/MED POL budget in cases where GEF rules excluded such assistance; that would be easier to establish wherever the MAP National Focal Point and the GEF National Coordinator were one and the same.

44. Mr Baric endorsed Mr Civili's words, as did the Chairperson. Although the Project was country-driven, full cooperation and reciprocal communication would be vital, with assistance for all countries from GEF and MED POL. It was planned that all contacts – by email and visits – would be intensified and that the GEF Project team was ready to provide all possible assistance. In fact they would appreciate all approaches from the countries in that regard since the aim was to complete the Project satisfactorily on time. He reiterated the importance to the Project of setting up IMCs and repeated his appeal to those countries where IMCs had not been created to do all they could to do so. In response to comments made by the National Coordinators, he recognized that United Nations bureaucracy and the related administrative rules could at times be complex and time-consuming; all had been and would be done to ensure that the simplest methodology was applied but certain regulations could not be circumvented.

45. The National Coordinators again stressed the need for practical assistance in the form of computer equipment and the like. Requests were made for details of how countries might receive practical assistance, such as administrative support, with the preparation of

pre-investment studies and NAPs. It was suggested that the Catania Meeting should be seized as an opportunity for making Ministers aware of the short time remaining for the Project and the need for strengthened cooperation and coordination between the countries and the Secretariat. With regard to countries still without IMCs, doubts were expressed as to the feasibility of creating such bodies.

*Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)*

46. Mr Civili recalled that a broader non-GEF document on the TDA would be presented at a side event in Catania and that the countries could still add their comments to it.

47. Mr Abousamra said that the second draft of the TDA was under internal revision and would be published in December 2003 – and not November as stated in the Progress Report. Consequently no more comments by National Coordinators could be incorporated into the GEF TDA document.

*Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas*

48. Mr Baric emphasized that the issue of pre-investment studies had been discussed at length at the previous day's Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee, at which serious concern had been expressed over apparent delays, in some countries in particular. A new work plan and timetable had been agreed upon to ensure the whole process could be completed by the end of 2004. It had also been agreed that contacts with the countries and FFEM should be intensified; he asked the National Coordinators concerned to inform him of any development in that regard and said that he would do his best to maintain contact with FFEM. The process needed to be speeded up in several other countries, especially Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. He would take the opportunity of the Catania meeting to contact the Ministers concerned with a view to seeking their support for all-out coordination with regard to the issue. In the short term it was necessary to ensure that the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were released according to the schedule. Above all, he considered inappropriate discussing a further extension of the GEF Project beyond 31 December 2004, a deadline that was already the result of a one-year prolongation. In response to the proposal by Algeria, with backing from other National Coordinators, for a meeting of the Coordination Committee in mid-2004, to address inter alia any problems arising in meeting the deadlines for the pre-investment studies, he said that the fifth meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee was still scheduled for June 2004 – i.e. six months before the end of the Project – and the respective National Coordinators could be invited to it if necessary in order to evaluate the current development in the countries. It was decided, however, not to convene any more specific meetings of the Coordination Committee within the framework of the current GEF Project. He would respond to any request for specific assistance to ensure that each country completed its pre-investment study before the end of 2004.

49. The National Coordinators expressed difficulties in responding immediately to the new schedule, while emphasizing their commitment to the completion of pre-investment studies on time if at all possible. They too emphasized the need for total coordination, which was a two-way process based on communication and assistance. There was a consensus that the new timetable and work plan were logical and feasible, but unforeseen circumstances could always result in unexpected delays. Synergy and flexibility were keys to the whole process, with emphasis on intensive bilateral negotiations. It was also pointed out that the time needed would vary from country to country, since the administrative systems and sheer volume of data differed. The late signature of the contracts with FFEM was cited as a specific problem for those countries eligible for financial support from that Fund. Moreover, the seven-month period taken in Croatia to complete the pre-investment study could not be seen as typical since it had effectively been a marathon.

*Regional cooperative actions*

50. Mr Baric drew attention to the relevant work plan and timetable contained in the Progress Report, whose schedule would more or less be met.

51. It was reiterated that the deadlines to meet the reduction targets for the two regional plans related to the reduction of industrial BOD and of the generation of hazardous waste had been changed to 2010 by common agreement.

*Capacity building*

52. Mr Baric again drew attention to the relevant work plan and timetable contained in the Progress Report, whose schedule would more or less be met. Since FFEM had decided not to support any national training courses, he pledged that all planned courses would go ahead even without that Fund's support if necessary, since funds from other budget lines could be transferred for that purpose, by the second half of 2004 at the latest.

53. Mr Abousamra announced that the regional training course on river monitoring had been postponed from October and would take place in December 2003, in Orléans, France. He apologized for the subsequent tight schedule but, under Project rules, the regional course had to be held before the end of 2003, whereas the national courses on river monitoring and other topics could, and would, be postponed until 2004. The regional course was open to professionals active in the planning, designing and implementation of monitoring programmes.

54. Mr Chaoui asked for steps to be taken to ensure that the relevant GEF National Coordinator was always advised about such courses etc., by the MAP/MED POL Secretariat and by FFEM where applicable.

*National Action Plans (NAPs)*

55. Mr Abousamra, referring to the relevant work plan and timetable in the Progress Report, said that a crucial moment in the whole process of implementation of the GEF Project had been reached. He emphasized the fact that all countries, not only GEF-eligible ones, would have to present their completed sectoral plans and NAPs by the end of 2004, when the GEF Project would terminate. The guidelines had already been prepared with the assistance of regional experts, had been presented to the meeting organized in Catania in 2002 and had been sent to the countries. Two or three national experts were budgeted for, to cover the preparation of the NAPs and of the sectoral plans; those experts should be nominated at once, at least for the sectoral plans to begin with. The appointment of experts – and indeed the whole process – would be the responsibility of the National Focal Points, with assistance from the Secretariat where needed. In order to enhance the entire process a training course for national experts to lead the preparation of the sectoral plans and NAPs would take place in the second half of January 2004, probably in Turkey. With regard to the practical aspects of preparation of the sectoral plans and NAPs, either the individual countries could be given specific support upon request or subregional meetings could be held to assist the national experts jointly. The GEF Project Manager as well as MED POL staff members were ready to assist the countries, if necessary by paying visits and possibly attending IMC meetings.

**Agenda item 7: Other business**

56. Mr Civili announced that contacts had been made with Washington, Nairobi and the World Bank with regard to a possible follow-up to the current GEF Project, which would terminate at the end of 2004 related to the concrete implementation of the SAP targets. The concept of a new project had been discussed in depth at the previous day's Meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and it had been agreed that it could be outlined to the National Coordinators.

57. Mr Mamaev said that, following the positive midterm review of the current GEF Project, ideas had been floated at GEF of what could be done in the future to help GEF-eligible countries in the Mediterranean with the implementation of SAP MED and SAP BIO. The idea was for a strategic partnership based on the highly successful model of the seven-year partnership implemented in the Danube-Black Sea basin. It would consist of a regional capacity-building element and an investment fund. A stocktaking meeting would be held in mid-2004 to seek the endorsement of the countries concerned. The aim was to bring about a smooth transition from preparation of the NAPs and other Project components to their implementation.

58. Mr Arif said that the planned project would be exemplary of partnership between international bodies – such as UNEP/MAP, the World Bank and GEF – and the countries. GEF and the World Bank would provide much of the financial basis for the partnership, while the countries would be assisted on a first-come-first-served basis, in the form of demonstrations. The specific topics covered would be modelled on the Danube-Black Sea Basin Partnership. He urged the National Coordinators to begin informing their respective government departments of the concept, in readiness for later stages in its preparation and, it was to be hoped, approval.

59. Ms Mastrović welcomed the news of plans for a follow-up to the GEF Project, a sign of confidence in the cooperation achieved on the current Project.

60. Mr Baric noted that the idea of the Partnership had met with an initial positive response at the Meeting.

**Agenda item 8: Closure of the Meeting**

61. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the Meeting rose at 5.40 pm.

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**ANNEX II****AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting  
*The Meeting will be opened by the MAP Coordinator at 9.30 am*
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work  
*The MAP Coordinator will propose the Agenda and organization of work and the Meeting has to decide on the proposal*
3. Election of Officers  
*The Meeting shall elect from among the GEF National Coordinators the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur*
4. Progress report and discussion on the activities carried out in the period 1 January 2002 – 31 August 2003  
*The GEF Project Manager, MED POL Coordinator, WHO/EURO Representative and RAC Representatives will review activities carried out in the period 1 January 2002 – 31 August 2003, which will be followed by discussion*
5. Briefing and discussion on the activities planned until the end of the project  
*The GEF Project Manager, MED POL Coordinator, WHO/EURO Representative and RAC Representatives will introduce activities planned until the end of the project, which will be followed by discussion*
6. Actions needed at the national and the regional levels for the smoother implementation of the project  
*The Meeting shall discuss and agree on actions, proposed by the Secretariat or the participants, needed at the national and the regional levels for the smoother implementation of the project*
7. Other business  
*Any other issues relevant to the GEF Project implementation which might be brought to the attention of the meeting by the participants or by the Secretariat, will be discussed under this agenda item.*
8. Closure of the meeting  
*The Meeting is planned to be closed by the Chairman at 18.00.*



## ANNEX III

### Progress report For the Period 1 January 2002– 31 August 2003 and Activities Planned Until the End of the Project

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## INTRODUCTION

Bearing in mind the importance of land-based activities for the pollution of the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean countries adopted, at the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona convention held in Tunis in 1997, 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 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 Umbrella Project and three sub-projects coordinated by WHO/EURO, PAP/RAC and CP/RAC, during the period 1 January 2002 - 31 August 2003, 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.

## **1. PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2002 - 31 AUGUST 2003**

### **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 and UNEP/DGEF. 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 daily coordination of all activities specified in the project document, the preparation of the terms of reference and contracts with all consultants hired under the umbrella project, the preparation of half-yearly and yearly managerial and financial reports, the preparation of self-evaluation reports, the GEF Project management has done the following:

Prepared the background documents for the second and third meetings of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee;

- Organized second and third meetings of the Inter-agency Steering Committee and the second meeting of 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 UNEP/GEF;
- Organized and participated in the expert's missions to six countries in order to revalidate the proposed priority hot spots and to prepare terms of reference for the preparation of pre-investment studies;
- Prepared relevant letters of agreement with four countries and terms of references for the preparation of pre-investment studies;
- Prepared a contract with one country for the preparation of a pre-investment study;
- Participated at three meetings of governmental designated experts to review regional guidelines and regional plans;
- 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 the GEF Second Biennial International waters Conference held in Dalian, China, and presented the GEF Project.

In order to keep countries informed, a letter signed by the MED POL Coordinator and the GEF Project Manager was sent in the first quarter of 2003 to both THE MED POL National Coordinators and GEF Project National Coordinators. The letter reviewed the past project's activities and described planned activities. Special attention was paid to activities which are planned to be implemented by countries, i.e. preparation of pre-investment studies and NAPs. For these activities the countries are eligible to receive direct financial support.

The activities of the Project committees were as follows:

#### *Inter-Agency Steering Committee*

The second meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee was held in Tirana (Albania) on 21 March 2002. The meeting was informed of 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.

The third meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee was held in Athens on 28 January 2003. The meeting reviewed activities implemented during 2003, adopted the revised timetable of activities until the end of the project, modified some of the actions and proposed to extend the project until the end of 2004. The modifications on the time table and activities are described under the relevant action.

#### *Coordination Committee*

The Committee met for the second time in Tirana (Albania) on 22 March 2002. The national GEF Coordinators were informed of the details of planned activities, particularly on the process for the formulation of National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities. The meeting 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 institutions for the invitation to attend the meeting and preliminary contacts with potential donors and partners were undertaken.

#### *Mid-term evaluation of the project*

Following the new adopted policy, UNEP/DGEF organized a mid-term evaluation of the project, despite the fact that such a type of evaluation was not envisaged in the project document. In January 2003 an evaluator paid a one-week visit to UNEP/MAP. During the visit he met the MAP Coordinator, the GEF Project Manager, the MEDPOL Coordinator, the Director of PAP/RAC and others. He attended the meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the meeting of experts, who reviewed the first draft of the TDA report.

In his report, the evaluator concluded and recommended the following:

### CONCLUSIONS

1. The project under review addresses the core objective of the Barcelona Convention. This common objective has kept the twenty coastal States, very different from each other in many respects, cooperating under the auspices of UNEP for over twenty-five years.
2. The long-standing Pollution Monitoring Programme, stressing common methodologies, upgrading of scientific facilities and expertise for region-wide comparability of data, was developed for the actual combating of pollution from all identified sources. The project brings that goal closer by identifying and prioritizing the main hotspots and asking countries to develop national action plans for addressing pollution from land-based activities.
3. All these steps inevitably raise expectations for outside assistance to meet the high cost of capital-intensive solutions that will be identified by the pre-investment studies. The donors, including the international lending agencies and the richer Mediterranean coastal States, should give positive signals with regard to the expectations raised by this project. The project itself, however, should not be judged by the amount of investment it generates since investment decisions follow entirely different procedures over which UNEP has no control. The MAP secretariat can only monitor and report on the progress made in this field.
4. An added value of the project is that it has not limited itself to end-of-the-pipe solutions but has tried to address other aspects of the complex web of decisions that together result in a degraded sea and coastline, such as clean technologies, the identification of sensitive areas and biological diversity and started to address the difficult issues of sustainable financing and the promotion of public participation.
5. In the time available and with the resources devoted to them, the last two issues cannot be fully developed and both UNEP and GEF should be aware of the need to give them further support in the future. Already, the outputs of this project provide ample material on which to build such additional support
6. There is no doubt that, given another year to complete its work, the project will have made a substantial contribution towards its stated goal, which is the further elaboration and implementation of SAP.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Recommendations at the policy level (in order of priority)

At the policy level, the following recommendations are made that:

(a) The Project Coordinator, assisted if necessary by the MAP Coordinator, keep in touch with the French authorities to ensure the earliest possible use of the FFEM counterpart contribution as a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the project;

(b) The MAP Coordinator convenes the first meeting of donors prior to the next Conference of the Parties to MAP as part of the SAP process. At this meeting, the project secretariat should provide information on the actions taken to date to identify pollution hotspots, to initiate pre-investment studies and to obtain available cost estimates and request inputs from the donors concerning financing opportunities. This meeting of donors should not in any way be construed as a pledging conference;

(c) The Project Manager takes every opportunity to stress that the role of the project is to assist Governments in the implementation of MAP for combating pollution from land-based sources, but that it is the responsibility of Governments to adopt the national action plans, activate the pre-investment studies and begin the search for the required financial resources as soon as possible;

(d) The Project Manager writes again to the countries to stress the need to establish national inter-ministerial committees and to strengthen them where already established, as a key institutional component for the implementation of SAP;

(e) All project components provide, whenever possible, tentative cost estimates for the measures suggested for the reduction or elimination of pollution from land-based sources;

(f) All project components identify the stakeholders for the various elements and stages of the implementation of SAP;

(g) All project components stress the capacity-building element of the project by promoting the involvement of nationals who have received training in the SAP process.

### B. Recommendations at the project level (in order of priority)

At the project level, the following recommendations are made that:

(a) UNEP extend the project duration by one year within the present budget or with marginal adjustments;

(b) UNEP include an additional professional officer at junior level in order to ensure permanent desk coverage, more frequent country visits and persistent follow-up in the second phase of the project; since the post is not provided for in the budget, UNEP should explore the possibility of a project officer being seconded by a participating country;

(c) The Project Manager entrusts the preparation of the document on the promotion of public participation in the preparation of the national action plans to a recognized regional non-governmental organization with contacts in the participating countries;

(d) UNEP introduce from the next project revision two additional project control tools, namely, a "logbook" for the chronological recording of project events and a breakdown of the budget by project components;

(e) The Project Manager strengthens internal linkages between project components by promoting the use of the existing outputs of one another in their respective work programmes;

(f) In future project presentations the Project Coordinator refers to the important role that MAP has played (through the Pollution Monitoring Programme, the Blue Plan and the Coastal Area Management Projects) in the genesis of this project;

(g) The officers responsible for all project components limit the use of acronyms and abbreviations in their documents so as to render them accessible to a wider audience, and include a list of acronyms in every document;

(h) The Project Manager involves in the project other units that are active in closely-related fields, such as UNEP/DTIE, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the Global Action Plan for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land-based Activities (GPA) office in the Hague and the METAP/European Union strategy on hazardous wastes.

### **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 with regards to improving the efficiency of the National GEF Coordinators by providing support for the administrative assistance, three countries requested and received such support.

## **1.2 Updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)**

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 2002 MEDPOL reviewed the reports and prepared a preliminary draft TDA report which was dispatched to the expert team leader for preparing a draft report, by September 2002. The secretariat received from the expert team leader the draft report on 30 December 2002. This draft was reviewed by regional independent experts at the meeting organized in Athens on 29-30 January 2003. The revised draft report was prepared in July 2003, and it is under internal revision.

## **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, on 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). Consequently, an updated report of the pollution Hot spots in the Mediterranean was prepared which also includes the non-GEF eligible countries.

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), were sent to five countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Syria and Turkey) in the period May-September 2002 and to Slovenia in June 2003.

The mission reports and draft TORs were sent to the visited countries for comments. Five countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Slovenia and Syria) agreed with the TORs and signed a letter of agreement for the preparation of the pre-investment study. The remaining one country (Turkey), despite several reminders, did not react positively, so far on the submitted draft TORs.

Two countries (Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina) have accomplished the procurement procedure for the selection of a consultant. Bosnia and Herzegovina is the only country, which contracted a consultant for the preparation of the pre-investment study and the preparation of the study is under way. Egypt has decided to invite selected consultants to submit their offers. Syria is in the process of issuing the call for proposal as well as Slovenia.

In addition, 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 was signed in mid 2002. However the activities on the preparation of the study were initiated in spring 2003, because the new legislation enacted after the signature of the contract required the application of a procurement procedure for the selection of consultants.

A draft study was prepared in August 2003 and it is under review.

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 which was applied to the other countries. However, after the initial activities, contacts with the countries, and exploratory missions to the countries with regards to the activities on the preparation of pre-investment studies have not yet been initiated so far, due to the late signature of contracts between FFEM and UNEP/MAP. Namely, FFEM submitted in September 2002 the proposal for a framework agreement and a contract. The negotiations on the proposed document were long and the agreement and the contract were signed on 2 June 2003. According to the contract, FFEM will provide support directly to the countries. UNEP/MAP will assist the country in preparing

TORs, selecting consultants and monitoring their activities. For this activity of UNEP/MAP, FFEM will allocate appropriate funds.

So far, only one GEF eligible country is not participating in this activity, Libya. Libya never answered officially, only during the meeting in Catania (Dec. 2002), Libyan's representative proposed to be considered for further activities, and very lately prepared the revised country's report.

A consultation meeting on criteria for pollution sensitive areas, organized by WHO/MED POL, was held in November 2002 in Athens. Following the recommendations made by the participants on the proposed criteria, the final draft prepared was circulated for comments among the MED POL Coordinators and according to the final text adopted, an updated report on the pollution sensitive areas in the Mediterranean was produced.

#### **1.4 Regional cooperative actions**

Regional Plans and Regional Guidelines were prepared by selected consultants. Draft documents were reviewed internally and sent to the countries for their comments. Before their approval by the relevant focal points meeting, it was planned to review them by government designated experts. 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 among MEDPOL, WHO/EURO, CP/RAC and the GEF Project Management 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. Later on, during the planning of the meetings, the Guidelines for the application of BEPs for the rational use of fertilizers and the reduction of losses of nutrients from agriculture was not included for revision by a meeting. Finally, one more guideline, the guidelines for rivers monitoring was not reviewed too, because of the cancellation of participants due to war uncertainty.



Documents were grouped for the review taking into account the similarity of issues, as shown in the following table:

### Meetings of government designated experts to review regional plans and guidelines

Place and date	Regional plans and guidelines reviewed
Barcelona	Regional Plan for the management of hazardous waste; Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation; Inventories of PCBs and nine pesticides.
Split	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; Regional Guidelines related to the management of industrial wastewater; Regional Guidelines for the application of BATs and BEP in industries.
Athens	Regional Guidelines for ecosystem stress indicators
Athens 16-20 March 2003	Regional Guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal; Regional Guidelines on solid wastes with emphasis on coastal litter
Mytilini - canceled	Guidelines for rivers monitoring

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:*

- 1) on the development of ecological status and stress reduction indicators; and
- 2) on the river(including estuaries) pollution monitoring programme

#### *Regional Plans:*

- 1) on the collection and disposal of all PCBs waste;
- 2) on the reduction of input of BOD by 50% by 2005 from industrial sources;
- 3) on the management of hazardous waste;
- 4) on the regional inventory of quantities and uses of nine pesticides and PCBs as well as of industries which manufacture or condition them;
- 5) on the establishment of regional pollution monitoring reporting and data quality assurance programme for rivers;
- 6) on the establishment of regional pollution monitoring reporting and data quality assurance programme for marine environment; and
- 7) on the 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):

- 1) to combine the regional plan and the guidelines for river monitoring in one document;
- 2) to include the regional inventory for pesticides and PCBs in the regional plan for collection and disposal of PCBs;
- 3) to include an inventory for hazardous waste in the regional plan for hazardous waste management; and
- 4) 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, translated into French, sent to the MED POL National Coordinators for comments and reviewed at the meetings of governmentally designated expert, as shown in the table. In addition, all documents were approved by the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators.

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

- 1) sewage treatment and disposals;
- 2) management of industrial wastewater;
- 3) marine litter; and
- 4) 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 was to be given for discussion during the proceedings of the 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. In addition, all documents were introduced and reviewed by the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators.

Under this component RAC/CP was responsible for the preparation of 3 regional guidelines and 1 regional plan:

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

All Regional Guidelines and the Regional Plan were sent to CP/RAC Focal Points for revisions and comments during 2003 with a copy to the GEF National Coordinators for their information. In addition all were reviewed at the meetings of governmentally designated expert, as shown in the table.

## 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.

Following the regional course to train the trainers on the operation and management of municipal wastewater treatment plants, organized by WHO/MED POL in 2001, the following national training courses were organized by WHO/MED POL in collaboration with the national responsible authorities in Libya (in Arabic), Croatia with Slovenia's participation (in Croatian), in Syria (in Arabic), and in Albania, based however on a more particular subject like treatment by stabilization ponds, to meet better their requirements. One more national training course is scheduled for Algeria. Funds for the above national training courses were provided from savings from other activities as the planned contribution by FFEM was cancelled.

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 fund three regional training courses within the capacity building component, however the detailed fields are not yet finalized. In 2002, WHO/MED POL shifted a number of funds saved from other activities 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.

In order to assist the countries in holding the training courses in their national language, the related material is translated into Arabic and French with the view to also translate it into other languages according to the requests.

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 further 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 in the development of the accurate translation of the different documents in a short time, 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 the preparation of 3 documents, presentation of the economic instrument (EI) 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 second in March 2003, while the third one will be published in April 2004 (following the proposal for the project extension till the end of 2004). During August 2002, the activities on raising awareness were carried out, 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 EIs, and the leaflet on the impact of tourism on the environment, were offered, as well as the questionnaire for the opinion poll on willingness-to-pay for the environmental protection of the city of Hvar. The project was presented in the training course on EI in Opatija (Croatia). The training course, as well as the project, was presented in the form of an extensive article, in the 2 local newspapers, and at the local radio station. The project was also presented at the METAP/PAP training course on ICAM in Split. In October 2002, the project was presented at the Conference on Tourism in Dubrovnik, organized by the Institute for Tourism - Zagreb. During 2003, the project was presented at the Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Sardinia, Italy, and will be presented in October 2003 at the MedCoast Conference in Ravenna, Italy.

The new instrument was proposed to the Hvar authorities in May 2002. The entire economy of the Island of Hvar is based on tourism, and the risk of provoking negative impacts on the visitors is something nobody on the island would like to happen. In the meantime, the Croatian Governemnt (majority owner of the local hotel company "Suncani Hvar" offered it for sale. The buyer has been found, but the local population strongly disagreed, so the privatization failed. Consequently, the decision on the introduction of the new instrument has been postponed.

A PAP/RAC intern from France has been assisting with the baseline pilot project for 4 months. During summer 2003, she carried out a public opinion poll, consisting of 25 interviews with the outstanding members of the Hvar community. The objectives of the poll were: to raise public awareness on environmental issues and involvement of the public at large, increase opportunities for the introduction of new instruments, and ensure conditions for the implementation of follow-up activities. The pilot project initiated the preparation of the local Environmental Protection Plan that should facilitate the introduction of the tourist eco-charge.

The local authorities have agreed that the allocated funds for the purchase of the equipment (based on the MoU) be used for the preparation of a Tourism Carrying Capacity Assessment study which is underway. The study will provide baseline data for assessing which economic instruments are the most appropriate and what would be the effects of their implementation. Public presentation of the results of the summer activities, and final presentation of the new economic instrument - tourist eco-charge is scheduled for September 2003.

The second stage of the project dealing with an entrepreneurial centre has been initiated. The objective of the new EIs to be introduced is to support sustainable development of the new entrepreneurial centre in the project area of the Vira Bay. The package of EIs will depend on the crafts that will be developed within the area, while the revenues collected will be used for ensuring environmental quality, preventing marine pollution and possibly for the subsidising of environmentally friendly activities.

#### **Preparation of five additional pilot projects in selected countries**

The draft version of the Diagnostic Analysis has been prepared for all pilot projects. The preparation of the Diagnostic Analysis has been delayed, because of the unsatisfactory response by the countries. Four training courses were organised from October to January 2003 (Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Algeria). Five presentations to the relevant authorities have been done. Upon the authorities' response, some changes have been done on the proposals. The pilot project in Egypt has been cancelled, since the person in charge of the project had left his post without a replacement being appointed. The pilot project in Morocco has been postponed due to administrative constraints.

A report on Implementation has been prepared on the Bosnia and Herzegovina pilot project. The pilot project team has elaborated a model for a charge calculation. The programme is to be used in the Konjic water enterprise. Introduction of the new sewage charge is in the implementation process. Difficulties occur because of the lack of data needed for its calculation. Therefore, the period of data collection has been extended.

Preparation of Diagnostic Analysis in the Albanian project needed a rather long time. Numerous difficulties occurred in the Albanian Ministry of Environment, such as frequent changes of personnel, decreased interest in EIs within the Ministry of Environment, lack of data and of personnel. However, a new sewage charge for the town of Vlora has been proposed to the local authorities. Their response was generally positive. Still, some improvements of the proposed charge need to be done, and the current version of the Diagnostic Analysis is going to be improved.

In 2002 and 2003 requests for the introduction of new pilot projects on EIs have been submitted by Tunisia, Syria, Morocco, Lebanon and Turkey. *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 and is regularly updated. PAP/RAC has received the results of the questionnaires from 7 countries for the web data base, and the construction of the data base is underway. The numeric data requested by the questionnaire was difficult to obtain in the countries of the project. The results of the questionnaires have been delayed, since the quality of the results obtained needs to be improved. However, the establishment of this data base is the first step in building information in the region.

*A Brochure on advantages of using economic instruments was published in May 2002*, in English. The brochure was translated and published in 5 national languages (Croatian, Bosnian, Albanian, Arab and French). In some countries, the brochure was extended with the presentation of the state-of-the-art related to EIs in the country. In Croatia, the extended edition has been presented at the Ministry of Environment, and this event turned into the first meeting of environmental economists held in this country. The requests were made to continue with joint work and meetings.

**Expert meeting to prepare proposals for introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments in selected countries**, was held on March, 28-29, 2003 in Split. Twenty-five participants attended the meeting. In the meeting, the implementation/evaluation of pilot projects was discussed, as well as the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the

introduction of economic instruments. The proposals have been given for the follow-up of the project. A report has been prepared in English and French and distributed to the meeting participants and to the other National Focal Points of the GEF project.

The dissemination of a brochure on the advantages of using EIs, and the creation of a web site and organisation of training courses contributed to growing interest in the introduction of EIs in the region. Collection of data for the web database on EIs revealed numerous deficiencies in the field of EIs for environmental protection in several countries. On several occasions, people in charge of EIs in the countries revealed that some EIs had never been applied. Contradictions noticed among the existing EIs alerted to the shortage of data on revenues collected by EIs in some countries. These findings are expected to generate some improvements. Finally, the ideas for the follow-up activities have been created in the preparatory phase of National Action Plans (NAPs) for introducing economic instruments. Some funding sources have been proposed for the future financing of assistance in introduction of economic instruments that will be foreseen within the NAP.

### **Implementation of proposed measures in the application of economic instruments at national and regional level, with special emphasis to making SAP MED sustainable**

In order to achieve this goal, the guidelines for the preparation of the NAPs on economic instruments have been prepared. GEF eligible countries will be asked to prepare NAPs for the EIs that are to be introduced in the short term (till 2007), and to provide basic information on the EIs that are to be introduced in the medium term (till 2015) and in the long term (2025). In the preparation of the plans, countries will be asked to propose EIs aiming to reach the targets set up by the SAP MED.

In order to assist countries in the future implementation of the EIs, the PAP/RAC team of experts will prepare "Policy Guidelines on Economic Instruments for Environmental Protection in Mediterranean Countries". A meeting with the key expert has been held in August, in order to discuss the structure of the "Policy Guidelines", as well as other new guideline papers prepared.

## **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, funded by the MED GEF Project, 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 were widely disseminated.

Originally, 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 was considered that it might be useful, efficient and relevant to provide direct support to the countries for the promotion of public participation at the national level in the framework of NAPs, rather than spend funds in preparing the strategy and organizing the regional meeting.

In addition, MAP is an overall regional information and public participation strategy. Therefore, it was considered 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.

The third meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee has decided to modified this action in the way that a document on a common methodology, based on the Aarhus Convention principles, should be prepared and dispatched to the countries, instead of preparing the strategy and organizing the regional meeting on public participation. The balance in the budget should be allocated to the countries for public involvement in the process of the preparation, adoption and implementation of NAP, as proposed the common methodology.

So far, the common methodology was drafted and it is under internal review.

### 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 as follows:

Subregional meetings	Venue	Timing	Responsibility
Egypt, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine	Damascus, Syria	10-11 September 2002	MEDPOL/GEF
Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria	Rabat, Morocco	7-8 October 2002	MEDPOL/GEF
Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia	Split, Croatia	17-18 September 2002	MEDPOL/GEF
Turkey, Malta, Cyprus, Israel	Ankara, Turkey	21- 22 October 2002	MEDPOL/GEF
Greece, Italy, Monaco, Spain	Monaco	16-17 October 2002	MEDPOL/GEF

Draft NDA documents were prepared in 10 GEF eligible countries by hired national experts. The draft documents were reviewed by an external consultant and modified accordingly. The preparation of BB is slower than expected, due to difficulties in collecting the necessary information and data. So far, 6 countries accomplished this activity.

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 on the basis of the GPA Guidelines for the preparation of NAP to address LBS and approved by Country Designated Experts at their meeting in Catania (Italy), December 2002 and adopted by the meeting of MED POL National Coordinator (San Gemini, 26-30 May 2003). The Guidelines will be sent to the MEDPOL and the National GEF Coordinators by the end of September 2003.



Additional supporting documents and guidelines were prepared, as support to the overall activities to prepare the NAPs and the sectorial plans. These documents and guidelines are as follows:

- 1) Assessment of the national institutions set up by selected Mediterranean countries to assist the industrial and municipal sectors in their environmental activities;
- 2) Guidelines for tracking the Baseline Budget for industries; and
- 3) Guidelines for the compliance under the provision of the SAP operational strategy.

## **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. The IMC is 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 Memorandum 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 fourth meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee is planned for 21 October 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.

The fifth meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee is planned for June 2004. The main tasks of the meeting will be to review the activities implemented in the period October 2003 and May 2004 and propose corrective measures for the implementation of 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 22 October 2003. The main tasks of the meeting would be to evaluate the activities undertaken during 2002 and 1 January - 31 August 2003, particularly on NAPs development and pre-investment studies preparation and to inform the National Coordinators on activities planned until the end of project.

**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 has not been 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 to prepare, discuss, review and adopt the NAP.

Therefore, additional effort should be made in 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)**

The second draft of the document is under internal revision. It is expected to be published in December 2003.

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

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
Internal revision	July - October 2003	MAP/MED POL
Finalization, editing, printing and dissemination of the report	December 2003-June 2004	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 Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia 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.

UNEP/MAP with the assistance of 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. UNEP/MAP with the assistance of 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. Release of RFP	Countries according to their national regulations	15 January 2004
2. Negotiation on consultant's contract and contract award	Countries after the approval of ER	1 April 2004
3. Consultants mobilization	Countries and consultants	15 April 2004
4. Review of Work plan and Inception Report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM with the assistance of METAP	15 July 2004
5. Review of progress report(s) and draft pre-investment report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM with the assistance of METAP	15 September 2004
6. Review of final report	Countries, MAP/GEF and FFEM countries with the assistance of METAP	30 October 2004
7. Dissemination of report	MAP/GEF, FFEM	30 November 2004
8. Coordination of overall activities	<i>Ad hoc</i> Technical Committee	Until December 2004

## 2.4 Regional cooperative actions

Two regional plans: on the reduction of 50% of BOD from industrial sources by 2010, and on the reduction by 20% by 2010 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installation were translated to French and submitted to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points for adoption.

After their adoption by the MAP Focal Points meeting together with the remaining regional plans and guidelines they should be edited, translated to French, published and disseminated to the Mediterranean countries.

### Regional cooperative actions – Work plan and Timetable

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
Adoption of two regional plans by MAP Focal Points meeting	September 2003	MED POL, CP/RAC
Editing of final documents	June - October 2003	MED POL; CP/RAC; WHO/MED POL
Publishing	November 2003	MED POL; CP/RAC; WHO/MED POL
Dissemination	December 2003	MED POL; CP/RAC; WHO/MED POL

## 2.5 Capacity building

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 courses in 2003.

The two national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection scheduled for 2002 have been postponed to 2003 due to the delay in conducting the regional training course. So far arrangements have been made with Tunisia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Syria for the co-organization of the national training courses and provisions have been made for the translation of the training material into Croatian, Slovenian and Bosnian.

It is scheduled to hold the remaining two national training courses in 2004, subject to the availability of funds.

The national training course on a 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.

**Capacity building – Work plan and Timetable**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Regional training course on river monitoring	October 2003	Report and manual of training courses	MED POL
Two national training courses on river monitoring	December 2003	Reports and manual of training courses	MED POL
Two national training courses on river monitoring	March - April 2004	Reports and manual of training courses	MED POL
Two national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	September - October 2003	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL
Three national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection	Nov. - Dec. 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 – Dec. 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	January – July 2004	Reports and manual of training courses	WHO/MED POL

**2.6 Sustainability of SAP MED****Sustainability of SAP MED – Work plan and Timetable**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
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 – September 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 – April 2004	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 – September 2004	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 - June 2004	Final evaluation paper on effects of the Project on introducing new / adapting existing economic instruments	National institutions and experts PAP/RAC

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

The decision on the implementation of proposed new instruments is in the hands of the respective governments. It is believed that the more time we have, the better possibilities there are, that the new instruments will be actually implemented. Bearing in mind the present deadlines of the project, it is agreed that the pilot projects, if their implementation will not be possible in the short term, will implement a simulation exercise from January to March 2004. The possibility of extending the duration of the GEF project permitted the postponement of simulation exercise and provided some additional time for implementing the EI.

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

Evaluation of newly introduced/adapted EI will be done for each pilot project, and the date of this evaluation depends on the duration of GEF project. In case of the project prolongation, evaluation of the pilot projects will be done by June 2004.

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

Preparation of the proposals for introducing new/adapting existing EIs in 12 GEF eligible countries of the project is to be done from January 2004 to March 2004. 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 will be needed 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**

The document on common methodology for public participation, once finalized, will be disseminated to the countries. The countries will be able to receive, under a separate MoU, direct support for public involvement in the process of preparation, adoption and implementation of NAPs, as described in the common methodology.

### Public participation – Work plan and Timetable - a new proposal

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Review of draft common methodology for public participation by small team of experts	August 2003	Common methodology for public participation	MEDU/GEF MED
Editing, publication and dissemination common methodology for public participation	September-October 2003	Final common methodology for public participation	MEDU
Application at national level during the process of preparation, adoption and implementation of NAPs	October 2003-Dec.2004		GEF and countries

## 2.8 National Action Plans (NAPs)

It is expected to receive the National Diagnostic Analysis reports and the National Baseline Budget (BB) of releases from all GEF eligible countries until the end of September 2003.

As soon as NDAs and BBs are prepared and approved by MEDPOL, national experts will be hired for the preparation of sectorial plans and their integration into National Action Plans (NAPs). In addition, a group of 4-5 regional experts will be hired to work closely and assist the national experts and authority in the preparation of sectorial plans and NAPs.

Countries will be provided with assistance, under separate MOUs, for the organization of national and sub-national meetings of national experts and stakeholders in order to discuss and review documents prepared during this process, and for public involvement in the entire process.

It is expected that the entire process of the preparation and adoption of NAPs will be accomplished by the end of 2004, until the end of the project.

### National Action Plans (NAPs) – Work plan and Timetable

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