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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of AD HOC Group on MED Unit,
MEDPOL and RAC Structure

Athens, 26-27 March 1997

**Secretariat proposal for the
analytical review of the status, structure,
functions, financial and personnel 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 concerning the purpose of the exercise, the composition of the group and the contents of the Secretariat report to be submitted to the meeting of the *Ad-Hoc* Group.

The meeting decided also 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 (document: UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.118).

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 Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Tunis 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 also deals 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 is 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 Annexes to the present report will contain any additional information received from each RAC Centre and MAP programme.

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

1. At their Ninth Ordinary Meeting (Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995), the Contracting Parties adopted the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (MAP Phase II). The main objectives of MAP Phase II are:
 - to ensure sustainable management of natural marine and land resources and to integrate the environment in social and economic development, and land-use policies;
 - to protect the marine environment and coastal zones through prevention of pollution and by reduction and, as far as possible, elimination of pollutant inputs, whether chronic or accidental;
 - to protect nature, and protect and enhance sites and landscapes of ecological or cultural value;
 - to strengthen solidarity among Mediterranean coastal states in managing their common heritage and resources for the benefit of present and future generations: and
 - to contribute to improvement of the quality of life.
2. The Action Plan encompasses, *inter alia*, a section on the institutional and financial arrangements which stipulates the following:

Institutional arrangements

- the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention exercise the functions established by the Convention in the framework of their Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings. They approve the activities and budget of MAP Phase II. They appoint a Bureau which assume some of their responsibilities during the interval between meetings of the Contracting Parties;
- the Contracting Parties have designated the United Nations Environment Programme as responsible for carrying out the function of the Secretariat;
- to ensure this function, the Executive Director of UNEP has established a Coordinating Unit. The Unit prepares the meetings of the Contracting Parties and of the Bureau, and is responsible for following up the decisions taken. The Unit maintains relations and coordinates its activities with international and non-governmental organizations. The Unit reports regularly on its activities and those of the Regional Activity Centres;
- 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 agreements between UNEP and the host countries.

- the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development is established in the framework of MAP. It constitutes a forum for open dialogue and consultation with all relevant partners on policies for promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin on the basis of activities and contributions identified by MAP Phase II and implemented by Parties and MAP in line with Agenda MED 21. It advises on activity programmes and formulates the necessary recommendations for Contracting Parties. The Coordinating Unit provides secretariat services for the Commission;
- *Ad-hoc* advisory groups may be established by the Contracting Parties to follow up the implementation of the Protocols or specific programmes;
- each Contracting Party, within its national administration, appoints one or more focal points responsible for the follow-up and coordination of MAP activities at national level, and for ensuring the dissemination of information. Specific focal points are also appointed by the national focal point to follow up implementation of a Protocol or the activities of a Regional Activity Centre.

Financial arrangements

- The Contracting Parties consider and adopt the budget prepared by the Coordinating Unit. This budget is financed by contributions from the Contracting Parties, voluntary contributions from governments, supporting organizations and selected non-governmental sources, as well as clearly identified counterpart contributions.
- The contributions of the Contracting Parties are assessed on the basis of a mutually agreed scale taking into account the United Nations scale of assessment.
- The Mediterranean Trust Fund is established within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure the effective coordination and funding of the Mediterranean Action Plan. An appropriate revolving fund is maintained.
- The Mediterranean Trust Fund is managed in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations Environment Programme. These rules may be amended in agreement with UNEP.

A. MED Unit and MED POL

1. Within the framework of MAP Phase II, the role and function of the Athens located MED Unit has been analyzed in the following manner:
 - (1) to prepare meetings of political and strategic character (Contracting Parties meetings, Bureau, MCSD, Conferences of Plenipotentiaries, MAP National Focal Points), submit the necessary reports, documents and distribute the final reports of the meetings;
 - (2) to assure constant liaison with competent governmental representatives and institutions in the region;

- (3) to assure liaison with relevant Specialized Agencies, the European Union, and other Inter-governmental Organizations, Secretariats of the relevant Conventions (Bern, CMS, Biodiversity, RAMSAR, CITES, Black Sea, etc.);
 - (4) to assure liaison with Non-Governmental Organizations (environmental, economic, local authorities networks);
 - (5) to follow-up issues of legal, diplomatic, political, economic and other characters which might influence MAP activities and mandate;
 - (6) to propose to the Contracting Parties, in consultation with interested organizations, priority fields of activities that are linked with the functioning of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as the correspondent budgetary allocations;
 - (7) to give directions and guidance and coordinate the activities of the various RACs, with a view to implementing activities decided by the Contracting Parties, assure the coherence of the activities of the Centres and undertake the necessary evaluation of their work;
 - (8) to establish a synthesis of national and regional reports on the follow-up of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols;
 - (9) to solicitate additional outside funds to finance activities proposed by the Contracting Parties outside the regular budget of MAP;
 - (10) to assure the dissemination of information among the organs of MAP and those associated with it, including the scientific community and the general public.
 - (11) To coordinate activities relevant to the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP).
2. Within the Coordinating Unit, there is a distinction of operation between the coordination of the above mentioned activities and the MED POL. However, mainly because of the limited number of staff working in the coordination component at MED Unit in Athens, that personnel from MED POL are asked to assume, in addition to their basic MED POL activities, some tasks of regional coordination. Recently, the task of coordination has been also entrusted to the personnel of the RACs, particularly in the case of the coordination of some CAMP projects, the technical secretariat of the MCSD and the preparation of the biodiversity protocol meetings.

Institutional, administrative and financial arrangements of MEDU

1. The decision to locate the Coordinating Unit in Athens, Greece, was taken during the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Cannes, 2-7 March 1981)¹. At a subsequent date and more specifically, on 11 February 1982, a Host Country Agreement between the Hellenic Republic and the United Nations

¹ Report of the Second Meeting - Document: UNEP/IG.23/11

regarding the Headquarters of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan was signed. In conformity with the provisions of the Agreement, Greece pays a counterpart contribution of the equivalent of US\$ 400,000, towards the running costs of the Secretariat of the Coordinating Unit in Athens.

2. The Coordinating Unit in Athens is composed of multi-national members of staff, recruited exclusively from the Mediterranean countries. As of 31 December 1996, the following personnel were serving at the Coordinating Unit in Athens:

-	MAP Coordinator - D2	(France)
-	Deputy Coordinator - D1	(vacant)
-	MED POL Coordinator - P.5	(vacant)
-	MED POL Senior Marine Scientist - P.5	(Cyprus)
-	Senior Programme Officer/Economist - P.5	(Libya)
-	MED POL First Officer/Marine Scientist - P.4	(Italy)
-	Fund/Management/Administration Officer - P.4	(vacant)
-	Computer Operations Officer - P.4	(Turkey)

In addition to the professional staff, there are 16 General Service Staff, mostly recruited locally.

As it can be noticed, a legal officer has still not been recruited, despite the fact that the legal component has been, and still is a very important component of the Action Plan. However, this gap has been filled through the temporary recruitment of a legal consultant.

The library, which is responsible for the acquisition, management and dissemination of information/documents is also administered by a Consultant-Librarian

3. The programme budget of the MED Unit in Athens for 1997, excluding the MED POL programme, has reached the amount of US\$ 2,035,000 (personnel and operating costs \$1,204,000, and total activities \$831,000). The aggregate budget covering activities, personnel and operating costs for the MED Unit and the RAC Centres is contained in Annex III to this report.

(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. 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. The post of Maintenance Engineer (IAEA) in Monaco will be closed in July 1997. As for 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 (RACs)

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.

Annex related to the objectives and functions of a Regional Centre for combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances.

Amended by the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the contracting Parties to the barcelona convention, Athens, 6 October 1989 (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5, Annex V, Appendix I).

Objectives

1. To strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean and to facilitate co-operation among them in order to respond to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, especially in case of emergency in which there is grave and imminent danger to the marine environment or when it can affect human lives.
2. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training.
3. A later objective, namely the possibility of initiating operations to combat pollution by oil and eventually by other harmful substances at the regional level, can be considered. This possibility in the fulfillment of the previous two objectives and in the light of financial resources which could be made available for this purpose.
4. To provide a framework for exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters.

Functions

- a. To collect and disseminate information on:
 - i) Competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties;
 - ii) Inventories of experts, equipment and installations in each coastal State for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and which might be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of the State which so requests in case of emergency;

- iii) general information, plans, methods and techniques for combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in order to assist as far as necessary countries of the region in the preparation of their national contingency plans;
 - iv) Mediterranean coastal zones, with a particular attention to the zones which are especially sensitive to pollution by oil and other harmful substances. This information could be used by risk predicting models and for the preparation of environmental sensitivity maps.
- b. To establish, keep up to date and operate a partially computerized data base on chemicals and their properties, risks for human life and the marine environment, response techniques and combating methods.
 - c. To progressively develop and operate a marine pollution emergency decision support system with a view to providing rapidly to the Mediterranean coastal States information concerning behaviour, risks and different possibilities for action in cases of accidents involving oil and other harmful substances.
 - d. To prepare, disseminate and keep up to date operational guides and technical documents.
 - e. To develop and maintain a regional Communications/Information system appropriate to the needs of States being served by the Centre.
 - f. To develop technological co-operation and training programmes for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and to organize training courses.
 - g. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request, in the preparation and development of bilateral or multilateral operational agreements between neighbouring coastal States.
 - h. To prepare and keep up to date operational arrangements and guidelines, aimed at facilitating co-operation between Mediterranean coastal States in cases of emergency.
 - i. To provide, upon request, assistance to coastal States in cases of emergency, either by using its own capacities or through secondment of experts.
 - j. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which in cases of emergency so request, in obtaining assistance of the other Parties to the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in case of Emergency, or when the possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining international assistance from outside the region.
 - k. To develop and maintain close working relationships with other Mediterranean regional activity centres and with the "specialized regional organisms" which play a coordinating role as set forth in the Mediterranean Action Plan, particularly with the scientific institutions within the region.
 - l. To co-operate as appropriate in activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan related to marine pollution.

- 1.1.2. Reference should also be made to the decision of the Contracting Parties (Antalya, October 1993) regarding the extension of REMPEC's mandate and functions.

Decision regarding the extension of REMPEC's mandate and functions.

Taken by the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Antalya, 12-15 October 1993 (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5).

The contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention decided to:

1. Extend the mandate and functions of REMPEC to the promotion through regional co-operation of the implementation and the enforcement of the IMO Conventions for the prevention of the pollution of the marine environment by ships.
2. Approve the new functions of REMPEC and activities to be carried out, as defined within the "Action Plan concerning the provisions of adequate port reception facilities within the Mediterranean region" adopted by the Meeting of National Experts on Port Reception Facilities in the Mediterranean, held in Cairo, 16 to 19 December 1991 (REMPEC/WG.3/4).

These functions are:

- i) to serve as a focal point for the co-ordination of the Action Plan;
- ii) to carry out all the tasks assigned to it by the Action Plan.

- 1.1.3 The role and functions of REMPEC was one of the items on the agenda of the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points in October 1996, (REMPEC/WG/14/13). "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).

The future tasks of REMPEC in the framework of MAP Phase II and Agenda MED 21

- 2.1 The meeting of REMPEC Focal Points discussed regional cooperation for prevention for and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities within the new context of MAP Phase II. As a supplement to the existing strategy regarding preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution 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. Therefore possible future tasks of REMPEC should be to assist the Mediterranean countries in implementing this strategy.
- 2.2 The strategy aims at:
- a) strengthening national capacity
- i) by improving the capacity of administrations (in charge of maritime transport and environment) to develop and implement prevention policies by:
 - training programmes
 - supplying information and expertise including access to technology
 - conducting pilot programmes
 - ii) by developing equipment and infrastructure resources by:
 - conducting technical and pre-investment studies
 - conducting pilot projects
- b) developing regional cooperation
- i) by organizing dialogue with a view to conducting coordinated activities at all levels: national, regional and global (within IMO)
 - ii) by implementing programmes that require concerted actions and measures at the regional level
 - iii) by conducting studies on subjects of regional interest.
- 2.3 This strategy will concentrate mainly on the following priority activities:
- a) monitoring the effective implementation of the relevant IMO Conventions by the Flag State, Port State and Coastal State;
 - b) developing port reception facilities;
 - c) safety of navigation;
 - d) surveillance of discharges and prosecution of offenders;
 - e) emergency towing.

Status of REMPEC within MAP

- 3.1 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. Its general budget comes from the Mediterranean Trust Fund.
- 3.2 A headquarters Agreement was signed between the Government of Malta and IMO in April 1990 and the Maltese Government is committed to provide the premises for the Centre.
- 3.3 The personnel of REMPEC have a UN status. They are recruited internationally for the professional officers or locally for the general service staff. The personnel of the Centre is administered by IMO.

Structures of REMPEC

- 4.1 As of 1st March 1997 the staff component structure of the Centre is as follows:

TITLE	GRADE
Director	D1
Technical Expert	P4
Chemist	P4
Administrative Assistant	G6
Information Assistant	G6
Secretary	G4
Secretary	G4
Responsible for reproduction of documents	G3

- 4.2 Prior to 1989 (when the role and functions of the Centre were extended), the Centre had the following members of staff:
- a Director;
 - a Deputy Director (Administration and Finance);
 - a Technical Expert (oil);
 - an engineer seconded by the French Government;
 - a documentation specialist;
 - three secretaries;
 - one employee.
- 4.3 On 1 January 1989 the position of Deputy Director (Admin) was changed to that of Chemical Expert to enable REMPEC to fulfil its new responsibilities but no extra resources of any kind were allocated at that time. With the constant increase in activities and the volume of work laid before the Centre, initial difficulties started to appear in 1992. The extra administrative work resulting from a development in the

activities of the Centre became a real problem in the absence of an administration officer. In 1992 the Centre started preparing and conducting important projects and this is still part of the strategy of the Centre in that it seeks to pursue and increase its activity.

- 4.4 In 1993 in addition to the difficulties raised by the absence of an administrative officer, REMPEC was unable to undertake activities in the field of prevention of marine pollution by ships even though the Contracting Parties had decided to extend the mandate and the functions of the Centre to this field of endeavour. Thus, in 1993, it started becoming evident that the new mandate conferred on the Centre and the resources allocated to it did not match.
- 4.5 More recently, at the end of 1995, the French Government discontinued the secondment of a young engineer (CSN). Quite apart from his qualifications as an engineer, the CSN was the only person in the Centre with Computer training and as REMPEC is a small team, the work of the CSN was organised accordingly and the activities of the Centre programmed with the CSN in mind. All the work done over the past few years, with a major contribution from the CSN, to design, develop and maintain a highly computerised Regional Information System comprising a number of databases runs the risk of being seriously compromised and consequently the capacity of the Centre to fulfil some of its functions may be affected.
- 4.6 The last 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)

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

Current Functions

1. The Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre corresponds to the socio-economic component of MAP. It focuses on the observation, analysis and evaluation of the interactions between population, resources, environment and development in the Mediterranean Basin. From the beginning it has taken a prospective approach in order to identify the consequences for the future of actions taken or not taken today. It endeavours to bring together, through system analysis, demographical change and urbanisation together with the major economic sectors (agriculture, industry, energy, tourism and transports) and the main environmental components (soil, forest, water coastal areas and the sea itself). It has developed broad environment and development observatory functions for the region in cooperation with corresponding national institutions and with the support of the European Commission. This allows the elaboration of environmental indicators upon which decision-makers can monitor the performance of policies and actions. Thus, the Blue Plan constitutes a significant contribution to the formulation of sustainable development strategies for the region at the national or regional level, and particularly for the coastal areas.
2. The Blue Plan, by its very nature, including its systemic and prospective approach, provides an overall framework for the orientation of the activities and programmes of MAP, as well as for all those concerned with the future of the Mediterranean region. In particular, its observatory function provides data and indicators in cooperation with the other components of MAP which can be used for a wide array of environment and development issues. The Blue Plan Fascicules, dealing with thematic environmental subjects on individual economic sectors provide a complementary contribution to the overall MAP system.
3. The new orientations resulting from Agenda MED 21, which encompass the entire field of sustainable development, and from MAP Phase II, which focus not only on the Mediterranean Sea itself but on activities and problems occurring in coastal regions, correspond precisely to the approach taken by the Blue Plan from its inception and give it therefore an even wider role within MAP. This also results in a strongly increased interest of international organisations and programmes, including those of the European Commission, UNDP or the World Bank, in the documents issued by the Blue Plan and its Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory, and in the technical capacity which it offers to the countries of the region.

The establishment of the Mediterranean Commission for Environment and Development goes naturally in the same direction and the Blue Plan has already been invited to provide major inputs to the work of this new body. When considering in particular the report of the first meeting of the Commission, held in Rabat in December 1966, it appears that quite a number of the thematic priorities do correspond to Blue Plan fields of activities that go along and contribute towards integration of environment and development as well as the definition of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

In that effects. BP/RAC has been requested, as from 1997:

- To pursue and improve, in conformity with Agenda MED 21, the systemic and

prospective analysis of development/environment interactions in the Mediterranean and mainly its coastal regions, in particular the analysis of Mediterranean sustainable development problematics, and to identify short and medium-term objectives for sustainable development programmes, as a contribution to the decision-making process towards sustainable development and as technical support for the activities of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

- To prepare a medium (5 year) and long (10 year) term programme of activities ("Blue Plan 2000), integrating its major functions, taking into consideration cooperation with MEDU and RACs and the production of a major Mediterranean output by the year 2000, and focusing on coastal regions.
 - To develop and strengthen a Mediterranean environment and development information system, and to identify and elaborate pertinent indicators, statistics and information to monitor and evaluate Mediterranean institutions, environment and development, in order to assist the decision-making process towards sustainable development.
 - To strengthen the implementation and development of the "Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory" function (MEDO) in close cooperation with MEDU and RACs, together with Mediterranean countries and regional/international organisations (e.g. EU-EC/EEA/EUROSTAT, UNEP/GRID, METAP, FAO, OECD, CEDARE, SSO), and to provide it with the necessary assistance and support.
 - To assist Contracting Parties in the preparation, implementation and development of national/local observatories as supporting tools for National Environmental Actions Plans (NEAPs) and sustainable development strategies and policies, through technical support, exchange of experience and cooperation in order to promote a Mediterranean network.
 - To continue the preparation and publication of its regional and sectoral studies, such as "Fascicules", "Country Profiles" and "Technical Notes".
4. The decision to prepare a "Blue Plan" was taken by UNEP Governing Council in Nairobi in April 1975. It was formally adopted at the intergovernmental meeting held in Split in 1977. The task of developing the project was entrusted to a French NGO called MEDEAS, operating under French law for non-profit making associations, located first in Cannes and later in Sophia Antipolis. This arrangement, which did not provide for any formal agreement, was carried out between 1977 and 1984. However, some difficulties arose at that time due to lack of clarity between the activities and financing concerning MEDEAS and those which the association was required to conduct on behalf of the Contracting Parties.

By the end of 1984, it was therefore decided to modify the arrangement and to establish a new association, called the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre, with a view to focus on the implementation of the Blue Plan project. This association had to operate under the same French law, but its governing board was placed under the auspices of the French ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment and M. Batisse, who had experience with international cooperation, was invited to become its chairman. In 1985, a project document was signed between the French Government (represented by its ambassador in Nairobi) and UNEP, providing not only the details

of the work plan and budget, but also ways under which the new association BP/RAC would operate with the UNEP framework. This project document constituted therefore a formal agreement between France and UNEP. After two years, a new project document was signed. The previous functional agreement was not modified since no particular problem had arisen.

From 1990 onwards however, the practice of a project document for each individual MAP centre was dropped and replaced by an "umbrella" project document covering the entire MAP and signed between UNEP and the MAP Coordinator. For this reason, no new formal agreement between France and UNEP concerning BP/RAC has been made. It has however always been tacitly understood that the previous understanding was continuing and no particular problem has in fact arisen in the operation of BP/RAC on French territory.

Legal framework

The legal framework remains unchanged since 1992 when minor modifications were brought to the statutes (see text in Annex IV). 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.

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.

The General Assembly meeting is also an 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).

Relations with the Contracting Parties and the Coordinating Unit

For financial but also technical reasons, BP/RAC has not been able to associate continuously 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 four entities (MED POL, REMPEC, PAP, BP) but now is made up of six protocols, six RACs and a network of 100 historic 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.

A Mediterranean scientific committee which would assist the association supporting the Blue Plan, if funding could be secured.

Funding

It is important to note that the present status of the BP/RAC allows it to look for additional sources of funding for activities of interest and relevance to MAP. The breakdown of the current budget is approximately as follows:

MAP/MTF	= 50%
France	= 15%
Others(mainly EU)	= 35%

The commitments of France, host country of the centre, could possibly be finalized through an exchange of letters or an 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 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.

(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;²
 - 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.

² 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.
- (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"³ 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.

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

³ 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.

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.
- 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 those 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; ⁴
- 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 V).

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).

⁴ 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.

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: 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.

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.

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

Past and Current activities

Reference Texts

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".

Main Activities

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
4. Policy and Technical Tools
5. Enhancement of national capacities

Assistance to countries in the conservation of endangered species and ecosystems

6. Policy and Technical Tools
7. Assistance to countries in the implementation of the adopted action plans
 - (i) Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal
 - (ii) Action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles
 - (iii) Action plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean
8. Assistance to countries in the conservation of other species and ecosystems
9. Enhancement of national capacities

Activities within CAMPS

10. SPA/RACs 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.

Relationship with other relevant organizations and institutions

11. 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).
12. 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).

13. 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

14. 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

15. MAP Phase II provides a consistent and comprehensive framework of action for conservation issues, which encompass SPA/RACs 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.

16. 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.

17. 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

18. 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.

19. 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

20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. Further details concerning the status of the Centre are given in the Host Country Agreement (see below).

Host Country Agreement

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

Personnel

26. 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

27. 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/RACs 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 focuses on the following main issues: water resources, soil, living marine resources, forest and plant coverage, integrated coastal area management, elements for Mediterranean strategy, conservation of nature, landscape and sites and assessment, prevention and elimination of marine pollution.

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 Chapter X and Chapter XI.

With regard to these last statements, ERS/RAC, through its projects CAMP for Fuka-Matrouh

and Daphne, 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.

(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 no separate legal status, It 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.

4. Current and future activities

At the first National Focal Points meeting, scheduled to be held in June 1997, 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 June 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.

5. Institutional, administrative and financial arrangements

Financial arrangement

The CCPI operation as CP/RAC is funding in accordance with the 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 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 will be completed with the Convening of the 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.

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 national 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

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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).

7. 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

8. 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.
9. 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

10. 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).
11. 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.

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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

15. 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 structure, status, role and function of MED Unit, MED POL and RAC's.
2. The main purpose of this exercise is to enhance 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, to the possible extent, any discrepancies *vis-a-vis* their status within the MAP system.

A. MED Unit and MED POL

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

3. MED Unit performs such Secretariat functions in the name of UNEP as provided for in the Convention (article 13) and illustrated in detail in page 3 of this document. 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, and above all, the coordination of all activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan. The MED POL programme is also coordinated from Athens with its staff located at MEDU in Athens.

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 RACs 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.

4. 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 adaptation of the UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context. These new developments have meant heavy responsibilities for MAP. They extend the scope of MAP to encompass the coastal areas along with the marine area; as this confirms the growing interest in the coastal areas and the move 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 implementing the various decisions by incorporating the relevant provisions of MAP, the Convention and its protocols in their national legislation, thus translating the objectives of MAP into reality at national level.

5. However the most noticeable development is the adaptation of the UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context through the preparation of Agenda MED 21, the reorientation of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, 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, by giving legal force to the commitments agreed upon at Rio.
6. 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 were 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 were planned for submission to the meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in 1999.
7. In this context, particular attention will 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. However, it must be stressed that a more holistic approach is needed, when we focus on sustainable development.
8. To undertake this heavy programme, it would be essential to make some institutional changes and 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 which consisted in encouraging members of the Commission to fulfil the roles of task managers and members of the thematic groups as well as obtaining the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise, should be strengthened. More involvement of and partnership with intergovernmental financial organizations, NGO's, local authorities and socio-economic actors should be encouraged.
9. With the existing professional and general staff at MEDU in Athens, and the expected recruitment, soon, of a Deputy Coordinator, MED POL Coordinator, and Fund Management Officer, coupled with a coherent working relation with and strong support from the RAC Centres, it is expected that this group will be able to shoulder the responsibility entrusted to MAP by the Contracting Parties. However, it would be appropriate to start thinking right now about recruiting a legal officer to fill the existing gap within the Coordinating Unit.
10. Moreover, while the overall coordination of MAP is the main responsibility of MED Unit in Athens, delegation of some tasks of coordination to RAC Centres as implementing bodies, would be necessary. The responsibility of coordination and implementation by RAC Centres of certain CAMP projects, the technical aspects of the MCSD and the biodiversity meetings are examples of this approach.

Meetings of the Contracting Parties

11. Meetings of the Contracting Parties are the main forum where high representatives of 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. 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.
12. 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, which is supposed to be the main mandate of these meetings.
13. 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 (80%) to general policy and strategic issues, and presentations by the countries on the implementation of recommendations approved by the various meetings of the Contracting Parties, with the rest of the time available for discussion on financial, administrative and other issues, leaving the detailed review and preparation of the programme and the financial parts to be thoroughly dealt with by the meetings of the National Focal Points which usually precede the meetings of the Contracting Parties.
14. In this context, priority should be given to countries reporting on the implementation at the national level of the various recommendations adopted by the meetings of the Contracting Parties.

MAP National Focal Points

15. National Focal Points are high-level officials designated by the Contracting Parties to act as the main liaison between them and MAP as well as to assume the coordination at the national level of all MAP activities in their respective countries.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. As to MED POL, regular meetings of MED POL National Coordinators are held to review the implementation of the programme and make specific recommendations to the meetings of the Contracting Parties.

Bureau of the Contracting Parties

19. The Bureau is elected at every ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties. It consists of a president, four vice-presidents and a rapporteur, representing the Contracting Parties during interim periods between meetings of Contracting Parties. 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.⁵

Scale of assessment and contributions to the MTF

20. Contributions of the Contracting Parties to the MTF are assessed on the basis of mutually agreed scale taking into account the UN Scale of Assessment with minor adjustments, with EU making regular voluntary contribution outside the assessment scale. 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 to cover the running costs of these premises.
21. 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

22. 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.
23. 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 decreased allowing for more responsibilities to be shouldered by the Contracting Parties themselves.
24. 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 cost of UNEP's administration of MAP financial resources, has been the subject of lengthy discussions

⁵ UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16 (Annex XIII, Appendix I, page 1).

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.

25. 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 now the amount of US\$ 50,000 dollars every year.

B. Regional Activity Centres (RACs)

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, such as the establishment of various regional activity Centres.
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,⁶

3. The Bureau of the Contracting Parties at its 1983 meeting and the subsequent meetings of the Contracting Parties agreed on certain principles applied to this new form of regional cooperation:
 - the RACs are national or UN 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 are recruited by RACs under prevailing staffing policies (salaries, social security, pensions, etc.) of the host country and in consultation with MAP;
 - appropriate adjustments are made to the salaries of the internationally recruited staff of RACs;
 - the recruitment of the international staff is based on vacancy announcements circulated by the Mediterranean Unit to all MAP National Focal Points;

⁶ Document: UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.29/4

- consultants and other experts recruited by the Centre shall be selected in full consultation with the Secretariat;
- 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.
- the host country provides in cash/kind counterpart contributions to the budget of the Centre to cover running costs and in a few cases, the operational costs;
- an Agreement is to be signed between UNEP/MAP and the country hosting a RAC Centre.⁷

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. 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 RACs 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) |

The MED POL Programme, 1975 (Athens) and the Network Programme for 100 Historic sites 1989 (Marseille) are considered as MAP programmes.

5. 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).

6. 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 MEDEAS and CEFIGRE for the BP Centre, the Town

⁷ Document: UNEP/BUR/18/Corr.1

Planning Institute of Dalmatia for PAP, INSTOP and ANPE for SPA, Centro di Telerilevamento Mediterraneo - CTM for ERS Centre, the Centre d'Iniciatives 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.

Categories of RACs

7. RACs fall into 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. An Agreement was signed between UNEP and Malta in April 1990.
 - (b) the second group of RACs 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, Agreements, supplementing the project document, were also prepared and signed between UNEP/MAP and the host country (Tunisia for SPA, and Croatia for PAP/RAC).
 - (c) the third category is relevant to a specific programme within MAP, namely the MED POL programme and the programme for Historic Sites.
8. There are certain advantages in hosting a RAC Centre. It is intended to strengthen national capabilities (in particular in a developing country); it is a way of transferring technology; a channel for contacts, an exchange of experience, a transfer of new techniques and equipment; training programmes are also organized; involvement in large scale region-wide projects and finally, it is a way of building self-confidence.

Critical analysis of the principles which are applied to RACs

1. RACs are national or UN 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.
- (a) 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 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.

- (b) In accordance with the 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 and MED POL	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.**

(a) 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 CAMPs 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 its potential larger contribution to MAP and for a sound balance of repartition of MAP financial resources for activities among the RACs.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) As MAP funds are considered as only seed money, the role of the Centres in soliciting additional outside financial resources is very critical at this period of MAP history. The experience of the BP and PAP Centres in this regard is worth mentioning.

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

(a) Regional Activity Centres (RACs) are national institutions established under the laws and regulations of the host country and are strengthened in order to assume a regional function to be financed by MAP. This role establishes a series of mutual obligations between the national institution and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

(b) The Contracting Parties agree to provide the Institution with certain financial inputs, for a certain duration, in order that it achieves 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, 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.

(c) The activities of the RAC Centre, which are not related to its regional role, is to be defined and financed by the host government. With a view to reflecting all these principles in a concrete manner, 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. At present, Agreements and project documents specifying the regional role for a RAC were signed for:

- MED Unit - Athens - signed on 11 February 1982;
- REMPEC - Malta - signed on April 1990;
- SPA/RAC - Tunis - signed on 29 April 1991;
- PAP/RAC - Split - signed on 28 October 1996;

Project documents only 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 - Memorandum of understanding signed on August 1990 within the framework of the MAP umbrella project.

(d) As for ERS/RAC and CP/RAC, the situation is different. There exist neither Agreement nor project documents, due to the fact that the running and operational costs of these two RAC Centres are entirely covered by the Governments of Italy and Spain respectively.

(e) 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).

(f) These discrepancies within the RAC Centres relevant to signing of Agreements and project documents for some Centres, and the non existence of any kind of official written agreement for others, require the establishment of a unified approach. Therefore, it is recommended that Agreements and project documents are to be prepared for all the Centres and programmes. The recently signed 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 I) to this report.

- (g) Therefore, while it is important to leave some flexibility in dealing with the various Centres and taking into account the different administrative systems, there is a need, nevertheless, to consolidate and unify, as much as possible, the legal status of all Centres and programmes in order to avoid misunderstandings and to create coherence both in their work and in their relations with each other and with the Coordinating Unit.

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 or foreign 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 consultation with the Coordinating Unit.
- (a) Another important discrepancy that should be tackled is related to the fact that the administrative systems, under which each RAC operates, are so diversified; this results in an unevenness in the quality of treatment of personnel of the various centres. The first step to remedy this situation has been taken through the preparation of Host Country Agreements for some Centres, which specify 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 consultation with MAP Coordinating Unit.
- (b) Since these professionals represent MAP internationally while their Centres have been designated to implement a specific protocol, and since the salaries of some of them are paid by MAP, the Coordinating Unit should have a say over their appointments in order to guarantee their academic, language and other qualifications.

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

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

The appointment of the Director of a Centre is to be undertaken in consultation with the Coordinating Unit.

- (c) 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 is to 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
- (d) Consultants and experts recruited by the Centres, whose posts are financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund shall be selected in consultation with the Coordinating Unit. The principle of diversification of the nationalities of the recruited consultants is to be observed. This issue has been raised and stressed during various meetings of the Contracting Parties.
- (e) Another issue related to the personnel component is the issue of the need for the host country to simplify the procedures for the entry visas for representatives of Contracting Parties attending a MAP meeting.

It is noted also that representatives of some Contracting Parties find difficulties in obtaining on time an entry visa to attend a MAP meeting hosted by a Contracting Party. While respecting the internal procedure of each country regarding the visa issue, it is important that flexibility be shown in granting an entry visa to official representatives of a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention.

- (f) The status of personnel of REMPEC and MED POL is quite different to 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, with their salaries totally paid from the MTF.

Other issues

Linkage with other Organisations and Conventions

- (a) In reviewing the functions of the RACs, and the implementation of their programmes, we see the close linkage with other structures and Conventions which have been active participants 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 strong linkage. With the increasing number of Conventions and structures related to biodiversity (Council of Europe, Biodiversity Convention, Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Ramsar Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Black Sea Convention and the Desertification 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.

- (b) 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.
- (c) A further point is related to MAP contacts with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including financial organizations (WB, METAP, EIB, GEF, UNDP, European Environment Agency etc.) while it is important that RAC Centres are to be encouraged to continue the practice of initiating necessary individual and/or collective contacts with these organizations in order to obtain additional financial resources for their programmes. Taking into account that obtaining funds from the market is a highly competitive process, and as RACs are mainly national institutions, it would be advisable that prior consultation with the Coordinating Unit be taken.

Coordination and exchange of information between MEDU and RACs

- (a) While the system of coordination and 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. Streamlining of the Secretariat work, improving its managerial process and greater synergy and transparency of its work have to be undertaken. It has maintained close cooperation with Contracting Parties, fully informing them of its activities, through direct contacts and visits. Moreover greater coordination and cooperation with the new partners involved in the area of environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean has to be pursued.
- (b) 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 the sixth monthly progress reports with supporting outputs, financial and 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. In the meantime, the Coordinating Unit should furnish the Centres with all information on its activities and contacts, documents and reports relevant to their work.
- (c) Equitable geographical distribution of the personnel of the Coordinating Unit and RACs is to be respected.

Meetings of National Focal Points for RACs

- (a) The system of designation by countries of national focal points for each RAC responsible for the follow-up and coordination of RAC activities at national level has proved its validity over the years. Regular meetings of the national focal points have

been convened over the years with a view to reviewing the work of the relevant Centres and providing the national point of view

- (b) However, it was noticed recently that some Centres have stopped the practice of convening the meetings of their national focal points, mainly for financial reasons. Therefore, it is important that the practice of convening, on a regular basis, the national focal points meetings, is to be reinstated and strengthened in particular for those Centres implementing a protocol.
- (c) The newly established Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) with its Task Managers and Thematic Groups has strong linkage with the work of the BP and PAP Centres. As the two Centres have no legal basis in the form of specific protocols, like the other RAC Centres, which necessitate the establishment of National Focal Points for the implementation of these protocols, and as the nature and scope of the systemic and land-oriented activities of the two Centres make them fall within the purview of the MCSD mandate, it would be advisable to establish a close link between the Commission and these two particular Centres, i.e. the Commission would act as the focal structure for the BP and PAP Centres. This proposal would improve the steering of activities of the two Centres and bring about the integration and compatibility of their work with that of the Commission.
- (d) It should be noted that the Contracting Parties to the Convention have indicated the need to look beyond the original objectives of the Convention and its protocols; i.e. to examine whether these objectives are fully in line with the global principles of sustainable development, and whether MAP should become a regional instrument for promoting sustainable development. The necessary adjustments in the institutional structure of MAP as well as its financial and personnel components are urgently required in order to help the Mediterranean peoples meet the challenge of an improved environment and sustainable development in their region.

ANNEX I
HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT



United Nations Environment Programme
Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement
Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan
Unité de coordination du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
CONCERNING
THE PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE**

Preamble

Recalling:

- The Mediterranean Action Plan, adopted in Barcelona in 1975;
- The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, adopted in Barcelona, in 1976 (hereinafter the "Convention");
- The decision of the Contracting Parties to the Convention at their Intergovernmental Meeting on the Blue Plan, held in Split in 1977, during which the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (hereinafter referred to as the former "SFRY") offered and the Meeting accepted, to host a regional centre in Split, relevant to a Priority Actions Programme (UNEP/IG.57);
- The Genoa Declaration, adopted by the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Genoa in 1985 (UNEP/IG.56/5), which specifies ten targets to be achieved as a matter of priority during the second decade of the Mediterranean Action Plan;

Noting that the Regional Activity Centre for Priority Actions Programme was established in Split in 1980 as a national centre with a regional role, with the objective of making a significant contribution to the Mediterranean Action Plan;

Noting that the Parliament of the former SFRY adopted at the session of the Government on 25 January 1989 a decree announcing the establishment of the Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Actions Programme;

Noting that the Republic of Croatia acceded to the Convention and its related protocols, by a decision of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Antaiya, Turkey, 12-15 October 1993), in accordance with Article 26(2) of the Convention;

The Republic of Croatia and the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter "UNEP"), acting pursuant to the responsibilities assigned to UNEP under the Convention by the Contracting Parties with regard to the implementation of the Convention as well as the Mediterranean Action Plan, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the terms and conditions under which an institute in the Republic of Croatia shall act pursuant to the decision of the Contracting Parties to the Convention as a Regional Activity Centre entrusted with the implementation of the Priority Actions Programme, as part of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
2. The Croatian institute, referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, will be named the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (hereinafter the "Centre" or "PAP/RAC") and shall be located in Split.
3. Subject to the relevant provisions of this Agreement, the Centre which is an institute established under the laws and regulations of the Republic of Croatia, shall operate in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Croatia.
4. The Centre shall have a regional role as defined and financed in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Convention. To that extent, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Contracting Parties and subject to the availability of funds, the regional activities of the Centre shall be financed through the Mediterranean Trust Fund.
5. 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.
6. The Government of the Republic of Croatia and UNEP, individually or jointly, shall seek additional financial or personal support for the Centre from sources other than the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

Article 2

1. In carrying out its regional role, the Centre shall perform the tasks assigned to it by the Contracting Parties to the Convention.
2. Such tasks, as well as the legal and financial obligations of the Centre shall be specified in project documents signed by the Centre and UNEP.
3. The financial resources provided to the Centre by the Contracting Parties to the Convention in accordance with Article 1 above through the Mediterranean Trust Fund shall be kept by UNEP in an account of one of the banks in the Republic of Croatia in the currency in which they are to be remitted. These resources will be available to the Centre for the implementation of the Priority Actions Programme in conformity with the project documents signed for that purpose by the Centre and UNEP.
4. The Republic of Croatia shall ensure the availability of adequate premises needed for the work of the Centre, including furnishing of the premises, telecommunication facilities and maintenance of these premises and facilities, and shall provide an in-cash counterpart contribution for the general operation of the Centre. The amount of such resources shall be pledged at the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

Article 3

1. Meetings and conferences organised by the Centre in carrying out its regional role shall be open to participants designated by the focal points of the Contracting Parties to the Convention.
2. The Government of Croatia shall extend to such participants the privileges and immunities provided for under Article IV of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
3. The Centre shall provide information on its regional activities to the focal points of the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

Article 4

1. 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.
2. The Coordinating Unit shall coordinate the activities of the Centre with other components of the Mediterranean Action Plan, in particular with those related to Integrated and Management of Coastal Zones, as well as with various international organisations and programmes concerned and with the relevant activities of the Contracting Parties to the Convention.
3. The Government of Croatia shall designate a competent government authority to assist and monitor the implementation of the Priority Actions Programme in the Republic of Croatia.

Article 5

1. The Centre shall have a full-time Director, national of the Republic of Croatia, and such personnel, appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Article, as is necessary for the exercise of its functions.
2. The Director will represent the Centre and, subject to the provisions of the present Agreement, will have overall responsibility for the operation and administration of the Centre. If approved by the Contracting Parties, a contribution towards the salary of the Director may be made from the Mediterranean Trust Fund.
3. Locally recruited personnel, whose posts are financed by the Government of Croatia, will be appointed by the Director.
4. Internationally and locally recruited personnel, whose posts in accordance with the decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Convention are financed from the Mediterranean Trust Fund, will be appointed by the Director after consultations with the Coordinating Unit. Internationally recruited personnel shall be appointed from among the applicants responding to the vacancy announcements circulated through the Coordinating Unit to the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

5. Consultants and other experts for the Centre, whose posts are financed from the Mediterranean Trust Fund shall be selected in full consultation with the Coordinating Unit.
6. The Centre shall be responsible for the formalities connected with the entry visas, residence permits and work permits of its staff internationally recruited with the assistance of the Coordinating Unit.

Article 6

1. United Nations personnel and its experts on missions travelling to the Republic of Croatia in their official capacity in connection with the activities of the Centre, shall enjoy the privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities provided for in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations to which the Republic of Croatia is a party.
2. Property, funds and assets of UNEP, as well as property, funds and assets administered by UNEP, including the equipment purchased with the funds administered by UNEP, wherever located and by whosoever held, shall enjoy immunity from any form of legal process, be exempt from all direct taxes, value added tax, customs duties, prohibitions and restrictions.
3. Funds, assets and equipment transferred to the Centre by UNEP pursuant to the project documents shall enjoy immunities and exemptions referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

Article 7

1. The Government of the Republic of Croatia and UNEP shall endeavour to solve any dispute arising out or resulting to this Agreement by negotiation or other agreed mode of settlement.
2. Any dispute between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and UNEP, which is not settled by negotiation or another agreed mode of settlement, shall be referred to arbitration at the request of either party. Each party shall appoint one arbitrator, and the two arbitrators so appointed shall appoint a third, who shall be the chairman. If within thirty days of the request for arbitration either party has not appointed an arbitrator, or if within fifteen days of the appointment of two arbitrators the third arbitrator has not been appointed, either party may request the President of the International Court of Justice to appoint an arbitrator. The procedure for the arbitration shall be fixed by the arbitrators, and the expenses of the arbitration shall be borne by the parties as assessed by the arbitrators. The arbitral award shall contain a statement of the reasons on which it is based and shall be accepted by the parties as the final adjudication of the dispute.

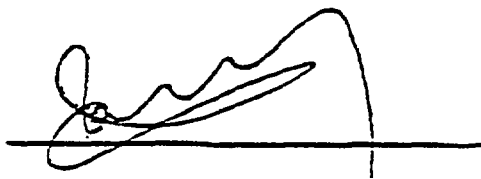
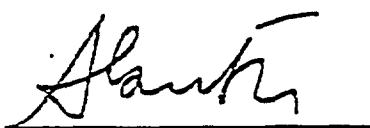
Article 8

1. The present Agreement shall enter into force upon signature.
2. The present Agreement may be amended by written agreement between the parties.
3. The present Agreement may be terminated by either party providing (six) month written notice to the other party.

Done at Split this 28th day of October 1996
in two (2) original copies in the English language.

For the Republic of Croatia

For the United Nations Environment
Programme



ANNEX II
APPROVED CONTRIBUTIONS TO MTF FOR 1997

Approved Contributions for 1997:

Contracting Parties	%	Ordinary Contributions to MTF for 1997 (in US \$)	Extraordinary Contributions for 1997 (in US \$)
Albania	0.07	3,192	108
Algeria	1.05	47,886	1,619
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.30	13,682	463
Cyprus	0.14	6,385	216
Croatia	0.97	44,237	1,496
EC	2.50	114,014	- a/
Egypt	0.49	22,347	756
France	37.97	1,731,639	58,558 b/
Greece	2.81	128,151	4,334
Israel	1.47	67,040	2,267
Italy	31.37	1,430,643	48,379 c/
Lebanon	0.07	3,192	108
Libya	1.97	89,843	3,038
Malta	0.07	3,192	108
Monaco	0.07	3,192	108
Morocco	0.28	12,770	432
Slovenia	0.67	30,556	1,033
Spain	14.99	683,626	23,118 d/
Syria	0.28	12,770	432
Tunisia	0.21	9,577	324
Turkey	2.25	102,612	3,470
Total:	100.00	4,560,546	154,222
Host Country Contribution:		400,000	-
UNEP Environment Fund:		50,000	-
GRAND TOTAL		5,010,546	154,222

- a/ The extraordinary contribution of the EC to cover MAP activities is included in its Voluntary Contribution (see page 8-9).
- b/ Contribution for the funding of the Third Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (see page 11).
- c/ Contribution for the funding of the Meeting of experts for the development of elements of national action plans for the reduction and elimination of pollution from land-based sources and activities (see page 38).
- d/ Contribution for the funding of the Second Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (see page 11).

ANNEX III
APPROVED 1997 PROGRAMME BUDGET

Annex III

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 1997:

The Contracting Parties approve the following programme budget:

SUMMARY OF BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS

	Approved Budget 1997 (,000 US\$)
I. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS	
PROGRAMME COORDINATION	483
PERSONNEL AND OPERATING COSTS	
1. COORDINATING UNIT, Athens, Greece	
- Secretariat Personnel and Unit's Operating Costs	804
- MEDPOL Personnel	431
- Operating costs covered by the Greek Counterpart Contribution	400
2. MED POL COOPERATING AGENCIES	385
3. REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (REMPEC)	552
4. BLUE PLAN REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (BP/RAC)	447
5. PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)	328
6. SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)	274
7. ENVIRONMENT REMOTE SENSING REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (ERS/RAC)	*
8. SECRETARIAT FOR THE CLEANER PRODUCTION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (CP/RAC)	*
9. SECRETARIAT FOR THE 100 HISTORIC SITES	*
SUB-TOTAL	3,621
PROGRAMME SUPPORT COST**	727
TOTAL INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS	4,831

* Covered by the host country.

** Programme Support Cost of 13% applies to MTF expenditures.

		Approved Budget 1997 (,000 US\$)
II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN		
SUPPORT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		110
1. INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT		
1.1	Economic activities and the environment	85
1.2	Urban management and the environment	50
1.3	Sustainable management of natural resources	110
1.4	Integrated coastal area management	
	(a) Integrated Planning	31
	(b) Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP)	218*
1.5	Elements for a Mediterranean strategy (including MEDO)	
	(a) Observation and Systemic and Prospective Analysis of Environment and Development in the Mediterranean	65
	(b) Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory (MEDO)	**
1.6	National and local capacity-building	20
SUB-TOTAL		689
2. CONSERVATION OF NATURE, LANDSCAPE AND SITES		
2.1	Collection of data and periodic assessment of the situation	15*
2.2	Legal measures (SPA Protocol)	20
2.3	Planning and management	20*
2.4	Exchange of experience and strengthening of national capabilities	**
SUB-TOTAL		55

* Additional funding is provided under the voluntary contribution of the European Community.

** Funded under the voluntary contribution of the European Community.

		Approved Budget 1997 (,000 US\$)
3.	ASSESSMENT, PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF MARINE POLLUTION	
3.1	Assessment of pollution-related problems	440
3.2	Pollution prevention	
(a)	Prevention and elimination of the pollution of the marine environment from land-based activities (LBS Protocol)	298
(b)	Prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities	
(i)	Preparedness for, response to and cooperation in cases of accidental marine pollution (Emergency Protocol)	180
(ii)	Prevention of the pollution of the marine environment by dumping from ships and aircraft (Dumping Protocol)	10
(c)	Prevention and control of the pollution of the environment resulting from transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol)	30
3.3	Supporting measures	65
	SUB-TOTAL	1,023
4.	INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION	145
TOTAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN		1,912
III. STRENGTHENING OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK		
TOTAL STRENGTHENING OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK		30
GRAND TOTAL		6,773

**AGGREGATE BUDGET COVERING ACTIVITIES AND PERSONNEL AND OPERATING COSTS
FOR THE COORDINATING UNIT AND THE CENTRES:**

	Approved Budget 1997 (,000 US\$)
1. COORDINATING UNIT	
- Total Activities Coordinating Unit	831*
Personnel and Operating Costs:	
- Secretariat Personnel and Unit's Operating Costs	804
- Operating costs covered by the Greek Counterpart Contribution	400
- Total Personnel and Operating Costs	1,204
TOTAL	2,035
2. MED POL	
- Total Activities MED POL	963
Personnel and Operating Costs:	
- MED POL Personnel in the Coordinating Unit	431
- MED POL Cooperating Agencies Personnel and Operating Costs	385
- Total Personnel and Operating Costs	816
TOTAL	1,779
3. REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (REMPEC)	
- Total Activities	180
- Total Personnel and Operating Costs	552
TOTAL	732
4. BLUE PLAN REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (BP/RAC)	
- Total Activities	135**
- Total Personnel and Operating Costs	447
TOTAL	582
5. PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)	
- Total Activities	226**
- Total Personnel and Operating Costs	328
TOTAL	554

* Includes 98,000 US\$ for CAMPs part of which will be allocated to the relevant RACs and the Centre of Historic Sites as and when required.

** Additional funding is provided under the voluntary contribution of the European Community.

	Approved Budget 1997 (,000 US\$)
6. SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)	
- Total Activities	40*
- Total Personnel and Operating Costs	274
TOTAL	314
7. ENVIRONMENT REMOTE SENSING REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (ERS/RAC)	
- Total Activities	50
- Total Personnel and Operating Costs	**
TOTAL	50
8. CENTRE FOR THE CLEANER PRODUCTION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (CP/RAC)	
- Total Activities	***
- Total Personnel and Operating Costs	**
TOTAL	-
9. CENTRE FOR THE 100 HISTORIC SITES	
- Total Activities	**
- Total Personnel and Operating Costs	**
TOTAL	-
PROGRAMME SUPPORT COSTS (13% OF MTF) ****	727
GRAND TOTAL	6,773

* Additional funding is provided under the voluntary contribution of the European Community.

** Covered by the host country.

*** 1997 activities for the CP/RAC are fully funded by the Spanish Government at an approximate cost of Pesetas 15.000.000.- (around 118,557 US\$ at a rate of 126.5 PTA/US \$).

**** Programme Support Cost of 13% applies to MTF expenditures.

SOURCES OF FINANCING

The following scheme of sources of financing for the programme budget for 1997 through the ordinary contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund, the extraordinary contributions, the Greek counterpart contribution and the UNEP counterpart contribution is approved by the Contracting Parties:*

	1997 (in US\$)
A. Income	
MTF Contributions for 1997	4,560,546
Extraordinary Contributions	154,222
Greek Counterpart Contribution	400,000
UNEP Counterpart Contribution	50,000
Bank Interest (estimate)	100,000
Unpaid pledges as at 31 Dec. 1996 (estimate)	897,851
Estimated uncommitted funds as at 31 Dec. 1996 (including advance payments towards future pledges)**	2,011,209
Total Expected Income	8,173,828
B. Commitments	
Approved Commitments for 1997	6,773,000
Total Commitments	6,773,000
C. Provisions for revolving fund	1,400,828

* The activities funded by the voluntary contribution of the European Community are indicated separately on pages 8 and 9.

** Includes US\$ 222,509 representing advance payments towards future pledges received from Greece during 1996.

ANNEX IV

**STATUES OF THE ASSOCIATION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE
OF THE BLUE PLAN**

ANNEX IV

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.

ANNEX V

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