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ENGLISH



Meeting of MED POL Focal Points

Rhodes (Greece), 25- 27 May 2011

Proposed MED POL Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-2013

Delegates are kindly requested to bring their documents to the meeting

Preamble

The document summarizes the activities that MED POL is proposing to implement during the biennium 2012-2013. Since information on the funds available for the activities were still not available when printing the document, indicative figures will be provided by the Secretariat at the Meeting. The themes and the outputs that are listed in the document are, among those approved by the Contracting Parties for the five-year programme of MAP, those relevant to MED POL. In the explanatory text prepared for each output, the number on the left corresponds to the activity described in the corresponding table.

Theme I: Governance

Output 1.1 Strengthening institutional coherence, efficiency and accountability

- 1. As in the past, in order to ensure a good coordination of, and follow up to, the MED POL activities, the biennial Meeting of Focal Point will be held during 2013 to review the progress made and approve the work programme for 2014-2015. In addition, in view of the specific nature of the monitoring activities of MED POL, there is the need to regularly review together with countries' experts and Focal Points the scientific and technical as well as the institutional and participatory aspects of such activities. Considering that the participants at the Focal Points Meeting and the Review Meeting on Monitoring are in both cases the Focal Points and some external experts, MED POL plans to hold one joint meeting instead of two separate meetings which will include two-day discussion on monitoring and three-day discussion on the wider MED POL issues.
- 2. As the mandate for the implementation of MED POL Phase IV is ending in 2013, a new mandate is needed. As a result, during the biennium 2012-2013 the Secretariat will prepare in close consultation with national authorities and experts a new medium-term programme (six years) that will be based on: 1) the five-year and the two-year programmes of MAP, 2) the achievements and the bottlenecks of MED POL Phase IV, 3) the wider scope of MED POL in the framework of the implementation of the ecosystem approach, 4) new regional needs and priorities, 5) the cost of its implementation. A draft programme will be prepared by the Secretariat together with a group of national experts and will be presented to Focal Points of MED POL and MAP for approval. The Programme will be transmitted to the Contracting Parties in 2013 for adoption.
- 3. The application of the ecosystem approach requires the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring programme covering all the environmental compartments (pollution, biodiversity, etc.) in order to follow up the necessary environmental quality trends. In view of the experience gained by MED POL in organizing, coordinating and following up environmental monitoring, MED POL will coordinate the preparation of the new comprehensive programme, being directly responsible for the pollution compartment and closely working with all the other RACs according to their field of competence. The work will be achieved with the assistance of national experts and through the convening of two government-designated experts meetings. The final draft programme will be first presented to the MED POL Focal Points Meeting and subsequently to the MAP Focal Points

and the Contracting Parties for approval. The process of preparation of the programme is expected to be largely financed through the MAP/EC project on the application of the ecosystem approach.

				overnance		
		Output 1.1 Strengthening In	stitutional C	Coherence, efficier	ncy and accountability	
 Targets (MAP) Satisfaction rate of decision making bodies and partners (quality, timel and relevance of MAP's secretariat and components work) surveyed Planning systems and internal performance evaluation system establis Resources mobilized to implement the five year plan Number of decisions and policies prepared in consultation with partner % increase of civil society organizations and private sector partnering was 				Indicators (MED - Adoption of ME - Approval of MA		for ECAP
No	Specific Activities	Expected results of activities	Means of implementation		Lead/engaged component and other partners	Links to other actions related activities
1	Meeting of MED POL Focal Point and Meeting to review monitoring activities (joint)	Review of implementation of the activities, review of programme for next biennium, discussion on monitoring activities			MED POL	
2	Preparation of MED POL Phase V	Programme prepared and submitted for adoption to the CPs	5		MED POL	
3	Preparation of MAP integrated monitoring programme	Monitoring programme including all environmental components and in line with the ecosystem approach objectives	Consultants	s and Meetings	MED POL and all RACs	ECAP

Output 1.2 Implementation gaps filled: Contracting Parties supported in meeting the objectives of Barcelona Convention, Protocols and adopted strategies

- 1. By the end of the current biennium, the process of implementation of the provisions of Art 15 of the LBS Protocol is expected to have achieved the adoption of six Regional Plans for the reduction of pollution. Three Plans were adopted by the Parties last biennium and three are expected to be adopted this year at the next Parties' Meeting. With no exception, the implementation of the Plans requires important policy, technical and institutional efforts by the Parties and the Secretariat is expected to assist the Parties with technical assistance and capacity building programmes. It is therefore proposed to make use of the biennium 2012-2013 to focus on the implementation of the existing Plans and not to prepare additional Plans. The implementation aspects (technical and policy aspects) of each Plan will be reviewed and an assistance programme will be prepared. To this end, MED POL will closely work with CP/RAC and launch a capacity building programme based on the application of BAT and BEP. The biennium will also be used to update/amend any Plan that would require further work, e.g. the Plan on mercury.
- 2. Marine litter is without any doubt becoming a very worrying issue and its proper management is being addressed through several national and international initiatives. MED POL has dealt with the issue for several years and has recently prepared a new and more comprehensive assessment that has allowed the preparation of a Strategic Action Programme that is submitted this year to the Parties for adoption. If the Programme is adopted, the 2012-2013 biennium will be devoted to the implementation of its recommendations both at the regional and national levels. Priority will be given to the medium-term activities indicated in the Programme. External funds and support will be sought for the implementation of one or two national pilot projects.
- 3. Within the availability of funds, the Secretariat will assist countries in the implementation of the Hazardous Waste Protocol in cooperation with CP/RAC and the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and taking into account the SAICM. If funds will be available, a follow up will be made to the work made so far on the management of electric and electronic wastes. An operational manual will be prepared and one or two model pilot projects will be launched. In addition, the database of banned hazardous wastes that is being prepared during this biennium in cooperation with the Basel Convention will be transmitted to all

countries as a contribution to the needed harmonization of definitions and characteristics of banned chemicals.

- 4. Regarding the strengthening of inspectorate systems in the countries, the regular meeting of the network on compliance and enforcement will be held in 2013. The Meeting will focus on the use of the compliance and enforcement indicators for reporting by the countries and will suggest specific activities for the implementation of the indicators. The activities related to strengthening the inspection systems financially supported by the GEF Strategic Partnership were implemented in Montenegro. It is expected that in the next biennium, two GEF eligible countries will participate in the activities. Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Morocco, Syria and Turkey will participate in the project. The activities in each country are expected to last one and a half year. The work includes the formulation of plans of action for permitting, compliance and inspection, the training of national inspectorates through workshops and the drafting of amended national legislation in relation to inspection systems. In each country, an initial national meeting will consider the existing legislation, a national workshop will follow and at the end of the project a final meting will be held with the aim to propose potential amendments to existing legislation.
- 5. Through the provision of small travel grants, MED POL will facilitate the participation of scientists from the South participating in the MED POL activities at MED POL-related conferences and workshops. The scientists are expected to present their work and inform the participants on the MED POL Programme.
- 6. Through the provision of external resources (with the assistance of the Spanish government), MED POL will follow up the issue of the preparation of a risk assessment of Co2 sequestration in geological substructure of the sea. According to the results of the assessment, negotiations will be carried out with the Contracting Parties with a view to possible amendment of Art. 4.2 of Dumping Protocol.

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		Т	heme I: G	overnance		
		n gap filled: Contracting Parties	supporte			dopted strategies
 Targets (MAP) No of regional policies guidelines and plans adopted, implemented and funded Regional strategy on ships ballast water management adopted by 2011 Number of environmental inspectors per number of facilities Database and guidelines on illegal hazardous waste movements prepared by 2012 MSSD indicators populated and reported against Performance and accessibility of the on-line reporting system (reports on-line and accessible on time) 				 4 countries ass 3 Countries ass 	POL) sisted in the implementation of F sisted in the implementation of th sisted for the improvement of the ts on marine litter management i	ne marine litter strategy e inspection systems
No	Specific Activities	Expected results of activities	Means of implementation		Lead/engaged component and other partners	Links to other actions related activities
1	Assistance to countries for the implementation of the adopted Regional Plans in the framework of Art 15 of LBS Protocol	Implementation of BAT nad BEP in relation to the adopted measures	Programme to be prepared jointly with CP/RAC		CP/RAC /MED POL	
2	Management of marine litter	Implementation of pilot projects as part of the implementation of the adopted strategy	Technical assistance to countries; formulation of pilot projects		MED POL	Global litter activities
3	Technical assistance to countries for the implementation of the Hazardous Waste Protocol	Operational manual for WEEE	Training, consultant		MED POL , Basel Convention Regional Centre, CP/RAC	Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, SAICM
4	Assistance to countries for the improvement of inspection systems	Improved national systems	Training		MED POL/GEF	WHO
5	Training and fellowships	Scientists participation at related scientific conferences facilitated	Travel g	rants	MED POL	

	Theme I: Governance							
Output 1.2 Implementation gap filled: Contracting Parties supported Targets (MAP) - No of regional policies guidelines and plans adopted, implemented and funded - Regional strategy on ships ballast water management adopted by 2011				d in meeting the objectives of BC, protocols and adopted strategies Indicators (MED POL) - 4 Countries assisted in the implementation of Regional Plans - 4 countries assisted in the implementation of the marine litter strategy - 3 Countries assisted for the improvement of the inspection systems - 1/2 pilot projects on marine litter management implemented				
- Databas 2012 - MSSD in - Perform	 Number of environmental inspectors per number of facilities Database and guidelines on illegal hazardous waste movements prepared by 2012 MSSD indicators populated and reported against Performance and accessibility of the on-line reporting system (reports on-line and accessible on time) 							
6 Carbon sequestration Potential impact on the Mediterranean and needed legal and technical actions identified		ant	MED POL and the Government of Spain	IMO London Convention/Protocol, OSPAR				

Output 1.3 Knowledge and information effectively managed and communicated

- 1. MED POL has two databases (on sources of pollution and on pollution levels) that are regularly fed and updated. With the assistance of INFO/RAC, the two databases are being integrated into an Information System that will be part of the future MAP Info System. The MED POL Info System is also being completed with a GIS. As by the end of the current biennium the Info System is expected to be fully functional, the biennium 2012-2013 will focus on a fine tuning of the system and on its regular maintenance.
- 2. The dedicated MED POL website will be fully functional and regularly updated with the assistance of external experts and INFO/RAC.
- 3. Within the limits of the existing budget, MED POL will prepare information material (reports and brochures) for national authorities and the large public describing the activities carried out and their results. The work will be done in line with and as part of the information and communication strategy of MAP.

	Theme I: Governance									
Output 1.3 Knowledge and information effectively managed and communicated										
implemen - State of and devel - Marine a - No of po large and	ion and communications strategy d ted the environment report published b opment report published every 4 ye and coastal data made accessible to	iannually and State of the environm	ient	n is operational and used by countr	ies					
No	Specific Activities	Expected results of activities	Means of implementation	Lead/engaged component and other partners	Links to other actions related activities					
1	MED POL Data bases management, development of GIS, maintenance of Info System	Pollution data properly stored and used for assessments and statistics	Expert assistance to the Secretariat	MED POL/ INFO/RAC	SEIS					
2	Maintenance and development of MED POL website	Effective and up-to-date website	Expert assistance to the Secretariat	MED POL						
3	Preparation of information material on MED POL	Publication prepared	Experts, Secretariat	MED POL						

Theme IV: Pollution prevention and control

Output 4.1 Early warning of pollution (spills, dangerous/hazardous substances)

- With the financial assistance of the GEF Strategic Partnership, work to assess nutrient pollution from diffuse sources started in 2011. As a result, the existing database of river inputs will be updated and a GIS prepared by the end of 2011. During 2012 a modeling system will be prepared together with possible scenarios. The work is being done with the help of external experts recruited by MED POL and is expected to be completed in 2013.
- 2. According to the provisions of the LBS Protocol, Parties are expected to organize and implement marine pollution monitoring and report the results to the Secretariat. The regular implementation of chemical monitoring is essential for the assessment of pollution status and trends and will continue to be supported by the Secretariat through the provision of small equipment, material, expert assistance and training. In this connection, outmost importance will be given to the quality control of data. A revised Data Quality Assurance Programme covering chemical parameters, eutrophication and biological monitoring will be organized and will be considered mandatory for all participating laboratories. In this context, the current agreements with IAEA (chemical monitoring), the University of Alessandria (biological monitoring) and QUASIMEME (eutrophication) will be revised, optimized and made more directly service/outputrelated. In order to optimize the costs of Meetings, the regular Meeting to review and discuss the scientific, technical and organizational aspects of the monitoring to be held every biennium will be convened jointly with the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points (see output 1.1, activity 1).

As part of the implementation of the road map for the application of the ecosystem approach by MAP, a number of activities will be carried out by MED POL. In parallel to the preparation of a new integrated monitoring programme including all the environmental compartments (see output 1.1, activity 3), steps will be made to prepare the future implementation of the new programme on the ground. To this end, during the 2012-2013 biennium MED POL, in close cooperation with all the concerned RACs, will prepare an assessment of national needs for the implementation of the new programme and will design a capacity building programme to be implemented in the future. In addition, work will start on the identification of appropriate environmental targets of Good Environmental Status (GES) based on the indicators being developed. The work for the

preparation and launch of the activities related to the future monitoring programme including most of its funding will be carried out in the framework of the EC/MAP partnership for the application of the ecosystem approach and foresees the contracting of national experts and the convening of a number of meetings with Focal Points to discuss and agree on each step

		Theme IV: Po	ollution P	revention and Cor	ntrol	
		Output 4.1 Early warning of po	llution (s	pills, dangerous/h	azardous substances)	
- Trends of pollution levels reported every two years - Adoption of EACs for key p					pollution status and trend prepared Cs for key pollutants data received from at least 15 cou	
No	Specific Activities	Expected results of activities	Means	of implementation	Lead/engaged component and other partners	Links to other actions related activities
1	Preparation of assessment of the order of magnitude of nutrients from diffuse sources	Assessment prepared	Consultant		MED POL	GEF SP
2	Assistance to countries for the implementation of national monitoring programmes	assistance provided to four countries	provision of equipment and material, expert assistance, training		MED POL	EU WFD, EU MSD
	Data Quality Assurance	Good data quality in the MED POL data base	Intercalibratiton exercises, expert assistance, training courses		MED POL /IAEA/ QUASIMEME /DISAV	
	Meeting to review monitoring programme	Technical and operational details of monitoring discussed	Meeting to be held jointly with Meeting of Focal Points (see output 1.1)		MED POL	Meeting of MED POL Focal Points
3	Assessment of national needs for capacity building fo the implementation of integrated monitoring programmes of ECAP	Preparation of needs assessment	Consultants and Meetings		MED POL and all RACs	H2020, ECAP
	Development of environmental targets based on indicators	establishment of environmental tresholds (EACs) for GES	experts,	meetings	MED POL	ECAP

Output 4.2 Lower levels of pollution in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment

- 1. With the financial support of the GEF Strategic Partnership, the demonstration projects on the management of lube oils, phosphogypsum, tanneries and lead batteries launched respectively in Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey and Syria in 2011 are expected to have completed by the end of the year their phases 1, 2 and 3 including an assessment of the state of the art, the proposal for policy reforms and the design of pilot projects. During 2012 MED POL will help countries make the results of the phases 1, 2, and 3 operational through provision of technical and legal assistance and organization of national workshops.
- 2. The project for the environmentally sound disposal of PCBs to be implemented in five countries (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya and Syria) with the financial support of the GEF Strategic Partnership is entering into a crucial phase. After the work carried out this year by the MED POL experts including an inventory, the assessment of the state of the art management in each country and the preparation of a concrete disposal plan, the biennium 2012-2013 should witness the full involvement of the countries to start the disposal operations that should be completed by 2014. However, the implementation plan had to be reconsidered in view of recent regional events external to the project. At present, the project seems to be ready to be implemented in Albania, Egypt and Syria. A fourth country could be Bosnia & Herzegovina. In view of a rapidly evolving situation in the region, it is difficult at present to make a proper plan for the forthcoming biennium. However, the implementation plan has been prepared for all the countries initially involved and will be achieved to the extent possible.
- 3. National training courses on Wastewater Treatment Plants operation, management and reuse of the treated effluents will continue to be organized to also serve as a contribution to the mitigation of the climate change effects. Capacity building activities will be conducted in close collaboration with WHO/MED POL so that the use of the compliance indicators for the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants will be integrated in the programme, with the objective to safeguard the reuse of the treated effluents. As a further contribution to the climate change issue, contingency planning to provide guidance in extreme weather events will be integrated in the training.
- 4. The successful preparation of PRTR pilot projects in Turkey and Syria has raised a lot of interest among other countries of the region. While a full scale project should be launched this year in Turkey, Syria has shown interest in expanding the

coverage of the project and Morocco in launching a pilot project. With the end of ICS-UNIDO collaboration and support, MED POL has tried to identify additional partners in view of the reduced budget. INFO/RAC has shown interest in supporting the activity. In addition, as part of the SEIS initiative of the EC, the preparation of PRTR in the South Mediterranean has been stressed as very relevant for the pollution reduction process and indicated as one of the priorities. If funds will be made available, MED POL would be ready to prepare PRTR in two additional countries.

- 5. The criteria and standards for bathing waters along with the bathing waters quality profiles, agreed during a meeting of country designated experts, if adopted by the Contracting Parties this year, will be gradually introduced in the national legislations. Taking into consideration the results of the implementation of the pilot projects related to the preparation of bathing waters quality profiles, which all the countries performed with MEDPOL/WHO assistance, the adaptation of the national legislation will not be difficult. However, an assistance programme for the implementation of the criteria and standards, including the beach profiles, will be discussed during a consultation meeting to be held during the biennium.
- 6. A blind intercalibration exercise will be organized by WHO/MED POL during the biennium for health related monitoring activities. The methodology consists in analyzing pre-prepared samples sent to the laboratories and in discussing the results in a meeting.
- 7. Following the preparation of the guidelines on environmental health risks in tourist establishments, a number of pilot or demonstration projects will be formulated in cooperation with WHO/MED POL for the countries that will request it. The demonstration projects will include the identification and management of environmental risks to tourist health by using a specific methodology in addition to legislation, policy and certification schemes. Furthermore, the demonstration projects will address training and capacity building along with information and communication issues.
- 8. With the financial support of the GEF Strategic Partnership, MED POL will recruit an expert (environmental economist) who will assist countries in bridging environmental needs and international, regional and national financial opportunities and will concretely contribute to the achievements of the pollution reduction projects indicated in the NAPs. The expert will be contracted from the beginning of 2012 until the termination of the GEF Partnership. If the activity will prove positive, efforts should be made to make the post sustainable within MED POL after the end of the Partnership.

- 9. During the current biennium, with the financial support of the GEF Strategic Partnership, a model was prepared showing different scenarios for Environmental Quality Standards in relation to different Emission Limit Values for two pilot areas. During the biennium 2012-2013 the model will be tested at two national workshops. The results will be used for the preparation of EQS for the region in line with the road map for the application of the Ecosystem Approach.
- 10. The Secretariat will continue to keep close contacts with international and regional donors and partners and to follow ongoing and new initiatives related to pollution reduction with the aim to facilitate the financing the implementation of NAPs. The environmental economist to be recruited with the financial assistance of the GEF Strategic Partnership (see Output 4.2, activity 8. above) will play an important role in keeping the contacts and identifying opportunities.

		Theme IV: P	ollution P	revention and Cor	ntrol	
	Out	put 4.2 Lower levels of pollution	in the Me	diterranean marin	e and coastal environments	
coopera	e of investments in the frame tion and national expenditure ction questionnaire for mana	work of MeHSIP GEF, SP, bilatera in hotspot areas gers of personnel trained in wast		Indicators (MED - 20 compliance - 2 PRTR prepare - 40 experts train plants	reports sent	nt of waste water treatment
No	Specific Activities	Expected results of activities	Means o	of implementation	Lead/engaged component and other partners	Links to other actions related activities
1	Pollution reduction demonstration projects related to tanneries, phosphogypsum, lube oils and lead batteries	pollution reduction policy adopted	expert assistance, national meetings, technical and policy advice provided		MED POL/GEF	
2	Disposal of PCBs	Preparatory activities for the disposal of 700 tons of PCBs	expert assistance, national meetings, purchase of equipment, technical and policy advice provided		MED POL/GEF	
3	Management and maintenance of Waste water treatment plants,	experts in two countries trained, preparation of sustainability report	training in two countries preparation of sustainability report		MED POL	WHO
4	PRTR activities	PRTR prepared in two additional countries	training, provision of small equipment, set up of data bases		MED POL, INFO/RAC, ICS- UNIDO	EU PRTR, SEIS
5	Preparation of beach profiles	Preparation of technical guidelines	meeting and consultant		MED POL	WHO
6	Data quality assurance for bathing water analyses	Intercalibration exercise	Consultant and meetings		MED POL	WHO
7	Implementation of Guidelines for environmental health risks in tourist establishments	Implementation of pilot projects	Consultant and meetings		MED POL	WHO
8	Assistance to countries for the identification and use of opportunities for pollution	Opportunities for grants and loans identified and used	Environ recruited	mental economist	MED POL/GEF	

	Theme IV: Pollution Prevention and Control									
	Output 4.2 Lower levels of pollution in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environments									
Targets (MAP) - Volume of investments in the framework of MeHSIP GEF, SP, bilateral cooperation and national expenditure in hotspot areas - Satisfaction questionnaire for managers of personnel trained in waste water treatment				Indicators (MED - 20 compliance - 2 PRTR prepare - 40 experts train plants	reports sent ed	inagement of waste water treatment				
	reduction related loans and grants			•						
9	Preparation of scenarios for EQS in relation with ELVs	Training of national experts on modeling	Consult	ant	MED POL/GEF	ECAP				
10	Contacts kept with international donors and financial institutions to ensure financing of NAPs	priority by major donors and contin financial institutions		ation at meetings, ous contacts	MED POL	H2020, WB, GEF, FFEM, EIB, EC				

Theme VI: Climate changes

Output 6.3 Assess and provide information to reduce adverse environmental impacts of mitigation and adaptation strategies and technologies (e.g. wind farms, ocean energy, carbon capture and storage)

- On the basis of the assessment recently made of the present status of desalination in Mediterranean countries focusing on the environmental impacts, as in the past and on the basis of the availability of funds, assistance will be provided to countries requesting assistance for the environmentally sound construction and operation of desalination plants.
- 2. For the formulation and implementation of the guidelines on the reuse of treated wastewater, at least two national training courses on the subject will be held in cooperation with WHO/MED POL, as countries have expressed their interest on the subject. The training material will be translated into several languages (as needed) to facilitate the running of the different courses.

	Theme VI: Climate change									
Output 6	Output 6.3 Assess and provide information to reduce adverse environmental impacts of mitigation and adaptation strategies & technologies (eg. Wind farms, ocean energy, carbon capture and storage)									
Targets (MAP) Indicators (MED POL) - Integration of environmentally sound desalination and waste water re-use in national policies - Assistance provided to 4 countries for waste water re-use - Guidelines provided on how to assess environmental impact for at least 3 technologies - Report on risks of CO2 sequestration activities										
No	Specific Activities	Expected results of activities	Means o	f implementation	Lead/engaged component and other partners	Links to other actions related activities				
1 Assistance to countries for the proper management of desalination activities desalination plants properly				ssistance	MED POL					
2	Assistance to countries on water re-use	water re-use more diffused in the region	preparation of guidelines and training		MED POL	WHO, H2020				