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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

XIV Meeting of MED Unit and Regional  
Activity Centres (RAC) on MAP Programme

Athens, 3-4 March 1997

**DRAFT**

**Secretariat proposal for the  
analytical review of the status, structure,  
functions and financial aspects of the  
MED Unit, MED POL and RACs**

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## Introduction

1. During their Extraordinary Meeting (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention invited the Coordinator to:

"establish a small *Ad Hoc* Group of limited duration, composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties, to examine the best possible structure of the Coordinating Unit and MED POL, in the light of the activities to be carried out by MAP following the revision of the Convention and its protocols in Barcelona in 1995.

The Group will also review the role, functions and structures of the Regional Activity Centres and the Secretariat of the 100 Historic Sites and the relations they should maintain with one another. It will also make recommendations to be submitted to the Contracting Parties for their approval concerning the evaluation of the activities of the Regional Activity Centres and the Secretariat of the 100 Historic Sites"

2. In preparation for the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Group, the MED Unit staff and the Directors of the Regional Activity Centres (RAC), met in Barcelona, on 17-19 September 1996 and undertook, a thorough review of this issue. Few points were stressed by the RAC meeting:

- the purpose of the exercise is to undertake an analytical review of the activities of the Coordinating Unit, MED POL and the RACs, *vis-à-vis* the new MAP responsibilities and the need to remedy the discrepancies that exist between the Centres.
- the whole review exercise should be flexible taking into due consideration the special status of each Centre.
- the *Ad Hoc* Group should be small in number, not exceeding five or six technical experts who are familiar with the work of MAP.
- the exercise should also take into consideration the new development within the MAP system including the adoption of new protocols (offshore, hazardous waste) and the integration of the sustainable development and biodiversity elements in MAP Phase II.
- a special meeting of MED and RACs should be organised during January 1997, with a view to review a draft secretariat report to be submitted to the meeting of the small *Ad Hoc* Group as the secretariat proposal for its work. The report will be in two parts:

The first part will deal with:

- (a) an analysis of the MEDU and RAC's current work;

- (b) their future tasks with regard to the new objectives inscribed in Agenda MED 21 and MAP Phase II;
- (c) the status of each centre within the MAP system.

The second part of the report will deal with other important issues such as the host country agreements, financial component, personnel of the Centres, etc.

Therefore, the meeting decided that each centre should provide MEDU, by 15 December 1996, its input concerning the above mentioned points. The date was subsequently changed to 31 December 1996.

3. The Bureau of the Contracting Parties reviewed this issue during its last meeting held in Athens, on 4-5 November 1996, recalled the concern expressed by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties on this issue and stressed that the work and the proposals of the group should be both realistic and feasible. It was also pointed out that the results of the group's work would be reviewed first by the meeting of the National Focal Points and then submitted to the Tunis Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1997.

At the end of its deliberations on this issue, the Bureau took the following decisions on the *modus operandi* of the *Ad hoc* Group:

- a. the purpose of the exercise is to undertake an analytical review of the status, structure, functions, financial aspects and links with the Contracting Parties, of the *Coordinating Unit*, *MED POL* and the *RACs vis-à-vis* the new *MAP* responsibilities and the need to remedy, as far as possible, the discrepancies that exist among the Centres.
- b. the exercise should also take into consideration the new developments within the *MAP* system including the adoption of new protocols (offshore, hazardous waste) and the integration of the sustainable development and biodiversity elements in *MAP Phase II*.
- c. the *Ad Hoc* Group should be small, with no more than five or six members, who would be technical experts familiar with the work of *MAP* and come from different parts of the Mediterranean (principle of fair geographic distribution).
- d. a draft secretariat report should be submitted to the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Group as the secretariat's proposal for the work of the Group. The report will be in two parts:

The first part will contain:

- (a) an analysis of the current work of both *MEDU*, *MED POL* and the *RACs* and the inter-relation between the two
- (b) the status of each Centre within the *MAP* system
- (c) their future tasks with regard to the new objectives included in Agenda *MED 21* and *MAP Phase II*.

The second part of the report will deal with other important issues such as the host country agreements, the financial component, the personnel of the Centres, etc.

- e. The meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Group should be convened during the first quarter of 1997.
4. The present report is divided into three sections and Annexes. The first section deals with the current work of MED Unit, MED POL and RACs, their future tasks and their status within the MAP system. The section will also deal with other important issues such as the host country agreements and financial and personnel components relevant to the Centres. The second and third part of the report will be devoted to an analytical review and proposals for remedying, as far as possible, any discrepancies that exist among the Centres and pin point their future tasks with regard to the new objectives included in the Convention, its protocols, Agenda MED 21 and MAP Phase II, the Barcelona Resolution on the environment and sustainable development and the priority fields of activities for the environment and development (1996-2005). Finally, the Annex to the present report will contain any additional information received from each RAC Centre and programme.

I. REVIEW OF THE STATUS, ROLE, FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURES OF MED UNIT, MED POL AND RACs

A. MED Unit and MED POL

(a) MED Unit

Status

1. The decision of the Second Meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP (8(11) of 1974, endorsed a regional approach to the control of marine pollution and management of marine and coastal resources and accorded high priority to the Mediterranean as a "Concentration area" where UNEP would attempt to fulfil the catalytic role of assisting the coastal states in a consistent manner to protect their sea.
2. On the basis of this decision, a Mediterranean Action Plan and a Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution and two specific protocols were developed in 1975, and in 1976 respectively, by UNEP in collaboration with the Governments of the region, the EEC and the United Nations specialized Agencies, with objectives to monitor and protect the Mediterranean Marine environment and ensure the integrated planning of the development and management of the resources of the basin on the basis of multilateral cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
3. The Action Plan agreed upon in Barcelona had four main aspects as follows:
  - i
  - ii
  - iii
  - iv
4. From the above mentioned headings, it is quite clear that from its inception the Action Plan was intended to have a very broad mandate encompassing the need to apply integrated management to coastal zone and integrated planning to the environmental protection.
5. The current activities of the Coordinating Unit of MAP are guided by the following main texts:
  - the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP, 1975);
  - the Convention (1976) providing the general legal framework of the Action Plan;
  - the Dumping Protocol (1976);
  - the Emergency Protocol (1976);

- the land-based Protocol (1980);
  - the SPA Protocol (1982);
  - the decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties.
6. The coastal states and the EEC committed themselves in these texts to "take all appropriate measures ... to prevent, abate and combat pollution ... and to protect and enhance the marine environment"<sup>1</sup>.
7. The broad objective of the Mediterranean Action Plan was to define and create common efforts to:
- protect the Mediterranean Sea against pollution;
  - arrest the deterioration of the quality of the environment in its coastal areas;
  - promote the development of the region by rationally utilizing its resources;
  - ensure a sound long-term improvement of living conditions in the region.
8. The Contracting Parties asked UNEP to act as the Secretariat for the Action Plan and to manage a Trust Fund (MTF), established in 1979, under UN rules at a cost of 13% of all expenditures.<sup>2</sup>
9. The Contracting Parties also selected Athens (Greece) to host the Coordinating Unit in 1982. Greece has accorded to the Unit the privileges normally granted to the UN offices in Greece and Spain was selected by the Contracting Parties to act as the Depository State for the Convention and its protocols.

### Current mandate and functions

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<sup>1</sup> Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution and its related Protocols. United Nations, New York, 1982.

<sup>2</sup> Terms of Reference (Financial Rules) for the administration of the MTF are to be found in document UNEP/IG.14/9, Annex IX.

### Future tasks of MED Unit in the framework of MAP Phase II

1. The future tasks of MED Unit will still be mainly based on the principles ..... in MAP Phase I, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols as well as the decisions adopted by the various meetings of the Contracting Parties.
2. However, many environmental socio-economic, legal and political conditions have changed since 1975 and scientific knowledge of environmental and socio-economic processes have dramatically increased.
3. The UNCED Conference (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) marks the beginning of a new era in relation to the environment and development with the adoption of Agenda 21 and the two conventions on climate changes and biological diversity.
4. In the Mediterranean region, the collective work of MEDU, MEDPOL and the regional Centres has illustrated a clear picture of all types of dangers looming over the Mediterranean region, and providing the Contracting Parties with a better understanding in the interaction of development problems and environmental problems in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean.
5. With this development and understanding, the Mediterranean States and the EC undertook the first steps to reflect these developments in the Mediterranean context through MED Agenda 21, (Tunis, 1994), MAP Phase II, the various amendments to the Convention and its protocols (Barcelona, 1995) and the adoption of new protocols on offshore (Madrid, 1994), Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (Barcelona, 1995), and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol (Izmir, 1996).
6. To recall and summarize the objectives of the new era of MAP, the following can be mentioned:
  - the integration of environmental issues in socio-economic development and planning;
  - decisive programme for a substantial reduction in pollutants from land-based sources;
  - protection of natural heritage, valuable sites and landscapes in the Mediterranean Basin and especially endangered species;
  - ensure the active participation of all partners concerned with the implementation of MAP, in particular the NGO and the public;
  - protect the Mediterranean environment and promote sustainable development through understanding, dialogue, cooperation and solidarity among the peoples of the region;
  - establish national enforcement and control mechanisms which would follow up the implementation of the Convention, its protocols and the adopted protection measures;



- strengthen cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and UN specialized agencies;
  - transfer of clean technologies and the establishment of clean production centres.
7. Moreover, and in order to protect the environment and contribution to the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea area, additional future tasks were envisaged by the newly amended convention, MAP Phase II and the protocols i.e;
- applying the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principles;
  - undertaking environmental impact assessment for any proposed activities that are likely to cause a significant adverse impact on the marine environment;
  - promoting the integrated management of the coastal zones (ICAM), taking into account the protection of areas of ecological and landscape interest and the rational use of national resources.
  - assisting the Contracting Parties in programmes and measures which contain, where appropriate, time limits for their completion in order to be in full compliance with the Convention and the protocols;
  - utilizing the best available techniques and the best environmental practices and promote the application of, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology, including clean production technologies;
  - formulating additional protocols, prescribing agreed measures, procedures and standards for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention;
  - implementing the newly (1994) approved protocols on offshore Hazardous Wastes (1996), by taking all appropriate measures to prevent, abate and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the environment which can be caused by offshore and hazardous wastes activities;
  - assisting the Contracting Parties in the drafting of environmental legislation in compliance with the Convention and the protocols;
  - upgrading public participation in decision making processes relevant to the field of application of the Convention, MAP Phase II and protocols.

(b) **Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region (MED POL)**

Current activities of MED POL, its role and functions

1. The MED POL Programme was initially approved in 1975 as the **scientific assessment component** of the Mediterranean Action Plan. From 1975 until 1980 (MED POL-Phase I) the Programme assisted the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to acquire experience in marine pollution measurement and research, and began to compile data on baseline levels of contaminants in the Mediterranean. From 1981 to 1996 (MED POL-Phase II), with the adoption and the entry into force of the Dumping and LBS protocols, the Programme has assisted the Parties by providing the scientific/technical information needed for the implementation of the protocols (preparation of 13 pollution assessment documents including proposed control measures). In addition, the Programme has created a marine pollution monitoring system, which is to-day ongoing in most countries through national monitoring programmes prepared, signed and partially financially supported every year. A large pollution data bank has been created which has substantially contributed to the regular assessment of pollution prepared for the LBS implementation. Fourteen case studies were completed concerning the environmental implications of climatic changes in the Mediterranean region. Two regional assessments of the state of the Mediterranean Environment were also prepared. Over 200 research projects relevant to monitoring and LBS, involving Institutes from 15 countries, have also been carried out and financially supported through MED POL. A very large capacity building programme has also been carried out which has substantially improved the capability of the developing countries of the region to formulate and carry out pollution monitoring activities required by art. 10 of the 1976 Convention. Such a programme has included direct financial assistance for monitoring, purchase of equipment and materials and maintenance service, intercomparison exercises, organization of individual and group training courses, fellowships, scientific visits and a large data quality assurance programme. Furthermore, MED POL has compiled the first regional survey of land-based sources of pollution and contributed to the overall results of all CAMPs by introducing the pollution assessment and control elements in each management programme.
2. In 1996, through the revision of the Barcelona system, MED POL has assumed a larger role (MED POL-Phase III) to become an effective tool for achieving sustainable development.
3. On the basis of the results obtained through Phases I and II, and as a result of the adoption of MAP II, the revision of the LBS Protocol and the decisions of the Contracting Parties, during 1997 MED POL will be actively working to re-structure the ongoing activities, such as the monitoring and research components, and to formulate new programmes and activities to pursue the implementation of the Dumping Protocol and to prepare the basis for the implementation of the LBS Protocol.
4. With regards to the **monitoring and research components**, a new approach is presently being formulated taking into account the following elements:
  - the approved objectives and principles of MED POL Phase III;

- the lessons learnt from the achievements and failures of MED POL Phases I and II;
- the need to further improve the capabilities of developing countries to design, implement and make use of the results of monitoring and research activities;
- the need for clearer criteria concerning the assistance to countries;
- the lower level of funds expected to be available for the activities and in particular for direct assistance;
- the decision by the Contracting Parties to formulate the activities, as far as possible, by project;
- the need for closer contacts with the outside donors to obtain additional support;
- the expected role of MED POL, in the new framework of MAP II, to be an effective tool for sustainable development.

As a result, a new approach and new financial/implementing criteria related to the implementation of the activities related to trend monitoring, compliance monitoring and research will be proposed to the next Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators for approval and subsequently to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1997 for adoption.

5. With reference to the **Dumping Protocol**, MED POL will prepare in 1997 the revised version of the Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material, with a view at its adoption by the Contracting Parties, which will greatly contribute to the appropriate management of an important and common problem in the region.
6. Concerning the preparation of the basis for the **implementation of the LBS Protocol**, MED POL is at present working on the following:
  - the formulation of a regional strategic action programme for addressing pollution from land-based activities;
  - the formulation of the elements for the preparation of national action plans to address pollution from land-based activities;
  - the preparation of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean;
  - the identification of pollution "hot spots";
  - the completion of the survey of land-based sources of pollution;

- the formulation of a regional programme to strengthen or establish national bodies of inspectors.

The formulation of the regional strategic programme as well the elements for the national action plans will be made in 1997 through the implementation of a GEF Project Development Facility (PDF) grant whose coordination and management was assigned to MED POL. The GEF initiative will provide a solid base to the implementation of the LBS Protocol since it will produce the same outputs actually expected by the provisions of the Protocols. In addition, it will result in the preparation of a transboundary diagnostic analysis for the Mediterranean sea and the identification of the major regional pollution "hot spots", which will include an economic and financial analysis of proposed remedial actions, which can be considered the basis for the future implementation of the LBS Protocol. As to the work on the national inspectors, an initial two-year programme was prepared by the secretariat which will be initiated in 1997. A proposal for obtaining supplementary funds for the initiative was submitted to METAP for approval and financing.

#### Future tasks of MED POL in the framework of MAP Phase II and Agenda MED 21

7. The future tasks of MED POL in the regional framework created by MED 21 and MAP II will be still based on the role assigned to the Programme in 1975, i.e. to be the scientific/technical component of the Action Plan. However, MED POL will give much stronger emphasis to the action-oriented managerial aspects (pollution control) rather than the scientific aspects (pollution assessment) which have characterized Phase I and Phase II. The switch from assessment to control of pollution, gradually started during the phase II of the Programme, and tested during the execution of the CAMPs, is necessary to enable MED POL to be instrumental in the implementation of the Protocols and in particular the LBS Protocol. The general principles and the objectives of the MED POL Programme until the year 2005, i.e. to provide the basis for action related to the assessment, prevention and elimination of marine pollution and to relate such action to the other components of MAP in the perspective of sustainable development (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG 8/7, Annex IV, Appendix), were agreed upon by the Contracting Parties at their 1996 Meeting held in Montpellier.
8. MED POL will directly assist the Contracting Parties in formulating and implementing monitoring and research activities stressing on their managerial purpose, i.e on the use of their results as an essential element for appropriate coastal management. In parallel to the regional trend monitoring, which will be directly coordinated by the MED POL staff and which will be used to identify the general pollution trends in the region, each Party, through MED POL, will formulate and implement national compliance monitoring programmes which will be based on the existing national and international legislation and will include the formulation of enforcement strategies such as the establishment of bodies of inspectors.
9. MED POL will continue to carry out capacity building programmes tailored on the specific needs of each Party, which will include direct assistance in designing monitoring and research programmes, purchase of equipment, organization of individual and group training, fellowships and scientific visits. Great importance will be also given to the continuation of the intercomparisons exercises and the Data Quality Assurance Programme, and to the preparation of technical reports, manuals and reference methods.

10. After the preparation of the regional strategic action programme and the formulation of the elements for the national action plans to address pollution from land-based activities expected to be completed in 1997, MED POL will assist each Party to prepare and implement the specific national action plans required by the LBS Protocol. An important task of MED POL will also be the bridging between outside donors and individual countries for obtaining financial assistance for the identified pollution remedial interventions. Capacity building programmes for managers and technicians will also be organized for the formulation of, and follow up to, the national action plans.
11. Another task of MED POL will continue to be the monitoring of the implementation of the Dumping Protocol, including the preparation of regular reports for the Contracting Parties.
12. A new task expected from MED POL in the future is the monitoring of the implementation of the newly adopted Protocol on the Prevention and Control of the Pollution of the Environment resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes. The initial work foreseen includes the development of guidelines, rules and procedures for liability and compensation and the formulation of legal and administrative measures related to the prohibition of export and transit of hazardous wastes.

#### Status of MED POL within MAP

13. The MED POL Programme has been, since its approval in 1975, an integral part of the offices created by UNEP for the management of MAP, which were first the Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre in Geneva and, as from 1980, the Coordinating Unit for MAP (in Athens since 1982). For this reason, all MED POL staff are UN officers. It is worth recalling that the whole MAP, as it had been initially formulated in 1975, was mostly oriented towards marine pollution and that other programmes such as the Blue Plan and the PAP, at their initial stages, were rather conceived as a complement to the overall understanding of marine pollution. However, in spite of the larger field of competence of MAP and the expanded role of its other components, MED POL remains the larger programme within MAP for volume of work, number of staff and budget. In addition, because of the limited number of staff of the Coordinating Unit, not expected to be enlarged, the MED POL staff are regularly involved in many other activities to assist the Coordinator in managing the MAP Programme.
14. With the approval in Washington in 1995 of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and with the demonstrated interest of GEF (UNDP and the World Bank) and the EU in launching activities in the Mediterranean at the regional and national levels in the field of pollution from land-based activities, MED POL will have the opportunity to act as the scientific and operational regional liaison between those organizations and programmes and MAP in view of the specific experience gained in the field and the available network of institutions, scientists and data and information created since 1975. In this connection, the already approved GEF grant and the promising contacts with METAP, already confirm the potential role of MED POL in the region in the field of marine pollution control.

Institutional, administrative and financial arrangements of MED POL

15. Because of its position within MAP, i.e. an integral part of the UNEP Coordinating Unit in Athens, the status of the MED POL Programme and the MED POL staff falls under the institutional arrangements specified in the host country agreement signed by UNEP and the Government of Greece.
16. An important characteristic of the MED POL Programme, unlike the other MAP components, has been, since the outset of the Programme, the strong cooperation with the UN specialized agencies through the regular involvement of FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO, IAEA and IOC in the technical implementation of the activities according to their field of competence. Because of the large tasks assigned to them during the implementation of MED POL Phase II, FAO and WHO have had each one staff member working full time in the Coordinating Unit. In 1996 FAO decided to withdraw its full time involvement in MED POL starting from 1997. All Agencies participate in the programme to carry out the tasks assigned to them on the basis of the programme budget approved by the Contracting Parties.
17. The staff of MED POL, as agreed in Montpellier in 1996, is composed of a Coordinator, a Senior Programme Officer, a Scientific Programme Officer, a Computer Officer (assigned to MED POL for the 75 per cent of his time) and the WHO Senior Scientist/Programme Officer. Since the post of Maintenance Engineer (IAEA) in Monaco will be closed in July 1997, no other professional staff from UN Agencies and Organizations will be paid by the Programme. As to administration, MED POL makes use of the existing service of the Coordinating Unit and of the relevant structures of UNEP in Nairobi. On the whole, the total 1997 cost of MED POL personnel including operating costs (816,000\$), represents about 45 per cent of the overall budget assigned to the Programme (1,779,000\$).
18. As to the functions of the MED POL staff, the following general tasks are identified:
  - general coordination of the activities including formulation of strategies and preparation of budget;
  - relation with National Coordinators and national authorities;
  - relation with UN Agencies;
  - relation with outside institutions, partners and donors;
  - design and follow up of the monitoring activities;
  - design and follow up of the research activities;
  - design and follow up of environmental health activities;
  - formulation of strategies for, and follow up to, the implementation of LBS Protocol;
  - formulation of strategies for, and follow up to, the implementation of Dumping Protocol;

- formulation of strategies for, and follow up to, the implementation of Hazardous Wastes Protocol;
- design and follow up of marine pollution data bank.

The above are very general and wide tasks, each including numerous scientific, technical, legal and managerial aspects.

19. From the beginning of Phase II to date (1982-1996), in the framework of the capacity building programme of MED POL, a total amount of \$ 3,291,744 was given to countries in cash or equipment and material as direct assistance for the implementation of the monitoring activities; \$ 3,203,795 was directly provided to research institutes for carrying out projects relevant to monitoring; and \$ 1,732,459 was spent for training and fellowships for the scientists participating in the Programme.

**B. Regional Activity Centres (RAC's)**

**a. Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)**

Role and functions

1. The objectives and functions of REMPEC have been fixed by the Contracting Parties in accordance with the Emergency Protocol which created the Regional Centre. They appear in the annex to Resolution 7 (ref. REMPEC RIS Part A, Basic documents, recommendations, principles and guidelines concerning accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance, September 1995).
2. Reference should also be made to the decision of the Contracting Parties (Antalya, October 1993) regarding the extension of REMPEC's mandate and functions (ref. REMPEC RIS, Part A).
3. The role and functions of REMPEC was one of the items on the agenda of the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points in October 1996. For facilitating the discussion under this agenda item, REMPEC prepared a document (REMPEC/WG.14/13) which could be used as a reference document on this specific topic of the role and functions of the Centre.

"The Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points requested the Director to prepare a draft revision of this annex and to present it for approval by the Contracting Parties together with the strategy on the prevention of pollution by ships". (REMPEC/WG.14/17).

REMPEC will start the work on this issue, sometime during the beginning of next year.

Structures

4. Regarding the structure of REMPEC, reference should be made to documents presented to the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points:
  - (i) Administration of the Centre (REMPEC/WG.14/4/2) which gives a brief summary regarding the present situation of the Centre as well as the problems encountered; and,
  - (ii) Role and function of REMPEC within the new context of MAP Phase II (REMPEC/WG/14/13) which contains additional information as well as proposals.



5. The Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points deplored that their reiterated request for an administrative and financial professional officer had not been taken into account. They therefore adopted the following Resolution:

"REMPEC Focal Points, noting the extent of the tasks to be carried out by the Centre, request forcefully that the Coordinator of the Action Plan include on the REMPEC budget a position for an administrative and financial professional without reducing the current resources of the Centre". (REMPEC/WG.14/17).

#### Status of REMPEC within MAP

6. REMPEC is a regional centre with a UN status, established within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan under a joint IMO/UNEP project and it is managed by the International Maritime Organization on the basis of the decision of the Contracting Parties. In order that REMPEC achieves the objectives of the Emergency Protocol, it is essential for REMPEC:

- (i) to be an integral part of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
- (ii) to have a UN status;
- (iii) to be managed by IMO - the specialized UN agency competent for maritime safety and marine environment protection from sea-based activities.

A headquarters agreement was signed between the Government of Malta and IMO in April 1990.

#### Future task

7. The Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points discussed regional cooperation for prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities within the new context of MAP Phase II (see REMPEC/WG.14/11).
8. The Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points approved a draft regional strategy as regards the prevention of the pollution of the marine environment by ships and a draft resolution linked to this strategy, to be presented for adoption to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties (see REMPEC/WG.14/17, Annex VII).

#### Current work/workplan/programme of activities

9. Regarding the current work, workplan and programme of activities reference should be made to:
- (i) the medium-term programme (1994-1997) of the activities of REMPEC approved by the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/13).
  - (ii) the proposed programme for the 1998-1999 biennium for the activities of REMPEC in the field of preparedness for, response to and cooperation in case of accidental marine pollution, approved by the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (REMPEC/WG.14/17).

- (iii) the following relevant working documents submitted to the meeting of REMPEC Focal Points which presented the progress in the implementation of REMPEC's programme:

REMPEC/WG.14/4/1	Progress Report
REMPEC/WG.14/4/3/1	Directories, lists, inventories and catalogue
REMPEC/WG.14/4/3/2	Databanks, simulation models and a decision-support system
REMPEC/WG.14/3/3/3	Operational guides and technical documents
REMPEC/WG.14/4/4	Training
REMPEC/WG.14/4/5	Communications and exercises
REMPEC/WG.14/4/6	Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)
REMPEC/WG.14/7/1	Review of the current state of national systems for preparedness and response
REMPEC/WG.14/7/2	Development of subregional operational agreements for combating major marine pollution accidents, affecting or likely to affect the territorial sea, coasts and related interests of neighbouring countries
REMPEC/WG.14/8/1	Pilot projects related to preparedness and response to accidents in port areas

(b) **Blue Plan/Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC)**

**Legal/Administrative situation and organisation of BP/RAC**

This note is divided into 3 parts:

- 1) Historical background (1975-1996)
- 2) Current situation (January 1997)
- 3) Thoughts on BP/RAC within the MAP system

1) Historical background 1975-1996

The historical development of BP/RAC since MAP was set up in 1975 can be divided into three periods:

- The MEDEAS period (1975-1984)

The decision to adopt the principle of a Blue Plan (then called "Blue Paper") was taken during the meeting of UNEP's board of administration at Nairobi in April 1975 (on an initiative of the French Delegation).

Several Mediterranean expert meetings followed at Nice, Geneva, Paris in order to formulate the Blue Plan project, adopted by the Split Intergovernmental meeting (31 January - 4 February 1977).

The project was developed between 1978 and 1979 by a Non-Governmental Organisation under French law with headquarters first in Cannes then at Sophia Antipolis, MEDEAS (Mediterranean Environment and Development Association); it was entrusted with the administrative and financial aspects, under the scientific direction of a Coordination and Synthesis Group (GCS) appointed by the Executive Director of UNEP in conjunction with the Focal Points of Blue Plan. The GCS was made up of a Coordinator (Mr. Ismail Sabri Abdalla) and six advisors, one of whom was Michel Grenon, executive secretary of Blue Plan.

Since 1979, UNEP's Executive Secretary obtained the adoption by the Contracting Parties of the principle to carry out a series of studies of forecasting and a prospective for the whole of the Mediterranean Basin, to be called Blue Plan, and to make MEDEAS a "Regional Activities Centre of the Blue Plan" to counter balance PAP/RAC which was entrusted with illustrating, through concrete proposals, various policies of socio-economic development.

It should be pointed out that this mechanisms mobilizing UNEP/MAP/MEDEAS to carry out the Blue Plan did not, to be sure, lead to a formal protocol of agreement between France and UNEP, instead a multi-annual UNEP-MAP project document identifying activities and their financing which were assigned inter alia to MEDEAS took account of the counterpart contribution of France.

During this period the presidents of MEDEAS were in succession. René Bourrone, Michel Vauzelle. Paul-Marc Henry and the Director Jean-Paul Pfista, Jean Vachieri and Maurice Casimir.

- The 1985-1989 period (BP-RAC/UNEP)

Near the end of 1984, UNEP and the French Authorities became concerned with the MEDEAS-GCS arrangement with reference to authorized expenditure. As a result of an in-depth audit MEDEAS was dissolved and a new association called "Regional Activities Centre of the Blue Plan" took over the refocusing of activities and the management. Because of his international experience and close links with UNEP, Michel Batisse was invited to assume the presidency of the association and assist Michel Grenon in carrying out the scientific activities. At UNEP's request, a Blue Plan administrator was also appointed - this was René Brémont - for the period leading up to the publication of the main report "The Futures of the Mediterranean Basin" in 1989.

The statutes of BP/RAC make clear the role of the association, under the control of the French Authorities and in conformity with the initial objectives of MAP, to carry out the Blue Plan activities. However, as in the MEDEAS period, placing Blue Plan at MAP's disposal was finalized only the rough and explicit reference - which included the counterpart contribution and the presence of an administrator - in the project document 1985-1989.

- The 1990 - 1996 period

The 1990-1996 period marked the BP/RAC evolution from its original prospective mission, to the new missions recommended by the Contracting Parties starting in 1989 ("Observatory" function, policy of sustainable development, "environmentalisation and litoralisation" of the Blue Plan). Ad director, made available to the Centre by the Ministry for Environment in agreement with the President, started its new process while modernizing the initial framework procedure. The statutes of BP/RAC were amended to conform with this new orientation. In practice, the association developed contractual activities with partners pursuing similar objectives, in order to improve its financial situation, its study potential and its production within the MAP framework its main partners have been METAP and the European Commission.

Its work contributed greatly to the orientation of MAP - Phase II toward the coastal areas. In particular, the development with BP/RAC of the function "Mediterranean Observatory for Environment and Development" provides MAP and especially the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) with a tool for the follow-up and assessment of environmental situations at the level of the Mediterranean Basin. Moreover, the publication of the main report strongly influenced the European Commission to refocus its activities toward the EuroMediterranean process adopted in Barcelona.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Contracting Parties, the evolution of its activities and corresponding means was carried out in a flexible and uninterrupted manner through an agreement between France and UNEP/MAP. The international legitimacy of BP/RAC which is governed exclusively by French law is in effect established by the biennial programmes defined by the Contracting Parties, and financed in accordance with the project document of UNEP.

The counterpart contribution of France to the BP/RAC amounting to US \$ 440,000 is made reference of - as was in the previous period - in the project document describing the activities of the MAP components between 1990 and 1996.

To summarize, the Blue Plan, for almost 20 years, has been run by a non-governmental association under French law which depends on the Ministry for the Environment (for operations) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (for foreign relations).

It should be pointed out that gradually two developments have occurred: on the one hand the direct role of UNEP in BP/RAC's affairs has decreased while that of MAP's Coordinating Unit has increased and on the other, the BP/RAC financial partners have diversified so that the Mediterranean Trust Fund accounts now for 50% of the Centre's budget. These two trends are considered positive for those responsible for the association and directly benefit MAP's image. MAP remains of course the main reference for the Blue Plan.

## 2) Current situation (January 1997)

### **Legal framework**

The legal framework remains unchanged since 1992 after certain modifications were brought to the statutes (see text in Annex 1). The formula adopted from the very beginning by the French Authorities was never questioned: it allows BP/RAC to carry out its international mandate while authorizing it to develop additional contractual activities on behalf of the Ministry for the Environment and other public partners, or to solicit aid (financial or in kind) from public funds in France or abroad. This flexible formula makes it possible for the Centre to increase the counterpart contribution which the Ministry for the Environment by itself could only guarantee up to the amount of US \$ 440,000.

For the time being, the BP/RAC association, a non-profit making organisation, is not liable to any of the three different types of taxation (VAT, professional tax or company tax). One should not exclude the possibility that the fiscal administration will seek to improve VAT on BP/RAC as soon as it participates in the tendering procedure of the European Commission, but the question has not been raised as yet. In effect, the BP/RAC, by combining its international 'mandate' of a public character which justifies its existence with the fact that it is a Law 1901, private association has an important advantage. There could be some ambiguity as to its nature, which is a possibility facing every national body with international scope. The credentials of the members of its Bureau (Michel Batisse, Serge Antoine, Jean Margat, Pierre Reynaud) and the director, all experienced in the public service and in international posts, as well as the ministerial aegis guarantee that the centre will remain on course.

### **Relations with the host country**

The status of BP/RAC stipulate that there be at least one General Assembly meeting per year. It is on this occasion that are formalized the contributions of the French government to the running of BP/RAC on the basis of information on past and future activities of the Blue Plan, in the presence especially of the representatives of the Ministries for the Environment and Foreign Affairs. This Assembly obviously has no authority on external funds principally those coming from MAP. As an example a copy of the Agenda of the next Assembly meeting scheduled for 6 March 1997 is included in Annex 2.

The General Assembly meeting is also the opportunity to extend participation to other Ministries entrusted with land development, planning, agriculture, infrastructures, other concerned institutions (CIHEAM, IFEN, etc) as well as to some Mediterranean regional authorities (3 regions).

The Blue Plan gains from the experience of the host country which can in this way better contribute to the Mediterranean environmental policy at the same time it is the occasion to diversify and add to the French financial participation which is no longer limited to the Ministry for the Environment.

It should be pointed out that BP/RAC, through its president and director, has a close and continuous relationship with its partners, mainly the Ministries for Environment and Foreign Affairs.

### **Relations with the Contracting Parties and the Coordinating Unit**

For financial but also technical reasons, BP/RAC has not been able to associate to its work the focal points appointed to it in principle in 1993. The information and participation of the Mediterranean countries are carried out on an individual rather than a collective basis, either in writing, or on the occasion of missions, workshops and training seminars the last such seminar took place in November 1996 on territorial prospective. This is a problem mainly of a technical nature having to do with the kind of work Blue Plan is engaged in however, it is also linked with the more general problem of networks of focal points of RACs and MAP. Fortunately the contacts of the Deputy Director have bridged the gap in the consultation procedure.

BP/RAC, like the other Centres, is impacted upon by increasing complexity of the MAP system, which in the beginning had just 4 entities ( MED POL, REMPEC, PAP, BP) but now is made up of 6 protocols, 6 RACs and a Workshop of 100 sites, with sensitive horizontal activities (CAMPs, Observatory, MCSD). The Coordinating Unit, while facing some difficulties because of vacant posts, must nevertheless assure coherence and clear understanding of all activities. Thus each Centre, among them of course BP/RAC, counts on effective coordination and guidance from the Unit: Directors' meetings, appointment of project leaders, elaboration of working methods, listing of priorities are some answers. The matter should be debated by the ad hoc group in which BP/RAC intends to participate.

### **Staff**

There are currently thirteen permanent staff:

9 officials, two of whom are French officials (the director and a researcher) on secondment the salaries of 4 are mostly covered by MAP's budget with external supplements  
3 secretaries (two paid by the MAP budget)

1 documentalist

The Deputy Director is Lebanese and two officials are of foreign nationalities (Algerian, Italian). All staff come under French law.

Currently, the shocks and uncertainties of BP/RAC financing have not allowed a realistic look at the grid of salaries and clear perspectives of career progress for staff. This constitutes a serious internal problem, especially since staff salaries are relatively low.

The organigramme of the Centre is as follows:

BP/RAC at 29.1.1997

Michel Batisse	President
Bernard Glass	Director
Arab Hoballah	Deputy Director
	Scientific Director

#### Secretariat

Brigitte Férier (head team)  
Maggy Watkins  
Christiane Bourdeau

#### Administration and Finance

Christian Müller

#### Prospective analysis

Elizabeth Caudet

#### Observation and Assessment

Domitille Valée  
Patrice Miran

#### Information, Statistical and Geographic

Jean Pierre Giraud  
Abdaziz Bousahla  
Frank Malanaise

### 3) Thoughts on BP/RAC within the MAP system

On the basis of the above mentioned comments, BP/RAC could doubtless improve its contribution, effectiveness and work within MAP, while at the same time developing the professionalism and the career opportunities of the permanent staff through a realistic change of direction in the internal organisation and operation of the centre as well as in its external relations with MEDU and the Contracting Parties.

The rationale of the activities assigned to BP/RAC, knowledge and evaluation of the problems connected with Environment and Development for the whole Mediterranean Basin as well as

contributing to strategies (Mediterranean, national and local) of sustainable development - must be retained and define its internal structure.

It seems that the legal framework adopted by France, host country of the centre, must be retained, while at the same time strengthening its international dimension, through for instance a Mediterranean scientific committee which would assist the association supporting the Blue Plan, if funding could be secured.

For the benefit of most of the staff, one should continue exploring the possibilities for a headquarters agreement, on the basis of a strong impetus from MAP to cover all its centres. However, there is no reference in France to headquarters agreements for bodies other than intergovernmental organizations.

The commitments of France, host country of the centre, could possibly be finalized through an exchange of letters or a Protocol of agreement. The interest of BP/RAC would be to find in such a protocol a more explicit reference than that contained in the reports of decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and the draft documents on the amount of counterpart contribution. However it should be stressed that the Blue Plan does not face major difficulties because of its current status, as is seen by the fact that prestigious premises have been made available to it.

An interesting development for BP/RAC in its rather weak relations with the Contracting Parties (Focal Points) would be to assign to the MCSD a role of orientation and follow-up of the centre's activities, by using especially (as is stipulated in the mandate) the work of the Mediterranean Observatory for Environment and Development.

Indeed, the Blue Plan, from its inception has been an exercise in sustainable development before the latter became known widely. This is an opportunity to make the most of both the MCSD and BP/RAC, perhaps possibly in cooperation with the other RACs the activities of which do not explicitly fall within the scope of the Barcelona Convention Protocols.



## ANNEX 1

### Statutes of the Association Regional Activity Centre of the Blue Plan

(As amended by the Assembly meeting of 27 February 1992 and published in the official "Association" Journal of 22 April 1992)

#### Title I: Objectives of the Association

##### Article 1

An association under French law, governed by the law of July 1901 and bearing the title "Regional Activities Centre of the Blue Plan", hereinafter called BP/RAC is set up.

##### Article 2

The administrative oversight of this body by the State shall be carried out by the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

##### Article 3

BP/RAC views at promoting studies of evaluation and prospective concerning the environment and the development in the Mediterranean Basin and especially at ensuring the implementation of such studies within the framework of the agreement concluded between the French State and the United Nations Environment Programme for carrying out the Mediterranean Action Plan.

BP/RAC shall as a priority carry out those elements of the Action Plan under the heading "Blue Plan". It may be mandated to carry out other studies with complementary objectives.

BP/RAC aims at ensuring the activities of a scientific team under the authority of a Director.

BP/RAC also maintains the necessary contacts with other centres carrying out evaluation and prospective studies on the Mediterranean Basin, especially the French and European Centres and those depending on the Mediterranean Action Plan.

BP/RAC is entitled to conclude contacts for studies and with consultants as needed for the completion of its tasks, especially those stipulated in the biennial budgets of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

##### Article 4

The registered office of the Association at Sophia Antipolis, Place Sophie Laffitte, Sophia Antipolis, 06560 Valbonne, in the premises that the international water office (International Cooperation Directorate) is making available to BP/RAC.

#### **Article 5**

Members of the Association can be individuals and legal entities connected with the Association activity. Admission of new members is decided by the Bureau, acting on a proposal by three Association members, after presentation of the substantial contribution of each candidate to the implementation of the Blue Plan objectives.

#### **Article 6**

Membership is lost through:

- resignation
- death or dissolution of a legal entity
- striking off by the Bureau on serious grounds

#### **Article 7**

The Association shall cease its activities when the international authorities estimate that the necessary work has been accomplished. It may cease its activities if the Government of France no longer deems advisable to host the Blue Plan of the Mediterranean Action Plan and to notify its partners at a meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.,

### **Title II: Administration and operation**

#### **Article 8**

The Association is directed by a Bureau composed of 4 members: a President, a Vice President, a Secretary General and a Treasurer, elected for one year by the General Assembly from among its members. If a Bureau member takes a holiday, the Bureau provides for the provisional replacement of said member. Permanent replacement is carried out by the next Assembly meeting. The Bureau may call upon external specialists. The Association may use the services of paid staff.

#### **Article 9**

The General Assembly, which is comprised of all Association members, meets any time it deems necessary, but at least once a year. It is convened by the President or at the request of one third of its members.

For the validity of deliberations quorum is achieved if at least half of the members of the General Assembly are present. Its decisions are taken by the majority of members present. In case of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Minutes of the meetings shall be kept. The minutes are signed by the President and the Secretary General.

Rules of procedure, aiming at clarifying the various points not stipulated in the statutes, shall if necessary be established by the Bureau and approved by the General Assembly.

#### **Article 10**

The President, after soliciting the opinion of the General Assembly, can appoint an Administrator to carry out the management of the Association. The agreement of the French Government must be secured concerning the successful candidate for the post. Expenditures are sanctioned by the President, the Director or the Administration, depending on the rules established by the Bureau.

#### **Article 11**

The Association is represented in the courts and in all civil transactions by the President or the Vice President. The representative of the Association must have his full civil rights.

#### **Title III: Resources**

#### **Article 12**

The resources of the Association are made up of:

- 1) credits granted for expenditures concerning the activities of the Blue Plan within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
- 2) subsidies and study contracts granted it, mainly by the French State;
- 3) all income which is not incompatible with the objectives of the Association and the legal provisions in force;
- 4) subscriptions of its members.

#### **Article 13**

The estate of the Association shall alone cover the engagements contracted in its name no members may, in any case whatever, be held responsible for debts incurred.

#### **Article 14**

The financial year starts on 1st January and ends on 31st December.

#### **Title IV: General Assembly**

#### **Article 15**

The Ordinary General Assembly meets at least once a year. It approves the accounts, defines the general policy of the Association and adopts the budget of the following financial year.

For the validity of deliberations, at least one quarter of its members must be present or represented. Decisions are taken by simple majority.

#### Article 16

The General Assembly is an extraordinary one if it decides on any amendment to the statutes, it may decide to dissolve the Association and dispose of its assets, or to merge with any association of the same scope.

Such an Assembly must be made up of at least a quarter of active members. Decision is taken by a two-thirds majority of members present.

Members unable to attend may be represented by another Association member through a proxy in writing.

(c) Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

Status

PAP/RAC was established in Split in 1980, following the decision of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Blue Plan held in Split in January/February 1977 (UNEP/IG.5/7, paragraph 54) to assist in the implementation of the Integrated Planning Component of the Action Plan adopted in Barcelona in 1975. The decision of the Meeting was based on the offer of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to host a regional centre to facilitate "certain actions involving cooperation among countries [which] could be undertaken in the near future on the basis of available knowledge of sound environmental management practices in selected priority areas (...) in the further development of the integrated planning component of the Barcelona Action Plan".

Six priority fields were recommended as requiring immediate action: (i) protection of soil; (ii) management of water resources; (iii) marine living resources, management of fisheries and aquaculture; (iv) human settlements; (v) tourism; and (vi) soft technologies for energy, including solar energy.

The Centre was expected "to establish a permanent network of continuous cooperation among the Mediterranean coastal States concerning practical actions for progressive inter-sectoral planning" elaborated "through the national focal points in cooperation with the UNEP Secretariat".

The present status of PAP/RAC is formalized by an Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) signed in October 1996. The Agreement stipulates that ... "the Centre shall have a regional role as defined and financed in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Contracting Parties to the [Barcelona] Convention. Activities of the Centre, which are not related to its regional role, will be defined and financed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The activities of the Centre relevant to its regional role and to the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan shall be carried out under the general guidance and supervision of the UNEP Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan."

Mandate and Functions

The initial mandate and scope of activities of the Centre defined at the 1977 Split meeting was modified by subsequent meetings convened under the auspices of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

- (a) The 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Dubrovnik (1983) approved the following 9 priority actions:
- integrated water resource management;
  - protection of soils;
  - integrated planning and management of coastal areas;<sup>3</sup>
  - rehabilitation and reconstruction of Mediterranean settlements;
  - land-use planning in earthquake zones;
  - solid and liquid waste management;
  - development of Mediterranean tourism in harmony with the environment;
  - renewable sources of energy; and
  - Mediterranean network on aquaculture.

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<sup>3</sup> This, and the following three priority actions, were combined in the broad framework of "human settlements" priority field.

- (b) The 4th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Genova (1985) included environmental impact assessment (EIA) in the Centre's programme.
- (c) The 5th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Athens (1987) approved the initiation of: (i) four PAP pilot projects (The Island of Rhodes, The Bay of Izmir, The Bay of Kastela and the Syrian coastal area) within the priority action on Integrated Planning and Management of Coastal Zones; (ii) PAP-formulated Mediterranean project on mitigation of seismic risk (SEISMED) co-sponsored by PAP, UNDP, UNESCO and UNIDO; and (iii) PAP project on mapping and measurement of soil erosion processes, hosted by Spain and in cooperation with FAO-AGL.
- (d) The 6th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Athens (1989) established the MAP Coastal Areas Management Programme (MAP CAMP) with the participation of all MAP components. PAP Pilot Projects were to be integrated in MAP CAMP. Furthermore, in parallel with the Priority Action on historic settlements, a Secretariat on 100 Coastal Historic Sites of Common Mediterranean Interest was established in Marseilles.
- (e) The 7th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Cairo (1991) decided to merge the Priority Action on Land use Planning in Seismic Zones into the Priority Action on Integrated Planning and Management of Coastal Areas. After the completion of SEISMED, the results of both actions were to be applied by PAP in MAP CAMP. The same was decided for the Priority Action on Renewable Sources of Energy.
- (f) The 8th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Antalya (1993) decided to discontinue the PAP priority action on Historic Settlements. The related activities were to be carried on by the Marseilles Secretariat.
- (g) The 9th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Barcelona (1995) had redefined the role of PAP within MAP Phase II, as involvement in activities relative to Environmentally Sound Management of Mediterranean Coastal Zones, ICAM methodologies and tools, capacity building, and implementation of MAP CAMPs and /or pilot projects (Annex I).
- (h) The Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Montpellier (1996) reconfirmed the role of PAP in CAMP and natural resources management, including capacity building, recommending as follows: to further and refine the methodology of ICAM; to develop and apply relevant policies and methods of Sustainable Development in coastal towns, in developing countries in particular; to develop tools and techniques of ICAM, such as Geographic Information System (GIS), Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA), Decision Support System (DSS); to develop further EIA; to contribute to building up and strengthening the national capacities for ICAM; to develop Integrated Management of Water Resources; to continue with other Priority Actions, namely, Solid and Liquid Waste management, Aquaculture, Soil Erosion and Desertification, and to start preparations for the MAP CAMP Programme approved for Slovenia.
  - (i) The recent First meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Morocco, December 1996) identified eight subjects on which it would focus its attention. Two of them (sustainable management of coastal zones and management of water demand) were singled out as "areas for

action in short term"<sup>4</sup> and suggested the "development of policy and strategy proposals" in these areas for the next meeting of the Commission. The meeting also identified PAP/RAC, as "the MAP structure that would support the activities" related to three of the identified themes (sustainable management of coastal zones; management of water demand; ecotourism and management of urban and rural development).

Accordingly, the present scope of PAP activities includes assistance in the following:

- development of MAP CAMP in its part related to Integrated Coastal Areas Management (ICAM);
- identification, development, testing and application under Mediterranean conditions of the methodology, tools and techniques for ICAM;
- integrated management of natural resources and activities relevant for sustainable development in the Mediterranean coastal area, water resources, soils, urban solid and liquid waste, tourism;
- implementation of the Mediterranean Environment/Aquaculture Network;
- application of EIA.

Within the above, PAP is expected, *inter alia*, to implement a strong training programme contributing to the upgrading of national and local institutional and human capacities. The activities of PAP within the thematic framework presented above has been and is organized in cooperation with UNEP-Nairobi, UNEP-GRID, UNITAR-Geneva, with other relevant UN agencies (FAO, UNESCO, UNDP) and international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the EIB.

Furthermore, PAP has been implementing its workplan in cooperation or jointly with a number of specialized Mediterranean institutions and Universities, such as CEFIGRE, IME, IFREMER, BRGM (all France); DGCONA and CIEMAT (Spain); ICCROM, the Universities of Genoa, Venice and Turin (Italy); the University of the Aegean, IGME and Exergia (Greece), Dokuz Eylul and Ege Universities, Metropolitan Municipality of Izmir (Turkey); Water Services Corporation (Malta); Tahal (Israel); ACSAD, Remote Sensing Centre and the University of Lattakia (Syria); ESRI (USA), and others.

The results of PAP activities, particularly those related to ICAM, were tested and transferred in other regional programmes such as the UNEP's Regional Seas Programmes in the Caribbean, East and West Africa, and GEF/WB Black Sea Environmental Programme.

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<sup>4</sup> The other six areas, identified as "medium-term priority themes", are: indicators of sustainable development; tourism; participation and public information; free trade and the environment; industry, pollution and sustainable development; and management of urban and rural development.

### Major PAP Achievements

The hitherto achievements of PAP in the period 1983-1996 were regularly evaluated and approved by MEDU, various MAP bodies and meeting of the Contracting Parties. Due to the comparatively long time frame and the number of actions, here will be provided only a very summarized review of those:

- a) The concept, methodologies, tools (GIS, EIA, CCA, suitability analyses, Multicriteria Analysis) and procedures for ICAM were developed and disseminated, tested and applied in a number of countries, in particular within MAP CAMPs (Albania, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Malta, Turkey, Tunisia and Syria).
- b) A number of activities (guidelines, pilot projects, studies) related to management of major resources and/or sectors were implemented, most of them in cooperation and/or with hosting of individual Mediterranean countries and most reputed institutions (water resources management, soil protection, historic settlements, tourism, aquaculture, solid and liquid waste management).
- c) During all that period, training and exchange of experience was organized by PAP through numerous workshops, seminars and training courses (see the following table).

Type of meeting \ Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Total
Expert meetings	7	9	8	3	9	10	46
Workshops/seminars	1	3	1	2	2	3	12
Training courses	8	5	5	1	5	4	28
Total	16	17	14	6	16	17	86

- d) A number of methodological documents and guidelines were prepared, reviewed, amended, disseminated and successfully applied in the Mediterranean and other regions. The list of major PAP publications is presented in Annex II.
- e) A large PAP network of experts, consultants and cooperating institutions from Mediterranean and other regions was gradually created. Annex III. presents the number of Mediterranean experts involved as consultants in PAP activities during the 1991-1996 period.
- f) Several major cooperative projects were initiated, assisted and guided by PAP with resources additional to these provided by MAP: the IWRM project for the island of Malta (with the support of EU, and implemented by BRGM, Orleans; the cooperative project on soil erosion mapping and measurement (FAO, DGCONA, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey); the Mediterranean project on seismic risk mitigation - SEISMED (UNDP, PAP, UNESCO, UNIDO, Italian Government); the PAP/MEDRAP aquaculture network.
- g) Finally, in addition to MAP related activities, PAP was involved in a number of projects carried out for the Government of Croatia as host country.



## Structure

Presently, the staff of the Centre supported by the resources of the Mediterranean Trust Fund consists of:

- Director (Mr. P. Reic): responsible for the overall coordination of the activities;
- Deputy Director (Mr. I. Trumbic): responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Centre, and supervision of all projects and activities carried out by the Centre;
- Financial Officer (Mr. A. Bjelica): responsible for the management of financial resources of the Centre;
- four Assistant Officers (Ms. K. Tulic, Ms. V. Katunaric, Mr. N. Stipica and Ms. Z. Skaricic): responsible for supporting implementation of individual projects and activities of the Centre, including translation and publication of the Centre's reports;<sup>5</sup>
- Administrative Officer (Ms. Lj. Prebanda): responsible for administration of the Centre and organization of the logistic support needed for its work;
- The library and data-bases of the Centre are managed by part-time assistance of Ms. R. Jukic and Mr. S. Pavasovic.

At the moment, the implementation of the Centre's programme of work is assisted by seven coordinators of the Centre's sectoral activities (Mr. A. Baric, Mr. I. Katavic, Mr. Z. Klaric, Mr. J. Margeta, Mr. T. Radelja, Mr. I. Simunovic and Mr. S. Tedeschi), and by a number of associated consultants (see Annex III).

Furthermore, a large number of experts and institutions from all Mediterranean countries, and a few from non-Mediterranean ones, have been involved in the implementation of projects and activities of the Centre.

## The framework of PAP activities within MAP Phase II

The present conceptual framework for PAP is based on principles and documents related to Sustainable Development, and in particular on Agenda 21, MED Agenda 21 and on the deliberations of the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Barcelona in 1995 (the revised Barcelona Convention, MAP Phase II, Priority Fields of Activities 1996-2005, Recommendations of the Meeting and the Barcelona Resolution, all included in UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16), of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties - Montpellier 1996 (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8), and of the First Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - Rabat 1996 (UNEP(OCA)/IMED WG.120/4). Furthermore, that framework is harmonized with the basic approaches adopted by the WB (see for example, "Forging a partnership for environmental action", 1994, and the EU document "Towards sustainable development", 1992).

Within this context, and in cooperation with other structures established in the framework of MAP and with the relevant national and international institutions, PAP contributes to:

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<sup>5</sup> The working languages of the Centre in respect to MAP-related activities are English and French. Reports and most of other documents of the Centre are prepared in both languages.

development of regional policy proposals and recommendations for achieving sustainable development; formulation of regional and national strategies for sustainable development integrating environmental and socio-economic development; strengthening the role of ICAM as the major tool for Sustainable Development.

Specific fields in which these contributions will be made include:

- formulation and/or implementation of regional and national SD strategies within the ICAM component of sustainable development;
- practical examples of integration of planning and management practices of economic and social policies;
- development, testing and application of ICAM methodologies, instruments and techniques applicable in the region with particular emphasis on the needs of Mediterranean developing countries;
- assistance in upgrading the national, sub national and local structures of ICAM;
- introducing or strengthening the practices of integrated planning and management of major Mediterranean coastal and marine resources and activities on sustainable basis (water resources, soils, urban solid and liquid waste, coastal urban agglomerations and resources, tourism and recreational activities, aquaculture and fisheries);
- implementation of ICAM pilot projects;
- training on main PAP-related topics.

Programme proposal Taking into account the hitherto progress and experiences gained during the implementation of PAP activities within MAP CAMPs, the PAP Phase II ICAM component will be primarily targeted at the initiation, establishment and strengthening of the ICAM process. Furthermore, the proposed programme envisages innovative approaches, introduction of new or improved instruments and procedures for ICAM (economic instruments, conflict resolution procedures, participation, role and involvement of NGOs, general public and stakeholders, including the private sector whenever appropriate, use of Urban Indicators for sustainable development, Rapid Environmental Urban Assessment...). In this regard, the PAP component of ICAM pilot projects will be refocused on as strong as possible (user) involvement of national and local experts and institutions in defining, implementing, and executing projects, with PAP/RAC providing coordination, assistance and capacity building.

The related Programme Proposal is presented in the following table:

No.	Activity	Reference to:		
		MAP-II	PFA (Ch.)	Recom. Barc.95
1	2	3	4	5

I Integration of Environment and Development

- |    |   |                          |                     |                        |
|----|---|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Support contribution and assistance in preparation of regional and national SD strategies, including National Environmental Action Plans (NEAP), National Environmental Health Action Plans (NEHAP), monitoring of practices and achievements and environment and development (E/D) assessment. | point 1.5; 1st, 2nd par. | 1. (i), (ii), (iii) | Ch. E (ix) (b) point 1 |
| 2. | Identification, development and application of instruments for E/D assessment: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Rapid Urban Environmental Assessment, EIA of major development projects (preparation of user-friendly documents, pilot case studies, assistance in implementation).    | p. 1.5; 1st para.        | 1. (ii)             |                        |

II Integrated Management of Natural Resources

1. Integrated water management:

- |    |   |                     |               |  |
|----|---|---------------------|---------------|--|
| 1. | Support and assistance to national and/or subnational and/or local authorities and water management agencies (authorities) in preparation and implementation of integrated water or watershed management plans and programmes (preparation of formats and project outlines, proposals, assistance in implementation). | p. 1.3.1; 2nd para. | Ch. 2.1(i)    |  |
| 2. | Assistance and technical support to national and local authorities and institutions in promoting water resources protection related, in particular to land/water/sea use planning and in antidraught measures.  | p. 1.3.1; 2nd para. | Ch. 2.1(ii)   |  |
| 3. | Assistance to relevant national authorities and institutions in application of rational water demand management tools.  | "                   | Ch. 2.1 (iii) |  |
| 4. | Assistance to relevant national authorities and institutions in applying measures and techniques for sustainable utilization of water resources.  | "                   | Ch. 2.1 (iv)  |  |
| 5. | Assistance to relevant national authorities and institutions in promoting, planning and applying the treatment and reuse of waste waters and saline waters through training, workshops and technical assistance.  | "                   | Ch. 2.1 (vi)  |  |
| 6. | Technical support for and coordination of the programme of installation of infrastructure for the treatment of urban sewage of 100 Mediterranean coastal cities.  | p. 1.2; 4th par.    | Ch. 2.1 (vii) |  |

2. Soil management

- |    |  |                    |                  |  |
|----|--|--------------------|------------------|--|
| 7. | Training, organization and assistance relative to practical mapping and measurement programmes on evaluation and monitoring of soil erosion processes in coastal areas (in cooperation with FAO and relevant national institutions). | p. 1.3.1; 2nd par. | Ch. 2.2(i), (ii) |  |
| 8. | Implementation of PAP/DGCONA-FAO erosion mapping and measurement project, including up to 5 Mediterranean countries according to their request.  | "                  | Ch. 2.2(ii)      |  |
| 9. | Training, assistance and technical support related to rehabilitation of degraded land and restoration of plant cover (in cooperation with FAO and other relevant Mediterranean institutions such as DGCONA...)                       |                    | Ch. 2.2(iii)     |  |

No.	Activity	Reference to:		
		MAP-II	PFA (Ch.)	Recom. Barc.95
1	2	3	4	5
10.	Assistance in promoting measures against erosion and desertification and implementation of the Convention on Desertification (in cooperation with FAO, DGCONA-Spain)	p. 1.3.2; 2nd para.	Ch. 2.3 (i),(ii)	
<b>III</b> <u>3. Integrated Management of Coastal Areas</u>				
1.	Developing the methodology and practice, and assisting national and local authorities and institutions in preparing sea use, land use and maritime uses in the context of ICAM planning phase.	p. 1.4; 5th par.	Ch. 3.(i)	E(x)b, p.2, p.5
2.	Development of procedures and instruments for implementation of ICAM plans, and assistance in their application (participation, financing, monitoring, evaluation, readjustment).	p.1.4; 5th par. p. 4; 2nd par.	Ch. 3.(i)	
3.	Assistance to national, subnational and local authorities and institutions in formulation of ICAM project, design and project implementation, particularly in pilot zones.	p. 1.4; 3rd, 5th para.	Ch. 3(i), (iii)	E(x)b, p.5
4.	Training and on-the-job training at regional, national, subnational/project level related to ICM methodologies, tools, techniques and practices.	p. 1.4; 3rd, 5th para.	Ch. 3(ii)	
<u>Hazards Mitigation and Management:</u>				
5.	(a) Technical and other assistance will be provided, as requested, to individual CPS and MCDS related to mitigation of seismic risk, coastal erosion management, floods prevention, and measures and emergency procedures related to natural hazards (b) Hazards mitigation measures and procedures will be implemented by PAP in pilot projects and MAP CAMP, wherever needed and/or applicable	p.1.4; 5th par. p. 4; 2nd par.	Ch. 3.(i)	
<b>IV</b> <u>Waste management</u>				
1.	Assistance to national authorities and institutions in the preparation of national programmes for environmental management of urban wastes.	p. 1.4; 2nd par.	Ch. 4(ii)	
2.	Integrating and updating the methodologies and guidelines for rational environmental management of urban wastes in the context of ICM.	"	Ch. 4(ii)	
3.	Installation of controlled discharges of treatment plants.	"	4(iii)	
4.	Actions on coastal litter persistent synthetic materials.	"	4(vi)	
<b>V</b> <u>Agriculture</u>				
1.	Assistance and technical support to Mediterranean developing countries for the application of irrigation techniques contributing to water saving	p.1.1; 3rd par.	Ch. 5(iii)	
<b>VI</b> <u>Industry and Energy</u>				
1.	Assistance to national authorities and institutions in rational application of renewable sources of energy, particularly in the framework of ICM pilot projects	p.1.1.3; 3rd par.	Ch. 6(iv)	

No.	Activity	Reference to:		
		MAP-II	PFA (Ch.)	Recom. Barc.95
1	2	3	4	5
<b>VII <u>Tourism:</u></b>				
1.	(a) provision of methodologies and tools for environmentally sound and rational development of coastal tourism and recreation (such as C.C. Assessment); (b) assistance to national and local authorities and the private sector in their application; and (c) assistance in applying the methodology and tools in practical sectoral or ICAM national pilot projects.	p. 1.1.4; 2nd para.	Ch. 8(i)	
2.	Assistance to national authorities and tourism organizations in preparing national programmes for diversification of tourism; and (b) assistance in implementation of programmes for diversification of coastal tourism.	"		
3.	Assistance in developing coastal tourism in harmony with cultural heritage. merging the experiences from activities of PAP Phase I (ICAM. tourism, protection of Mediterranean historic settlements).		Ch. 8(iii)	
<b>VIII <u>Urban Development and Environment</u></b>				
1.	Assistance to national and local authorities in preparing: (a) local Agenda 21; (b) local environmental auditing, in cooperation with MEDCITIES.		Ch.3.i	E(ix)b; p.1
2.	Assistance to national and local authorities in rehabilitation of urban areas (including historic heritage) from consequences of hostilities.		Ch. 9(iii)	
<b>IX <u>Information</u></b>				
1.	Preparation and promotion of guidelines and procedures for the participation in the decision-making process, in particular in relation to the ICAM component and pilot projects.	p. 4; 2nd par.	Ch. 10(i)	p. 7
2.	Develop PAP data base on ICM and secure its dissemination and use by the CPs		Ch.10 (ii)(iii)	
<b>XI <u>PAP Phase II Training Component</u></b>				
	Formulate, propose and implement a comprehensive programme of training relevant to PAP activities I-XI in accordance with priorities expressed by the CPS.	p. 1.6; 2nd par.		p. 4
<b>XI <u>Assistance, Logistic and Technical Support to MCSD and National CSD</u></b>				
1.	(* here the reference is made to the Report of MCSD '96, pp. 21 and 34. and Table: Thematic working groups)			*
2.	Provide support and assistance to MCSD and National CSD for short-term priority issues: sustainable management of coastal zones, management of water demand.			
3.	Provide support and assistance to MCSD and National CSD for Mediterranean priority issues: ecotourism. A position document will be prepared and presented to the MCSD on the role of and benefits from ICAM within the process towards sustainable development in the region.			

The above presented programme, once cleared as draft, will have to be annotated and accompanied by Programme Outlines for major activities. Furthermore, the PAP-related part of future pilot projects and/or MAP CAMP will have to be reformulated as appropriate.

Financial aspects MAP-related activities of the Centre are funded through the Mediterranean Trust Fund according to the relevant decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and through the contributions of the Government of Croatia.

The resources approved and actually allocated to the Centre's MAP-related activities are as follows (in US\$):

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1993-1996
approved	911,000	769,000	769,000	721,000	3,170,000
allocated	489,000	506,000	784,000*	817,212**	2,596,212

\* US\$ 15,000 rephased from 1994

\*\* US\$ 221,212 rephased from 1995

The breakdown of approved and allocated resources according to major items of expenditure are:

(a) for priority actions, coastal management and planning

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1993-1996
approved	437,000	270,000	270,000	230,000	1,207,000
allocated	137,000	127,600	270,000	268,396*	802,996

\* US\$ 83,396 rephased from 1995

(b) for the Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs):

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1993-1996
approved	204,000	229,000	229,000	185,000	847,000
allocated	93,000	108,400	244,000*	242,816**	703,216

\* US\$ 15,000 rephased from 1994

\*\* US\$ 137,816 rephased from 1995

(c) for operational costs

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1993-1996
approved	270,000	270,000	270,000	306,000	1,116,000
allocated	259,000	270,000	270,000	306,000	1,105,000

#### Links with MAP structures

Under the guidance and overall coordination of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Centre has established and maintains wide-ranging working relationships and cooperation with other structures established within MAP. The cooperation was particularly intensive on the development and implementation of activities undertaken under CAMPs.

(a) Contracting Parties

The Centre regularly reports, directly or through the Coordinating Unit, as appropriate, to the meetings of the Contracting Parties and their Bureau, intergovernmental meetings and

meetings of the Parties' subsidiary bodies. The representatives of the Centre actively participate in these meetings and contribute to the debate relevant to the Centre's mandate, functions and activities.

(b) Coordinating Unit

Regular reports are being submitted by the Centre to the Coordinating Unit on all substantive, administrative and financial aspects of the Centre's activities. Frequent formal and informal guidance is sought and received from the Coordinating Unit on all issues requiring consultation or involvement of the Unit in the Centre's work.

(c) Regional Activity Centres

Very good cooperation has been developed with all RACs, especially through the implementation of MAP CAMP. Due to the nature and the contents of the activities these relations are most intensive with the Blue Plan and ERS, and somewhat less with SPA. For the same reason, the least intensive relations are with MEDPOL and REMPEC, while with CP there have been no joint activities so far. Exchange of information and experts among RACs, and joint actions in the implementation of MAP CAMP should be intensified.

Links with other structures

All activities of the Centre involved active participation of relevant national structures supporting the work of the Centre. The **National PAP Focal Points** and the various national structures shared with the Centre the burden and credit for achieved results.

Special mention should be made of the fact that the Albanian CAMP was a joint undertaking with the World Bank, while the CAMPs for Kastela Bay and the Island of Rhodes were carried out with the METAP programme. Center offers support to UNEP in the implementation of ICAM related activities, which is part of its mandate. Activities within UNEP's EAF and WACAF programmes should be particularly stressed. This activity offers PAP the opportunity to apply its methodological models in contexts other than Mediterranean, which, in turn, results in better refining of its basic approach to ICAM.

## ANNEX I

### PAP related recommendations adopted by the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona 1995)

1. (Point A. IVB) - MAP CAMP: to continue and conclude the projects approved earlier (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco) and to initiate those of Israel, Malta and Lebanon; to finalize and widely disseminate PAP guidelines for ICAM; to focus ICM activities on priority questions such as economic instruments;
2. (Point A.V) - Information and training: to intensify MAP programmes for training;
3. (Point E) - Environmentally sound management of Mediterranean coastal zones, PAP/RAC:
4. to focus activities on the achievement of sustainable development in coastal areas of Mediterranean countries by developing a suitable methodology of integrated coastal and marine areas management (ICAM);
5. to assist national authorities and institutions of Mediterranean countries in increasing the efficiency of coastal resources management through the application of the process of ICAM, with special reference to the planning and implementation component;
6. to develop and disseminate the appropriate methodologies, and to transfer the most successful experiences, particularly EIA, GIS, Carrying Capacity Assessment for tourism, economic instruments for sustainable development;
7. to continue its activities of building up and strengthening the national and local institutional capacities for ICAM, organisation of national training courses and regional courses (training of trainers);
8. to continue to contribute to the implementation of MAP CAMP through the preparation of sectoral plans and programmes, and through the preparation of comprehensive integrated plans of coastal areas management at local level;
9. to provide full information on its activities to the National Focal Points, interesting institutions and experts, and local stakeholders in the areas where CAMPs are being implemented;
10. to develop a data base of integrated coastal areas management in the Mediterranean region.



## ANNEX II

### Selected MAP/PAP documents

1. A Common Methodological Framework for Integrated Planning and Management in Mediterranean Coastal Area (Split, 1988)\*
2. Guidelines for Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Areas (UNEP, 1995)\*\*
3. An Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment for Projects Affecting the Coastal and Marine Environment (UNEP, 1990)\*
4. Environmental Impact Assessment: The Marina in Paphos (UNEP, 1990)
5. Environmental Impact Assessment: Sea Outfall for the Larnaca Sewerage System (UNEP, 1990)
6. Environmental Impact Assessment: Sewerage Treatment Plant for Port Said (UNEP, 1991)
7. General Guidelines for the Preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment of Medium-Size and Small Industrial Projects and Zones in Coastal Areas (Split, 1994)\*\*
8. Multicriterional Analyses for Environmentally Sound Siting of Development Projects Applicable in the Mediterranean Region (Split, 1990)\*\*
9. Code of Practice for Environmentally Sound Management of Liquid Waste Discharge in the Mediterranean Sea (Split, 1990)\*
10. Code of Practice for the Management of Urban Solid Waste in Coastal Mediterranean Countries (Split, 1991)\*
11. Environmental Guidelines for Municipal Wastewater Reuse in the Mediterranean Region (Split, 1991)\*
12. Technical Specification of the Project "Water Resources Master Plan of the Island of Rhodes (Split, 1993)
13. Water Conservation Measures in Israel (Split, 1991)
14. CAMP "Syrian Coastal Region", Coastal Resources Management Plan, Volume I : Synthesis Report (Split, 1992)
15. The Integrated Planning Study for the Island of Rhodes, Greece (Split, 1993)
16. Carrying Capacity Assessment of the Central-Eastern Part of the Island of Rhodes (Split, 1993)

17. The Integrated Planning Study for the Island of Rhodes (Split, 1993)18. Albanian Coastal Zone Management Phase I (Split, 1995)
18. Albanian Coastal Areas Management Phase I (Split, 1995)
19. Albanian Coastal Zone Management Phase II (Split, 1995)
20. The Region of Durresi-Vlora, Albania : Coastal Profile (Split, 1995)
21. The Region of Durresi-Vlora, Albania: Coastal Zone Management Plan (Split, 1996)
22. Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Mediterranean Historic Settlements (Split, 1994)
23. Guidelines for Carrying Capacity Assessment for Tourism in Mediterranean Coastal Areas (Split, 1994)
24. Carrying Capacity Assessment for Tourism Activities in the Island of Vis, Croatia (Split, 1991)
25. Approaches for Zoning of Coastal Areas with Reference to Mediterranean Aquaculture (Split, 1996)

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\* also in French

\*\* also in Croatian

**Annex III**

PAP consultants engaged in the period 1991-96 by country of origin

NATIONALITY	TOTAL
Albania	13
Algeria	1
Belgium	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Croatia	16
Cyprus	7
Egypt	14
France	8
Great Britain	1
Greece	15
Israel	8
Italy	17
Lebanon	1
Libya	2
Malta	17
Morocco	7
The Netherlands	2
Slovenia	5
Spain	8
Sweden	1
Switzerland	1
Syria	4
Tunisia	17
Turkey	11
United States of America	1
TOTAL	180

**(d) Specially Protected Areas/Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)**

Current activities

1. SPA/RAC activities have been so far generally guided by the following main texts:
  - Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (Geneva, 1982)
  - Genoa Declaration (1985)
  - Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal
  - Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles
  - Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean
  - Recommendations of the Contracting Parties
2. No specific reference to conservation issues were included in the MAP text of 1975. On the other hand, since the adoption of the MAP Phase II, SPA/RAC has worked on the implementation of some specific provisions of section 2 "Conservation of Nature, Landscape and Sites".

Assistance to countries in the implementation of the SPA Protocol

3. Assistance to countries in the selection, establishment and management of marine and coastal SPAs
  - studies aiming to identify appropriate sites for the establishment of marine and coastal Specially Protected Areas
  - studies aiming to identify measures for the protection and management of selected Specially Protected Areas
  - assistance to countries for the setting up of their legislation relating to Specially Protected Areas
4. Policy and Technical Tools
  - guidelines
  - directories
  - analytical studies

5. Enhancement of national capacities

- training in the field of management of Specially Protected Areas

Assistance to countries in the conservation of endangered species and ecosystems

6. Policy and Technical Tools

- preparation and adoption of Action Plans for Endangered Species (monk seal, marine turtles, cetaceans)
- setting up of national strategies for the conservation of biodiversity

7. Assistance to countries in the implementation of the adopted action plans

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

- analysis of the legal protection of the species in the Mediterranean region
- gathering and dissemination of scientific and technical information, in particular the assessment of the status of the species at the regional and local levels
- public and decision-makers awareness

(ii) Action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles

- analysis of the legal protection of the species in the Mediterranean region
- assessment of the status of the Mediterranean population
- improvement and dissemination of scientific knowledge on some aspects of the biology of sea turtles directly linked to their conservation
- the assessment of the impact of human activity on sea turtles
- public and decision-makers awareness

(iii) Action plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean

- analysis of the legal protection of the species in the Mediterranean region
- assessment of the status of the Mediterranean population
- the promotion of the exchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge between researchers

8. Assistance to countries in the conservation of other species and ecosystems

- identification of species requiring protection and management measures in the Mediterranean
- analysis of the present situation with regard to the protection of flora and fauna in the Mediterranean region
- monitoring, research, collection and dissemination of data concerning threatened species in the Mediterranean
- establishment of inventories of the elements of biological diversity

9. Enhancement of national capacities

- training in the field of conservation and management of the species covered by the action plans and of other species and ecosystems
- technical manuals

Activities within CAMPS

10. SPA/RAC's activities in the context of CAMPS have in general concerned the implementation of the SPA protocol and the action plans for the protection of threatened species, according to the specific nature of each programme and the relevant area of intervention.

Revision of the Mediterranean Action Plan and of the SPA Protocol

11. Revision of MAP

- contribution in drafting the text of the MAP Phase II

12. Revision of the SPA Protocol

- preparation of a first draft of the new Protocol
- assistance to the MAP Secretariat in dealing with this issue in two meetings of experts and the Contracting Parties Meeting in Barcelona
- preparation of draft annexes to the new Protocol (organization of two meetings of experts)
- assistance to the Secretariat for the meeting of Plenipotentiaries

Relationship with other relevant organizations and institutions

13. SPA/RAC has established and keeps regular contacts with numerous relevant regional and international institutions and organizations. These include IBOS (e.g. UNESCO; Council of Europe), NGOs, Secretariats of other Conventions. Contacts normally imply the exchange of information and documentation, participation in respective meetings

and working groups, coordination and in some cases co-organization of activities. SPA/RAC has often been requested to represent the MAP Coordinating Unit and occasionally UNEP-OCA/PAC in international fora (e.g. Contracting Parties meetings of other conventions, conferences).

14. SPA/RAC has implemented activities in the above-mentioned domains according to the following main patterns:

At the local and national levels

- missions of SPA/RAC staff members aimed at making contacts with relevant national and local authorities, institutions and organizations with a view to (i) identify domains of activity and collaboration, (ii) plan action and (iii) rise the awareness of decision-makers on specific issues;
- technical missions of experts (SPA/RAC staff members, international or national consultants) to the site/country aimed at (i) collecting information and (ii) making proposals and recommendations (e.g. survey of coasts aimed at assessing marine turtle nesting; identification of suitable sites for the establishment of protected areas). The results of such missions are normally the object of technical reports;
- sponsoring of research projects and/or education and awareness initiatives; proposals in this regard are usually submitted to SPA/RAC by the NFPs on behalf of the implementing institutions or organizations.

At the regional level

- launching of projects of regional scope (e.g. coordinated marine turtle tagging programme; marine vegetation monitoring network);
- production and dissemination of technical documents [studies of regional scope (e.g. assessment of state of cetaceans in the Mediterranean; analytical study on national legislation concerning SPA); guidelines; manuals];
- setting up and holding at SPA/RAC of databases on relevant subjects (e.g. database on Protected Areas; database on species);
- compilation and dissemination of directories (e.g. directory of Mediterranean SPAs; directory of national legislation concerning SPAs);
- production and spreading of information and awareness material (posters; booklets);
- organization of meeting of experts on relevant subjects (e.g. environmental legislation concerning SPAs and species conservation; implementation of the Action Plan on monk seal).

15. Concerning training activities, the following main formulas have been used:

- regional training courses organized by SPA/RAC, possibly in collaboration with other institutions and organizations (e.g. training courses on the management of SPAs; training course on the conservation of the monk seal). They are generally spread over a week and include a series of lectures, complemented, if necessary by sessions of supervised work (workshops), practical work in the laboratory or field excursions;
- practical stages of trainees on ongoing conservation projects, normally spreading over about ten days;
- sponsoring the participation of Mediterranean candidates in programmes not organized by SPA/RAC. SPA/RAC role normally consists of providing logistical support to allow trainees nominated by focal points to take part in courses organized by universities or NGOs.

Relationship with other MAP components

16. SPA/RAC presently shares with 100 Historic Sites Secretariat the responsibility on the implementation of the programme selection concerning the conservation of the cultural heritage. This sharing is defined in a *modus operandi* agreed at the level of meeting of MED Unit and RACs.

SPA/RAC is also expected to participate in the establishment of MEDO in the same way as the other MAP components.

Future tasks

17. MAP Phase II provides a consistent and comprehensive framework of action for conservation issues, which encompass SPA/RAC's present fields of activities and identifies new complementary lines of action. The legal basis for the activities provided by MAP Phase II will be substantially strengthened with the entry into force of the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. This latter instrument provides for a well-defined role of SPA/RAC in its implementation.

18. New Secretariat tasks in connection with the entry into force of the new Protocol

a. drawing up of the SPAMI list

- receiving and presentation of files for the establishment and listing of SPAMIs
- preparation of reports in connection with the revision of the SPAMI list (art. 9 para. 6) - possible missions of Secretariat or independent experts to visit sites
- receiving and presentation of the reports of the Parties concerning the status, state, changes in delimitation or legal status and exemptions concerning the SPAMIs (Art. 23).



- b. drawing up of the lists concerning species (Annexes II and III)
- preparation and adoption of common criteria for the inclusion of additional species in the Annexes (Art. 16.b);
  - receiving and presentation of files for inclusion in, or removing from the Annexes of species - possible preparation of technical reports concerning the proposed species.

19. Assistance to the Parties in meeting the obligations deriving from the new protocol

- a. new obligations concerning the protection and management of species
- preparation and adoption of action plans for the species included in Annex II;
  - setting of legislation;
  - preparation of reports and technical studies.
- b. establishment and development of research, cooperation and assistance programmes among the Parties and with regional or international IBOS and NGOs.
- c. establishment of inventories of the elements of biological diversity

20. Assistance to the Parties in meeting the obligations deriving from MAP Phase II

Virtually all the activities listed in section 2 "Conservation of Nature, landscape and sites" and to be developed at the regional level (ex. inventories) explicitly or implicitly are expected to be carried out with the participation of SPA/RAC.

An effective implementation of activities at the national level in several Contracting Parties will probably require, or at least could take great advantage of an assistance which could stimulate initiative and identify resources.

21. Other identified tasks

- a. act as the "Mediterranean sub-unit" in the implementation of the ACCOBANS Agreement with the CMS
- b. participate in the implementation of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

**Status of SPA/RAC within MAP system**

22. The SPA/RAC is a Regional Activity Centre, i.e. a national institution entrusted with a regional role. Its establishment, and its location in Tunisia upon an offer of the host country, was decided during the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Cannes, 2-7 March 1981). The actual establishment dates back to 1985.

23. SPA/RAC has been established with the specific task of assisting the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (Geneva, 1982). From this initial role, its tasks have been progressively adapted through decisions and recommendations of the Contracting Parties.
24. The existence and the specific role and tasks of the Centre are defined (but not necessarily limited) by the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1995), not yet entered into force.
25. Legal and financial obligations and the tasks relevant to the regional role of the Centre are detailed in the contracts/project documents signed between the Tunisian tutoring institution of SPA/RAC, the Agence National pour la Protection de l'Environnement (ANPE), and UNEP.
26. Further details concerning the status of the Centre are given in the Host Country Agreement (see below).

#### **Host Country Agreement**

27. A host country agreement relative to SPA/RAC was signed on 29 April 1991 between the Government of Tunisia and UNEP.

#### **Personnel**

28. SPA/RAC staff is defined in the programme budgets approved by the meetings of the Contracting Parties.

Referring to the last period, it has to be noted that the post of Data Researcher has remained vacant since September 1995. His functions have been partly covered by the other members of the permanent staff, and partly through temporary assistance.

SPA/RAC has occasionally had a recourse to temporary assistance also in order to support the work of the permanent staff in busy periods.

#### **Financial component**

29. Financial resources for covering activities, personnel and operating costs are basically provided to SPA/RAC through the Mediterranean Trust Fund. An additional contribution to cover part of the personnel and operating costs is provided in kind by the host country. Approved budgets since 1992 are summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1: Progress of SPA/RAC's budget between 1992 and 1996 (in 000\$)

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
from MTF	317	350	373	378	473
% in relation to MAP budget	5.05	5.07	5.9	5.9	7
Contribution in kind from Tunisia	50	50	50	70	70

Concerning the budget provided through the MTF, it has to be noted that the credits approved by the Parties and defined in the contract/project document with UNEP are normally not made available in their entirety (on average only 70% was made available to the Centre between 1992 and 1995). In addition, credits have often been provided late, what has been in the origin of considerable disturbance in activity planning, and of need of budget rephasing.

Additional resources have been obtained in developing bilateral cooperation links with authorities and institutions of several countries, with the secretariat of other Conventions and with NGOs. The amount of such resources is impossible to quote as it is in most cases provided in kind, but is far from being negligible. This practise actually has allowed SPA/RAC to carry out several training sessions, to hold meetings of experts, to carry out field missions, to improve the Centre's documentation archives and to produce awareness documents.

However the SPA/RAC budget remains far below those necessary for undertaking certain categories of projects, both at the national and regional level (e.g. preparation of management plans for protected areas; assessment of the status of endangered species; inventories). Considering the interest of such projects and the requests of assistance in this direction received by SPA/RAC from the Contracting Parties, the preparation of projects and their submission to funding agencies are expected to be undertaken in the future. Submission could be made either directly by SPA/RAC or through the Coordinating Unit, as the case may require.

**(e) Environment Remote Sensing/Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC)**

**a. Current activities**

1. Since the starting of its activities in the framework of the MAP, the ERS/RAC has committed itself to promote the observation and study of environmental conditions and changes - in time and space - in the Mediterranean Region, through a proper combination of advanced technologies - such as the Remote Sensing - and conventional ones (in situ measurements, laboratory analysis, statistical analysis etc.), and their integration in Geographic Information Systems.
2. To this purpose the ERS/RAC has mainly been aiming at developing the following fields of activities:
  - Planning and carrying out of applicational projects at both regional and local scale, oriented towards solving real environmental concerns, as well as towards enhancing the overall knowledge on the dynamics affecting the Mediterranean basin, thus meeting the Contracting Parties requirements.
  - Establishing cooperation and participation with Mediterranean local/national organizations or individuals, for the accomplishment of the above mentioned projects;
  - Education, training-on-the-job and capacity-building addressed to experts and scientists of those Mediterranean Countries involved in the projects;
  - Promotion of potentialities and achievements of Remote sensing and GIS, as well as of the finalities of the MAP and the Barcelona Convention System, through the arrangement of, and participation to, international colloquia and seminars;
3. As from 1993, when it was recognized by the Contracting Parties, the ERS/RAC has conceived, set up and developed a number of concrete short-term actions (no more than 2 years), that nevertheless are parts of medium-term strategies for the observation and study of, as well as for the development of information and knowledge on, specific priority aspects of the Mediterranean environment. To this purpose, the ERS/RAC is devoted to plan feasible actions and to produce concrete results in order to respond to real concerns.
4. In this context, the ERS/RAC participated in the CAMPs for Fuka and for Albania (completed) and to the one for Sfax (to be completed by the end of 1996). The environmental concerns dealt with were:
  - the assessment of land resources, in order to support the decision making process for the planning of conservation measure in coastal areas
  - the coastline changes in time and space in order to support proper policy for the sustainable socio-economic development of coastal areas;
  - the assessment of dispersion of sea pollution from land based sources in order to support the planning of coastal areas management.

5. At regional level, ERS/RAC carried out a project on the monitoring and classification of the mediterranean vegetation and an inventory of remote sensing activities over the mediterranean.

The annexed abstracts report the main topics of those projects.

6. All the above mentioned environmental issues are tackled by the ERS/RAC in order to demonstrate the usefulness of applying to advanced technologies for enhancing the planning and decision making process of the Mediterranean Countries, and, furthermore, in order to train local experts and promote the use of remote sensing and GIS.

b. **Future tasks with regard to the new objectives inscribed in Agenda MED 21 and MAP Phase II**

MAP PHASE II

The potential contribution of ERS/RAC, with regard to MAP Phase II and to the Priority Fields of Activities statements, has been summarized in a document, already submitted to MEDU on September 1995 and hereinafter reported:

1.3.1 Water Resources

ERS/RAC' main actions: to draw up the state-of-the-art of the geomorphological and hydrometeorological methods usually applied to the search and management of water resources and their sustainable exploitation (i.e.. for agriculture, urban and industrial uses), as well as to analyze the remote sensing applications and the relevant experience in this field.

[What mentioned above refers also to "Priority fields for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005)", paragraph 2.1. "Integrated Water Management" (in particular items i, ii, v)].

1.3.2 Soil

ERS/RAC' main actions: to promote and assist programmes for the monitoring and assessment of soil degradation in order to prevent and combat soil loss and desertification, applying to integrated techniques and methods, among which remote sensing.

In this context the ERS/RAC could also rely on, and apply to the experience it has already gained in the framework of the Fuka CAMP, where remote sensing is one of the tools of the multidisciplinary approaches for land analysis and classification to be used for the production of land suitability maps.

[What mentioned above refers also to "Priority Fields for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005)", paragraph 2.2 "Soil management" (in particular, items i, ii) and paragraph 2.3 "The fight against erosion and desertification" (in particular, item i)].

### 1.3.3 Living marine resources

ERS/RAC' main actions: to plan and to set up a base of information on the activities aimed at the monitoring and assessment of living marine resources and related marine parameters, applying to integrated techniques and methods, among which remote sensing.

In this context the ERS/RAC has already started a project on the use of satellite data for marine resources evaluation in some areas of the Mediterranean sea, in particular related to the assessment of some specific sea surface characteristics (temperature, colour, roughness) their time evolution and their relationships.

[What mentioned above refers also to "Priority Fields for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005)", paragraph 2.6 "Marine living resources"].

### 1.3.4 Forests and plant coverage

ERS/RAC' main actions: to promote multidisciplinary actions for the assessment and protection of forest and vegetation resources.

In particular, to set up and to assist the monitoring of the state of the forests in each Country, supporting the sustainable management and the multi-purpose use of forests.

To foster cooperation and exchange of information among different Countries.

In this context, the ERS/RAC is carrying out a project named DAPHNE, approved by the Contracting Parties, devoted to the phytoclimatic analysis and classification of the vegetation all over the Mediterranean coastal Countries.

Furthermore, the ERS/RAC has started contacts with the Remote Sensing Centre of FAO in Rome for presenting the DAPHNE Project and evaluating possible synergies with reference also to the FAP Forest Action Programme.

[What above mentioned, refers also to the "Priority Fields for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005)", paragraph 2.4 "Management of forests and plant cover" (in particular, items i, ii)].

### 1.4 Integrated Coastal Area management

ERS/RAC' main actions: to cooperate, to assist and to foster the sound management of coastal areas, among the others through the analysis of the environmental state and changes based on the observation and study of natural and anthropic components.

In this framework the activities that ERS/RAC is carrying out within the ongoing CAMPs (monitoring of coastline changes, land analysis for the assessment of natural resources, characterization of coastal marine circulation) could represent effective modules to be applied and further developed in ICAM programmes. Many other applications of remote sensing widely tested all over the Mediterranean region could also be of fundamental aid to the concern.

[what mentioned refers also to "Priority Fields for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005)", paragraph 3 "integrated management of coastal areas"].

### 1.5 Elements for Mediterranean strategy

ERS/RAC main actions: to promote Countries' capacity building in the field of advanced technologies, by enhancing education and on-the-job training on remote sensing techniques and its applications, seminars on its use for environmental studies, and technical assistance.

## 2. Conservation of nature, landscape and sites

ERS/RAC main actions: to gather information concerning studies, inventories, maps, classifications of natural and living resources and of sites, carried out through the use of advanced tools such as remote sensing and GIS.

To promote the extension and fusion of these documentation and activities in order to improve the knowledge on the environmental conditions and changes of protected areas and sites.

To provide expertise and guidance for the identification of natural and anthropic risks and the relevant threats to the natural heritage.

To individuate the best methods for the monitoring and control of nature, landscape and sites.

[What mentioned refers also to "Priority Fields for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin 81996-2005), paragraph 12 "Conservation of nature, landscape and sites"]].

## 3. Assessment, prevention and elimination of marine pollution

ERS/RAC main actions: to promote studies on methods and techniques relying on advanced technologies in order to integrate them with conventional sources of information (i.e. in situ measurements) as far as pollution from land based sources and sea-based sources are concerned.

The objective is to improve the potentialities of an updated and real information on the whole Mediterranean sea and to allow the setting-up of a continuous monitoring system. This system could be devoted to detect the presence of pollutants and to relate their relevant patterns to sea characteristics and to meteo-climatic conditions.

To promote studies and observations of the interactions coast-sea as far as pollutants transportation is concerned and the assessment of the risk deriving from the spreading of the flattening of the sea pollution towards the coasts.

[What mentioned refers also to "Priority fields for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean basin (1996-2005)", paragraph 11 "Assessment, prevention and control of marine pollution", ( in particular items i,v)

For each of the above topics, the ERS/RAC could partially or totally implement actions according to the following logical scheme:

- Framing of the concern
- General state of the art in terms of knowledge and experience
- Proposal of concrete undertakings and relevant guidelines of strategies
- Encouragement of active participation through the use of proper tools
- Promotion and exchange of experiences and practice as well as of training course and capacity building
- Potentialities of the remote sensing in the specific fields and relevant carried out activities, including the ones from ERS/RAC, if any
- Analysis on existing activities accomplished by making use of the remote sensing as well as its integration and integrability with other sources of information
- Evaluation for supporting the decision making process of the Mediterranean Countries relying on the outcomes of environmental observation and monitoring.

MED 21

Agenda MED 21 takes up the same topics developed under Agenda 21 resulting from the Rio Conference. Moreover, it takes into consideration the specific context of the Mediterranean region reflecting the state of the commitments already made by the states, each within its territory, or all together within the framework of intra-Mediterranean cooperation.

In the second section of the document (MED21/PC2/Rev 3, November '94) dealing with "Conservation and Management of Resources" there is explicit reference to the application of remote sensing techniques in the following chapters:

- Chapter XII - § 6 - *develop, at local scale level, structures and means for observation (such as remote sensing) and for the collection and analysis of data on fragile ecosystems;*
- Chapter XIV - § 15 - *develop an inventory and remote-sensing follow-up of the main Mediterranean agrosystems, after dovetailing national inventories;*
- Chapter XVII - § 12 - *establish, develop and maintain information systems to evaluate, manage and protect the coastal regions and the exploitation of their resources. Here IMSs and remote sensing are useful tools.*

In the above mentioned chapters, it is stressed the relevant support remote sensing techniques, as observation tools, are able to give in providing very useful and cost-effective information in the mentioned fields of activities.

In the same document other fields of activities can be successfully supported by the application of such techniques as in the case of:

- § 22 of Chapter X, where it is stated that: "*On a Mediterranean scale, the states should: [...] cooperate on drawing a vulnerability map on Mediterranean soils and raising the considerable necessary funds to eliminate the most important threats: fires, erosion, desertification, loss of arable land to urbanization, salivation, loss of biological productivity particularly by implementing a land policy to definitively withdraw from urbanization the most vulnerable agricultural land. and by encouraging in the areas thus protected agro-pastoral techniques to help sustainable development*].
- and § 16 of Chapter XI, where it is stated that: "*On a Mediterranean scale, the states should: [...] cooperate on monitoring the forest heritage and implementing a warning and intervention system in order to prevent large-scale fires and to strengthen the institutional capabilities and the human resources entrusted with the study and management of forests.*

With regard to these last statements, ERS/RAC, through its projects CAMP for Fuka-Matrouh and Daphne (see attached abstracts), has proved the usefulness of remote-sensing applications in providing sound information to be profitably integrated in the dealt with concerns.

In this context, the future tasks of ERS/RAC are devoted to highly contribute to the Mediterranean environment knowledge and understanding, and to support the setting-up of new legal and operational systems for its protection.

As a matter of fact, the fields of actions of the ERS/RAC in the MAP and MED 21 frameworks are, as above mentioned, very numerous. Nevertheless the strategy of the ERS/RAC is to



clearly select concrete medium and long term activities, whose intermediate objectives are concretely reached step-by-step in well stated time (not more than two years), in order to document the achieved goals.

As for 1997, the planned activities are mainly focused on integrated coastal area management and capacity building activities (see UNEP Project document for ERS/RAC)

Furthermore, a number of projects have been, and will be during the year, submitted for external funding. Their objectives have been carefully conceived in order to produce beneficial follow-up to the Mediterranean community, and will give a strong contribution to the MAP strategy.

All the said project are strongly focused to progressively enrich the knowledge in some main fields such as:

- The vegetation state and changes in the Mediterranean region
- The monitoring of coastal transformation, with regard to marine and inland characteristics
- The assessment of land resources and degradation processes
- The inventory of activities - and relevant involved organizations - in which the support of remote sensing techniques has proven highly cost-effective.

c. **Status of ERS/RAC within the MAP system**

The CTM-Centro di Telerilevamento Mediterraneo was appointed as ERS/RAC following the request made by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its adoption by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, on the occasion of the 8th Ordinary Meeting, held in Antalya (Turkey) in October 1993.

As the other RACs of the MAP, the ERS/RAC is an Italian Centre offered to the MAP, and entrusted to be operational in its framework.

The ERS/RAC has been so committed to cover the role of cooperating with, and assisting, the Mediterranean Countries, for improving the monitoring of mediterranean environmental conditions and changes.

d. **Institutional, administrative and financial arrangements**

National Focal Points have been nominated by all the Mediterranean Countries and EU, and the first meeting of National Focal Points was convened in Palermo in September 1994.

As for its operational activities, the ERS/RAC has been submitting plans and proposals, on a regular basis, to the Socio-Economic and Technical-Scientific Committee of the MAP and then to the Contracting parties meetings, receiving their recommendation that, once adopted, were carried out by the ERS/RAC accordingly with the available resources.

The ERS/RAC has also regularly participated to Meetings of the MAP, such as the MED 21 Conference, The Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings of the Contracting Parties, the MEDU and RACs Meetings, and so forth.

Moreover, ERS/RAC has established very sound relationships with the Mediterranean Unit in Athens, providing it promptly with any required report and information, and closely cooperating with, and relying on, it for jointly solving any arisen difficulty or for improving the overall effectiveness of the MAP System achievements.

### Host Country Agreement

A formal agreement between the MAP Secretariat and the Italian Government, on the status of the ERS/RAC in the framework of the MAP, has not yet been arranged.

### Financial components

The Centre is financed by Italy, including the personnel and operational costs.

In addition, all the activities (Projects, travels, etc) developed by the ERS/RAC in the framework of the MAP, have been fully granted by the Italian counterpart in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996. As for 1997 activities, the ERS/RAC can only rely on a budget from MTF - approved by the Contracting Parties - of 50,000 US\$ (30,000 US\$ for participation to CAMPs and 20,000 US\$ for Capacity-Building).

This budget is not sufficient to ERS/RAC to fulfil the recommendations received by the Contracting Parties.

Thus, accordingly with the line suggested by the MAP, the ERS/RAC is seeking for external funds.

The expectation is that the MAP would improve the ERS/RAC budget for activities to be carried out in the coming years, taking into account its operational potentialities - consistently expressed in the past when suitably supported -, and in the light of a sound balance of financial resources for activities among the RACs . .

### Personnel

The ERS/RAC' is a consortium headed by a Board of Directors made up of seven members. The Managing Director is in charge of the operational and financial activities.

The applicational projects are co-ordinated by two graduate senior scientists (geologists) and supported by a flexible number of specialists - as needed - from the shareholders or external organizations.

An administrative support and a translator/archivist complete the permanent staff.

The ERS/RAC' is thus a well-skilled unit, whose broad potentialities are available to the MAP at its convenience, to be used for implementation of advanced activities.

## ANNEXES

- 1) CLASSIFICATION AND MONITORING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN VEGETATION RELYING ON SATELLITE DATA - THE DAPHNE PROJECT
- 2) MONITORING OF COASTAL EVOLUTION THROUGH SPACE REMOTE SENSING (COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT FOR ALBANIA)
- 3) ASSESSMENT OF LAND RESOURCES SUPPORTED BY REMOTE SENSING (COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT FOR FUKA-MATROUH AREA - EGYPT)
- 4) REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES INVENTORY SYSTEM - RAIS

**(f) Cleaner Production/Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC)**

1. At the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention held in Barcelona in 1995, the Centre for Cleaner Production Initiatives (CCPI) was presented by the Spanish Government as candidate for being designated Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) in the Mediterranean Region, within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The Contracting Parties approved the motion put forward by the Spanish Government.

**2. Functions and objectives**

- To participate in MAP activities as a Regional Clean Production Activity Centre, under the supervision of the Coordinating Unit.
- To coordinate the setting up of a National Focal Point (NFP) network designated by the Contracting Parties, aimed at fostering cleaner technology and promoting the adoption of clean production systems in different countries.
- To establish a "forum for the exchange of information and experience", to identify any possible lacunae there may be in the information and resources available and to seek out, compile and systematize information on tested technologies and to analyze the technical and financial feasibility thereof within the context of the Mediterranean countries.
- To cooperate in the definition of best available techniques (BAT's) for clean production and best environmental practices (BEP's) within the Mediterranean context.
- To inform and offer guidance on issues related to clean production and to facilitate the transfer of cleaner technology amongst the different countries of the Mediterranean Basin.
- To promote and participate in expert exchange programmes amongst the different countries and in training activities pointed to train a group of professionals and autochthonous managers that, later, could transfer their knowledge to the industrial sector
- To promote and participate in the publication of case studies with examples of pollution reduction at source achieved by different companies of the region, especially the small and medium-sized enterprises, and of training material on subjects related to clean production.
- To participate with the information exchange centres already set up by different organisations (particularly the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, FAO and WHO).
- To collaborate on the design and start up on demo projects.

**3. Legal status of CP/RAC within MAP system**

The Centre for Cleaner Production Initiatives has been set up as a new section of the Waste Agency, a public company of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia (Ministry of the

Environment). In July 1994, CCPI started to operate with the aim to foster and encourage companies to adopt practices and technologies to prevent pollution in source.

In May 1995, the Spanish Government and the Catalan Ministry of the Environment signed a "Cooperation Agreement to operate together in the spreading of clean technologies" (*Convenio de Colaboración para la actuación conjunta en la promoción de tecnologías limpias*). The outcome of the above mentioned Agreement was that both parties recognized CCPI as the suitable body for it, expanded its activities to national and international scope and agreed on proposing CCPI as a CP/RAC within MAP.

Likewise and within the framework of this Agreement, a Bilateral Committee of Following-up was set up (*Comisión Bilateral de Seguimiento*) formed by representatives of the Spanish Government and the Autonomous Government of Catalonia, with the aim to analyze and propose the Centre's activities in its own scope as CP/RAC.

The CP/RAC defines its priorities for action in accordance with those established to further goals of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean and the protocols thereof, and those of the MAP.

The MAP Coordinating Unit is responsible for presenting CP/RAC activities to the Contracting Parties and its coordination and development.

#### **Current and future activities**

At the first National Focal Points meeting, the priorities for action will be defined and ratified, and the following sectors have been suggested:

- olive oil mill effluent
- surface treatment and coating
- energy production and use
- pulp and paper
- tannery and other associated sectors
- cement production
- metal industry
- agri-food industry
- organic and inorganic chemical industry
- textile industry

CP/RAC actions planned for 1997 are the following:

- a. The organization of the First National Points Meeting, to set up the network and proposition of priorities for action, to be held in Barcelona during the first half of 1997.
- b. The organisation of a meeting of regional experts in the area of olive oil mill effluent, to be held in Barcelona during the last quarter of 1997.
- c. Help to define the best available techniques, with a view to phasing out, to the greatest extent possible, the discharge of substances that are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate.

- d. Collaborate on the identification of the best ecologically rational techniques and environmental practices available, giving priority to availability, accessibility, cost and effectiveness.
- e. To disseminate information on the existence of CP/RAC, its objectives and methods of work.
- f. Learn about the level of information available in the different countries of the region with regard to the generation of emissions into the atmosphere and waters and waste generation, within the framework of MAP action.

### **Institutional, administrative and financial arrangements**

#### **Financial arrangement**

The CCPI operation as CP/RAC is funding in accordance with the Coopération Agreement to operate together in the spreading of clean technologies (*Convenio de Colaboración para la actuación conjunta en la promoción de tecnologías limpias*).

The Spanish Government funds the activities approved and presented, and, in turn, may seek external sources of finance.

If the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention decide to ask CP/RAC to carry out any activity not included amongst those presented through the MAP Coordination Unit, such an activity should be financed by MAP or by external sources.

#### **Administrative arrangements**

At present, CCPI has a director, four highly-qualified technicians (three chemical engineers and one industrial engineer), two administrative clerks and a computer specialist.

CCPI has access to technical data banks. It has also its own library and access to others within the department of the Environment of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia. It is also connected to Internet and will have a Web page, within the first quarter of this year.

To facilitate its work as a CP/RAC, links with other information systems have also been foreseen.

#### **Institutional arrangements**

To attain the best transfer of information, between all the regions of the Mediterranean Basin, the most convenient structure is deemed to be a network.

The function of CP/RAC is to coordinate, distribute information, promote, guide and encourage action to be taken at a local level.

Each Contracting Party is responsible for designating its own National Focal Point. Up to date, 17 National Focal Points have been nominated.

To ensure the greater effectiveness of the network, the bilateral contacts established between the CP/RAC and the National Focal Points should be supplemented by a mechanism for the

globalization and consolidation of the flow of subjects/proposals generated and for the consensual presentation of the latter to the appropriate bodies of MAP.

Thus, this structure is completed with the establishment of a CP/RAC National Focal Points meeting, empowered to achieve agreement on proposals of regional interest, inform on any action carried out, analyze the status of clean production in the region.

More specifically, the goals of the network are:

- a. to disseminate the concept of clean production and the techniques and practices required for the achievement thereof, and information on the advantages that clean production offers in terms of the global improvement of the productive sectors.
- b. to foster initiatives and programmes that have a holistic approach to the environment, permitting the pollution generated by the countries of the Mediterranean Basin to be reduced, and to collaborate on the start-up of such initiatives and programmes.
- c. To act as a meeting point for all the different institutions, agencies, companies and NGO's interested in the processes, techniques and practices that will enable us to create cleaner, more environmentally friendly production systems.
- d. To facilitate multi-lateral contacts and access to know-how and experience between the different National Focal Points to help strengthen and accelerate the introduction of clean production techniques and practices.
- e. To facilitate the transfer of technology, know-how and experience between the different countries of the region.

As already mentioned above, the First Meeting of National Focal Points Network is foreseen for the first half of 1997.

The Centre for Cleaner Production Initiatives carries out its own duties of spreading and promotion of cleaner production and prevention of pollution amongst the industrial sector, and companies in Catalonia as its main activity.

**(g) Secretariat for 100 Historic Sites**

1. The value of the Mediterranean cultural and historical heritage and the obligation to protect it are set out in the preamble to the Barcelona Convention and the protocol concerning specially protected areas. In the Genoa Declaration (1985), the coastal countries committed themselves to identifying at least 100 sites of common Mediterranean interest in accordance with the selection criteria of the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

This selection criteria was approved by the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, 7-11 September 1987) as well as the initial list of 100 Coastal Historic Sites of Common Mediterranean Interest, (UNEP/IG.74/5).

2. In cooperation with the Government of France (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Culture, Environment and the City of Marseille) a meeting of responsible officials from the 100 coastal historic sites of common Mediterranean interest (network) was convened in Marseille, from 19 to 21 January 1989. The meeting discussed, revised and approved a programme of historic sites of Common Mediterranean Interest. The meeting was attended by seventy participants from 17 countries. The Mayor of Marseille offered to host a small secretariat for the network. The Mayor of Naples and the representatives of Thessaloniki offered to host the next two meetings of the network. The Secretariat, along with the functions of technical support and assessment of major threats to sites, was entrusted to the Atelier du Patrimoine de la Ville de Marseille (APVM).
3. The Joint Meeting (Athens, 26-30 June 1989) and the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, 3-6 October 1989) recommended the use of the PAP/RAC structure and experience for the development of the new activities, in close cooperation with SPA/RAC and the Coordinating Unit, and expressed appreciation to the authorities in France for offering the services of the "Atelier du Patrimoine" of the city of Marseille to act as the Secretariat for the Network of cooperation concerning the 100 historic sites of the Mediterranean interest (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5).

**a. Current and future activities**

1. The Secretariat of the 100 Coastal Historic Sites has been contributing since 1990 until 1995 to many activities in the various Mediterranean countries relevant to a large number of sites needed for protection and conservation. These include sites in Albania, Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Tunisia and Turkey. Moreover, training workshops on the degradation of stone in historic sites have been organized.
2. A publication of the specialized volume on stone degradation was completed and published. Various other publications concerning line and traditional surface dressings as well as plans for the development and protection of built-up areas on the basis of the Marseille example were also published. A volume on the protection of archaeological sites and especially wreckages was also completed and published.
3. With regard to 1996, the Contracting Parties approved certain activities to be implemented by the Secretariat for the 100 Historic Sites, with an approved budget of 60.000 US\$ (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16).



4. The Meeting also invited the Secretariat of the programme of 100 Historic Sites:
- to better define, by March 1996, its institutional structure so as to be more integrated in the MAP framework, strengthen its links with national focal points, and cooperate with governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutes.
  - to pursue its identification and assessment activities for the protection and conservation of sites on the list of 100 historic sites in three new countries including Syria and Lebanon.
  - To assist countries which so request in their efforts to protect and safeguard at least five historic sites by preparing legal, administrative and financial dossiers.
  - To hold a workshop on the establishment of safeguarding sites, with case studies.
  - To assist countries which so request to assess the major risks on two new threatened historic sites and to prepare preventive measures.
  - To organise a sub-regional workshop in the Adriatic area on tools and methods for historic sites management.
  - To contribute in promoting exchange links between decision-makers for the 100 historic sites, particularly by relying on local and regional authorities in liaison with the MAP Coordinating Unit and other Centres, especially SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC.

**b. Status of the Secretariat of 100 Historic Sites within MAP system**

1. The Secretariat for the 100 Coastal Historic Sites of Mediterranean Interest is a specific programme relative to the identification and protection of at least 100 coastal historic sites of common Mediterranean interest. The programme is under the direct supervision of the meetings of the Contracting Parties and the Coordinating Unit of MAP.
2. Therefore, it cannot be considered as a RAC Centre, but it is a Secretariat of a Network of National focal points of coastal historic sites around the Mediterranean.

**c. Institutional, administrative and financial arrangements**

1. The programme of activities of the Secretariat as approved by the meetings of the Contracting Parties is financed through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (\$60,000 for 1996).
2. With regard to the 1997 programme budget, the last meeting of the National Focal Points (Athens, May 1996), reached no consensus on the activities and budget proposed for the Secretariat of the Historic Sites and referred the whole issue to the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

3. In the course of the general discussion during the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), several representatives pointed out the need to assess the relevance of the activities of the Atelier to the fundamental objectives of MAP, particularly at a time of economic constraints, although they did not wish to belittle the significance of the 100 Historic Sites. Other representatives proposed that, if certain activities were to be pursued, the 100 Historic Sites Secretariat should seek finance from outside MAP. Cooperation with UNESCO was also suggested.
4. At the end of the exchange of views, the Meeting decided that the role and functions within MAP of the Secretariat of the 100 Historic Sites should be defined after the review of the role, functions and structures of all the Regional Activity Centres. Meanwhile, the credits proposed to be assigned to the Historic Sites for 1997 should be transferred to CAMP activities with the request that particular attention be paid to the historic heritage where relevant. The current year would be used to complete the projects being carried out by the Atelier, and the Contracting Parties could take a decision next year on the basis of the review conducted.
5. The Secretariat has a Director and a Deputy Director and other experts of the Atelier du Patrimoine of Marseille. All salaries of the personnel of the Secretariat, as well as other running costs are financed by the city of Marseille (83,000 ECU for 1996 and 83,000 ECU for 1997).

**d. Host Country Agreement**

No Host Country Agreement exists between the Atelier du Patrimoine of the City of Marseille and UNEP/MAP. Instead a project document is usually signed between the Atelier and UNEP/MAP, specifying the responsibilities of each party and the financial component for the implementation of the various activities relevant to historic coastal sites within the Mediterranean region.

## II. A CRITICAL REVIEW

1. This part of the report does not intend to undertake an in-depth analysis and evaluation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), which is not within the mandate of this *Ad hoc* Group, but to try to make a brief functional analysis and review of the status, role, function and structures of MED Unit, MED POL and RAC's, with a view to enhancing the work of MAP as a whole during this new era, through coordinating and consolidating their activities in light of the past experience and the new developments and expectations following the revision of MAP instruments, as well as to eliminate or reduce any discrepancies *vis-a-vis* their status within the MAP system.
2. In order to fulfil this task, we will concentrate on the following few main issues:

### A. MED Unit and MED POL

#### MED Unit (Athens)

1. MED Unit performs such Secretariat functions in the name of UNEP as provided for in the Convention (article 13). It prepares meetings of the Contracting Parties and Conferences with their necessary documentation, performs the functions assigned to it by the conventions, protocols and by the Contracting Parties.

#### Meetings of the Contracting Parties

1. Meetings of the Contracting Parties are the main forum where Governments and the EC pursue the environmental dialogue to build and deepen the political understanding and solidarity required for enhanced environmental cooperation and to generate an impetus for action.
2. These meetings are the highest constitutive authority governing all MAP activities under the provisions of the Barcelona Convention. At these meetings, the Contracting Parties keep under review the implementation of the convention and its protocols, and in particular, they initiate policy, decide on future programme and budget allocation.
3. However, it was clearly noticed that in the last few years, the meetings of the Contracting Parties have been devoting a substantive part of work to tackle details of the budget component and leave a small part of its work to general policy and strategic issues relevant to MAP as a whole.
4. Therefore, it is suggested that meetings of the Contracting Parties should be on a high level representation (Ministerial level) and devote a substantive part of their work to general policy and strategic issues, and presentation by the countries on the implementation of recommendations approved by the various meetings of the Contracting Parties (80%), with the rest of the time available to financial, administrative and other issues, leaving the review and preparation of the financial part to be thoroughly dealt with by the meetings of the National Focal Points which usually precede the meetings of the Contracting Parties.
5. In this context, high priority should be given to countries reporting on the implementation on the national level of the various recommendations adopted by the meetings of the Contracting Parties

#### National focal points for MAP

1. National Focal Points are high-level officials designated by the Contracting Parties to act as the main liaison between their country and MAP as well as the Coordinator at the national level of all MAP activities in their respective countries.
2. Regular meetings of the NFP are held once every two years, immediately preceding the meeting of the Contracting Parties with a duty to review proposals on a biennium programme and budget for the whole of MAP for subsequent approval by the meetings of the Contracting Parties.
3. In order to enable the meetings of the Contracting Parties to concentrate on general policy and strategic issues relevant to the whole of MAP, it is recommended that the meetings of the National Focal Points should be upgraded and should have the responsibility of thoroughly reviewing and finalizing all details relevant to the programme and budget of MAP.

#### Bureau of the Contracting Parties

4. The Bureau is elected at every ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties. It consists of a president, four vice-presidents and a rapporteur. It should be mentioned that in the last few years, the Bureau has been very active in reviewing MAP activities, advising the Secretariat and providing, if necessary, guidance, interpretation and clarification of matters concerning decisions of the Contracting Parties and the implementation of the Convention and its protocols. In light of the expanded role of the Bureau, the Contracting Parties have agreed to enlarge the Bureau from four to six members and have adopted its "Terms of Reference" during the Ninth Ordinary Meeting (Barcelona, 1995), with a view to providing the Bureau with a more specific and expanded mandate.

#### Future tasks with regard to new objectives inscribed in MAP Phase II

1. The year 1995 was a land mark for the Mediterranean Action Plan. It represents and reflects two decades of work of the Action Plan, during which pollution sources have been identified, new financial mechanisms are functioning, decentralized authorities in the form of RAC's are gaining strength, international and national environmental laws and institutions are developing, in particular in the developing Mediterranean countries and the UNCED approach is gaining ground in the Mediterranean region.
2. Since 1995, a new era for MAP has been launched with the revision of MAP, the Convention and its protocols, the adoption of new protocols on SPA and Biological Diversity, the offshore protocol and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, and the adoption of the UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context. These new developments have shouldered MAP with heavy responsibilities. It extends the scope of MAP to encompass the coastal areas along with the marine area which affirm the gaining interest shown in the coastal areas and moving from the sectoral approach on combating pollution to integrated planning and management, especially with regard to natural resources and the coastal areas. The new approach focuses also on preventing pollution, and establishing controls on the application of the Convention and its protocols to ensure that they do not remain a dead letter on a decisive programme for a substantial reduction of pollution emanating from land-based

sources, the protection of natural heritage; valuable sites and landscapes in the Mediterranean region and on assisting countries in upgrading their capacity building and implement the various decisions and incorporate relevant provisions of MAP, the Convention and its protocols in their national legislation, thus translating the objectives of MAP into reality at national level, UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16 (Annex XIII, Appendix I, page 1).

3. However the most noticeable development is the adaptation of the UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context through the preparation of Agenda MED 21 and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), thus contributing to the creation of a collective awareness of the common Mediterranean heritage and of the need to progress towards a better environment.
4. For this objective, the Commission during its first meeting (Rabat, December 1996) identified eight subjects on which it will focus its attention. Two of these themes were identified (sustainable management of coastal zones and management of water demand) as being areas for action in the short term because sufficient work had already been undertaken to permit the development of policy and strategy proposals. The other subjects, identified as medium-term priority themes (indicators of sustainable development, tourism, information, awareness and participation, free trade and environment in the Euromediterranean context, industry and sustainable development and the management of urban and rural development), for which end-products planned for submission to the meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in 1999.
5. In this context, particular attention should be given to the implementation of existing legal instruments, the priority fields of activities (1996-2005), to the introduction of economic instruments for integrated resources management, and to rigorous planning of coastal zones and management of natural resources.
6. To undertake this heavy loaded programme, it would be essential to make available to the Commission, the necessary financial and human resources partly through the MTF as seed money and the rest from outside contributions. The system envisaged during the first meeting of the Commission by encouraging members of the Commission to fulfil the roles of task managers and members of the thematic groups as well as to obtaining the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise, should be strengthened. More involvement of intergovernmental financial organizations, NGO's, local authorities and socio-economic actors should be encouraged.
7. MED POL will still be based, in the future, on the role assigned to it in 1975, i.e. to be the scientific/technical component of the Mediterranean Action Plan. However, MED POL will give much stronger emphasis to the action-oriented managerial aspects. MED POL Phase III has been geared towards pollution control and capacity building activities for its implementation and will be used as a tool for sustainable development and will establish stronger relations with other MAP components. including the Land-based Sources Protocol.

#### Scale of assessment and contributions to the MTF

1. Contributions of the Contracting Parties to the MTF are made in conformity with the UN Scale of Assessment with minor adjustments, with EU making regular voluntary contribution outside the assessment scale.
2. In addition to their regular contribution to the MTF, countries hosting the premises of the Coordinating Unit and RACs make special contributions, in cash/kind, in local currencies.
3. A quick glance at the Scale of Assessment and the real contributions in terms of money, one can clearly notice the big differences between the largest contributions (France with 37.97%, amounting to \$1,673,082 and Italy with 31.37% amounting to \$1,430,643 and Spain with 14.99% amounting to \$683,626 in kind/cash for the 1997 budget) and the very low contributions (Lebanon, Monaco, Malta, Albania with 0.07% - amounting to \$3,192 for the same year). The three Contracting Parties (France, Italy and Spain) contribute more than 84% of the total MAP budget. It should be noted also that two Contracting Parties pay more than the 25% usually considered as an upper limit for any one country in all UN organisations. This situation requires a careful review of the repartition of the contributions of the MTF.
4. The continued delay in the payment of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) has been affecting the smooth functioning of the MED Unit as well as the RAC Centres. However, due to the good offices of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, this situation has been progressively improved.

#### Role of UNEP

1. UNEP was the main body behind the creation of MAP. It started with the Governing Council decision of 1974 of establishing the Regional Seas Programme which covers eleven regional seas including the Mediterranean Sea. The first action plan was initiated in the Mediterranean and it served as a prototype for the others. The Mediterranean region was selected by UNEP as a "Concentration area" where it would attempt to fulfil the catalytic role of assisting the Coastal States in their efforts to protect their sea.
2. For the first few years (1974-1978), MAP activities were funded exclusively by UNEP, without any contributions from the Contracting Parties. With the establishment of the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) in 1979, for financing of the MAP through contributions from the Contracting Parties, and the establishment of the Coordinating Unit in Athens in 1982, the role of UNEP started to reduce allowing for more responsibilities to be shouldered by the Contracting Parties.
3. However, the MTF continues to be administered by UNEP under the UN rules at a cost of 13% applied to expenditures (programme support cost). The high cost of UNEP's administration of MAP financial resources, has been the subject of lengthy discussions at meetings of the Contracting Parties. Several alternatives have been proposed but none have been found acceptable by the Contracting Parties. More recently, attempts by some Contracting Parties to reduce the involvement of UNEP in the Mediterranean, thus saving the administration costs of 13%. were not successful.

4. At present, UNEP's role continues to concentrate on administrative and financial issues and render policy and legal advice to the Secretariat when requested. With regard to the financial contribution of UNEP to the MTF, it has been reduced over the years to reach the amount of US\$ 50,000 dollars every year.

## B. Regional Activity Centres (RAC)

### Definition of RACs

1. The UNEP commitment to strengthening national capabilities and of its environmental coordinating and catalytic role, has necessitated the setting up of various structures capable of carrying out regional and sub-regional functions in the Mediterranean.
2. During the second meeting of the National Focal Points for the Blue Plan (Cannes, 1979), the Executive Director of UNEP provided the following definition of RACs.

"Besides the central Mediterranean coordinating Unit linked to the Regional Seas Activity Programme, the Executive Director of UNEP approved the idea of establishing some regional activity centres whenever decentralization of some elements of the Action Plan is desirable, as in cases where immediate national support or a specific geographic location is a prerequisite. A Regional Activity Centre can be an entirely new structure, as it is in the case of the Regional Oil Combating Centre in Malta: But it can also be a national institution which is strengthened to assume a regional role, as in the case of MEDEAS at Cannes for the Blue Plan, and the Split Centre for the Priority Actions Programme,<sup>6</sup>

3. The Bureau of the Contracting Parties at its 1983 meeting agreed on certain principles applied to RACs:
  - the RACs are national institutions with a regional role assigned to them by the Contracting Parties;
  - the financial support to RACs is provided through projects signed between them and the secretariat;
  - the staff of the RACs under such projects is recruited by RACs under prevailing staffing policies (salaries, social security, pensions, etc.) of the host country;
  - appropriate adjustments should be made in the salaries of the internationally recruited staff of RACs;
  - the recruitment of the international staff should be based on vacancy announcements circulated by the Mediterranean Unit to all MAP National Focal Points;



- it is expected that provisions will be made by the relevant national authorities of the host countries to exempt from taxes the equipment and, if possible, the salaries provided from resources of the Trust Fund.<sup>7</sup>
- 4. This approach reflects UNEP's role as a promoter and catalytic agent in the protection of the environment, by strengthening national structures and making them able to carry out regional functions.
- 5. The approach of establishing Regional Activity Centres within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan has been developed gradually over a period of years.

There are six RAC's and two specific programmes in operation, namely:

-	REMPEC	-	1976 (Malta)
-	BP/RAC	-	1980 (S. Antipolis)
-	PAP/RAC	-	1980 (Split)
-	SPA/RAC	-	1984 (Tunis)
-	ERS/RAC	-	1993 (Palermo)
-	CP/RAC	-	1995 (Barcelona)
-	MED POL	-	1975 (Athens)
-	Network for 100 Historic sites	-	1989 (Marseille)

- 6. MAP Phase II as approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona, June 1995), has defined the Regional Activity Centres as follows:

"The Regional Activity Centres are established by the Protocols or by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the proposal of a Party which provides the necessary means and facilities for their operation. They are responsible for carrying out specific activities agreed upon by the Contracting Parties under the general guidance and supervision of the coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP. Their status is harmonized in formal agreement between UNEP and the host countries" [UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16], Annex IX, page 24).

To put this in short, it can be said that the Contracting Parties' exercise policy guidance over RAC's, the MAP exercises programme control and UNEP exercises administrative and financial control.

- 7. Therefore, a Regional Activity Centre can be an entirely new structure, as it is in the case of REMPEC in Malta, which is a regional centre with a UN status, managed by IMO. But it can also be a national institution which is strengthened to assume a regional role, as in the case of MEDAS and CEFIGRE, for the BP Centre, the Town Planning Institute of Dalmatia for PAP, INSTOP and ANPE for SPA, Centro di Telerilevamento Mediterraneo - CTM for ERS Centre, the Centre d'Initiatives per a la produccio Neta for the CP Centre, and finally the Atelier du Patrimoine de la ville de Marseille for the 100 Historic Sites Network.

### Advantages of hosting RAC's

8. There are certain advantages in hosting a RAC Centre, such as:
- Strengthen national capabilities (in particular in a developing country like Tunisia and Croatia).
  - A way of transferring technology.
  - A channel for contacts, exchange of experience, transfer of new techniques and equipment.
  - Training programmes
  - Involvement in large scale region-wide projects.
  - Finally it is a way of building self-confidence.

### Principles which are applied to RAC's

9. Certain principles govern the RAC's work:
- RAC's are national institutions with a regional role assigned to them by the Contracting Parties.
  - Financial support to the RAC's is provided through projects signed between them and the Secretariat.
  - Local staff of RAC's are recruited under prevailing staffing policies of the Host Country and in consultation with MAP.
  - The recruitment of International Staff is based on vacancy announcements circulated by MEDU to all Contracting Parties.
  - Appropriate adjustments are made in the salaries of the internationally recruited staff of the Centres.
  - Host Countries provide in cash/kind counterpart/contribution to the budgets of the Centres to cover running costs and in a few cases the operational costs.
  - Host country agreements are to be signed between UNEP/MAP and the countries hosting a RAC Centre.

RAC's fall in to three categories:

- (a) REMPEC is a regional centre with a UN status. The project is managed with a cooperating Agency (IMO). Its personnel is recruited by the Agency in consultation with UNEP/MAP. They have the status of UN officials under the convention on privileges and immunities of the UN.

- (b) the second group of RAC's are projects carried out with a supporting national, new or existing institutions. Their staff do not have the status of UN officials, being employees of the respective institutions, and their terms of employment are determined by national legislation. In some cases, Host Country Agreements, supplementing the project document, were also prepared and signed between UNEP/MAP and the Host Country (Tunisia for SPA, Malta for REMPEC, and Croatia for PAP/RAC).
  - (c) the third category is relevant to a specific programme within MAP, namely MED POL and the programme for Historic Sites.
2. Therefore, there is a need to consolidate, and unify, to the possible extent, the legal status of all Centres and programmes in order to avoid misunderstanding and create coherence in their work and relations with each other, and with the Coordinating Unit.

**Brief analysis of the principles which are applied to RACs**

- 1. RACs are national institutions with a regional role assigned to them by the Contracting Parties (legal status)
  - 2. Financial support to the RACs is provided through project documents signed between them and UNEP/MAP.
  - 3. Host countries provide counterpart contributions to the budgets of the Centres to cover running costs.
1. Financial support is provided from the MTF through project documents to REMPEC, BP, PAP, SPA and the Secretariat for 100 Historic Sites. On the other hand, no project documents exist up to now for ERS/RAC and CP/RAC. Therefore, there is a need to prepare Host Country Agreements and project documents covering the activities of these two centres even though there are no, or limited, financial contributions involved from the MTF.

With regard to the specific case of the Secretariat for 100 Historic Sites, and after so many requests to the Secretariat to provide UNEP/MAP with the long outstanding financial statements and progress reports, UNEP decided not to sign any project document with the Secretariat unless it provides the necessary output required by all project documents and henceforth no additional funds would be transferred to the Secretariat.

2. In accordance with the Host Country Agreements as well as the decisions of the Contracting Parties, countries hosting MED Unit and RAC Centres have to provide counterpart contributions in cash/kind in order to cover running costs, and in some cases operational costs also. The following is an example of the amount of the counterpart contributions for the 1996-1997 biennium:

			(In US \$)	
			1996	1997
Greece	-	hosting MED Unit	400,000	400,000
Malta	-	hosting REMPEC	75,000	75,000
Croatia	-	hosting PAP/RAC	150,000	150,000
France	-	hosting BP/RAC (in ECU)	371,000	350,000
France	-	hosting Secretariat for 100 historic sites (in ECU)	83,000	83,000
Tunisia	-	hosting SPA/RAC	70,000	70,000
Italy	-	hosting ERS/RAC	615,000	300,000
Spain	-	hosting CP/RAC	-	118,500

4. Whilst some Centres receive financial resources from the MTF, to cover regional activities assigned to them by the Contracting Parties (REMPEC, BP, PAP, SPA, MED POL, 100 Historic Sites); others (ERS and CP) do not receive such funds, on the understanding that the host country covers the Centre's running costs and activities.

1. During the years 1993-1996, the ERS/RAC has been financed entirely by the Government of Italy, including personnel and operational costs. However, the Italian representatives to the MAP meetings requested that the criteria for the financial support to ERS/RAC activities should be the same as those followed for the other RAC Centres. Consequently, for 1997, ERS/RAC can only depend on the small budget allocated to the Centre from the MTF, namely \$50,000 dollars (\$30,000 for CAMP's and \$20,000 for capacity building). See document UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7, Annex IV, page 48 and page 51).

For other activities, the Centre has repeatedly requested additional budgetary allocation from the MTF, in the light of a sound balance of repartition of MAP financial resources for activities among the RAC's.

2. In the meantime, the SPA/RAC was of the opinion that funds allocated to the Centre remain far below those necessary for undertaking certain categories of projects, both at the national and the regional level (e.g. preparation of management plans for protected areas, assessment of the status of endangered species and inventories). Moreover, the new responsibilities of the SPA Centre derived from the new SPA and Biological Diversity protocol require the allocation of additional financial resources to the Tunis Centre.
3. Another issue raised by other Centres (SPA, PAP) related to the budget approved by the Contracting Parties and reflected in separate project documents. In many cases, the funds are not made available to the Centres in their entirety (an average only of 70% was made available to the Centres between 1992-1995). In addition, funds have often been provided late to the Centres, resulting in frequent disturbing of the smooth implementation of various activities. In many cases, the need for funds to be rephased to the next year was required.

5. Host Country Agreements are to be signed between UNEP/MAP and countries hosting a RAC Centre

1. Regional Activity Centres (RACs) are national institutions strengthened in order to assume a regional functions. This role establishes a series of mutual obligations between the national institution and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
2. The Contracting Parties agree to provide the Institute certain financial inputs, for a certain duration, in order to achieve certain programme objectives. The national institution accepts, in exchange:
  - programme and policy decisions of the Contracting Parties;
  - Coordination by the Coordinating Unit (advise on UN policy, cross-sectoral linkage, cost-effectiveness, through regular consultation, clearance of documents, recruitment, reporting);
  - supervision of its activities by the meetings of the National Focal Points, meetings of the Contracting Parties and the Bureau;
  - administrative and financial supervision by UNEP.

In short, the RACs would accept the exercise of policy guidance by the Contracting Parties, the programme control by the Coordinating Unit and the administrative, and financial control of UNEP.

3. With a view to reflecting all these principles in a concrete manner, Host Country Agreements are prepared with an objective of setting forth the terms and conditions under which a RAC shall act pursuant to the decisions of the Contracting Parties.
4. At present, Host Country Agreements and project documents specifying the regional role for a RAC were signed for:
  - MED Unit - Athens - signed on 13 December 1984
  - REMPEC - Malta - signed on April 1990
  - SPA/RAC - Tunis - signed on 29 April 1991
  - PAP/RAC - Split - signed on 28 October 1996

5. Only project documents defining the regional role assigned to a RAC were signed for:
  - BP/RAC - Sophia Antipolis - project document signed on 1980;
  - Secretariat for 100 Historic Sites - Marseille - Memo of understanding signed on August 1990 within the framework of the MAP umbrella project.
6. As for ERS/RAC and CP/RAC, the situation is different. There exist neither Host Country Agreement nor project documents, due to the fact that the running and operational costs of these two RAC Centres are entirely financed by the Governments of Italy and Spain respectively.
7. It is important to mention in this respect that MAP Phase II as adopted by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona, June 1995), stipulates the establishment of formal agreements between UNEP and the RAC host countries in order to harmonize the status of all RACs, (see doc: UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16, Annex IX, page 24).
8. These discrepancies between the programmes and RAC Centres relevant to Host Country Agreements and project documents for some Centres, and non existence of any kind of official written agreement for others, require the establishment of a unified approach towards this issue. Therefore, it is recommended that a Host Country Agreement and a project document should be prepared for all the Centres and programmes. The recently signed Host Country Agreement between UNEP/MAP and PAP/RAC which has been prepared and finalized by MAP, UNEP legal office, UN legal Department and the Government of Croatia, can be taken as a model for preparing agreements for the other centres (see Annex ...) to this report.

#### Personnel component

6. **Local staff of RACs is recruited by the countries under prevailing staffing policies of the Host Country and in consultation with MAP.**
7. **The recruitment of international staff is based on vacancy announcements circulated by MEDU to all Contracting Parties.**
8. **Appropriate adjustments are made in the salaries of the internationally recruited professional and local staff of the Centres.**
9. **Consultants and other experts recruited by the Centres shall be selected in full consultation with the Coordinating Unit.**
1. The Host Country Agreement specifies the conditions for recruiting local and international staff. It is normally specified that local staff, whose posts are financed by the Government hosting the Centre will be appointed by the Director of that Centre under the prevailing staff policies of the host country. However, internationally recruited professional staff, whose posts in accordance with the decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Convention are financed from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), will be appointed by the Director of the Centre, after full consultation with MAP Coordinating Unit.

More specifically, to fill the posts of internationally recruited staff, the following procedure should be followed:

- vacancy announcement should be submitted to MED Unit for approval;
- the post should be open for competition within the Mediterranean region: It should be circulated through the Coordinating Unit to the Contracting Parties to the Convention;
- an evaluation of the candidates by a panel should be undertaken.

The same procedure would be applied for the selection of the Director of the RAC Centre.

2. As these professionals will represent MAP internationally with their Centres having been designated to implement a specific protocol, and as the salaries of some of them are paid by MAP, therefore, the more responsibilities given to them, the more power and say the Coordinating Unit should have over their appointments.
3. In certain cases, appropriate adjustments are made in the salaries of the internationally recruited professionals and local staff of the Centres, including the salaries of the Directors. This is the case with PAP/RAC, BP/RAC, SPA/RAC, while the salary of the Director of REMPEC and all the staff of that Centre are paid totally from the MTF, due to the fact that REMPEC has the UN status under a joint IMO/UNEP project. While the system of adjustments of the salaries of the Directors and of the staff of the Centres is an encouragement for them, nevertheless, a unified approach towards this issue should be envisaged. The following points may be mentioned in this regard:
  - a fixed adjustment to be covered by the MTF
  - a ceiling on the amount to be covered by the MTF
  - geographical location of the Centre (North, South, in a developed/developing country)
  - adjustment to be paid to all or some Directors, all or some local staff
4. Consultants and experts recruited by the Centres, whose posts are financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund shall be selected in full consultation with the Coordinating Unit. The principle of diversification of the nationalities of the recruited consultants should also be observed. This issue has been raised during various meetings of the Contracting Parties.
5. Another issue related to personnel component is the issue of the need for the host country to simplify the procedures for:
  - a) entry visas, residence permits and work permits of internationally recruited staff
  - b) travel authorisation

it is noted that professionals of some Centres are faced with the problem of obtaining, on time, travel authorizations from the Government in order to undertake official duty on behalf of MAP, which usually results in cancellation of the mission or arriving late. Therefore, a flexible procedure should be adopted by the Host Countries with regard to travel authorization for the

Director and the professional staff of the Centre, when they are representing the Centre or MAP in outside meetings, conferences or official missions related to the implementation of MAP and the Centre's programme.

6. The status of personnel of REMPEC and MED POL is quietly different than those of RACs. REMPEC and MED POL personnel have the UN status. Under a joint IMO/UNEP project for REMPEC, and a MAP/UNEP project for MED POL. Their salaries are totally paid from the MTF.

#### Other issues

##### Relation with other Conventions

1. In reviewing functions of the RACs, and the implementation of their programme, we can notice the close linkage with other structures and Conventions which have been actively participating in MAP and RAC activities.

To briefly illustrate this situation, the example of MED POL's strong relation with the UN Specialized Agencies (FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO, IAEA and IOC) is a clear indication of this linkage. With the increasing number of Conventions and structures related to biodiversity (Biodiversity Convention, Council of Europe, Bon Convention, Ramsar Convention, Black Sea Convention) it is of paramount importance that closer links with these bodies are to be strengthened with an objective to establishing the necessary cooperation and coordination, to avoid duplication of work and benefit from their experience and existing financial programmes.

2. Another point related to MAP's relation with other related conventions and structures is the issue of who will represent MEDU/RAC in these forums? A well balanced distribution of responsibilities is required in this regard.
3. A further point is related to MAP contacts with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including financial organizations (WB, METAP, EIB, UNDP, European Environment Agency etc.) while it is important that RAC Centres should be encouraged to continue the practice of initiating necessary contacts with these organizations in order to obtain additional financial resources for their programmes, and taking into account that RACs are mainly national institutions, it would be advisable that a clearance should be obtained from the Coordinating Unit before initiating such contacts.

##### Exchange of information between MEDU and RACs

1. While the system of exchange of information between MEDU and the Centres has been progressively improved during the last few years, nevertheless, many gaps still exist which need to be tackled.
2. Certain reports are essential to be prepared by the Centres in fulfilment of their obligations in the framework of the project documents signed with UNEP, such as:
  - sixth monthly progress reports with supporting outputs;
  - financial statements;
  - terminal statements.



Therefore, the on-time preparation of these reports on the existing UNEP forms is essential. Other progress reports and specific topic reports and mission reports are usually requested from the Centres by the Coordinating Unit. The delivery of these reports on time is also important.

3. In the same token, the Coordinating Unit should furnish the Centre with all information on its activities and contacts, documents and reports relevant to their work.