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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of MAP National Focal Points

Athens, 6-9 September 1999

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

Introduction

1. The Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997) decided to convene a meeting of MAP National Focal Points during 1999 to consider the progress of the Action Plan and finalize the 2000-2001 programme budget.

2. Pursuant to the decision of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting of MAP National Focal Points was convened at the Holiday Inn, Athens, from 6-9 September 1999.

Participants

3. The following Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols were represented at the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Community, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey.

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented by observers: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Health Organization (WHO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC), International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

5. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations were present: European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented by observers: Amigos de la Tierra, Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes, Chambers Group for the Development of Greek Isles (EOAN), EcoMediterránea, Greenpeace International, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMPEPA), International Energy Foundation (IEF), International Marine Centre (IMC), Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), MedCities, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Mediterranean Wetlands (MEDWET), World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

7. The UNEP/IMO Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Regional Activity Centre for the Blue Plan (BP/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Environment Remote Sensing (ERS/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) and the MAP Secretariat for 100 Mediterranean Historic Sites were also represented.

8. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

9. Mr Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), welcomed the participants and declared the Meeting open. After paying tribute to Mr Ibrahim Dharat (Senior Programme Officer), who had recently retired, he informed the participants that the secretariat of the Meeting would be ensured by Mr F. S. Civili, MEDPOL Coordinator.

Agenda item 2: Rules of Procedure

10. The Meeting decided that the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols would apply *mutatis mutandis* to its deliberations (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

Agenda item 3: Election of officers

11. In accordance with Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure and after informal consultations, the Meeting unanimously elected the following Bureau:

Chairperson	Mr P. Van Klaveren (Monaco)
Vice-Chairperson	Mr M. Deliana (Albania)
Vice-Chairperson	Mr M. Si Youcef (Algeria)
Vice-Chairperson	Mr I. Abdel Gelil (Egypt)
Vice-Chairperson	Mr M. Baradà (Italy)
Rapporteur	Ms L. Chamas (Lebanon)

Homage to the victims of the Turkish earthquake

12. The Chairperson invited the Meeting to observe one minute's silence as a tribute to the memory of the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey.

13. The Meeting observed one minute's silence.

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

14. After some discussion, the Meeting adopted the provisional agenda UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/1 and approved the timetable of work set out in the Annex to the annotated agenda (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/2). The Agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.

15. The Coordinator pointed out that the purpose of the Meeting was to prepare the documents, recommendations and budgetary proposals for the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Malta from 27-30 October 1999. All the issues to be considered derived directly from the renovated Mediterranean Action Plan as it emerged from the decisions taken in Barcelona in 1995. The context of MAP's actions was marked by three major developments. In the first place, the interest of the international community in the marine environment and sustainable development continued to expand. In that connection, he noted with satisfaction that the Executive Director of UNEP had decided to relaunch the Regional Seas Programme, while the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development was intensifying its activities in regard to oceans and seas worldwide. To an ever-increasing extent the Mediterranean was being cited as an example for other regions. Secondly, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was gathering strength and MAP was making every possible effort to ensure its success. Thirdly, the Mediterranean region was facing increasingly serious environmental threats: in that context, a particular effort was being made by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) to study the impact of human activities on environment and development in the region. In light of those considerations, the report submitted to the Meeting (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/3 and Corr. 1) was presented in a more comprehensive format, which identified the issues at stake, the responses, the gaps, recommendations and budget proposals.

16. Referring to the agenda that had just been adopted, the Coordinator recalled that, in accordance with a decision taken by the Contracting Parties, the Meeting was called upon to begin its work by reviewing the activities of the Blue Plan (BP/RAC) and the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC) in 1998-1999. It would then take up, in order, the various items raised in his report, terminating with a discussion of the overall relevance and balance of the proposed budget.

17. In conclusion, he informed the Meeting that as a mark of sympathy and solidarity with the victims of the Turkish earthquake it had been agreed to cancel the customary reception. Following a suggestion made by the representative of Greece, the amount concerned would be given to the special fund opened at the Turkish Embassy if the financial rules so allowed.

18. The Chairperson endorsed the Coordinator's remarks on the exemplarity of MAP's work, pointing out that it was now beginning to play a catalytic role in the international community and to impart real impetus to marine activities throughout the world.

19. The representative of Turkey informed the Meeting that the disastrous earthquake that had inflicted such destruction on her country had been the most powerful in many years. Affecting a densely populated area, it had caused some 14,000 deaths and 30,000 serious injuries as well as extensive damage to infrastructure and buildings. Severe pollution problems had ensued and efforts to examine the long-term consequences were now under way. She expressed her country's deep appreciation to all those who had offered assistance to Turkey in its hour of need.

Agenda Item 5: Review of the activities of the Blue Plan (BP/RAC) for the 1998-1999 biennium

20. Mr G. Benoit, Director of Blue Plan, reported on the main activities carried out by BP/RAC during the period 1998-1999.

21. Firstly, Blue Plan had undertaken a number of activities relating to the observation and global analysis of the environment and development, in particular a new demographic focus, sustainable development indicators (first tests at the national level, proposal for a common core set of indicators) and environmental performance indicators (in the context of METAP), the implementation of the MEDSTAT environment project (to improve environmental statistics), assistance to national observatories and the preparation of four country profiles.

22. At the local level, Blue Plan had coordinated the preparation of the draft Coastal Management Plan for Algeria by a national team and had undertaken an important prospective exercise within the framework of the Sfax CAMP that had shown the considerable interest of this type of approach for coastal zones and future CAMPs.

23. A second series of activities concerned the priority themes studied, notably as a contribution to the MCSD: the relationship between free trade and environment (in the Euro-Mediterranean context), tourism and sustainable development (Antalya workshop, drafting of a report and proposals), natural resources (preparation of new "fascicules" on water and forests, formulation of a Vision 2025 project), cities and urbanization (retrospective analysis).

24. In conclusion, there had been four general developments over the biennium: reinforcement of action in partnership with countries; the increased importance of the partnership with the European Commission (DG XI and the LIFE programme, EUROSTAT, EEA), support for the MCSD, and efforts to enhance dissemination of reports (translation into

English and French).

25. As regards resources, he informed the Meeting that the process of recruiting an environmental economist using MAP credit would shortly commence.

26. All the participants who took the floor expressed their appreciation of the valuable work carried out by Blue Plan, notably the development of indicators, and some expressed their countries' willingness to test them. Concern was expressed at the proliferation of requests for data, all in different formats, emanating from the numerous agencies operating in the Mediterranean region. It was proposed that Blue Plan be asked to study ways of compiling data in a single format that would nevertheless meet a wide variety of needs. The data sought should be those most relevant to MAP's objectives and Blue Plan should specify what data were lacking.

27. Several participants described the activities carried out in their countries with Blue Plan support and requested further support for other projects. Algeria and Albania, in particular, expressed the desire to set up a national observatory.

28. It was noted that no cost/benefit analysis had been carried out for the Blue Plan and PAP/RAC to enable results to be assessed. Lastly, it was suggested that the same format be adopted for all RAC reports so as to facilitate the monitoring task of the Focal Points.

29. Mr. Benoit, Director of Blue Plan, emphasized that the purpose of indicators was to discern trends in different countries using a common basis for comparison. He realized that countries were faced with an increasing number of requests for data and Blue Plan played a coordinating role in collecting and disseminating information. There was a worldwide paucity of data so the problem was not only at the Mediterranean level. It was hoped that the MEDSTAT project would help in harmonizing environmental data. Blue Plan would certainly highlight the areas and issues where information needed for indicators was lacking.

30. The future Mediterranean report on environment and development, to be published in 2002, would benefit from the work being undertaken.

31. The Coordinator explained that the cost of auditing had meant that so far it had only been possible to audit one Regional Activity Centre, namely PAP/RAC. The Focal Points would now have to decide which Centre should be audited next, which might be the BP/RAC.

32. He shared the view that it was important to focus on the essential elements of MAP's work and produce results. Statistics were one area where progress had to be made. Some RACs had very clear terms of reference set down, mainly related to their legal framework, whereas Blue Plan and PAP/RAC had a broader mandate that went beyond the environment strictly speaking but was now better structured by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD). Nevertheless, limits had to be defined and there were budgetary constraints as well; it was not possible to tackle every subject and it was the role of the Focal Points to redirect efforts and evaluate results.

Agenda Item 6: Review of the activities of the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC) for the 1998-1999 biennium

33. Introducing the review of activities, Mr I. Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC, drew the Meeting's attention to the *Report on the activities carried out during the 1998-1999 biennium*, which supplemented the information contained in documents UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/3 and Corr. 1 and UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/Inf.8. During the biennium, priority had been given to

the sustainable development of coastal areas, with emphasis on the national and local levels. Within this context, integrated coastal area management (ICAM) had been the main tool for the sustainable development of coastal areas. The main pillars of PAP/RAC's programme had included the management and assessment of the situation in coastal areas, with particular reference to the integrated management of river basins and coastal areas, for which it had received support from the former Water Branch of UNEP. Guidelines had been prepared on this subject and a demonstration project was planned in Croatia. Capacity-building activities involving training courses at the national level had also proven to be highly cost-effective in improving the environmental system in coastal areas by training large numbers of persons. Another important area of activities was assistance to countries, which had been provided, for example, to Malta. Support had been received from METAP to undertake an assessment of ICAM in the Mediterranean. This had led to the holding of a regional workshop in Cairo in June 1998, which had supported future ICAM activities. A workshop had also been held in Split in January 1999 to assess the viability of Strategic Environmental Assessment in the Mediterranean region and support in that area had subsequently been received from the European Union.

34. PAP/RAC had continued to be involved in coastal area management programmes (CAMPs), which were effective means of concentrating on environmental problems in smaller areas, with the support of other MAP activity centres. The CAMPs in Egypt and Tunisia had been finalized, while the CAMP in Israel was due to be completed by the end of the year. New CAMPs were under preparation in Algeria, Lebanon and Malta and it was expected that the relevant agreements would be concluded within the next few months.

35. He added that PAP/RAC had continued its activities in the field of water resource management, especially with regard to urban water systems, for which guidelines had been prepared, as well as in the management of soil erosion, in cooperation with FAO and with the support of the European Union. Within the context of the MCDSD, it had played a leading role in the working groups on the sustainable management of coastal areas and on the management of urban development. Based on a questionnaire, an analysis was also being undertaken of national legislation on the management of coastal zones. Considerable importance had also been given to the dissemination of information to a broader public, particularly through the development of a website, the preparation of publications and support for the activities of NGOs.

36. He concluded by emphasizing the role played by PAP/RAC in catalysing environmental efforts within the Mediterranean region and added that PAP/RAC had been the first MAP activity centre to be evaluated by an external evaluation team.

37. Many speakers, and particularly those representing countries which had been involved in CAMP projects, praised the contribution made by PAP/RAC. As the host country of the Centre, the representative of Croatia expressed particular satisfaction at the outcome of the Centre's work. It was also pointed out that both PAP/RAC and the Blue Plan were ideally placed to address the concerns of the contemporary world in relation to the broad issues of sustainable development. A balanced approach needed to be adopted by both centres and care should be taken not to restrict them by confining their activities to narrow sectoral issues. Nevertheless, efforts also needed to be made to address the shortcomings of CAMP projects, which were insufficiently integrated into national policies and often lacked effective follow-up action. It would therefore be necessary in future to pay greater attention to all aspects of coastal area management, from the inception of projects to their implementation. Several speakers also pointed to the need for clearer reporting of the activities of PAP/RAC, with fuller indications of the stage reached by each project vis-a-vis the expected outcomes and the manner in which the Centre's budgetary allocations were used.

38. In response, the Coordinator proposed that the reports of the activities of both PAP/RAC and the Blue Plan should be supplemented by a budget document which could be submitted for information to the Contracting Parties. He added that the evaluation of PAP/RAC's work left no doubt as to its high quality and the value of the demonstration effect of its projects for national authorities. There nevertheless remained the problem of effective follow-up to these projects. It was therefore vital to establish priorities and propose appropriate strategies to the Contracting Parties that addressed the serious problem of striking a good balance between the Centre's very broad mandate and its low level of resources. In this respect, he believed that the Centre was very cost-effective. With very few professional resources, it succeeded in mobilizing an extensive network of experts.

39. Mr. Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC, agreed that practical implementation raised substantial problems. The practical follow-up CAMP projects required many more resources than those currently available to the Centre. Decisions would therefore have to be taken concerning the role of the Centre in following up its recommendations. He agreed with speakers that new CAMP projects should endeavour to be as practical and action-oriented as possible and that more information could be provided on the precise use made of the resources allocated to the Centre. He would also be pleased to follow a more comprehensive reporting procedure in the future. In conclusion, with reference to the collaboration between PAP/RAC and the Blue Plan, he reaffirmed that, although they covered similar themes, the great difference between the two centres lay in the level of detail, with PAP/RAC focusing on the national and local levels and BP/RAC concentrating on the regional Mediterranean level.

Agenda Item 7: Report by the Coordinator on the activities carried out during the 1998-1999 biennium and Recommendations and Programme Budget for the 2000-2001 biennium

40. The Meeting reviewed in detail documents UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/3 and Corr. 1.

I. Coordination

A. Legal and institutional framework

41. The Coordinator introduced section A.1 (legal framework), drawing particular attention to the updated status of signatures and ratifications of the Barcelona Convention as at 2 September 1999. After outlining the current situation in regard to the amendment of the Emergency Protocol, liability and compensation and the reporting system, he stressed the importance of the recommendations calling upon the Contracting Parties to adhere to the MAP legal instruments, since he considered that the present situation should not be allowed to persist. It was hoped that the year 2000 would be the year of their entry into force.

42. In the course of the debate, appreciation was expressed of the new structure of the report, which involved a more strategic presentation. Several participants reported on the progress of the ratification procedures at present under way in their own countries, which they hoped would shortly be completed. Suggestions were made concerning ways of encouraging the Contracting Parties to adhere to the MAP legal instruments, one speaker believing that MAP's credibility was at stake. The Coordinator pointed out that procedures varied widely from one country to another and that some delay was unavoidable. The updated status of signatures and ratifications presented to the Meeting might in some cases not indicate the actual state of advancement of the process since the Secretariat could only take account of notifications officially received by the Depositary. It should also be borne in mind that the MAP legal

instruments were highly innovatory, involving an advance from "soft" law to a more prescriptive and binding approach. It was therefore inevitable that national authorities would study the new texts closely before accepting them, but that was a healthy sign, implying that, once ratified, the provisions would be complied with. In that connection, a speaker pointed out that signature of an instrument was only the first stage in a lengthy procedure. The ratification process had to respect constitutional provisions and often involved the preparation and adoption of enabling legislation. For that reason, delays should not be interpreted as a deliberate attempt to hold up progress.

43. The importance of following up compliance by the Contracting Parties with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was underlined. The Coordinator explained that the Secretariat had commenced work on the preparation of a compliance reporting system, the first draft of which was before the Meeting. The reporting system should be finalized at the time of entry into force of the new and revised legal texts. One speaker considered that it would be useful to recommend to the Contracting Parties that they should incorporate international environmental law in their national legislation.

44. Several participants expressed strong support for the training programme on environmental law and hoped that the funds allocated would prove adequate. One speaker suggested that the Secretariat should try to identify other training systems already in existence. In reply to a question concerning the allocation to the Secretariat for legal assistance, the Coordinator stated that the present system of engaging the services of an eminent legal consultant was highly cost-effective, although in the longer term it might prove necessary to recruit a full-time legal adviser.

45. Responding to comments on the amendment of the Emergency Protocol, the Coordinator said that a second meeting of legal and technical experts was envisaged. As could be seen in the corrigendum to the report, such a meeting was scheduled "for the near future". If an agreed text could be produced, a conference of plenipotentiaries would then be convened to adopt the amendments. While no provision had been made in the budget, it was anticipated that Italy was prepared to host the meeting of experts in 1999 and a sponsor could probably be found for a plenipotentiary conference. The observer for IMO said that his organization hoped that the process of amending the Emergency Protocol would be completed as soon as possible and suggested that for clarity's sake the convening of a plenipotentiary conference should be mentioned in the budget. If no sponsor came forward, the conference could be held back-to-back with the next Meeting of Contracting Parties.

46. Support was also expressed for the holding of a second meeting of legal and technical experts on liability and compensation.

47. The Coordinator introduced section A.2 (Institutional framework), highlighting recent developments in the Coordinating Unit, the negotiations on host country agreements for BP/RAC, ERS/RAC and CP/RAC, and the status of the 100 Historic Sites. The Meeting also had before it the proposed functional chart for the Coordinating Unit, prepared in response to a request from UNEP Headquarters, which would be transmitted to the Contracting Parties for their comments before being forwarded to UNEP.

48. Although there was general support for the functional chart, the Secretariat was requested to provide further details and one speaker thought that the flexibility of the Coordinating Unit's present structure had proved an advantage.

49. In response, Mr A. Hoballah, Deputy Coordinator, explained that the chart applied to the Coordinating Unit, not to MAP as a whole. The activities specified under the Programme Management component could be replaced by "Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation", and "MCSD", so as to place greater emphasis on the Unit's coordinating role, and further details would be included in the document to be transmitted to the Contracting Parties. Until then, the representative of Turkey maintained Turkey's position that it would not express views on the chart as presented.

50. Participants agreed that the National Focal Points for BP/RAC and PAP/RAC should hold meetings separately from the regular meetings of MAP National Focal Points and that a joint meeting for the two centres should be convened. There were divergent views, however, on the practicability of holding the meeting back-to-back with other MAP meetings in order to minimize expenditure. After having heard the Coordinator's explanation that meetings of Focal Points for the various centres had to be held sufficiently in advance to allow their programmes to be finalized before the regular meetings of MAP National Focal Points, the Meeting concurred that a joint meeting of National Focal Points for BP/RAC and PAP/RAC should be convened, that the Secretariat should be asked to find the most cost-effective way of covering its cost, and that, to offset part of the cost, the number of participants in regular meetings of National Focal Points authorized to receive travel costs should be reduced from two to one.

51. With regard to the 100 Historic Sites programme, one speaker expressed support for the programme, while another expressed doubts as to its relevance. In response, the Coordinator said that the intention was to propose to the Contracting Parties a number of options for resolving the issue of its status and role.

52. The Deputy Coordinator introduced section A.3 (Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), focusing in particular on the issue of renewal of the Commission's membership.

53. The meeting discussed whether non-Contracting Party members should be appointed by the Contracting Parties, as specified in the Commission's terms of reference, or by the Bureau for practical reasons. It was pointed out, on the one hand, that appointment by the Bureau had been an exceptional measure and that henceforward the Contracting Parties should appoint members, as originally intended. On the other, it was recognized that the Contracting Parties had a heavy timetable and did not have the time to discuss in detail the appointment of 15 non-Contracting Party members. One possible compromise would be to request the Bureau to prepare a provisional list during the Conference of the Contracting Parties for their approval.

54. The question of when the newly-appointed members would take up office was then debated. Some participants felt that members should take their seats at the subsequent meeting of the MCSD, whereas others considered it unacceptable to oblige the new members to wait one year before effectively taking office. The importance of continuity was stressed; one possible solution would be to request task managers to continue their work even after the appointment of new members and another would be to keep up to 50 per cent of existing members. Finally, it was agreed that the Contracting Parties should decide on the most appropriate solution.

B. Information and participation

55. The Deputy Coordinator introduced the relevant section, underlining the importance of information and drawing attention to MAP's proposed information strategy contained in Annex III to the Coordinator's report. It was suggested that information activities by RACs be included

in the budget so as to provide an overall picture of MAP's activities in this area.

56. Some participants spoke against the appointment of Focal Points for information, holding the view that MAP Focal Points could adequately fulfil that role. Others, however, considered that information professionals were needed. As there was no budgetary provision for them, perhaps a network of contact points designed by the Contracting Parties might be the best solution.

57. One participant, when discussing the MAP information strategy, emphasized that the question of who to appoint as a Focal Point for information was an internal matter for the Contracting Parties and proposed relevant amendments to Annex III to the Coordinator's report.

58. It was noted that a number of important new activities were proposed with only a slight increase in the budget and the Secretariat was asked why these activities had not been undertaken previously.

59. Attention was drawn to the complementary work being carried out by the MCSD Working Group on Information, Awareness, Environmental Education and Participation, and to the role of civil society. It was also important to bear in mind the need to draft information in terms that were easily understood by the public.

60. Following the discussion it was proposed to revise the recommendation on information focal points by referring to "contact points". Regarding activities, it was noted that information and communication activities had been carried out so far without a clear framework, mainly on an ad hoc basis. It was expected that the Information Strategy would substantially improve the quality and impact of related activities.

C. Cooperation and coordination with United Nations agencies, Convention Secretariats, IGOs and other funding institutions

61. Introducing the discussion on this point, the Coordinator noted that, in compliance with the decisions of the Contracting Parties, contacts and cooperation with various Convention secretariats, United Nations agencies and other relevant IGOs had been developed and strengthened during the past biennium. However, he recommended that MAP should make more use of the opportunities offered by the European Community in this area, particularly through its MEDA/SMAP mechanism.

62. Several speakers emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation with IGOs, particularly with a view to further developing real partnership, coordination and the sharing of projects at the Mediterranean level. The Mediterranean region should serve as a model in this respect and regional collaboration should be moved into a higher gear. It was also pointed out that the recommendations submitted to the Contracting Parties should not compartmentalize areas of cooperation. For example, although GEF and METAP were making an important contribution to the SAP, their collaboration with other areas of MAP activities should also be encouraged. The list of IGOs proposed in the recommendations was not complete and many RACs collaborated with other IGOs. Several suggestions were made on specific IGOs which could be named in the recommendations, including Silva Mediterranea (FAO), UN/ECE and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). It was also emphasized that, in MAP's cooperation with UNCSD, particular importance should be given to environmental indicators, an area in which the MCSD was undertaking pioneering work. In all cooperation efforts, emphasis should also be given to the exchange of experience between the North and the South of the Mediterranean.

63. The observer for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands called for closer collaboration with MAP in such areas as pollution control, the identification of sites of importance and sustainable use. He noted in this respect that the MedWet initiative was a model for regional collaboration for natural resource management.

64. In response to questions from a number of speakers, the Coordinator explained that the proposed allocation was for the training of national officials to assist them to manage and follow up the important aspects of the Barcelona system. During the past biennium, such training had been provided to officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. However, he agreed that the allocation could be included in another section of the proposed budget.

D. Cooperation and coordination with non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

65. Introducing the discussion on this point, the Coordinator recalled that, at their Tenth Meeting (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997), the Contracting Parties had decided to undertake a methodological reflection in relation to the participation of NGOs in MAP's work. A Working Group had therefore been set up and its recommendations were contained in Annex I to document UNEP (OCA)/MED WG.157/3.

66. Many speakers welcomed the contribution made to the work of MAP by NGOs, particularly in the fields of the dissemination of information and raising public awareness of environmental issues. Observers representing several NGOs also spoke of the importance of the Barcelona system, and MAP in particular, in developing and consolidating the role of environmental NGOs in the Mediterranean region. Although the situation was still uneven at the national level, NGOs now generally enjoyed recognition by governments in the region. Nevertheless, greater priority should still be given by MAP to the development of practical cooperation projects with NGO involvement.

67. Several speakers drew attention to the wide range of NGOs active in the region. These included very small local organizations with two or three employees and groups of consultants, alongside major regional organizations acting as networks in their specific fields. The various countries adopted differing practices with regard to NGOs, including the relevant legislative provisions. Some countries were more active than others in providing financing for the activities of NGOs. It was noted in this respect that the Working Group had recommended the selection on the MAP/NGO list of partners of organizations representing local authorities and socio-economic actors, as well as environmental NGOs. Several speakers urged MAP to give emphasis in cooperation to the larger regional NGO networks and to ensure that its financial support was directed towards NGOs active in the South and East of the Mediterranean region. It was also proposed that the MAP Focal Points should give their opinion concerning local NGOs wishing to be included on the MAP/NGO list. The representative of Turkey proposed the addition to the list of the Underwater Research Society/Monk Seal Research Group (Turkey).

68. Several observers representing NGOs regretted that the amount of the proposed budget for collaboration with NGOs was so small. The observer for EcoMediterrània emphasized that a larger budget should be allocated to MAP's activities with NGOs to build up confidence even further in NGO/MAP cooperation and partnership, which was of great importance for effective action for ecology and sustainable development in the region. One representative doubted whether the limited funds of MTF should be used to fund NGO training and capacity building. A number of speakers representing Contracting Parties expressed the opinion that the recommendations of the Working Group concerning the action of the Secretariat in relation to

NGOs would place too great a burden on the financial and human resources of the MAP Secretariat. It was therefore agreed that the proposed recommendations would be adjusted to reflect this and other comments made during the discussion.

E. Meetings and conferences organized within the MAP framework (MEDU and RACs)

69. The Coordinator introduced section E, drawing particular attention to the allocation for the preparation of the Strategic Review for the Year 2000, an important activity that formed part of the terms of reference of the MCSD.

70. In the course of a brief discussion, it was pointed out that some of the listed activities were not, in fact, meetings and should appear elsewhere. A participant indicated that the very useful calendar of meetings contained in Annex II to the Coordinator's report was inaccurate and suggested that the Directors of RACs should be asked to submit corrections. The representative of the European Commission expressed a reservation on the proposed EC voluntary funds allocated for meetings. It was recalled that a conference of plenipotentiaries should be included for the adoption of amendments to the Emergency Protocol. The representative of Monaco confirmed the Principality's intention to host the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties and the representative of Turkey offered to host the Seventh Meeting of the MCSD in 2001.

71. The Coordinator, after stating that the necessary corrections would be made, thanked the representatives of Monaco and Turkey for their Governments' generous offers. He pointed out that the Strategic Review involved a great deal of work, some of it consisting in support for the contributions of individual countries. Every effort would be made to carry out that work economically. With regard to the European Commission's reservation, he stated that meetings had an essential role to play in international cooperation and that MAP's meetings of technical experts were of special significance in the Mediterranean.

72. As a result of the earthquake that occurred in Athens in the afternoon of Tuesday, 7 September 1999, the meeting scheduled for that afternoon was postponed to the following morning.

II. **Components**

A. Pollution prevention and control

73. The MEDPOL Coordinator, introducing the section on land-based pollution assessment and control, said that the approval of the SAP, together with the substantial contribution from GEF and the launching of the MEDPOL Phase III activities, had opened new prospects for MEDPOL. He proceeded to outline the activities undertaken in the current biennium in the field of coordination, pollution assessment and control, including capacity-building programmes, the independent evaluation of MEDPOL Phase II and staff changes. Assistance had been provided to a number of countries for monitoring activities, for which some funds were still available. In connection with biological effects monitoring, he thanked RAMOGE for its help in preparing a manual and producing a video cassette. Work had continued on the identification of pollution sources and loads, and also on data quality assurance. After highlighting activities on compliance and enforcement, he pointed out that a new approach to research was now being planned, involving the identification of emerging pollution issues. Following an account of measures to implement the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols, he went on to describe the GEF co-financed SAP MED Programme, indicating the contributions from GEF, individual countries, MAP itself, French GEF, METAP and FAO.

74. Turning to the proposed work plan of activities for MEDPOL Phase III (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/Inf.6), approved at the Meeting of MEDPOL National Coordinators in Reggio Calabria, he indicated that the most important criterion governing the choice of activities was that they should give priority to those from the SAP for which GEF funding was available. Stress was laid on the preparation of national monitoring programmes by all countries by the end of the biennium. It was recommended that an informal network on compliance and enforcement should be set up, with a view to developing an overall strategy for the region.

75. The recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties related mainly to the SAP, monitoring programmes, cooperation with United Nations agencies and the establishment of the inter-ministerial committees required by GEF. The Secretariat was recommended, inter alia, to assist countries in the preparation of national monitoring programmes, to reorganize the research component, to update the SAP and to implement the "economic instruments" activity of the SAP MED Programme. The proposed budget represented an attempt to reflect the activities as described, on the understanding that the figures had to be adjusted to the overall availability of funds.

76. In the ensuing discussion, several participants expressed concern over the decrease in the budget for MEDPOL activities as compared with the previous biennium. It was pointed out that although additional funds would be provided by GEF, not all Contracting Parties were eligible to receive them. Furthermore, the GEF project would last for three years only, after which it would be difficult to restore the previous level of financing. It was also recalled that the MEDPOL National Coordinators had agreed at Reggio Calabria that the budget for MEDPOL should be expanded. One speaker wondered whether there had been a change in MAP policy with regard to the provision of assistance. Two representatives stressed the need to speed up the administrative procedures for finalization of the GEF project so as to ensure prompt implementation.

77. In reply, the Coordinator confirmed that MEDPOL remained the principal component of MAP, enjoying top priority in relation to both MAP Phase II and the GEF project. In that context, he recalled that he was proposing to use some of the extra funds obtained as a result of the financing of four additional posts by UNEP for direct assistance for national monitoring activities. It had to be borne in mind that once all the Centres and Focal Points had met and made their proposals, a process of adjustment was needed to ensure a sound overall budgetary balance. The MEDPOL Coordinator added that MAP continued to attach the highest importance to direct assistance, with which most of the budgetary lines were concerned. He reminded the participants that MAP had to make a contribution from its own funds in order to secure GEF financing. With regard to countries not eligible for GEF funds, MAP and MEDPOL implementation could provide support for their activities.

78. Questions were raised concerning the usefulness of the proposed research activities in view of the limited funds available. The Coordinator explained that as MAP proceeded to an action phase in pollution control, it was important to move to a "watch" function in research, involving the identification of emerging issues. Another question related to the decision taken at Reggio Calabria to begin action on litter on beaches and in the marine environment. One speaker pointed out that solid materials other than plastic were involved, while the observer for IOC offered his organization's collaboration. The Secretariat assured the Meeting that action was planned. The observer for Greenpeace International informed participants that his organization had produced a comprehensive study of dioxins which it wished to present to the Contracting Parties in Malta.

79. In response to other comments, the MEDPOL Coordinator said that the GEF project implementation chart referred to in paragraph 24 of the report of the MEDPOL Coordinators was being finalized, action on water quality criteria for the Mediterranean was planned, an opportunity would be available to update the list of pollution hotspots, and that some resources were still available in 1999 to assist countries with their national monitoring programmes.

80. Mr. Patrino, Director of REMPEC, introduced the section on sea-based pollution and control. He reported that so far during the biennium seven training courses had been held at the national and sub-regional levels and, taking into account the two training courses still to be held in 1999, a total of 220 persons would have received training. One joint subregional oil spill exercise had been organized in Cyprus, with the participation of Egypt and Israel. Two communication exercises had been held and there would be one more before the end of 1999. A second subregional joint oil spill exercise would be carried out in Haifa in November 1999.

81. In the area of capacity-building, two proposals had been put forward: a three-year project in Syria to develop a national preparedness and response system and another three-year project in Turkey related to risk assessment and capacity-building. Another two-year project on port reception facilities, originally presented in 1997, would be revised. As noted in the report, a Memorandum of Understanding on the development of a contingency plan in Malta had been signed by the Maltese authorities and REMPEC.

82. Pursuant to the decision taken by the Contracting Parties in 1997, the Centre, in close collaboration with the Coordinating Unit and IMO, had prepared the revision of the Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention and had finalized a draft proposal which had been distributed for comments to MAP correspondents in June 1999. It was envisaged that the document would be discussed at a second meeting of national technical and legal experts, to be convened by MEDU Athens in the near future.

83. Turning to administrative matters, he explained that the appointment of a permanent administrator was still pending and the temporary incumbent would remain in the post until December 1999. A consultant had been recruited for a period of two weeks to close past projects and it was expected that this would be completed by the end of October 1999. REMPEC continued to suffer from a lack of administrative staff and, in the light of its growing role in prevention, he hoped that the Contracting Parties would give favourable consideration to seconding staff to REMPEC with a view to providing the Centre with the necessary professional expertise. Lastly, the Maltese Government had made a strong commitment to provide REMPEC with new premises.

84. Regarding future work, REMPEC would continue to develop new tools for information dissemination along the lines of the TROCs database and the practical guide for marine chemical spills. It would also remain available to provide assistance to countries in emergency situations and would hold further specialized regional training courses. The proposed increase in the budget was less than 2 per cent, despite REMPEC's new prevention activities.

85. Participants expressed appreciation of the valuable work carried out by REMPEC and pledged to continue their support. A number of clarifications were sought concerning the proposed budget. Referring to REMPEC's growing role in prevention, one speaker expressed the view that policy must be defined in collaboration with other organizations working in similar fields because prevention involved many aspects that were not strictly environmental, for example, navigation and other maritime matters. The budget should also be reviewed to see how costs could be shared.

86. With regard to the recommendations, it was suggested that paragraph 2 be redrafted in order to make it clear that there were other concerns in addition to port reception facilities.

87. The observer for IMO underlined IMO's commitment to cooperation with UNEP as part of its strategy on protection of the marine environment. IMO and UNEP had agreed jointly to finance an administrative officer in the General Services category at REMPEC and he reiterated the Director of REMPEC's appeal to Contracting Parties to make staff available. In new areas such as prevention, IMO was ready to cooperate with MAP to develop activities that would further strengthen cooperation.

88. The observer for the WWF emphasized that the creation of a specially sensitive area in the Northern Adriatic was of the utmost importance and expressed the hope that REMPEC would support the endeavour.

89. In reply to points raised, the Director of REMPEC explained that the different amounts in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.153/Corr. 1 for the specialized regional training course and the meeting of REMPEC Focal Points in the Year 2000 were due to the recent increase in costs, mainly related to the rise in the daily subsistence allowance for Malta from US\$101 to US\$210.

90. He welcomed the offer by the representative of France to communicate to REMPEC the studies on pollution by pleasure craft carried out in France.

91. Referring to the section on cleaner production and sustainable development, one speaker paid tribute to the excellent work carried out by CP/RAC during the past year, which had not involved any expenditure for the Mediterranean Trust Fund. He queried the long list of detailed recommendations addressed to CP/RAC, which appeared to him to represent undue pressure on CP/RAC to refocus its activities. In addition, financial support should be forthcoming from the Mediterranean Trust Fund for the CP/RAC Focal Points meeting, in accordance with the unified approach to RACs adopted by the Tenth Conference of the Contracting Parties. CP/RAC should not be placed on a different footing to the other RACs. It was agreed that the recommendations for CP/RAC's activities for the biennium would be revised

B. Conservation on Biological Diversity

92. Mr. Hentati, Director of SPA/RAC, introduced the relevant section, focusing on the results of the Centre's activities.

93. He drew attention to the tools developed by the Centre for the purpose of compiling national inventories and to the Model Classification of marine habitat types. The Centre intended to continue with the work on the classification of coastal habitats, to be followed by marine pelagic habitats.

94. Recommendations on further implementation of the Action Plans on monk seals and cetaceans, together with a revised version of the Action Plan for marine turtles and a new Action Plan on marine vegetation, were before the Focal Points. It should also be noted that it was proposed to hold a first symposium on marine turtles jointly with the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wildlife in Europe.

95. Pursuant to the recommendation by the Contracting Parties, the Centre had pursued contacts with a view to establishing coordination with the MED PAN network. SPA/RAC was

also responsible for the elaboration of the Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean region which was to be prepared in the context of the GEF Mediterranean project.

96. Many speakers congratulated SPA/RAC on its remarkable work and expressed their strong support for the proposed recommendations, draft action plans and reference lists and classification. Emphasis was placed on the importance of producing clear reports and collaborating with the Secretariats to other Conventions, as SPA/RAC had continued to do. There was a great need for common vocabulary and tools, both within and beyond the Mediterranean region, to promote biodiversity. However, SPA/RAC was reminded of the need for greater synthesis in the documents that it submitted to the Contracting Parties respecting its technical tools for the elaboration of inventories of natural sites. Moreover, the representative of Italy reserved the right to examine in greater detail the proposed standard data-entry form for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest.

97. The representative of Tunisia reaffirmed his Government's continued support to SPA/RAC. In view of the extensive work carried out by the Centre to implement the SPA Protocol and MAP Phase II provisions on nature conservation, it was necessary to strengthen its budget so that it would be able to carry out the tasks assigned to it.

98. The representatives of several countries, including Albania, Algeria and Croatia, reaffirmed their commitment to continue working with the Centre on projects for the conservation of biological diversity in their own countries. In this context, several speakers described the efforts made to prepare for a Mediterranean symposium for the protection of the Mediterranean marine turtle, which could be held in 2001. The Focal Points were also informed of the progress made by WWF in coordination with SPA/RAC in developing a scientific basis, using the GIS system, for the identification at the main gaps in the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity, and it was proposed to report on the progress of the project at the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties. The signature by France, Italy and Monaco was also welcomed of the agreement creating a protected area for cetaceans in the Corso-Liguro-Provençal Basin, which included international waters.

99. The representative of the European Commission recalled that the European Union's MEDA/SMAP mechanism provided opportunities for Centres such as SPA/RAC and REMPEC to develop programmes which supplemented those financed through the MTF. In particular, they could present projects of a regional nature. Several speakers recalled that the Contracting Parties should be given an opportunity to scrutinize the use made of resources from external sources.

100. The Coordinator recalled the importance of the work of both REMPEC and SPA/RAC. In particular, MAP gave as much support as it could to SPA/RAC for its work in the field of biodiversity, which tended to attract little donor support. Over the past four years the regular budget allocations for SPA/RAC had nearly doubled and as a consequence the intensity of its activities had increased markedly. He emphasised in this connection that many of the NGOs which collaborated with MAP focused in particular on the field of biodiversity.

C. Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones

101. Mr Trumbic (Director of PAP/RAC) recalled that the main areas of PAP/RAC's work in the forthcoming biennium would be to increase its own technical capacity, provide assistance to countries, build national capacities (particularly in the field of legislation), continue its work

to develop CAMPs with greater participation from local stakeholders and improve the effectiveness of its information strategy.

102. Mr Raimondi (Director of ERS/RAC) reaffirmed the role that would continue to be played by ERS/RAC in applying advanced technologies, with particular reference to: remote sensing, in projects for the sustainable management of coastal zones at the national (CAMP) and regional levels; building capacities to integrate such advanced techniques into planning and decision-making processes; and in disseminating information and documentation. He stressed in this respect that ERS/RAC would continue to develop its website containing the inventory of all activities supported by remote sensing in the Mediterranean. Although the proposed regular budget allocation for ERS/RAC would remain relatively constant, he reported that the Centre had been successful in the previous biennium in attracting resources from various donors, and particularly the European Union and the European Space Agency. He also emphasized that, as in the past, the proposed budget for ERS/RAC did not include funding for a national focal point meeting, which constituted a serious problem for the Centre.

103. Several speakers expressed support for the activities of the two Centres and reaffirmed their commitment to working closely with them in the future. Both Centres were called upon to include fuller information in the documents submitted to the Contracting Parties on the activities which they undertook with support from external donors. In a discussion of the need for a focal point meeting for ERS/RAC, one delegate suggested that, from the point of view of the users, it would be useful for such a meeting to be combined with the joint Blue Plan and PAP/RAC focal point meeting. However, another delegate was not in favour of this solution, in view of the very technical nature of ERS/RAC's work.

104. The representatives of Croatia, Italy and Slovenia provided the Focal Points with information on the work of the Trilateral Commission for the Protection of the Adriatic Sea, which was a joint initiative by Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. It had undertaken preliminary work aimed at the harmonization of the relevant national laws and regulations. This work would provide a basis for declaring the Adriatic Sea to be a sensitive area. This initiative provided a model for a new generation of CAMPs conceived as regional projects which could be more effective in developing the necessary international commitment for the measures needed to protect these areas.

105. The representative of the European Community emphasized that the means used for the implementation of the MCSD's recommendations on sustainable management of coastal zones in the 1998-1999 biennium were not enough. The implementation of these recommendations by the Contracting Parties needed to be supported by MEDU and the concerned RACs, which should also seek additional funding from external sources, including MEDA/SMAP.

D. Integrating Environment and Development

106. Mr Benoit (Director, Blue Plan) said that the two main thrusts in the forthcoming biennium would be information and the priority issues of sustainable development. He briefly introduced the sections on observation and prospective study of the environment and development (D.1), tourism and sustainable development (D.2), urban development and sustainable town management (D.3), and rural development, natural areas and resources (D.4), highlighting the actions taken and the gaps that still needed to be filled. Mr Raimondi (Director, ERS/RAC) pointed out that remote sensing could be a valuable tool for monitoring certain indicators, while Mr Trumbic (Director, PAP/RAC) outlined the role of PAP/RAC in such areas as soil erosion and water resources.

107. In the course of the discussion, the representative of Italy referred to the very important issue of natural and man-made disasters, which were not well covered in the MCSD thematic groups. It would be very useful to establish cooperation on that subject in the Mediterranean and an institution in his country was well equipped to set up a network, possibly under a memorandum of understanding. The representative of France expressed interest in the proposal and offered his country's cooperation. The Director, Blue Plan, pointed out that the whole problem of natural disasters had already been thoroughly analysed by Blue Plan and UNESCO and that Blue Plan was ready to help in the setting up of such a network. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to present a report on the state of international cooperation in the field of natural and man-made disasters in the Mediterranean basin.

108. In reply to a question concerning possible overlapping in the activities proposed under the headings of urban management and tourism, the Director, Blue Plan, explained that the activities carried out by PAP/RAC in those areas were mainly local in scope, whereas Blue Plan tended to adopt a more regional or global approach. Another question related to the advisability of becoming involved in such issues as poverty and health, given the present budgetary constraints. It was explained that the purpose of the proposed activity was to clarify the situation in relation to sustainable development, not to study the issues in depth. The observer for MEDCITIES said that the subject of poverty and health had been taken up in the thematic group of which he was co-task manager, in close cooperation with BP/RAC and PAP/RAC.

III. Budget for the biennium 2000-2001

109. The Coordinator introduced the budget section by section, explaining the different components.

110. In the course of the ensuing discussion, the representative of the European Commission expressed a reservation on the grounds that the Commission would prefer a different distribution of its voluntary contribution. However, the representative of the Commission was certain that the matter would be resolved through further contacts. The representative of Italy said that his delegation was prepared to go along with whatever decision was reached by the Meeting on condition that during the next biennium the Coordinating Unit would prepare an analysis and review of the overhead and operating costs of MAP and the allocation of resources to the RACs, with particular reference to cost effectiveness and outcomes analysis. The Meeting agreed that this should be done. Some also speakers drew attention to the fact that 70 per cent of the budget was spent on administration and only 30 per cent on activities. The representative of Greece expressed concern over the distribution of resources to the various RACs and said that he could not accept the proposed budget unless the increase went towards activities, and in particular MEDPOL, which had not benefited from any increase in the present budget proposals. The representative of Cyprus made suggestions on ways of effecting savings and requested details on the actual use to which funds had been put in the current biennium. The representative of France called for greater budgetary rigour and considered that the additional UNEP contribution should be deducted from the contributions requested from the Contracting Parties, which should also take account of inflation in the Mediterranean region. He too called for a list of activities financed during the present biennium. The representative of Egypt, supported by the representative of Libya, said that a set of performance indicators should be devised to measure cost effectiveness, activities should be more focused and administrative costs should be reduced. It was agreed that every effort would be made to present a statement of account for the current biennium during the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Malta.

111. Responding to these comments, the Coordinator stressed that MAP as a whole was a large structure which both fulfilled the functions of a Convention Secretariat and implemented a programme of activities. It included a Coordinating Unit, six RACs and the MCSD, established by decisions of the Contracting Parties. Obviously, such a structure required a certain minimum level of resources. Efforts had been made to keep costs at a reasonable level. It was also recognized that Contracting Parties made considerable efforts for MAP. Certain adjustments within the budget could be made in the light of the comments by the Focal Points.

112. Finally, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a budget proposal for the Contracting Parties on the basis of a 2 per cent increase in contributions by Contracting Parties and to make the necessary adjustments within the overall figure to take into account the comments made by the Focal Points.

Agenda Item 8: Any other business

113. The representative of Turkey informed the Meeting that the preparatory technical paper on the proposal for the establishment in Turkey of a regional activity centre for training would be ready for the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Malta.

114. The representative of Turkey also informed the Meeting of the intention of her country to host the Seventh Meeting of the MCSD.

115. The representative of Monaco announced that his country was considering hosting the 2001 Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

116. The observer for IAEA said that the Agency wished to make a presentation at the Meeting of the Contracting Parties of a regional technical cooperation project in North African countries, which would represent a contribution to the MEDPOL programme.

117. The Meeting agreed that, as a tribute to his long and valuable service to MAP, Mr I. Dharat should be invited to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties and presented with the Mediterranean Action Plan Medal.

118. The representative of Malta reported that preparations for the Meeting of the Contracting Parties were well advanced and that the Maltese authorities were looking forward to welcoming all the participants.

Agenda Item 9: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

119. On Thursday, 9 September 1999, the Meeting adopted its report and its recommendations, which are contained in Annex III.

Homage to the victims of the earthquake in Athens

120. The Chairperson invited the Meeting to observe one minute's silence as a tribute to the memory of the victims of the earthquake which had occurred during the course of the Meeting.

121. The Meeting observed one minute's silence.

Agenda Item 10: Closure of the Meeting

122. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson declared the Meeting closed on Thursday, 9 September 1999, at 19.00 hours.

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ANNEX II**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Rules of procedure
3. Election of officers
4. Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work
5. Review of the activities of the Blue Plan (BP/RAC) for the 1998-1999 biennium
6. Review of the activities of the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC) for the 1998-1999 biennium
7. Report by the Coordinator on the activities carried out during the 1998-1999 biennium and Recommendations and Programme Budget for 2000-2001 biennium:

7.A COORDINATION

- 7A.1 Legal framework
- 7A.2 Funding and institutional matters
- 7A.3 Information, awareness, and participation, including MAP information strategy
- 7A.4 Coordination and cooperation with United Nations Agencies, Convention Secretariats, IGOs and NGOs
- 7A.5 Meetings and Conferences organized within the MAP framework

7.B COMPONENTS**7B.1 Pollution Prevention and Control**

- 7B.1.1 Activities related to land-based pollution assessment and control
- 7B.1.2 Activities related to the LBS Protocol;
 - Strategic Action Programme (SAP)
- 7B.1.3 Activities related to the Dumping Protocol
- 7B.1.4 Activities related to the Hazardous Wastes Protocol
- 7B.1.5 Activities related to sea-based pollution prevention and control
- 7B.1.6 Activities related to the Emergency Protocol
- 7B.1.7 Activities related to the Offshore Protocol
- 7B.1.8 Cleaner production and sustainable development

7B.2 Conservation of Biological Diversity

- 7B.2.1 Collection of data and periodic assessment of the situation related to specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean
- 7B.2.2 Planning and management

- 7B.2.3 Public information relevant to specially protected areas and biodiversity
- 7B.2.4 Exchange of experience and strengthening of national capabilities

7B.3 Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones

- 7B.3.1 Sustainable management of coastal zones
- 7B.3.2 Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP)

7B.4 Integrating Environment and Development

- 7B.4.1 Observation, assessment and evaluation
- 7B.4.2 Tourism and sustainable development
- 7B.4.3 Urban development and sustainable town management
- 7B.4.4 Rural development, natural areas and resources
- 7B.4.5 Other activities

7.C BUDGET

- 7C.1 MAP budget for the biennium 2000-2001
- 7C.2 Contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) for the biennium 2000-2001

- 8. Any other business
- 9. Adoption of the report of the meeting
- 10. Closure of the meeting

Annex III

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were approved by the Meeting for transmission to the Contracting Parties.

I. COORDINATION

A. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

A.1 Legal framework

(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties

1. To give high priority to the implementation of the MAP legal instruments.
2. To notify to the Depositary, in writing, and as soon as possible, their acceptance of the amendments to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol), and the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (LBS Protocol).
3. If they have not already done so, to ratify, accept or approve, or accede to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean and its three Annexes (SPA and Biodiversity Protocol), the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol), and the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol).
4. To review their countries' position with respect to other pertinent international conventions, protocols and agreements and to ensure the early signature and ratification of those instruments which may have a positive influence on the Mediterranean Basin.
5. To convene, as appropriate and subject to the availability of external funding, a meeting of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of amendments to the Emergency Protocol.

(b) Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

1. To request the Secretariat (MEDU) to assist the Contracting Parties in their efforts to adhere to the MAP legal instruments.
2. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU) to assist the Contracting Parties to incorporate, where relevant, MAP legal instruments in their national legislation.

3. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU & RACs) to take the necessary action to make MAP and its legal instruments better known in the Mediterranean region, as well as outside the region.
4. To request the Secretariat (MEDU & RACs) to assist the Contracting Parties in their efforts to report regularly to the Secretariat on the measures undertaken to implement the Convention and its Protocols, as well as decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties.
5. To request the Secretariat (MEDU) to continue and finalize its work on the MAP Reporting System, including MCSD concerns, with the assistance of a group of experts composed of the members of the Bureau, and submit the final report to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties for its consideration and approval.
6. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU & RACs) to organize a training programme on Mediterranean environmental law for government-nominated legal and technical personnel at the national level involved in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention system and in the handling of other relevant issues concerning legal and institutional protection of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.
7. To request the Secretariat (MEDU) to follow further developments at the international level and, to convene, when appropriate, in 2001, a second meeting of legal and technical experts on liability and compensation.
8. To organize training courses on the MAP programme every year for national officials at MEDU.

A.2 Institutional framework

Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

1. To abolish the practice of the examination of BP and PAP activities at the beginning of the regular meetings of MAP National Focal Points and request the Secretariat to organize joint meetings for BP and PAP National Focal Points.
2. To continue to assess the regional objectives, while giving the priority to the relevance of the 100 historic sites problem in the framework of MAP Phase II objectives, taking into account the work programme of the MCSD, and to present the appropriate options and recommendations to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

B. INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

1. To approve recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties the MAP Information Strategy, as amended by the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points.
2. To adopt the MCSD recommendations on "Information, Awareness, Environmental Education and Public Participation", as included in the report of the Fifth Meeting of the MCSD (Rome, 1-3 July 1999), document:

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.156/6.

C. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, CONVENTION SECRETARIATS, IGOS AND OTHER FUNDING INSTITUTIONS**Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat**

1. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU and RACs) to further strengthen its cooperation with the relevant United Nations Agencies, Environmental Convention Secretariats and other intergovernmental organizations:
 - with WHO, IAEA, WMO, UNESCO/IOC, FAO/GFCM and IMO, in the implementation of marine pollution programmes;
 - with GEF, METAP, the European Environment Agency and the European Commission in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, including the exchange of information and experience;
 - with the UN/Commission on Sustainable Development, UN/ECE and other UN Agencies in the implementation of the MCSD programme, particularly as regards indicators;
 - with the Arab League Council of Arab Ministers in charge of the environment in the fields of water resources management, industrial pollution, education and public awareness, training, coastal management and the various themes of the MCSD;
 - with CEDARE and the "European sustainable cities campaign" on sustainable development, coastal management, information and public awareness;
 - with the Black Sea Secretariat concerning marine pollution;
 - with CBD, CCD and UNFCCC in the establishment of operational linkage.
2. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU and RACs) to prepare projects to be financed by MEDA/SMAP.

D. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)**(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties**

1. To adopt the recommendations suggested by the MAP/NGO Working Group and reviewed by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties.
2. To invite the Contracting Parties to implement the various recommendations relevant to cooperation with NGOs suggested by the MAP/NGO Working Group and the Bureau.

3. To include the following Non-Governmental Organizations in the NGO/MAP list of Partners:

Academia Mediterranea Halicarnassensis (Turkey)

AMWAJ of the Environment (Lebanon)

Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
(Egypt)

Centre Méditerranéen de l'environnement (CME) (France)

Cyprus Conservation Foundation (Cyprus)

European Environmental Policy and Law Institute (EEPALI) (Greece)

Environnement et Développement au Maghreb (ENDA) (Morocco)

Lebanese Environment Forum (LEF) (Lebanon)

Legambiente (Italy)

Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece (STPS) (Greece)

Clean up Greece (Greece).

(b) **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat**

1. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU & RACs) to implement the various recommendations concerning MAP/NGO cooperation.
2. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU & RACs) to further strengthen their cooperation and assistance to qualified environmental Mediterranean NGOs included in the NGO/MAP list of partners, giving priority to those active in the East and South Mediterranean.

E. **MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZED WITHIN THE MAP FRAMEWORK (MEDU & RACS)**

Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

1. To invite the Secretariat to convene the proposed meetings as reflected in the Budgetary Component Section.
2. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU & RACs) to observe strictly the relevant rules concerning the dispatch of invitations and documents for the various MAP meetings.
3. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU & RACs) to improve and upgrade the presentation of MAP documents, reports and information material.

II. COMPONENTS

A. POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties

(a) Land-based pollution assessment and control activities

1. To give emphasis to the implementation of action-oriented pollution control activities and, to this end, to give priority to the implementation of the activities of the SAP and especially to those included in the GEF Mediterranean Project; in particular, activities related to pollution hot spots where the full cooperation and contribution of the countries are indispensable for their success.
2. To formulate and implement monitoring programmes, including trend monitoring, biological effects monitoring and biological monitoring, where feasible, as well as compliance monitoring related to the control and enforcement of national and regional legislation.
3. To continue and strengthen cooperation with the competent UN Cooperating Agencies, Regional Activity Centres, intergovernmental and international organizations, sub-regional agreements and programmes and, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the SAP and other MED POL-related activities approved by the Contracting Parties. In particular, to welcome the continued cooperation with WHO in relation to pollution control activities, the very positive cooperation established with GEF, FFEM, METAP and the other supporting organizations for the implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project and the important contribution from RAMOGE for the implementation of activities related to biological effects monitoring.
4. To establish Inter-ministerial National Committees for full coordination of the activities related to the implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project.
5. To adopt the Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material which were prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with government-designated experts as part of the implementation of the Dumping Protocol (see document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/Inf.7).

(b) Sea-based pollution prevention and control activities

1. To continue to support REMPEC in the revision process of the Emergency Protocol in order to ensure its modernization and bring it into line with the recently revised Barcelona Convention and its other related Protocols.
2. To agree to the resolution approved by the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points held in Malta 25 - 28 November 1998, aimed at creating a new post of administrator, as provided for in the budget for the next biennium.
3. To support REMPEC in its endeavours when implementing the programme of activities under the E.C. MEDA project on port reception facilities.

4. To utilize and adhere to the POLREP system for the exchange of information when accidental pollution of the sea has occurred or when a threat of such pollution is present.
 5. To promote, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral co-operation, aerial surveillance as a means of monitoring violations of existing regulations for the prevention of pollution from ships.
 6. To support the establishment of a Mediterranean Technical Working Group, co-ordinated by REMPEC, which will work, as a minimum, by correspondence and whose function will be to facilitate the exchange of technical data and other scientific and technological information aimed at assessing the nature, exposure and risks from accidental marine pollution and promoting remedies for such pollution in the Mediterranean Sea area
 7. To provide the necessary support to enable the Secretariat to start the process of considering the issue of the prevention of pollution from non-commercial pleasure-craft activities.
 8. To give high priority to finding a solution to the problem of providing REMPEC with the necessary personnel so that it can carry out its new responsibilities in the field of the prevention of pollution from ships. A practical solution, at no cost to the MTF, may be found through the mechanism of seconding a professional officer from a country to the Centre on a temporary basis or under a rotation system.
- (c) Cleaner production and sustainable development
1. To invite the Contracting Parties to promote and stimulate the introduction of Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) within Mediterranean companies.
- (b) Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat:**
- (a) Land-based pollution assessment and control activities
1. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue to assist countries in the preparation, finalization and implementation of their National Monitoring Programmes which should include monitoring of trends, biological effects monitoring and compliance monitoring.
 2. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to work on the processing and analysis of the data resulting from trend monitoring and to give priority to the implementation of data quality assurance programmes.
 3. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to give special emphasis to the organization of activities related to compliance with, and enforcement of, regional and national legislation related to land-based pollution and, accordingly, to establish, organize and coordinate the work of an Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement.
 4. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to reorganize the research component

of MED POL Phase III by identifying and following up on a regular basis emerging pollution issues in cooperation with National Coordinators, Mediterranean scientists and the competent UN Cooperating Agencies in order to formulate relevant studies, assessments and research projects to be carried out by Mediterranean national institutions.

5. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to cooperate fully with the GEF Secretariat for the coordination of the Mediterranean GEF Project and, accordingly, to give priority during the biennium to the MED POL activities related to pollution control included in the GEF Project and in the SAP.
 6. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to start the process of updating the SAP by taking into account developments in the scientific, technical, economic, environmental and legal fields in order to ensure effective implementation of the SAP.
 7. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue the work related to the preparation of the necessary Guidelines as requested by articles 4 and 6 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, with a view to their adoption by the Contracting Parties.
 8. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to implement the "Economic Instruments" activity of the GEF-funded SAP MED project, and to use the findings of this project in preparing bankable projects to follow PAP/RAC activities and MAP CAMP programmes, once they are completed.
- (b) *Sea-based pollution prevention and control activities*
1. To request the Secretariat (REMPEC), in co-ordination with UNEP/MAP, to continue and finalize the work for the revision of the Emergency Protocol.
 2. To request the Secretariat (REMPEC and MEDU) to endeavour to obtain the necessary external funds to start the process of considering the issue of the prevention of pollution from non-commercial pleasure-craft activities.
- (c) *Cleaner Production and Sustainable Development**
1. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to develop all the activities approved by the Spanish Government and (ratified) by the Contracting Parties.
 2. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to participate and actively cooperate with the Industry and Sustainable Development Group within the MCSD, as well as other activities related to Cleaner Production.
 3. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to call for and organize the Second Experts Meeting on Surface Treatment and Coating Sector and on the Leather Industry by October 1999.
 4. To request the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to continue publishing and disseminating cleaner production success stories in the new collection called

* This section to be revised

MedClean to show real examples of pollution prevention and cleaner production achieved by different companies from MAP countries, mainly on the priority sectors.

5. To request the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to continue publishing and disseminating the CP News bulletin with news about the programmes, achievements, etc. from the different NFP.
6. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to prepare a questionnaire and to start the collection and systematization of data on:
 - Legal and statutory framework of cleaner production in the different countries to present to a report to the Contracting Parties about possibilities and difficulties of cleaner production implementation in the region.
 - Inventory of agents dealing with cleaner production in each country.
 - Tools and methods used in the MAP countries to approach cleaner production to the industrial sectors.
7. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to make a video about pollution prevention alternatives for the surface treatment sectors as well as for the olive industry.
8. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to prepare a Web page about Cleaner Production.
9. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to elaborate a guideline of advantages/disadvantages, cost indicators and real examples of the continuous extraction system and the new continuous extraction system.
10. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to elaborate a list of suppliers on olive technology.
11. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to make a guideline of conditioning that have an effect on water quality (baths and rinsing) on the surface treatment sector.
12. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to publish a document of good-housekeeping practices that could be implemented in the Mediterranean industries.
13. To invite the Secretariat (CP/RAC) to adapt the MOED (minimization oriented environmental diagnosis) methodology for the Mediterranean Area.

B. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

B.1 Collection of data and periodic assessment of the situation

(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties

1. To adopt

1. The reference classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/6);
 2. The marine section of the reference list of habitats for the selection of sites to be included in the National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/7);
 3. The reference list of species for the selection of sites to be included in the National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 157/8);
 4. The Standard Data-Entry Form for National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 157/9).
2. To evaluate and, where necessary, improve information on the status and trends of marine habitats mentioned at the reference list of habitats for the selection of sites to be included in the National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest in the areas under their sovereignty and jurisdiction.

(b) Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

1. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to assist the Mediterranean countries in applying the adopted criteria for the preparation of national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest, focusing in the 2000-2001 biennium on marine sites to be identified by the presence of priority habitats, in particular meadows and biogenic constructions (*Lithophyllum* rim and coralligenous).
2. To request the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to convene in 2001, a meeting of experts on coastal (terrestrial and wetland) habitat types in the Mediterranean region.

B.2 Planning and management

(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties

1. To adopt the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles, including the revised List of Priority Actions for further implementation of the Action Plan (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/4).
2. To invite the Contracting Parties to foster the involvement of the fishing sector in the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean.

(b) Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

1. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to convene the first Mediterranean Conference on marine turtles, to be jointly organized with the Secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals and of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, and in collaboration with other concerned organizations.
2. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to work on the preparation of
 - an inventory of marine turtle nesting, mating, feeding and wintering areas and migration routes all around the Mediterranean, compiling and synthesizing the information in an Atlas;

- a directory of marine turtle specialists in the Mediterranean;
- training and information/awareness modules and tools addressed to fishermen, aimed at reducing the mortality of marine turtles incidentally caught in fishing gear.

(i) Implementation of the Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal

(a) **Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties**

1. To adopt the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts on the implementation of the action plans for marine mammals (monk seal and cetaceans) adopted within MAP (Arta, 29-31 October 1998) on topics to be addressed as a matter of priority in the further implementation of the Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal (see Annex VI of this report). To invite the Contracting Parties to implement those recommendations pertaining to their responsibility.

(b) **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat**

1. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to assist the Contracting Parties in improving their knowledge of monk seal population size and parameters, habitat use and movement.

(ii) Implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

(a) **Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties**

1. To ratify, if they have not already done so, the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean and the Agreement on the Conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area.
2. If they have not already done so, to grant a legal protection status to the cetacean species appearing in Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.
3. To promote the establishment of national networks for the monitoring of cetacean strandings.
4. To adopt the recommendations proposed by the Meeting of Experts on the implementation of the Action Plans for marine mammals (monk seal and cetaceans) adopted within MAP (Arta, 29-31 October 1998), on topics to be addressed as a matter of priority in the further implementation of the action plan for the management of the Mediterranean cetaceans (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/3/Annex VII, and to implement those recommendations pertaining to their responsibility.

(b) **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat**

1. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to assist the Contracting Parties in the

establishment of national networks for the monitoring of cetaceans, and to ensure to the extent possible co-ordination at the Mediterranean level among national networks.

2. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to organize a co-ordination/training workshop to prepare concerted monitoring methods to be proposed for use by Mediterranean teams.

(iii) Implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea

(a) **Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties**

1. To adopt the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea, as contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.157/5, and to see that the measures it provides for are implemented according to the timetable annexed to the Action Plan.
2. To adopt and implement the recommendations of the Workshop on Invasive *Caulerpa* species in the Mediterranean (Heraklion, 19-20 March 1998).

(b) **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat**

1. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC), acting as the coordination structure for the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea, to contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan according to the timetable annexed to it.
2. To entrust the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) with the task of coordinating the collection and dissemination of information validated by each Party on invasive caulerpa species and the follow-up to the recommendations of the Heraklion Workshop (18-20 March 1998).

(iv) Development of Specially Protected Areas

(a) **Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties**

1. To give high priority during the 2000-2001 biennium, to the identification of marine sites possessing sensitive, threatened or rare habitats with a view to establishing marine protected areas; and to give every support to the improvement of the management of marine protected areas.
2. To support the formulation and implementation of a regional project for the protection of sites and elements of Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity, to be developed in the framework of the MEDA/SMAP programme.

(b) **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat**

1. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to assist the Mediterranean countries in establishing new SPAs to protect sensitive, threatened or rare marine habitats and to improve the management of marine sites already protected in that area.

(v) Conservation of Biological Diversity

(a) **Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties**

1. To improve knowledge of marine biodiversity in areas under their sovereignty and jurisdiction, and to take marine biodiversity duly into account in the elaboration of their plans and strategies.

(b) **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat**

1. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to continue to assist the Contracting Parties in improving knowledge of their biodiversity, notably the marine component, and to develop strategies and plans for its conservation and management.

B.3 Public information

(a) **Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties:**

1. To use, where appropriate, the documents published by SPA/RAC on the design and implementation of information and awareness campaigns addressed to those concerned with the sustainable management and protection of biodiversity at the national and local levels.
2. To inform SPA/RAC of achievements at the national and local levels in the field of the implementation of Action Plans for the conservation of endangered species and the development of specially protected areas.

(b) **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat:**

1. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to summarize available scientific data in technical publications, including those of SPA/RAC, with a view to presenting them in more readily comprehensible form for less specialized readers.
2. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to summarise successful projects in various countries of the region, with a view to presenting them in more readily comprehensible form to national institutions of the region, thus making them better known and facilitating the exchange of experience.
3. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to publish a liaison/information bulletin (BIO-MED) aimed at disseminating the summaries that are being prepared and national experience to all countries of the region (specialized institutions, natural resources managers, NGOs, etc.)
4. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to develop its website and use it to disseminate the summaries that are being prepared.

B.4 Exchange of experience and strengthening of national capabilities

(b) **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat**

1. To invite the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) to continue to assist the Mediterranean countries in improving their national capabilities in the field of the conservation

and management of the natural heritage, and to seek additional funding from external sources.

C. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES

(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties

General

1. To support the drawing up and concerted implementation of a regional programme for the sustainable management of coastal areas, pooling the means available from MEDA/SMAP, MAP and the countries.
2. To strengthen the institutional mechanisms which contribute towards better land planning, particularly laws on the protection of coasts, and planning and protection agencies.
3. To invite concerned authorities to give due consideration to MCSD recommendations on the sustainable management of coastal regions.

ICAM

4. To review the countries' position with respect to incorporating ICAM in their respective national legislation, with special emphasis on legal enforcement and implementation of ICAM policies.
5. To support and assist national and local institutions in using methodologies, tools and techniques for the implementation of ICAM, developed by MAP.

MAP/CAMPs

6. To invite the authorities of Algeria, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco and Slovenia to support the preparation and implementation of CAMPs in their countries. The objectives of these CAMPs should be clearly stated in MAP CAMP agreements. Furthermore, CAMPs should be focused on fewer fully implementable activities, with a strong sectoral integration approach. National teams for the implementation of CAMPs should consist of highly qualified experts with experience in integrated coastal area management.
7. To invite the authorities in countries where MAP CAMPs are completed to prepare and implement a follow-up programme in cooperation with MAP.

Remote sensing

8. To widen the use of remote sensing-derived information and its integration in information from other sources, in planning and decision-making processes for the sustainable management of coastal zones.

(b) Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

1. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU with concerned RACs, such as PAP, BP, ERS) to draw up and implement a regional MEDA/SMAP programme on the sustainable management of coastal areas, including consolidation of the necessary knowledge (assessment of changes in land use, institutional analyses..), the networking of pilot operations in the regions, and the consolidation of national and local level activities.

ICAM

2. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to continue to support the Contracting Parties in implementing ICAM plans and programmes and to provide technical assistance for ICAM when specifically required by Contracting Parties.
3. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to continue institutional strengthening and capacity building of Contracting Parties' national and local institutions regarding ICAM preparation and implementation, by means of regional and national training courses, and to enlarge the information component by increased publishing and dissemination (including electronic means) of methodological documents, programme results and other achievements.
4. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to continue development of ICAM tools and techniques, specifically SEA, EIA, CCA for tourism, coastal information systems, economic instruments, and land and sea use planning systems.
5. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to test guidelines for integrated coastal area and river basin management.

MAP CAMPs

6. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to assist national and local authorities in better anticipating developments by consolidating prospective approaches and related information systems, particularly within the framework of the CAMPs.
7. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to co-ordinate the various MAP activities in relation to CAMPs, within the overall coordination responsibility of the Coordinating Unit.
8. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to prepare CAMP feasibility studies, CAMP programmes and agreements and to implement on-going MAP CAMPs and those which it has already been decided to implement.
9. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to suggest to countries where MAP CAMPs are completed the introduction of new or the adaptation of existing economic instruments which would enable the follow-up of CAMPs, and to assist those countries in preparing bankable projects which will constitute the continuation of MAP CAMPs.
10. To invite the Secretariat (ERS/RAC) to contribute, in the framework of close cooperation among MAP components, to the implementation of ongoing and future CAMPs, including capacity-building activities.

MCSD

11. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to support the follow-up of MCSD recommendations on ICAM and stimulate the introduction of national legislation for ICAM.
12. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to support the MCSD Working group on urban management and to help formulate recommendations for the sustainable growth of Mediterranean cities.
13. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to provide support to the MCSD working groups on other activities of MCSD which are relevant to PAP/RAC.

Remote sensing*

14. To invite the Secretariat (ERS/RAC) to assist Mediterranean countries in the field of monitoring of environmental issues through remote-sensing techniques, and to support activities of other MAP components with remotely sensed information and data, and their integration with ones from other sources.
15. To invite the Secretariat (ERS/RAC) to continue strengthening its central role for exchange with Mediterranean countries of information on remote sensing applications, through meetings, direct contacts, inventories, as well as through the further development of its web site on the Internet.
16. To invite the Secretariat (ERS/RAC) to endeavour to extend to a Mediterranean dimension the results achieved through its projects, in order to help improving environmental knowledge and understanding in support to the decision-making processes.
17. To invite the Secretariat (ERS/RAC) to assist Mediterranean countries in setting-up activities for monitoring state and changes of priority environmental issues (i.e. desertification, coastal changes, urban expansion), seeking also external sources of funding.
18. To invite the Secretariat (ERS/RAC) to make every effort to convene meetings of the National Focal Points of ERS/RAC, on a regular basis, through soliciting external funds for this purpose jointly with the focal point meetings for PAP/RAC and Blue Plan.

D. INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

D.1. Observation and prospective study of the environment and development Assessment of progress towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean

(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties

1. To invite the Contracting Parties to approve the MCSD recommendations on indicators for sustainable development, as included in the report of the Fifth

* This section to be revised

Meeting of MCSD (Rome, 1-3 July 1999), document: UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.156/5.

2. To invite the Contracting Parties to give priority to actions devoted to acquiring a sound knowledge of environmental indicators at national level, with a view to extending such knowledge at the regional level, also making integrated use of remote sensing and other advanced techniques.
3. To invite the Contracting Parties to include in their legislation new economic instruments, or to adapt existing economic instruments, in order to allow the follow-up of MAP-related activities.
4. To invite the Contracting Parties to consolidate the policy assessment work which they are at present carrying out, and to promote the structural reforms and institutional tools which could assist in ensuring more effective action towards sustainable development.

(b) Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

1. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to assist the Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement the MCSD recommendations as regards sustainable development indicators.
2. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to draw up an assessment comparing the actual situation in the year 2000 in the field of environment and development, with the 1985 Blue Plan scenarios for the same year. A macro-economic assessment making it possible to update scenarios will also be carried out to complement the retrospective and prospective demographic analysis carried out in 1999.
3. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to encourage and assist the countries in setting up and/or consolidating the functions of an Observatory for environment/development changes through the provision of methodological and technical support, cooperation and exchange of experience, with the aim of promoting a Mediterranean network;
4. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to assist countries in their assessment work: calculating the Indicators of Sustainable Development selected by the MCSD, mobilizing experts, and providing assistance to national observatories, organizing regional workshops, drawing up country profiles, and preparing a regional report on environment and development;
5. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to continue the analysis work on free trade and environment in the framework of the MCSD;
6. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC), in collaboration with WHO, to begin the assessment of some social aspects of sustainable development (poverty, health) in relation to the environment;
7. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to take stock of exercises for assessing the costs incurred as a result of inadequate account being taken of the environment and the economic instruments which could be of use to the

environment, and setting the ball rolling on this question at regional level;

8. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to consolidate communication and training activities in order to strengthen action and reflection concerning sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
9. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to assist in the consolidation of environmental statistics in the countries, in particular through the implementation of the MEDSTAT - Environment programme;
10. To invite the Secretariat (ERS/RAC) to check the present availability of information on indicators that can be monitored by remote sensing, and to cooperate with Mediterranean countries, also providing them with scientific and technical assistance, in the monitoring of indicators through remote sensing.
11. To invite the Secretariat (ERS/RAC), in cooperation with other MAP components, to support the MCSD in the preparation of programmes to be implemented in the framework of MAP.
12. To invite the Secretariat (MEDU) to coordinate the preparation of a "Strategic Review for the year 2000" as requested by the MCSD terms of reference, and to seek the necessary funds.

D.2 Tourism and Sustainable Development

(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties

1. To invite the Contracting Parties to approve the MCSD recommendations on Tourism and Sustainable Development (MCSD recommendations on Tourism and Sustainable Development are being finalized, as requested by the Fifth Meeting of the MCSD, and will be addressed directly to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties).
2. To invite the Contracting Parties to encourage their national and local authorities, and profit and non-profit organizations to apply, where appropriate, carrying-capacity assessment for tourism activities as a common tool for the sustainable development of tourism.

(b) Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

1. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to assist the Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement the recommendations addressed to them.
2. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to prepare the "White Paper" on tourism and sustainable development in the Mediterranean in conjunction with countries and concerned partner experts.
3. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to promote the use of carrying-capacity assessment as a tool for the sustainable development of tourism, through the enhancement of the capacity of Mediterranean national and local institutions in specific touristic areas, and to continue offering technical assistance.

D.3. Urban development and sustainable town management

(a) Recommendation addressed to the Contracting Parties

1. To invite the Contracting Parties to contribute to the steps being taken within the MCSD framework to achieve relevant and worthwhile analysis and to carry out the proposed work programme.

(b) Recommendation addressed to the Secretariat:

1. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and ERS/RAC) to continue and consolidate work begun on analysing the problems related to urbanization and the sustainable management of Mediterranean cities, particularly within the MCSD framework.
2. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to carry out a retrospective analysis of developments and encourage the prospective approach through appropriate training and communication activities and pilot operations.
3. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to further study the question of waste management in conjunction with the Mediterranean partners (States, towns, CEDARE, METAP, NGOs...), and to identify the strategies and actions to be encouraged in this field.

D.4 Rural development, natural areas and resources

(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties.

1. To invite the Contracting Parties to give effective follow-up to the recommendations on water demand management. To this end, to develop a regional programme in line with the SMAP/Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, as well as national programmes in accordance with these recommendations.
2. To invite the Contracting Parties to integrate their national and local decision making system regarding the use of coastal water resources.
3. To invite the Contracting Parties to continue and intensify activities related to erosion/desertification control management as an essential element of sustainable development in the region.
4. To invite the Contracting Parties to support the hitherto successful co-operation between FAO, PAP/RAC and BP/RAC in the field.

(b) Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

1. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to assist the Contracting Parties in implementing the recommendations which they have adopted regarding water demand management.
2. To invite the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to develop training and communication activities aimed at circulating more widely the results of MCSD work on water at the level of the Mediterranean basin.

3. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to implement the activity "Decision Support System for Coastal Water Resources Management" which will enable the transfer of knowledge in the use of modern and efficient tools and techniques in coastal water resources management, and to ensure that decision-making is concentrated at the appropriate level.
4. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to continue the activity related to erosion/desertification control and implementation of prevention and management techniques.