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**SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA LARGE MARINE
ECOSYSTEM (MEDPARTNERSHIP)**

Damascus, Syria, 15 – 17 March 2011

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Introduction

1. The Second Steering Committee Meeting of the UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) was held, at the kind invitation of the Government of Syria, at the Cham Hotel, Damascus, Syria from 15 to 17 March 2011.

Participation

2. The following Steering Committee members were represented: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Lebanon, Montenegro, Palestine Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, UNEP/MAP, UNEP/DGEF, GEF Secretariat, The European Commission, FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO-IHP, MEDPOL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, CP/RAC, WWF MedPO, MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med and the Project Manager.

3. The following donors and observers were represented: FFEM, EU, Conservatoire du Littoral (CdL), H2020-CBMED, MeHSIP.

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

Opening of the meeting and welcome addresses

5. H.E. Ms. Kawkab al Sabah Dayey, Minister of State for Environment Affairs opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the Second Steering Committee meeting of the UNEP/GEF MedPartnership in Syria where marine and coastal environmental protection is a priority. Syria is the first Mediterranean country since the start of the Barcelona Convention (BC) in 1976 which has fulfilled all its obligations under the BC with the ratification of its 3 remaining protocols including the recently adopted ICZM Protocol. Syria's ratification led to the entry into force of the ICZM Protocol which will now provide strong legislative measures to further prevent marine and coastal degradation. She underlined the need to protect the Mediterranean heritage and the sea as a regional resource from the challenges related to tourism, as well as industrial production. The cooperation with UNEP/MAP, and the RACs and MEDPOL has been very important and the Syrian National Action Plan (NAP) has been a key tool for the management of priority pollution problems. The priority projects identified in the NAP have been accompanied by a mechanism for effective implementation reflected in the Plan adopted by the Prime Minister and the Environment Council in 2008. Syria praised the proposed work plan, and the efficient management style of the MedPartnership's Project Management Unit (PMU), and is counting on the MedPartnership to lead the process towards the implementation of innovative projects and the support to Mediterranean countries towards sustainable management of the coast and sea.

6. Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, the UNEP/MAP Coordinator thanked Syria for the generous hosting of the Second Steering Committee Meeting of the MedPartnership in the historical city of Damascus. Syria is a longstanding partner of the Barcelona Convention, and the first one who has ratified all its Protocols, including the very recent ICZM Protocol. The

last 30 years UNEP/MAP and the Contracting Parties have cooperated to build the Barcelona Convention and a system of RACs to support national and regional activities related to marine and coastal protection. Concerted action continues to be required to protect and restore the semi-enclosed Mediterranean Sea with its densely populated coast. The MedPartnership is an ambitious and complex project multiplying the efforts of 13 Mediterranean countries, 12 implementation agencies and 48 co-funders providing a multi million dollars financing. The progress rate for Med Partnership project is solid with a cash advance of 14% of total funds in 2010 utilized, which is relatively “low to average”, but still on track, as that has practically been the first full year of the MedPartnership implementation. With respect to implementation, it is important to maintain and accelerate the pace and quality of delivery as the midlife of the project will be December this year. We will be able to go beyond advocating environmental protection towards showing concrete project results in preparation of the COP in the beginning of 2012 and the mid term review soon after. Next year will be characterized by an ambitious agenda, and with a spirit of adaptive management and corrective actions, the implementation record and delivery can be strengthened. This meeting will also provide opportunity for an early discussion on the proposed climate variability project to complement current activities as the Mediterranean is recognized as a region vulnerable to variations.

Election of officers

7. Following the provisions of the Project Document, the meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Imad Hassoun, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of the Environment of Syria and Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, UNEP/MAP Coordinator and Executive Secretary.

Adoption of the agenda

8. The agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.356/1) and the annotated agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.356/2) were adopted. The agenda is attached as **Annex II** to the present report.

Introduction to the meeting: Objectives, structure of the meeting, method of work, expected results

9. Mr. Ivica Trumbic, Project Manager of the MedPartnership, reminded participants of the overarching goal of the project: to enable a coordinated and strategic approach to catalyze the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the investments necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting the unique Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem, including its coastal habitats and biodiversity. The MedPartnership is led by UNEP/MAP and the World Bank and is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other donors, including the EU and all participating countries.

10. In terms of the background of the current meeting, participants were reminded that the Steering Committee (SC) is the main policy body responsible for overseeing the execution of annual work programme, and reviewing the status report submitted by each partner on the activities under the MedPartnership’s Regional Component. The Steering Committee endorses changes to the annual work plan and budget, reviews performance and ensures that the project remains on target. All Partner countries, consortium partners and donors are members of the Steering Committee, while observers are also invited to attend its meetings.

11. Mr. Trumbic informed the participants that the main objectives of the meeting were to (i) present and discuss the 2010 Annual Report; (ii) to assist the PMU to finalize the preparation of the MedPartnership's annual work plan and budget for 2011; (iii) to present and adopt the new communication strategy and related activities for 2011; (iv) to present the replication portfolio; and (v) to raise awareness of the project in the host country (Syria) through a major media event. However, the main underlying objective remains to maintain the delivery of results and outputs.

12. Tracing the future steps ahead after this meeting, Mr. Trumbic underlined the need to accelerate implementation of activities towards mid-term evaluation in 2012. He also pleaded for better convergence between project activities, among executing agencies and components, as well as for an improved use of financial resources.

Introduction to the 2010 Annual Report

13. Mr. Trumbic proceeded with the presentation of the annual report, which is an innovative product showing what has been achieved over the last reporting period. The Annual Report is a publication which presents, in a condensed, graphical and user friendly form, these achievements. It is also a part of the newly revised Communication Strategy. The report will be a key tool to raise awareness of all stakeholders, and MAP National Focal Points in particular, on the activities of the MedPartnership. Ms Virginie Hart was especially praised for all the work she had invested in the preparation of the report.

14. Partners then presented their respective activities undertaken in 2010 under the regional component. Presentations followed the general structure consisting of the following: (i) vision and objectives of the component in 2010; (ii) presentation of one or two good case studies; and (iii) identification of the important issues related to progress made.

General discussion on the Annual Report

15. Kelly West, UNEP/DGEF Task Manager congratulated the PMU on the attractive product of the annual report and proposed that the next report incorporates an annotated bibliography of publications to direct the reader to more information on the different components.

Presentation of achievements: Components 1 and 2

Component 1 Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer

16. PAP/RAC, the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO (UNESCO-IHP) and GWP-Med, Partners under component 1, presented their activities, highlighting the promotion of integrated approaches throughout the Mediterranean to reduce pollution and preserve biodiversity. This ecological objective is being implemented with the application of the ICZM approach. Better integration is sought for the implementation of project activities, ensuring that policy mixes are consistent and mutually supportive, and facilitating a better use of resources through coordination of partners and creating essential synergies among them. Following the principle that the whole is larger than the sum of its parts, there is still the need for further integration. A special integrative working group was created for this component with the objective to analyze methodologies, seek potential convergencies, and produce outputs leading to a more consistent planning process.

17. The presentation by PAP/RAC included a roadmap linking the methodology to concrete activities and 2 demonstration projects in particular, depicting the guidelines for methodologies and tools to be used on ICZM. Stakeholder participation is crucial in the process, with a plan to be presented at the end of 2012 to support countries in implementation of a number of sectoral issues. Art. 18 of the ICZM Protocol foresees the preparation of strategies to implement the protocol. In this context there will be an assessment of the implementation of other protocols under the Barcelona Convention to provide lessons for the preparation of specific guidelines to produce strong Action Plans. Algeria and Albania are to prepare their strategies after the launch workshop in June 2011.

18. The UNESCO-IHP presentation focused on the implementation of activities related to the sub-component on Management of Coastal Groundwater Aquifers and with a focus on reversing pollution trends by improved management of aquifers, testing best practices, assessing vulnerability, as well as starting policy/legal reforms within the institutional and legal frameworks of the 13 participating countries. Objectives of this subcomponent include: reversing the trends in over-extraction and degradation of coastal aquifers, by adapting policy to build capacity and technology in groundwater management and by filling knowledge gaps.

19. An assessment of the risks and uncertainties relating to Mediterranean coastal aquifers is planned in 13 countries. A pilot project on vulnerability mapping of coastal aquifers in selected countries will be implemented, and a coastal aquifer supplement to the TDA-MED will be drafted and proposed for adoption. On the Legal, Institutional and Policy Reform for Coastal Aquifer Management, a review and assessment of the existing policy, legal and institutional frameworks for groundwater management is foreseen, both at national and bilateral/regional levels, as well as the identification of related gaps and requirements under the regional protocols (ICZM, LBS and Biodiversity). Recommendation of policy, legal and institutional reform on coastal aquifer management is done in cooperation with FAO's Technical Cooperation Programmes, through detailed studies in three countries. In the case of Algeria the focus will be on studying the feasibility of integrating waste water management and re-use in order to avoid over-extraction.

20. For GWP Med activities under the sub-component on Integrated River Basin Management, 2010 has been marked by synergies with the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative, the Athens Declaration process, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the related Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean. GWP Med has additionally intensified cooperation with the capacity building component of the Horizon 2020 initiative (H2020) and specifically the CB-MEP and SWIM projects.

21. Concerning the Mediterranean Strategy for Water, assistance is provided to the water expert group meetings, and to the specific multi-stakeholder consultation on water financing. In the current absence of the adoption of the strategy itself, an Action Plan is in the process to be drafted. It will be discussed in May 2011 in Barcelona. In Egypt, private sector participation based on the OECD methodology has been elaborated in close cooperation with the Water Utility Company and the Ministry for Housing involving all stakeholders including the private sector. In Lebanon, technical assistance has been supporting the drafting of a national water strategy, including an IWRM plan, data analysis and multi-stakeholder dialogue, including private sector participation (PSP) following the example of related activities in Egypt. Tunisia is also planning for PSP as a direct input to its Water Strategy 2015. The case of Buna/Bujana was noted as an example of integrated coastal and fresh water management.

Discussion on Component 1

22. Discussion followed on how in-country inter-ministerial cooperation could be used more effectively, especially in coastal areas, which cover diverse authorities, such as tourism, industry and other key sectors. This calls for an integrated approach which would create synergies in the country. The Steering Committee was asked for guidance on how to improve potential guidelines developed in this area which could then benefit more stakeholders and decision makers.

23. The Syrian delegate thanked the UNEP/MAP, GEF PMU and partners in international cooperation for working towards solidifying this project. Component 1 is seen in Syria as the essence and heart of the project as it offers an integrative approach to vision and policy, following the entry into force of the ICZM Protocol. This will ensure a solid legal framework which can stand strongly against key sectors such as tourism, oil and electricity which all compete in the same geographic area. The coastal area in Syria is considered vital. It is a limited area, the length of the coastal strip being comparatively short with respect to the rest of the country. An integrative approach is, therefore, required to protect such a vital national resource. Project proposals are needed to support development of ICZM in Syria.

24. The Syrian delegate also added that integrated management of water resources is key in light of the deficiency of 2 billion cubic meters of waters in the country as a whole. However, in coastal areas other problems are being seen as critical issues for IWRM, such as an overuse and depletion of relatively abundant water in the coastal basin, the entry of sea water into freshwater, and a loss of freshwater into the sea. Demonstration projects on rivers are a priority throughout the eleventh 5-year plan which was adopted last year.

25. PAP/RAC noted that Syria has been extremely active in the CAMP process from very early on in the cooperation process, and thanked Syria for its support of the ratification of the ICZM Protocol and the work of the inter-ministerial committee established in Syria. Even if the national ICZM plan could not be financed up till now, the partners in component 1 will explore the possibility of financing this plan through the replication strategy of the MedPartnership.

26. Key issues for Montenegro under component 1 are that she has been quick to sign the ICZM Protocol but has not yet ratified it. Improved inter-ministerial cooperation is a key factor in this context and the delegate pointed to the fact that this was a major deficiency in Montenegro. Legislation and institutional roles are changing fast. It is through tools such as the ICZM Plans, that countries will be able to establish better coordination in the country. Montenegro underlined its appreciation for the MedPartnership to explore this even further and for continued focus on tangible outcomes and effective implementation.

27. The EC representative underlined environmental mainstreaming as a key priority under the H2020 initiative and shared the views concerning the need for improved inter-sectoral cooperation in-country. Close cooperation between the main stakeholders should be encouraged and one way to operationalise this would be by putting a mechanism in place to serve the different processes. The MCS D could be explored as such a mechanism for cooperation.

28. The message on the development of the Mediterranean strategy for water is that, even if it is currently still in draft form and political obstacles have to be overcome for final

approval, there is overall technical agreement on the strategy with excellent technical and administrative cooperation supporting the action plan's preparation.

29. The representative of Tunisia thanked the PMU and Partners on all the efforts undertaken and reassured the Steering Group that despite the recent political events in the region, enthusiasm remains high on the need for cooperation to push forward legislative changes for the protection of coastal aquifers.

30. Concluding on component 1, Mr. Trumbic noted increased need for better inter-ministerial cooperation through either (i) an institutional framework using existing bodies in countries, i.e. enhanced mandate of an existing body; or (ii) the possibility of using the project focal point to initiate inter-ministerial cooperation and establish the most appropriate coordination mechanism (building where possible on existing structures). On the proposal of Syria to have the possibility to participate in new initiatives, he noted that in the spirit of adaptive management, MedPartnership might generate new projects in the lifespan of the partnership should the financial situation make that possible. One possibility would be to develop a mechanism in the framework of the replication strategy, where new needs might be accommodated as proposals are coming from countries.

31. Prof. M. Scoullos, H2020 CB/MEP Team Leader added that inter-ministerial cooperation has always been a difficult issue to tackle globally in the diverse Mediterranean region where this gap has been identified in many training events in countries. There is a need however, even before going into a certain country, to ensure more substantial cooperation among the main stakeholders active in the region. One of the crucial conclusions from the H2020/CB-MED country missions is the request for cooperation among international and regional organizations and initiatives as early as possible in the planning and design level.

Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: Implementation of SAP-MED

32. Mr. S. Civili, the MEDPOL coordinator, presented the objectives of the sub-components implemented by MEDPOL and CP/RAC on pollution reduction, which include (i) Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of equipment, stocks and waste containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies (MEDPOL-CP/RAC), (ii) development of regional policy for nutrients and chemicals control (MEDPOL), and (iii) strategic financial planning and management within the NAPs' execution cycle (MEDPOL).

33. MEDPOLs strategic approach is participatory and adaptive, building the capacities of national teams, using continuous monitoring and evaluation, and developing achievement indicators. Particular attention is paid to the input into the replication strategy both at national and regional levels (through national trainers and regional replication workshops). With respect to the industrial and waste sectors, activities include: improvement of policy and legislation frameworks in selected priority industrial sectors (fertilizers, tanneries), and improvement of policy and legislative frameworks in selected hazardous waste priority sectors (luboils, lead batteries).

34. Mr. Civili briefly presented the development of regional policy activities including modeling the inputs of nutrients from rivers into the Mediterranean to deal with eutrophication, and developing relevant regional policy (activity 2.1.5); and enabling the introduction in national legislation of Effluent Limit Values (ELVs) and Environmental Quality

Standards (EQSs) through the development of regional regulations of chemical releases. He also gave an update on environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCBs.

35. On the implementation of demonstration projects on fertilizers (2.1.1.), Mr. Civili reported that Tunisia has proposed a new demonstration site, instead of one in Lebanon, as was initially planned. Tunisia is to propose 3 experts for the "state-of-the-art" assessment, which will then lead to proposals for policy reforms and initiation of the pilot project (management of phosphogypsum in a selected area).

36. The demonstration project on lead batteries in Syria (2.1.4.) is a successful project model with a battery recycling installation in Aleppo and a small-scale waste battery collection system. This could be expanded to the whole Aleppo area. A new treatment facility will be installed (in the existing factory) in the next 1-2 years, to deal with battery waste in the entire country. The possibility for expansion of the existing collection system in Aleppo is currently being explored. The replication potential for this activity is considered high.

37. Implementation of the demonstration projects related to contaminated oil and equipment by PCBs (2.3) is ongoing, with the assessment of the "state-of-the-art" in this field, a review of inventories, and identification of temporary storage sites being finalized in Egypt, Syria, and Albania. Libya could not be visited and Lebanon did not confirm its interest in participating. Possible alternatives are either (i) the addition of a new country as an alternative to Lebanon (with a total of 4 countries instead of 5), or (ii) Libya to join at a later stage with a possible revision of foreseen total quantities of PCBs for disposal.

38. In the context of facilitating the financing of NAPs (Activity 4.1.4), Mr. Civili announced that an environmental economist will be hired by the end of 2011. Discussion followed on the MEDPOL sustainable financing activity under component 4. This is a priority action, helping countries implement concrete NAP activities by (i) bridging the gap between country needs and donor resources; and (ii) enabling a policy framework for sustainable financing, to facilitate the search for funds and implementation. The activity will improve the mobilization of resources for countries by developing relevant policy and legislation.

39. Ms Carolina Gonzalez Castro, the representative of UNIDO, informed the meeting on the sub-component 2.2.: Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (MED-TEST). Expected outcomes will be to offer institutions, experts and enterprises of the southern Mediterranean countries the opportunity to learn how to use new approaches to transform existing environmental challenges into business opportunities and thereby to increase their competitiveness. As a result of the training course and technical assistance provided by international experts and of the hands-on experience, capacity will be built in networks of national institutions, local experts and in the demonstration enterprises, who can then implement the TEST approach. TEST methodology and training material would be available for further commercial applications in the Countries.

40. At least 80% of the demonstration enterprises have successfully completed the introduction of the TEST approach. Employee skills will be upgraded with modern environmental management tools, while action will be initiated to correct negative industrial practices. The whole process will result in more efficient consumption of production inputs and a reduction of pollution loads (at least 60% of the identified feasible Clean Production measures requiring no or moderate investment will have been implemented); EST options requiring a high investment (some combination of advanced process, pretreatment and final pollution control technologies) will be successfully identified for three-quarters of the demonstration enterprises. Investment projects will be prepared and enterprises will be assisted to access existing funding opportunities for EST. The results achieved in the

participating enterprises will be presented and disseminated in several ways (seminars, reports, videos) to other enterprises and industrial associations in the hot spots. As a result of the project, a newly-educated and motivated cadre of professionals from the participating countries will become engaged in networking to promote the TEST approach and will serve to extend the lessons learned from the project to other national experts of the Mediterranean region.

41. The first stage of the project has been implemented in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt. Now, stage two will include the demonstration at industry level: cleaner production, accounting, investments and strategic review. Up scaling is planned for mid 2011. Many more industries have been included as pilots than expected, with a total of 43 enterprises participating. Tunisia is more advanced on implementation than scheduled in terms of BOD reductions, volume of water saving and related environmental and economic benefits.

Discussion on Component 2

41a. Mr. Senad Oprasic, the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressed interest of his country to participate in the component (i) Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of equipment, stocks and waste containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies (MEDPOL-CP/RAC).

42. Discussion followed on the need for the PCB disposal project to be revised and new countries to be selected, as well as on the need to reduce disposal targets. Syria noted that the 2nd component is a key priority. The opportunity to redevelop and update NAPs with a focus on reform of management and legislative framework was discussed with a focus on the implementation of NAPs in the long term and, specifically, linkages to be developed with the investment portfolio. Focus on these components will ensure sustainability in the long term.

43. Representative of the Palestine Authority noted that PCBs were important for his country, with 30 electricity transformers having been destroyed due to conflict. Palestine wants to participate more actively in the project.

44. Ms. West contributed to discussions by presenting option 1, to introduce a new country as Lebanon withdrew. Mr. Civili noted that a mission to Libya had been planned, but the recent political events lead to the postponement of the mission. Syria asked that the possibility be explored to reallocate funds in Syria towards the provision of a facility to extract PCBs. Further to this, the PMU is asked (i) to find a new country willing to undertake activity on PCBs disposal, to replace those that have opted out or were forced to because of the political situation, and (ii) to see if the possibility exists to restructure activities to acquire new equipment while utilizing the existing budget. The objective would be to get as many countries as possible on board.

45. Mr. I. Zavadsky from the GEF Secretariat/International Waters Division noted that in the Black Sea similar regional problems have been discussed. This GEF strategic partnership is important as it is one of 4 international waters projects, together with the sub Saharan fisheries, East Asia sea pollution reduction, and the Black Sea Partnership. The structure with the two components (i) regional projects and (ii) an investment fund ("reincarnated" as Sustainable Med), is similar to the structure of the MedPartnership. This has been considered as a model for GEF International Waters focal area. Overall success will be determined by effectively interlinking with the investment fund. One of the challenges will be to work with partners in the World Bank (WB) on the practical implementation of

investment projects in the Sustainable Med portfolio to meet obligations under Protocols and to integrate water resources management and ICZM tools to improve the environmental status, while at the same time increasing social stability of people in the region. He also added that there has been important progress with key results, of which all documentation needs to be captured and listed using such tools as IWLearn as an opportunity to share and disseminate experiences and best practices outside the region. Finally, Mr. Zavadsky mentioned that the 6th GEF International Waters Conference will take place in October 2011 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. That will be an opportunity to present the MedPartnership's achievements as well as share experiences with other regions.

46. The European Commission noted that complementarities have been discussed with the WB and Sustainable Med. Non-investment related projects within the Sustainable MED are not clear and potentially overlap with other activities in the region.

47. Mr. Trumbic mentioned that Sustainable Med was now working on clarification of its specific existing programmes and there was a clear need to coordinate with Partners in the second half of this year, and that this was planned.

Presentation of achievements: Components 3 and 4

Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs

48. Presentations were made by SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO on subcomponent 3.1 and the conservation of biodiversity through MedPAN Network. SPA/RAC through the implementation of MedMPANet aims to establish new Marine Protected Areas (MPA), selecting priority areas for coastal and marine MPAs and selecting implementation partners of the project. The Libyan intervention was presented and aims to establish a system of MPAs along the Libyan coast, and includes: field marine surveys; development of a Monitoring Programme and GIS database; on-the-job training on marine and coastal biodiversity assessment, MPAs siting and design; ecological and socio-economic monitoring; and public awareness and communication on MPA value with assistance of the Conservatoire du Littoral (CDL).

49. The MedPAN South project implemented by WWF-MedPO aims to enhance the management effectiveness of new MPAs including ensuring financial sustainability of regional and national MPA networks, as well as enhancing effective management of existing MPA covering 11 countries. This includes a pilot project assisting local capacities to reinforce their potential, and establishment of an inter-ministerial committee which is a key asset to effective implementation of legal and institutional aspects. Demonstration projects under the MedPan South project are being implemented in Algeria, Tunisia, Croatia, Libya and Turkey.

50. Achievements in the last reporting period include: (i) a marine ecological survey in Ain Al-Ghazala area (RAC/SPA and WWF-MedPO, September 2010) with 10 Libyan and international experts; (ii) marine and coastal ecological survey in El Kouf area (RAC/SPA and CdL, October 2010) with 15 Libyan and international experts; and (iii) brief on-the-job training by international experts on MPA siting and socio-economic aspects related to MPA establishment.

51. The case study in Croatia aims at assisting Croatian MPAs in developing their management and business plans and enhancing their networking. Partners include the Ministry of Culture, which is assisting preparation of management plans required by legislation. A National Steering Committee has been established, a gap analysis completed,

6 thematic and training workshops for step-by-step development of management plans implemented, a proposal for a standardised national MPA zoning system drafted, and a common MPA management planning software and manual developed. The State Institute for Nature Protection and the Ministry of Culture are working together on developing a standardized approach.

52. Within the Capacity Building Programme for MPA managers implemented by MedPAN and SPA/RAC through regional workshops, 150 people were trained on MPAs management planning and planning for sustainable fisheries, training manuals on MPA management were developed, and an MPA experts' database established. A mentor programme, which includes working with 12 people in each of the 11 participating countries, was developed between MPAs, relevant authorities and WWF. A study to design a strategy for long term capacity building for MPA managers in the region will be launched in 2011. A Croatian sustainable tourism workshop is scheduled for October 2011.

53. Mr. P. Barros, FAO, presented achievements on promoting the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean through the application of the sub-component 3.2.: Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), namely: (i) first EAF training Workshop in Rome (December 2010) attended by fisheries researchers and managers, and (ii) development of a common understanding of EAF in order to make principles of fisheries management understandable using best available knowledge, while ensuring stakeholder participation. In addition, an analysis of adaptation of national and regional legal systems to EAF, at regional and country levels, started with a review of existing laws. Concerning by-catch demonstration activities, clarification of the situation in Tunisia is awaited. Finally, training and monitoring material on fishermen participation in MPA management for Al Hoceima Park are being developed.

54. Concerning potential replicable practices under sub-component 3.2, the EAF workshops to be organised in all countries of the region were mentioned as part of the process towards an integrated management approach that builds on existing mechanisms applicable to all countries, irrespective of the form of fisheries management they are using now. Fishermen's participation in MPA management is a special case of stakeholder participation to be embedded in EAF. Reduction of bycatch of vulnerable species is a process that requires identification and implementation. The input to replication strategy is essential as the project is already over half way through its implementation and best practices can be identified. Demonstration projects are replicable but manuals need translation. There is a need for funds for the delivery mechanism for MPA managers.

Discussion on Component 3

55. Mr. I. Hassoun (Syria) noted the need to do an integrated assessment of biodiversity, as in Syria it is currently fragmented between marine research centers and other competent authorities from the agriculture and environment sectors. The objective would be to create a comprehensive database for flora and fauna of coastal zones. SPA/RAC confirmed that, in view of financial constraints, the database will be partial but that it will explore other funding possibilities to complete it.

56. Ms. Silva Mejias, UNEP/MAP coordinator, encouraged a more inter-sectoral approach to FAO's EAF approach with further cross fertilization between Partners.

57. Lebanon noted that component 3 activities mainly focus on priority activities to establish MPA and related needs assessment. This is based on the Strategic Action Plan

related to biodiversity (SAP BIO) which might need updating to reflect the latest developments in international and regional policy development. Most of the activities in Lebanon are already completed and there is a need for more field visits and projects utilizing the lessons learnt.

58. Turkey informed the meeting of a jellyfish problem in the summer affecting the tourism sector and requested to add an activity or workshop on this topic.

59. FAO added that the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has been addressing the jellyfish problem, which is a process which needs to be linked to all the sectors and to the respective ministries. Syria confirmed that it also has a jellyfish problem.

60. MEDPOL added that, besides having implemented projects on jellyfish in the past, the jellyfish issue could be discussed in the framework of magnitude of the problem and trends at the end of May during the next MEDPOL National Focal Point Meeting.

Component 4: Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E

61. Mr. I. Trumbic, MedPartnership Project Manager, reported that the Inception report was completed and adopted at the 1st Steering Committee meeting in February in Montenegro. There was now generally a better and deeper involvement of GEF focal points in countries and these will need to be activated for future inter-ministerial cooperation. The related TOR will be completed soon after this meeting. Coordination of activities on the regional component and the investment fund are part of the PMUs scheduled initiatives. To that end, in mid 2010 a meeting was held with task managers of the investment fund projects, who have expressed high level of interest on the activities within the regional component. Meetings were held, together with the World Bank, with the H2020 initiative and the EC in Brussels to create synergies on replication. The PMU has assisted partners with technical advice and stimulated their engagement towards closer cooperation and synergies. In the 2010 Project Implementation Review, the implementation of activities was marked as moderately successful, which could be considered as very positive after the first year.

62. On the Replication and Communication activities, delays were encountered because of the situation with INFO-RAC. In order to ensure smooth implementation of the work plan alternative solution was found through release of funds from the budget line on communication and replication. MIO-ECSDE was asked to step in, to draft the Communication Strategy (CS) and implement the first set of communication activities (e.g. development and operation of the website, organization of a visibility event, etc) .

63. A presentation by MIO-ECSDE on the CS followed. A limited but yet considerable number of activities have been implemented in 2010 considering the recent assignment of the task to MIO-ECSDE (15 November 2010). A first draft of the Communication Strategy and a website has been developed as well as a collaboration portal. Coordination with partners and communication focal points network were also established. The CS is considered to be a living document, and its implementation will be monitored, evaluated, updated and adapted to ensure that the growing knowledge and experience gained during its implementation are fully reflected. The key to enhancing the value of the MedPartnership and its impact to a large extent lies in the ability to effectively communicate the main outputs of the different MedPartnership's activities, as well as the underlying key values/messages towards the protection of the Mediterranean. The CS is to provide communication support to all groups and actors involved in the implementation of the MedPartnership's Work Plan and

its corresponding activities. It will also provide for appropriate visibility of the MedPartnership's activities and messages and/or calls for action aiming at catalyzing the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the investments necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting the Mediterranean, and to support the replication efforts. The partners at the 2nd Coordination Group meeting in Rome (October 2010) called for a strengthened, coordinated and collective approach for the MedPartnership's communication and visibility activities. The first communication focal points meeting in Rome, held in January 2011, discussed the first draft of the CS and the 2011 work plan. In addition, the MedPartnership website was presented and its features were discussed in detail. Approval of CS is now being sought from the Steering Committee to ensure the necessary coordination, visibility and project identity. The complexity and heterogeneity of the project makes passing messages about achievement of the MedPartnership important.

64. The CS proposes two sub-strategies: the internal and external one. The Internal Communication Strategy responds to the need for effective communication within the structure of the MedPartnership ensuring adequate flow of information among the different target groups towards the harmonized implementation of the External Communication Strategy. Coordination between partners and focal points is essential to avoid duplication. Additionally, there will be "What's new" reports quarterly, which will provide simpler messages and input to newsletter and a collaboration portal.

65. The External Communication Strategy is a key "vehicle" for gaining support from outside the partnership in order to reach its goals and is of utmost importance for getting all relevant stakeholders to collaborate, as well as being necessary to mobilize, inspire and hopefully engage all relevant stakeholders and levels of governance. Achievements so far include: preparation of the 2nd draft of the Communication Strategy; development of the MedPartnership web-site (including press releases, news, etc.); preparation of the country activities maps; organization of a press conference in Damascus; development and production of the MedPartnership leaflet; etc. Further activities planned are the realization of a video on the MedPartnership and development of an interactive e-application that will serve the communication purpose of the project, explain the MedPartnership and showcase its multiple activities in an attractive way. In addition, some partners (e.g. MIO-ECSDE, WWF MED POL) have been implementing their own communication activities.

66. Due to the complexity and heterogeneity of each component's activities in this project, the key messages will be tailor-made according to the various target groups so as to be used in the communication materials and activities. The overarching message of the MedPartnership is "Together for the Mediterranean Sea"; specific messages are tailor made and component/sub-component oriented.

67. On the issue of identity, a key element to ensure a harmonized recognition of and familiarity with the MedPartnership's activities is the adoption by all partners of a common project identity (MedPartnership logo, letterhead, templates, etc; clear reference to the project framework and financial support, etc.). A set of guidelines has been already developed and support material will be developed and uploaded on the collaboration portal. MIO-ECSDE is assisting in the implementation of the communication activities within the timeframe of the first five months of 2011. The successful implementation of the strategy will require the involvement of three main task groups: communication team, PMU and website administration team, as well as the involvement of the partners.

68. The 2011 CS Work plan was presented with mention of the main forthcoming events: press conference in Damascus, back-to-back with the 2nd MedPartnership Steering

Committee Meeting (15-17 March 2011); press conference or side event back-to-back with the Coast Day 2011 (September 2011); press conference or side event in Dubrovnik, back-to-back with the 6th International Waters Conference (17-20 October 2011); and a side-event during the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Nice).

69. A presentation of the website followed, with interactive elements presented, which add life to the MedPartnership activities.

70. Ms. Thomais Vlachogianni (MIO-ECSDE) made a presentation on ways to strengthen CBOs and NGOs activities within the MedPartnership. More concretely, outputs in 2010 included: the finalized NGO involvement plan and support to partners for its implementation; the organization of dissemination, visibility, networking and capacity building events to strengthen the participation of civil society in the MedPartnership activities, the Arabic version of the UNESCO/UNEP YouthXchange Guide which includes the MedPartnership as a best practice example in the Mediterranean; the MedNGO position paper on biodiversity and the role of MedPartnership widely disseminated and presented to the EU commissioner, etc. In order to assist the partners in the identification of appropriate NGOs to participate in their activities an online inventory of Mediterranean environmental NGOs has been developed and is linked with the MedPartnership website. Finally, she mentioned that MIO-ECSDE, as part of the Horizon 2020 EU funded ENPI CB/MEP project, continues to identify synergies, inter-linkages, joint activities in terms of civil society involvement and environmental mainstreaming. Other activities include: networking of NGOs, e-mail circulars and bulletins on the progress of MedPartnership, development of a questionnaire, a checklist on tips and basic steps to organize public participation and consultation processes, etc.

Discussion on Component 4

71. Mr. Trumbic noted that even though investment projects are mostly in a very early stage of development and implementation, some projects in SE Europe started earlier and majority of GEF funds have already been disbursed (Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina). Most of Southern Mediterranean activities, except in Egypt and Tunisia, have just commenced and are still being negotiated. Mr. Trumbic added that there will be a need to coordinate further between the regional component and investment fund, i.e. between the PMU, the WB and all the Partners.

72. Participants asked if the website could be translated into Arabic. The PMU answered that although this would be very useful, it wouldn't be easy to implement as there will be a need for someone to translate the contents almost in real time, and the funds have not been yet allocated for that purpose.

73. Algeria commented that capacity building should be made more visible by, for example, placing all the training activities on the website including content of trainings.

74. UNESCO-IHP appreciates the Communication Strategy as a tool to convey the key messages of the MedPartnership and to develop joint messages as a result of the implemented activities with countries. Outputs which are scientific, technical and legal should be concrete, but we should be careful that messages are consolidated and endorsed by countries.

75. The PMU encouraged partners to work together on joint messages. Training activities will be publicised if partners and countries send the necessary information to the PMU. Finally, Syria noted that national activities which are outside the MedPartnership, but relevant for its activities, could also be added to the website.

Presentation of the Replication Portfolio Assessment

76. Mr. Andrea Merla, MedPartnership consultant, made a presentation on the Replication Portfolio Assessment. The definition of replicable practices points to a variety of activities which aim at reducing stress to the Mediterranean ecosystem as identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA). The task included an assessment of the portfolio of activities within the regional component of the MedPartnership. The replication potential of regionally tested and validated cost effective activities within the MedPartnership was assessed with the aim to leverage, in the long run, new additional funds and political commitment. Mr. Merla pointed that this replication exercise is unique in such a large and diverse project in the region.

77. Replication methodology concentrated on taking stock of all pilot demonstration projects under regional component. The criteria used in the assessment were based on conformity with the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and included relevance to the LBS protocol, anthropogenic pressures on coastal zones, conversion of critical habitats, loss of biodiversity and over-fishing. It also took into account non point sources of pollution such as agriculture and the integration of tools such as ICZM.

78. All Partners participated in the exercise bringing in their own expertise. A number of issues with a potential for replication were analysed: pollution concentrated on the coastline, where urban wastewater discharges are still a major problem; disposal of PCB stockpiles as a complex issue since PCBs are banned and need to be eliminated; UNIDO's TEST project with its successful methodology advanced in the process in the Mediterranean aims to increase efficiency of SMEs while improving environmental standards.

79. Mr. Merla further pointed to the examples within the investment portfolio led by the WB on waste water treatment plants (WWTPs), such as ongoing Croatia Coastal Cities programme, which is introducing innovative technologies in order to better reduce nutrients in 4 cases; Neretva-Trebisnjica river basin project aimed at rehabilitation of existing plants introducing non conventional nutrient removal system with a possible wetland component (WB to confirm); Alexandria Integrated Coastal Zone Management project which is starting; and the Greater Tunis treated wastewater project which is just about to start.

80. Concerning policies, the following pilot projects could be showcased for the Mediterranean and replicated: Buna/Bujana Delta utilizing the integrative methodological framework (IWRM, ICZM, groundwater aquifers) with partners bringing into the project a long experience on hydro-geology and aquifers in the region, and Morocco's Lake Nador coastal lagoon project. In addition, the conceptual framework on MPAs, establishment of new MPAs, and strengthening of the existing network through capacity building (WWF MEDPo, SPA/RAC) are valuable experiences with replication potential.

81. Replication therefore has a wide scope for action and can be used for conceptualizing how to move from a basket of a variety of activities to targeted replication activities. Dissemination of the replication activities will be of key importance for promotion, making it a resource for all countries of the Mediterranean. It is recommended to identify demonstration centers for replication and dissemination of lessons learnt within the MedPartnership as well as carry out regional replication workshops for replication of activities already in an advanced stage of implementation within the portfolio.

82. At the end of 2011 or in early 2012 UNIDO's TEST replication workshop is planned in Turkey. The MedPartnership replication conference could take place in 2013, while the proposal could be submitted to the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2013. In terms of replication, 4 years is a very short time span and project results could only be visible over a longer term. A replication mechanism, established during the lifetime of this project should be kept in place over a longer period, and reflection now needs to go into how to catalyze sustainability. Finally, Mr. Merla presented the Replication Promotion activities overview plan for 2011.

Discussion

83. Ms. Sensi, the EC representative, praised the work done on replication which is seen as an important contribution by the MedPartnership. Replication is another potential area, besides environmental mainstreaming, where cooperation, joint efforts and creating synergies with H2020 and SWIM should be considered. There is also potential for further cooperation with the Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment project (MeHSIP), with the complementary Western Balkans and Turkey Hot Spot Investment Study (WeB&T HSiS) and with the recently launched SWIM project. However, there is a need for more fine-tuning of the methodology (the document presented at the SC does not contain the comments and suggestions provided by the Commission and other interested parties) The EC is willing to cooperate on this in order to get the strategy methodologically structured, and possibly operationalised and shared. The questions remain on how this is to be carried out and who will ensure the sustainable responsibility for replications in the future. Demonstration projects within the recently launched SWIM call for proposals (15 million Euros) relate to the implementation of integrated water resource management actions in the Mediterranean and have a strong replication component. Furthermore, when discussing demonstration centers we should not give the impression that new structures are being created but rather a network of demonstration sites with a common body of coordination. ICZM and IWRM are also activities within the EC programmes which can be looped into the process.

83a. Prof. Scoullos, H2020 CB/MEP Team Leader, praised the report. He noted that there are a number of replicable projects in the region and opportunity should be sought for synergies with these to extend the replication exercise to other activities and beyond the time frame of the MedPartnership. H2020 sees the opportunity for real synergies with its approximately 150 capacity building activities. H2020-CB/MEP is happy to cooperate with the MedPartnership on this issue. For a successful Replication Strategy, besides the science behind the substance, the communication of substance seems to be important too. It should start before the action and continue after that. The next step in the process is then for replication to be inbuilt in the design of project and in related educational activities, which would make the process sustainable beyond the life span of the project itself. Replication can be done on every good practice, but coordination frameworks under which we work need to be linked to resources.

83. b. The Syrian delegate noted that she saw the benefit from success stories being exchanged between countries, especially relating to activities from the NAP on ICZM. The management of coastal zones project as applied in Algeria, for example, is of particular interest to Syria, which wants to apply national policies as in Algeria.

84. The GWP-Med representative noted that linking replication to communication and transfer of experiences, and education will make the important difference. The creation of new centers is not seen as useful. Partners and their interactions are crucial to support the replication process and GWP Med would like to request being added to the section of anthropogenic pressures innovation.

85. Mr. I. Zavadsky, GEF Secretariat, underlined the importance of the replication strategy for the MedPartnership, as a model product to showcase results globally. Lessons learnt as well as methodological aspects are to be captured and documented in order to be able to catalogue and disseminate them under the IW Learn. The leveraging of additional financial resources in the region is a legacy for MAP to show results in post project life.

86. The UNESCO-IHP representative noted that demonstration centers related to demo sites and pilot projects from which lessons can be learnt are essential to sustain the efforts in the long term in the region. Existing centers of excellence could be used to serve as vehicles for replication. UNESCO has an entire network of centers and resources which could be involved in this respect.

87. Mr. T. Young, the project manager of the MeHSIP- PPIF, made a presentation on the Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme – Project Preparation and Implementation Facility (MeHSIP-PPIF) which aims to support the Horizon 2020 Investments for Pollution Reduction component. This will mainly be achieved through providing project development support to infrastructure investment projects, which will assist these projects to proceed towards securing funding and successful implementation. The projects derive mainly from the so called "hotspots" as identified under the National Action Plan (NAP) exercise that was coordinated by UNEP/MAP. In order to be chosen, projects have to meet a set of criteria (financial and environmental) as well as be strongly supported by the national administration responsible for planning and finance. MeHSIP-PPIF was launched in March 2009 and is being undertaken on behalf of the European Investment Bank (EIB) by a consortium made up of WS Atkins International Ltd., LDK Consultants and Pescares Italia Srl. Phase II was launched in February 2010 and is expected to be completed by April 2013.

88. The first results of the MeHSIP-PPIF are coming through, namely: (i) an updated and consolidated Horizon 2020 project pipeline; and (ii) identification of the first five front-runner projects that currently constitute Wave I of the MeHSIP-PPIF Pipeline (Netanya Landfill in Israel; El Ekaider Dump Site in Jordan; Al Ghadir Waste Water Treatment Plant in Lebanon; Tangier Solid Waste Management in Morocco; and Lake Bizerte Integrated Depollution in Tunisia). Following the completion of technical studies to be prepared through MeHSIP-PPIF resources and the subsequent review of these projects, EIB will assess support to the above mentioned projects with long term financing if country commitment remains strong. The project referred to above with a high replication potential is the Lake Bizerte Integrated Pollution Reduction Project in Tunisia; for example, one of the projects being supported by MeHSIP-PPIF in Egypt: the "Wastewater expansion for (part of) Kafr el Sheikh Governorate" is the first component of an integrated pollution reduction programme for Lake Burullus, one of the Northern Lakes in the Nile Delta. The MeHSIP-PPIF would welcome closer coordination both regionally and nationally, particularly through developing joint co-financing of projects.

89. UNESCO-IHP proposed that the resources within the MedPartnership should be pooled on the replication component and related replicable activities providing snapshots of best practices, such as coastal aquifer management. Each executing partner is to indicate which activities from their components form the most relevant activities from the overall basket of the portfolio and then match with demands from countries on best practices. This approach would keep in line with the spirit of the replication strategy.

90. Ms. West, UNEP/DGEF, praised the important contribution and advances in discussions on replication. Additional thought can be put into further developing methodology

and selection criteria, which could be presented separately in the Annex. It should include the political will, demand, capacity in place, stress reduction and sustainability and how to embed the overall process in the region. This could also be reflected in a Monitoring and evaluation plan for replication.

91. Syria added a need for capacity building on ICT technology and river basin monitoring and management (ICT, GIS and integrated monitoring). A related project proposal is in preparation.

92. Mr. Trumbic thanked Mr. Merla for his work on the draft replication strategy and participants for their valuable comments. The Replication Strategy is innovative in this large project, because it is the first attempt to show how we could go ahead after the termination of the project. There are many initiatives and a large pool of practices to select from. More reflection on replication will be needed. He stressed that countries are the final owners of replication, because they should be responsible for implementation, while EU, MAP and others are there to assist replication. Synergies are important, as for example with the EC's large number of projects in the region such as the Western Balkan and Turkey Hot Spot Investment Study (WeBTHSiS) and the World Bank's Adriatic (ASEP) study for which a regional workshop is planned in June 2011. Promotion of replication within the MedPartnership is therefore also to include other initiatives. Methodological aspects need to be developed further, including the criteria for the implementation of its objectives.

93. Mr. Merla thanked participants for all the comments and especially the EU for its cooperation proposal. Replication should be managed within MAP and not delegated to national centres. The Methodology needs to be strengthened and a working group could be established to work on this.

94. Ms. Silva summarized that replication is of major interest as it is at the core of the project, bringing together innovative knowledge on technical and managerial aspects of addressing key environmental pressures. Replicable practices are to be further analyzed and tested as noted by UNESCO and H2020 with additional time and resources invested for practices to be mature enough to be replicable. Replication and sustainability are intrinsically linked and the role of different institutions such as MAP will need to be further explored. Written comments are welcome for future iteration of the process, to be developed by the PMU in 2011.

The Sustainable Med: Presentation of achievements

95. The World Bank representative, who was scheduled to inform the meeting on the developments within the Sustainable Med, due to an accident could not be present at the meeting.

Presentation of the 2011 Work plan

96. The PMU introduced the work plan of activities foreseen in the MedPartnership in 2011.

97. In the Component 1, the implementation of activities by UNESCO-IHP, PAP/RAC and GWP Med will continue with case studies and pilot projects, and a series of technical and scientific assessments, especially based on the results of the advanced demonstration projects. Three sub-regional action plans on coastal aquifers will be developed following respective workshops. Vulnerability of coastal aquifers will be assessed in 13 countries.

98. The ICZM activities in the 2011 work plan will include holding of a regional Workshop in May in Istanbul for eligible countries to present Guidelines for National ICZM Strategies and NAPs, followed by preparation of strategies in Albania and Algeria. In autumn, the first inception workshops will be held. On legislative and institutional activities the 3rd national case study will be completed and consolidated during the expert meeting in May.

99. GWP Med will assist the stakeholders' process foreseen in the Buna/Bojana River Basin, while in the context of the Drin River Basin dialogue a strategic shared vision for the management of the basin will be agreed. In Lebanon, an IWRM plan is to be developed including the involvement of private banks and private sectors. This activity will be carried out in close contact with EUWI Med.

100. Within the Component 2, in the activity 2.1.2. Chromium and BOD Control of Tanneries Effluent, MEDPOL reported on Turkey's advancement on policy reforms and the launch of the pilot project. Similar to that, there is further development in the project on lubricating oils in Algeria where the first phase has been finalized. The Lead Batteries Recycling projects in target countries are also well advanced. On TEST Med, UNIDO awaits funding from Italy to focus on replication.

101. Within the Component 3, in sub-component 3.1., SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO noted delays in project advancement due to unexpected lack of finance from the Spanish fund AECID. Implementation of WWF-MedPO activities will include the draft of management plan for MPAs and a focus on communication and public awareness. FAO activities are running late in the planned implementation and 2011 activities will include EAF workshops.

Discussion

102. Syria asked the meeting to reconsider 2011 workplan regarding Component 1 and ICZM and groundwater aquifer management in particular, as the management of aquifers is such a high priority for Syria. On lead batteries and PCBs Syria made a proposal to have a recycling/extraction station to extract PCBs located in Syria, instead of having them shipped abroad. Addressing the problem of pollutants from tanneries is a priority for industrial plants in Syria in coastal areas.

103. PAP/RAC is willing to assist in the preparation of the national ICZM strategies but sees difficulty in including new countries in the already developed process within this year's budget. Once the replication strategy is ready for implementation and a related budget is available then the activity could be implemented in Syria.

104. Although a number of demonstration projects and countries have been selected in the preparatory stage of the MedPartnership project in 2006, based on demand and commitment to co-financing, UNESCO-IHP is open to discuss the development of a demonstration case to respond to a particular need together along with discussion on co-financing. The example of Morocco is one where interest was expressed on the ecosystem wetlands and aquifers activities and this has now become an additional case study.

105. Algeria mentioned that in its national communication activities issues related to education are only partially covered. NGOs are involved in awareness-raising but there are additional needs to raise awareness of citizens and children through events with higher visibility such as media events, videos, etc. Within the project's Communication Strategy, the

education material of MEDIES¹ could be taken into account and the idea of a MedPartnership game to raise awareness of children and students was supported by Algeria. PAP/RAC noted that it will seek funds within its own communication budget and each partner could do the same.

106. Conservatoire du Littoral informed that they could take the role of facilitator for financing on marine zones and assist sustainable management of the area. Turkey requested assistance for a workshop and case study on the jellyfish problem. Turkey also offered to be a candidate country for hosting a workshop this year. Lebanon expressed the need, under a Component 3, for the demonstration project and field assessment as agreed with SPA/RAC, in particular for activities related to on the job training of managers and practitioners.

107. MEDPOL is to take up the jellyfish problem to their focal point meeting. Records of events on jelly fish in different countries are to be included in the MEDPOL database. The Palestinian Authority representative asked on their eligibility for participating in the PCB activities as it was unclear if they are as yet directly eligible apart from the small grants programme and requested the meeting for solutions on how to resolve this.

108. The PMU concluded that keeping in mind the project implementation process, the above proposals will certainly be discussed and solution sought to be found for countries' requests to add activities which will require necessary budget reshuffling.

Discussion on the draft Communication strategy

109. Participants all congratulated MIO ECSDE for the work done on the draft communication strategy and tools, in particular the website. The PMU was requested to work on proposals on how to ensure the presence and visibility of the MedPartnership at major media events such as the IWC 6 conference in Dubrovnik to show progress made. The need for bigger scale events and media tools, communication officers for different regions, joint events in country with NGOs was raised in discussion. Update of material, monitoring and visibility at events would require a team of Communication experts for the project to develop and be sustainable.

110. The PMU welcomed the positive reactions to communication strategy and the PMU will ensure sustainability of communication activities as well as on replication without interruption.

Presentation and adoption of the 2011 budget

111. Mr. Giorgos Petridis, PMU, presented the 2011 budget for activities under the different sub-components. Partners expressed their gratitude on the PMU's constant support throughout the reporting period. The Steering Committee then adopted the budget for 2011.

Press Conference

112. The press conference was held on the second day in the afternoon. The objective of the conference was to present the project's overall progress and achievements in 2010 with

¹ MEDIES is an educational and training tool of MIO-ECSDE (www.mio-ecsde.org). It is an initiative on *Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)*, launched in Johannesburg during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, 2002).

a special focus on the activities in Syria. The event was a successful and was attended by approximately 70 participants with Journalists from the Arab countries and Turkey

113. The Minister of State for Environmental Affairs of Syria, Ms. Kawkab al-Sabah Dayeh, reiterated Syria's commitment on safeguarding the marine and coastal environment. The Minister said that "...we depend a lot on the MedPartnership as we expect to gain international support for cleaner seas and sustainable development both in coastal zones and in the interior of the country. I consider this meeting to be the beginning of a closer cooperation in order to achieve the environmental results that we all wish for...". The Minister also mentioned the importance of the participation of NGOs within the framework of the MedPartnership in order to raise awareness on environmental issues.

114. Speaking for the MedPartnership, UNEP/MAP's coordinator Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias said that "...as environmental protection is becoming a greater priority, if all interested parties maintain their commitment to protocols, conventions, projects and financing more opportunities for involvement will arise in the future".

115. The Project Manager for the MedPartnership Mr. Ivica Trumbic stated that "...the MedPartnership is a long term partnership with a vision beyond 2014. It is a huge undertaking and we therefore expect results across a wide range of issues. The project depends on the involvement of the countries who will benefit, as well as on the peoples of the region".

116. Two introductory presentations to the press conference were given. Mr. B. Shipman, PAP/RAC consultant, gave a presentation entitled "Shaping the future of the Mediterranean Coasts: Celebrating the ICZM Protocol". He examined the applications of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol ratified by Syria in November 2010.

117. In brief, the ICZM Protocol is a unique legal instrument for sustainable coastal development providing an effective way to ensure that human actions are undertaken with a concern for balancing economic, social and environmental goals and priorities in a long-term perspective. The second issue referred to Syria's National Action Plan for land-based sources of pollution and relevant demonstration projects within the framework of the MedPartnership.

Date and place of the next Steering Committee Meeting

118. The next Steering Committee meeting will be focusing on organization and stock taking, including progress on replication. It will also be linked to the mid-term evaluation of the Medpartnership. The meeting will probably take place in Turkey in March 2012. The next Coordination Group meeting will take place in Split on 12-14 October 2011, prior to the IWC6 in Dubrovnik.

Session on Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean

119. In the continuation of the meeting, the Steering Committee discussed the GEF Project "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean". The session was attended only by the countries that have endorsed the project (present at the meeting were Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Syria, Palestine Authority, Tunisia and Algeria), the executing partners

(PAP/RAC and GWP Med) and other organisations (UNESCO-IHP, FAO, GEF Secretariat, WWW MedPO and SPA/RAC).

Opening of the Session

120. The session was opened by Mr. Ivica Trumbic, Project Manager of the GEF MedPartnership. He introduced the background to the meeting, its structure, expectations and the results to be achieved. He informed the participants that the GEF MedPartnership was originally developed to meet the priorities set out in three key strategic action plans: SAP MED, SAP BIO, and the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA). Climate change and climate variability did not figure prominently in these key strategic documents. It is, roughly, in the last 5 years that larger consideration has been given to these two issues in regional environmental programming and management. GEF has offered an opportunity to integrate priority regional climate change considerations in the 2009 project proposal related to regional monitoring, expected impacts, capacity building and exchange of knowledge in the field of climate variability and change. The relevant PIF was prepared and submitted to the GEF Council, which approved the project and gave a grant (PPG) of 156,000 USD to assist in preparing the documents for the final GEF endorsement. This project could also be considered as a complementary component of the MedPartnership. It is foreseen that the project will start in early 2012.

121. Mr. Ante Baric, UNEP/MAP consultant, presented the project's goal as support to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention's ICZM Protocol through the development of region wide coordination mechanisms and tools to address climate variability and change in the Mediterranean Region. The countries of the Mediterranean recognize that with current projections there will be a diverse number of climate impacts in the region and it is important to further investigate how climate variability will impact the coastal zone communities, natural resources and marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean.

122. Mr. Baric continued by saying that at the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Almeria (Spain) on 15-18 January 2008, climate change was one of the main agenda items, and one of the decisions of the Almeria Declaration included agreement to use the ICZM Protocol as the basis to guide the practical response to the impact of climate change on Mediterranean coastal ecosystem. This project is aimed at the implementation of that decision. The ICZM protocol is the first regional ICZM legal instrument that deals extensively with the issue of climate change, both at the strategic level (by requesting countries to mainstream climate change issues into national ICZM strategies and plans) and local levels (by requesting countries to define, *inter alia*, the coastal setback zone).

123. Mr. Baric presented the objectives of this session, namely:

- To evaluate the activities implemented during PPG phase;
- To review regional experience on climate variability and change monitoring and prediction;
- To review regional experience on climate variability and change impacts;
- To review the proposed outcomes and outputs of the project; and
- To review further steps and activities for developing project document.

Presentation and discussion of the report on regional experience on climate variability and change monitoring and prediction

124. Mr. Sergio Castelari, CMCC representative, presented the report on regional assessment with the aim of providing preliminary information and data as well as

recommending possible new regional activities on climate variability and change monitoring and prediction. The report also included an analysis of existing availability of data, data and information gaps, and needs for the improvement of national capacity within the Mediterranean region. More specifically, the main elements of the presentation included:

- an analysis of climate variability and change within the Mediterranean region;
- an overview of existing programmes and databases for monitoring climate variability and change in the Mediterranean region;
- a review of existing observational datasets and climate modeling in the Mediterranean region;
- an overview of indicators in use for monitoring and predictions of Climate Variability and Change in the Mediterranean area; and
- a proposal for relevant training programme at national and regional level.

125. Besides specific recommendations relating to each of the main elements above, the presentation concluded with a set of key final recommendations to be implemented for:

- improving the climate modelling of the Mediterranean area;
- supporting the full implementation of GCOS regional systematic observation activities and enhancing national capacities for climate monitoring;
- enhancing the indicator-based studies over the Mediterranean area; and
- development of supporting training activities.

Presentation and discussion of the report on regional experience on assessing impacts of climate variability and change

126. Ms. Maria Snoussi, UNEP/MAP consultant, presented the respective report. Research areas studied included the impacts of climate variability and climate change and extreme weather events on the hydrological cycle and water resources; agriculture; human health, especially vulnerability to diseases and the effect of heat stress; tourism; energy; forests; and biodiversity. Only one study was found that dealt with the estimation of the economic impacts of climate change (UNDP Report on “The Economic Impacts of Climate Change in Montenegro: A First Look”). Few of the researches are focused on the coastal zone (in-depth assessments in Egypt and Albania). Vulnerability assessments were based on qualitative and rarely on quantitative analyses of the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. Many of the participating countries reported that methodologies, tools and guidelines to conduct vulnerability assessment studies are lacking and that “expert judgment” was used to a significant extent.

127. Analysis of existing Vulnerability and Impact Assessment noted that all the participating countries are Contracting Parties to the UNFCCC Convention. All the participating countries are Non-Annex 1 Parties except Croatia, which is part of the Annex 1 countries. Most countries favored assessment of physical and ecosystem vulnerability. Only few of them have considered a more integrated understanding of vulnerability, taking into account the socio-economic and governance conditions. Some participating countries reported that future changes in their socio-economic situation (rapid population growth, high food and water demand, and land and ecological degradation) would exacerbate vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

128. The report has compiled proposals by countries for regional workshops on a number of issues, such as: scientific research in climate change detection; attribution and prediction within the coastal zone of the region, including early warning systems; seasonal forecasting; and long term regional and further downscaled climate projections and scenarios. Also

workshops were proposed on communication, processing systems, and dissemination facilities for communicating climate impacts information.

129. Proposals for regional/sub-national workshops included: shoreline change modeling based on sea level rise projections; establishment of setback lines; impacts of climate change and sea level rise on biodiversity and ecosystems; improved models and guidance on issues like freshwater resources, invasive species introductions, ocean acidification; building capacities for modeling and early warning of extreme events and disasters such as flash floods, tsunamis, dust storms and droughts; potential impacts on the coastal economic and cultural resources; integration of climate models and socioeconomic models; defining the most appropriate way to integrate climate change concerns into all development projects; definition of key climate change indicators and promotion of improved monitoring and reporting mechanisms; and awareness on climate change and its impacts to speed up the implementation of response actions in all the climate sensitive socio economic sectors of the coastal zone.

Presentation and discussion of draft Project document, appraisal and endorsement

130. Mr. Baric introduced the planned project's activities, which include three technical components: Development of regional climate variability monitoring programme, Strengthening of knowledge base, and Strengthening partnerships, capacity and exchange for implementation of the ICZM protocol and dissemination of project experiences and lessons. The fourth component is related to Project Management.

131. The first component (Development of regional climate variability monitoring programme) will result in a long term regional climate variability monitoring programme with a consensus among countries on the objectives, targets, impact indicators and implementation modalities. The programme will be supported by a web-based regional data platform on climate research which will be linked with other data platforms. The monitoring programme and database will be integrated into national and regional ICZM monitoring processes and, in doing so, will contribute to on-going work within the ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention.

132. The second component (Strengthening of knowledge base) will ensure that current models assessing scenarios and impacts of climate variability are applied to the region, and will assist countries to more precisely calculate the impacts of climate variability to their marine and coastal zone. In partnership with other regional programmes (such as MedClivar, CIRCE), it will include latest results on the regional and global processes influencing climate variability such as the influence of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and Indian monsoon, predicted changes in marine salinity and marine acidification. It will focus on the coastal watersheds, with emphasis on risks to water availability and quality and marine ecosystems (including agriculture and fisheries), and other risks to be further defined, likely to include coastal erosion and landslides. Ultimately, based on the findings of these studies, the TDA for the Mediterranean Basin will be updated with respect to climate change and climate variability.

133. The third component (Strengthening partnerships, capacity and exchange for implementation of the ICZM protocol and dissemination of project experiences and lessons) aims at Increasing capacity, strengthened partnerships and joint actions to create an enabling environment for implementation and ratification of the ICZM Protocol. GEF beneficiary countries participating in this project, which have not yet signed and/or ratified the ICZM protocol (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt and Libya), will be assisted to achieve greater awareness of the opportunities offered by and value of the ICZM Protocol and its

implementation. At the national level, inter-ministerial committees will contribute to multi-sectoral dialogues on policy and management processes in the Mediterranean, and facilitate the mainstreaming of the ICZM protocol into national plans. Targeted capacity building will enable stakeholders to fulfill these roles. In addition to strong platforms for exchange within the region, project experiences will be shared within the larger international waters community, through IW:Learn, IWC, and IWENS, among others.

134. The project, proposed to last two and a half years, is designed as a supplementary project to the existing GEF MedPartnership project. As such, it will utilize the management and coordination structure of the UNEP component of the MedPartnership, and will benefit from the replication and communication strategy developed for that project.

135. The project is also designed to support the World Bank's Mediterranean Sustainable Development Program (Sustainable MED), which will further develop investment projects to address sustainable development issues such as de-pollution, the sustainable management of vulnerable ecosystems and climate change. The results of the project will be shared with all stakeholders of the Sustainable MED and its technical assistance component, to be coordinated by the World Bank's Center in Marseilles.

136. The project document is expected to be finalized in June 2011 and sent to GEF CEO for endorsement.

Discussion

137. Montenegro noted that the physical and social impacts of climate change seem to be part of an ongoing assessment but needs to be analyzed in more depth before findings are being diffused among policy makers. Priorities for Montenegro are best covered by component 2. An additional priority is the development of technical and human capacities for climate change and climate variability. Montenegro is looking forward to contributing to the implementation of this project.

138. The Syrian delegate underlined the necessity for models and centers and asked how such specific facility could be established in participating countries. She asked how the project can support technical capacities, programmes, models and offer resources to assist in Syria. This is of particular importance for Syria since its coast is very vulnerable to climate change impacts.

139. The Algerian delegate noted that all components are welcome to supplement the MedPartnership process. In Algeria exists a 2002 law, which requires establishment of the coastal protection zone of more than 100 meters and identification of vulnerable areas on coastal areas. These should be integrated into the national strategies for implementation of the ICZM Protocol which should hopefully be ratified by Algeria soon.

140. The delegate from the Palestinian Authority noted that in Gaza the coastal aquifer is in a catastrophic situation and national reports need to reflect that. In the coming months, an inter-ministerial climate change committee will start addressing the issues of climate change and their contribution to the project's implementation will be more substantial.

141. Mr. Zavadsky, from the GEF Secretariat, made a point that donors could contribute to the knowledge base to address mitigation, reduce GHG emissions, as well as carry out adaptation in vulnerable areas. This project of 2 million USD can be considered a small contribution to understanding the impacts, but with a hope that later GEF funds could be activated for work on mitigation and adaptation and on new climate adaptation fund.

142. The FAO delegate added the need to integrate climate change and variability activities into the current MedPartnership activities, such as the FAO fisheries component, profiting from its Cairo office activities.

143. Ms. Plonka, the MedPartnership consultant, added that there is the need to build on existing initiatives with top scientists already working on mapping and satellite models. These activities can be checked on the World Bank website.

144. The PAP/RAC representative underlined the importance of integrating climate change issues into the ICZM. Easily understandable formats need to be developed for decision makers in the framework of the national strategies including, for example, information on economic cost. The World Bank experience on this could be very valuable and important.

145. Mr. Trumbic noted that there were 2 important tasks in the project: (i) to identify vulnerable areas in the Mediterranean related to climate change and the manifestation of climate variability; and (ii) on the basis of this, to choose 5 critical areas and assess environmental and socio-economic impacts. The question is do the already existing monitoring programmes provide us with enough data to do the above? There are many ongoing monitoring activities and it seems best to establish a tool that might interact with those programmes, partners and countries to facilitate the circulation and exchange of data. In this respect, data will have to be made available by countries and to countries. Availability of observations is another issue, as in some southern Mediterranean countries data is missing.

146. The MEDPOL Coordinator added that concerning monitoring in MAP a letter of understanding was signed with the MOON project, which is keen to cooperate with UNEP/MAP.

147. Algerian representative asked if countries need to propose projects on a specific zone or on all regions or whether existing project activities under the MedPartnership could be integrated into this project. There is a need for feasibility studies, capacity building and methodology and more in-depth analysis to answer such questions. She also asked how to identify the vulnerable areas, on the basis of which scientific criteria would the classification of critical zones be based and what technical studies are to be implemented to identify vulnerable areas?

148. On the question of where to concentrate activities on the ground, Mr. Merla, UNEP/MAP consultant, proposed to concentrate on areas where ICZM activities are already ongoing in the MedPartnership linking, thus, activities of the two projects.

149. Mr. Trumbic welcomed this practical approach to focus on the existing demonstration sites and the possibility to expand the pool of demos. The concern remains on how to select these areas and for the selection process to be based on hard data. However, areas most vulnerable to climate variability need to be addressed.

150. The FAO representative agreed on the need to integrate better into existing sites and make use of what is available in view of the lack of extra human capacity, therefore optimizing and linking it closely seems the best solution for countries.

Way forward

151. Ms. West, UNEP/DGEF, reminded the meeting that time was short and the project should be running by the end of the year in order to coincide with the rest of the MedPartnership project's outputs. In July it will be presented to GEF, which leaves only two months to address all the pending issues. Priorities will include improving the log frame with development of indicators and monitoring framework. Co-financing with countries and international bodies remains a priority and the PMU is to circulate the new structure by the end of May or early June, while the countries will have three weeks to review.

Conclusions and recommendations

152. The Steering Committee examined a set of decisions and recommendations prepared by the Secretariat, which it adopted with the necessary modifications. The complete text of the decisions and recommendations is attached as Annex III to this report.

Closure of the meeting

153. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 6 p.m. on Thursday 17 March 2011.

Annex I:

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Annex II: Agenda of the meeting

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2011

09:00 – 09:30	Registration of participants
09:30 – 09:45	Opening of the meeting and welcome addresses
09:45 – 10:00	Election of officers
10:00 – 10:15	Adoption of the agenda of the meeting
10:15 – 10:30	Introduction to the meeting: Objectives, structure of the meeting, method of work, expected results
10:30 – 10:45	Introduction to the 2010 Annual Report
10:45 – 11:15	General discussion on the Annual Report
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 12:15	Presentation of achievements: Components 1 and 2
12:15 – 13:00	Discussion
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:00	Presentation of achievements: Components 3 and 4
15:00 – 16:00	Discussion
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:00	Communication and Visibility Strategy: Presentation
17:00 – 18:00	Discussion and adoption of the Communication and Visibility Strategy

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2011

09:00 – 09:30	Replication: Portfolio Assessment
09:30 – 10:00	Discussion
10:00 – 10:30	The Sustainable Med: Presentation of achievements
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation of the 2011 Workplan
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 13:00	Discussion and adoption of the 2011 Workplan

13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:30	Presentation and adoption of the 2011 Budget
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 16:30	Introduction to the Press Conference: Shaping the Future of the Mediterranean Coasts: Celebrating the ICZM Protocol
16:30 – 17:00	Introduction to the Press Conference: Syria's NAP for Land Based Sources of Pollution and Demonstration Projects in MedPartnership
17:00 – 18:00	Press Conference

DAY 3: THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2011

09:00 – 09:15	Presentation of the IWC6 Conference (Dubrovnik, October 2011)
09:15 – 09:30	Date and place of the next Steering Committee meeting
09:30 – 09:45	Any other business
09:45 – 11:00	Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
Meeting of the Steering Committee on the GEF Project "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean"	
11:30 – 11:45	Opening of the meeting: Adoption of the Agenda, structure of the meeting, expectations, results to be achieved
11:45 – 12:30	Presentation and discussion of the report on regional experience on climate variability and change monitoring and prediction
12:30 – 13:15	Presentation and discussion of the report on regional experience on assessing impacts of climate variability and change
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 16:30	Presentation and discussion of draft Project document, appraisal and endorsement
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee break
16:45 – 17:00	Approval of the financial report for the PPG phase
17:00 – 18:00	Way Forward

18:00

Closure of the Second Steering Committee meeting

Annex III: Conclusions and Recommendations

The Second meeting of the MedPartnership Steering Committee held in Damascus, Syria, 15 – 17 March 2011, commending the efforts made by UNEP/MAP Project Management Unit (PMU), all executing partners (UNESCO/IHP, FAO, World Bank, UNIDO, UNEP/MAP's MEDPOL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, CP/RAC and INFO/RAC, WWF, MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med) and all participating countries in this important implementation phase since the First Steering Committee meeting, made the following recommendations:

1. *Recommends* UNEP/MAP PMU and all executing partners to maintain the quality and accelerate the delivery of results and outputs under the 2011 ambitious work plan.
2. *Underlines* the importance for enhanced convergence and synergies between project activities among executing agencies and donors, and *urges* UNEP/MAP PMU to take action in this respect, in particular towards the World Bank.
3. *Recommends* that the UNEP/MAP PMU seeks regular and increased coordination and cooperation with other key actors in the region such as the European Union and other donors, creating synergies leading to the improved use of resources.
4. *Underlines* the importance to operationalise environmental mainstreaming through in-country inter-ministerial coordination, together with other measures to be identified as opportune, to address the diverse competences and environmental challenges while at the same time serving different initiatives and processes, and *urges* the countries to take action in this respect, reiterating the key role GEF, MedPartnership and UNEP/MAP focal points should play in encouraging inter-ministerial cooperation.
5. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the PMU on the development of the Communication Strategy and related tools (leaflet, website, publications...) and stresses the need for a permanent solution for the implementation of the Communication Strategy.
6. *Recommends* consideration to be given to translation of key communication products into other languages of the region, in particular Arabic and to development of common messages, capacity building, educational kits, youth activities, games, among others.
7. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the UNEP/MAP PMU on the drafting of the new Replication Strategy and *approves* the overall Portfolio Assessment as its very first output; taking due consideration of the comments – still to be incorporated- provided by the Steering Committee members. During 2011 this work will be closely monitored and the methodology will be refined accordingly.
8. *Recommends* achieving synergies with ongoing initiatives in the region that have similar replication objective and potential.
9. *Recommends* that UNEP/MAP PMU and all executing partners seek solutions to respond to the proposals of the countries who wish to participate in demonstration projects or activities not originally planned in the framework of the MedPartnership..

10. *Adopts* the 2010 Annual Report and *recommends* that the next Annual Report incorporates an annotated bibliography of publications under the different components of the MedPartnership.
11. *Adopts* the revised overall Work plan and budget for the Regional Project component, taking due considerations of the recommendations made by the Steering Committee and *takes note* of the requests of countries concerning their proposals to integrate complementary additional projects with consideration, among others, of availability of funds.
12. *Adopts* the 2011 detailed Work plan and Budget for the Regional Project component of the MedPartnership and calls for the effective implementation of the work plan taking due considerations of the recommendations made by the Steering Committee.
13. *Extends* special thanks to the government of Syria and the Minister of State for Environment Affairs for their hospitality and contribution to the organization of the meeting.