



**United Nations
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Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the Protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its
Protocols

Palma de Majorca, Spain, 9 May 1997

**PROGRESS REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR ON ACTIVITIES
CARRIED OUT SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE BUREAU**

(November 1996 - April 1997)



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INTRODUCTION

The present report covers the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the various activities carried out by the Coordinating Unit and its Regional Activity Centres (RAC's) and MAP programmes, since the last meeting of the Bureau (Athens, 4-5 November 1996). The report also contains some recommendations related to the various activities, for the consideration and approval by the present meeting of the Bureau.

A. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Financial arrangements

Contributions to MTF

1. None of the Contracting Parties have paid their 1997 contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF).

The unpaid pledges as at 31 December 1996 has reached \$1,325,128 and the total unpaid pledges for 1997 and prior years has reached \$6,299,047. Therefore it is expected that the Bureau will send an urgent message to the Contracting Parties urging them to speed up the process of payments of their 1997 contributions.

2. The status of contributions to the MTF as at 31 March 1997 is contained in Annex I to this report.

Programme/Budget for 1998-1999

3. The programme budget is not an addition of proposals but an exercise aiming at promoting the priorities agreed upon by the Contracting Parties. These priorities result from the following:

- (a) the new or revised legal instruments approved by the Parties. Emphasis would be given to the modified LBS protocol and the new protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity.
- (b) the establishment and functioning of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. The first MCSD meeting in Rabat (December 1996) already identified priority themes.
- (c) the priority fields of activities (1996-2005) approved by the Parties in 1995 can be considered as a guideline for the identification of MAP priorities.

4. The first part of the programme budget document contains a set of recommendations. A distinction should be made between recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties and decisions of the meeting which have to be implemented by the Secretariat. Any activities which are implicit in the budget should not be included here. The number of recommendations and decisions would be kept to a minimum.

5. The budget proposals will be grouped according to the source of funding:
 - (a) activities to be funded by MTF
 - (b) activities to be funded by the EC voluntary contribution
 - (c) activities to be funded by outside sources such as GEF, METAP, etc. The source will be selected taking into consideration priorities and criteria established by them.

6. All budget proposals will fall within one of the following chapters of the budget. General items, such as information, could be included under various chapters.
 - (a) Coordination

All funds under this chapter will be handled by MEDU. It will basically include the organisation of coordination meetings such as those of Contracting Parties, MAP focal points, Bureau of Contracting Parties, MCSD, Bureau of MCSD and RAC directors. General information on MAP, activities on legal framework, support to NGOs and training at MEDU will also be included here. Meetings of focal points will be included in the budget of the RAC or Programme.
 - (b) Pollution prevention and control

This chapter will include mostly the activities relevant to the implementation of the LBS, Dumping, Emergency, Offshore and Hazardous protocols. Activities of MED POL, REMPEC, CP/RAC will be included here. Relevant activities of other RACs will also be included here.
 - (c) Protection of biological diversity

This chapter will mainly include the activities for the implementation of the protocol concerning SPA and biodiversity for which SPA/RAC is responsible. Relevant activities of other RACs will also be included here.
 - (d) Sustainable management of coastal zones

This is one of the priorities of the MCSD. Relevant activities of RACs as well as CAMPs will be included here.
 - (e) Sustainable management of natural resources

Management of water demand is one of the priorities set by MCSD.
 - (f) Integrating environment and development

Sectoral activities will be included here. MCSD identified a number of priority themes such as tourism, industry and sustainable development,

free trade and the environment etc. MEDU activities could be included here.

7. With regard to the budget increase and taking into account the current financial constraints which are shaping the economies of most of the Mediterranean countries, this office is of the opinion that a modest increase in the regular contributions would be sufficient at this stage in order to maintain a moderate level of growth of MAP budget. However, the idea of having extraordinary contributions for 1998-1999 budget, as was the case with the 1997 budget, is to be continued again.

Recommendation

The Bureau is requested to give its indication on the percentage increase for the 1998-1999 biennium as well as on the general structure of the budget.

(b) Institutional arrangements

Personnel of MAP

1. In conformity with the decision of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties, concerning the structure of MAP, the Secretariat has started the process of completing the personnel component, in consultation with UNEP Headquarters. All efforts with UNEP and New York for the classification of the two vacant posts, namely the Deputy Coordinator and the MED POL Coordinator, were not successful. Up to now this has put the Secretariat in an embarrassing and difficult position vis-à-vis the Contracting Parties and the additional responsibilities entrusted to MAP by the meetings of the Contracting Parties.
2. With regard to the Fund Administrative Management vacant post, an official panel composed of representatives of UNEP and MAP met in Athens on March 1997, reviewed the papers of all candidates and made a recommendation to the Coordinator. It is expected that the person to fill this post will assume his work within the next two months.

Review of MAP structure

3. The meeting of the Ad-Hoc Group on MAP structure, established by a decision of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties, was convened in Athens, on 26-27 March 1997, with representatives from Croatia, Egypt, EU, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco and Morocco. The objective was to examine the best possible structure of MEDU, MED POL and RACs, in the light of the revision of the Convention and its protocols, and make recommendations to the meeting of the Contracting Parties, through the Bureau and the meeting of the National Focal Points.
4. A thorough discussion took place during this meeting during which various problems and issues were identified and a set of recommendations were approved by the Group. However, due to the time limitation, the discussion relevant to few issues, such as the classification of RACs, has not been

completed. Therefore a suggestion was raised to the effect that the Coordinator is to explore the possibility of convening a second meeting of the Group, in parallel to the meeting of the MAP National Focal Points (Athens, 7-9 July 1997).

5. The set of draft recommendations as proposed by the Ad-Hoc Group is contained in Annex II to this report. The Minutes of the meeting are contained in document: UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.126/3.

Recommendation

The Bureau is requested to give its views on the various recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Group.

6. The calendar of meetings organised within the framework of MAP during 1997 is contained in Annex IV to this report.

Cooperation with the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

1. Due to their important role, the status of the NGOs within MAP has been strengthened, mainly through their participation in MAP meetings and their representation on an equal footing, in the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).
2. MAP/NGO cooperation has also been institutionalised in the list of MAP/NGO partners which was approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995).
3. In this context, the following NGOs have officially requested to be included in this form of cooperation:

1. **TU-MED (Association Tunisie Méditerranée pour le Développement durable), Tunisia**
President: Mohamed Fakhfakh

Est une association créée en Juin 1996 pour contribuer à la diffusion de la culture environnementale, au développement socio-économique selon le principe de l'exploitation rationnelle des ressources naturelles et de leur protection afin d'assurer la durabilité du progrès.

2. **AREA-ED (Association de Réflexion d'Echange et d'Action pour l'Environnement et le Développement), Algeria**
President: Mounir Bencharif

L'AREA-ED est une jeune association à rayonnement national. Outre ses activités diverses en matière de protection de l'environnement dans la perspective du développement durable, l'AREA-ED assure le secrétariat du REMED (réseau d'échange multidisciplinaire pour l'environnement et le développement), regroupant 700 membres répartis sur plus de 40 points d'ancrages à travers le monde.

3. CRETES, Belgium
Directeur: Dr. Parick Arnal

L'Association CRETES et son opérateur privé TARNIUM (société expert auprès de la Commission Européenne) assurent ensemble la coordination du Réseau Européen des Massifs Calcaires dénommé KARSTICA.

Les massifs calcaires renferment des ressources et des richesses inestimables: eaux souterraines en grande quantité, paysages grandioses, biodiversité caractéristique, architectures typiques, grottes ornementales, patrimoine archéologique d'une très grande richesse.

4. EcoPeace, Israel
Secretary General: Gidon Bromberg

EcoPeace is a regional forum of environmental NGOs from the Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian communities, all working jointly to promote ecologically sound development in the Middle East region. It was founded in December 1994, and through the incorporation of national umbrella organizations, now represents over 200 members. Its main activities include: promoting renewable energy; reviewing various projects around the dead sea; reviewing development projects along the eastern Mediterranean; Water conservation and re-use etc.

5. EIPA (Hellenic Institute of Environment, Desalination, Water re-use and Preservation), Greece
President: Nick E. Bafitis

EIPA's main aim is the protection, quality, sanitation, treatment and preservation of water.

6. IEF (International Energy Foundation), Libya
President: Dr. M. A. Muntasser

The International Energy Foundation is a non-profitable organization which was founded in Tripoli in 1989. Its purpose and objective is to facilitate the transfer of research and technology in all areas of energy with special emphasis on developing countries. It runs an average of 10 scientific functions per year including workshops, seminars and international conferences such as the Mediterranean Petroleum Conference and Exhibition, and Energex. IEF has conducted 63 scientific functions since its existence. The Foundation has a world wide membership of over 1000. Membership is open to all professionals, educational institutes, industries and various governmental bodies operating in the field of energy. It is funded by contributions, donations, subscriptions, aids and grants made by donors.

7. **MED FORUM, (Forum of the Mediterranean for the Environment and Sustainable Development), Spain**
President: Zohir Sekkal

MED FORUM, (Forum of the Mediterranean for the Environment and Sustainable Development), is a network of environmental and non profit NGOs from all the Mediterranean countries. It assembles 32 NGOs from 17 states of the Mediterranean basin. It was constituted in Barcelona in November 1995. MED Forum has a founding charter which contains the principles and objectives of the organization. Various NGOs of the MED Forum network participate in the MAP activities already.

8. **OPSAT, (Observatory for Planning the Sustainable Development and the Organization of the Territory, University of Salerno), Italy**
Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Francesco Citarella

OPSAT, (Observatory for Planning the Sustainable Development and the Organization of the Territory), is based at the University of Salerno, Italy. Its main objective is to acquire, for the scientific community, new knowledge on several core themes, such as employment, competitiveness and territorial models of development in a context of rapid technological transformation. It also distributes technical-scientific services for public and private bodies, through conventions and contracts.

9. **International Ocean Institute (IOI), Malta**
Focal Point: Mr. Layachi Yaker

The international Ocean Institute aims at promoting education, training and research, in the peaceful use of ocean space, and the management and regulation of its resources. It is dedicated to the protection and conservation of the marine environment.

Recommendation

The Bureau is requested to review the four requests and give its opinion on their inclusion in MAP/NGO list of partners.

B. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

(i) Integrating environment and development

(a) Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

1. At their Extraordinary Meeting (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Terms of Reference and the composition of the Commission. According to the Terms of Reference, the Commission is composed of 36 members, consisting of high level representatives from each of the Contracting Parties (21), representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations (15), working in the fields of environment and sustainable development. Strongly believing that the role of the local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs is very important during this new era of MAP, the meeting of the Contracting Parties approved a new dimension in MAP relations with these three groups by accepting that they shall participate in the work of the Commission as fully fledged members on an equal footing as the case with the Contracting Parties.

First meeting of the Commission

2. During its first meeting (Rabat, 16-18 December 1996), the Commission agreed on a programme built around short-term and medium-term activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region. Two themes were identified 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 (sustainable management of coastal regions and management of water demand). Other six subjects were identified as medium-term priority themes (sustainable development indicators, tourism, information, awareness and participation, free trade and environment, industry and sustainable development and the management of urban and rural development) for which end-products planned for submission to the meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in 1999.
3. In order to implement efficiently and usefully these activities and to ensure larger participation, the Commission designated Task Managers and Thematic Working Groups to deal with each selected theme (see table). The MAP funds allocated to the MCSD will be considered as seed money since the task managers are expected to look for the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise for the activities of the thematic working groups. However, the countries involved are willing to support as far as possible these activities through the provision of human and financial resources, being confident that if the Commission selected priority activities that are sound in their substance and organization, they would raise greater interest from donors.
4. The first meeting also designated a Bureau composed of eight members, a president, six vice-presidents and a Rapporteur. The present Bureau is headed by H.E. Mr. Nourdine Benomar Alami, Minister of the environment of Morocco. The other members are representative from the Association of Chambers of

Commerce of the Mediterranean (ASCAME), Centre des Région Euroméditerranéennes pour l'environnement (CREE), Croatia, Egypt, EC, Tunisia and EcoMediterrania.

5. The meeting also accepted the invitation of Spain to host the second meeting of the Commission in early May 1997 and took note of the invitation of France to host the third meeting in France in October/November 1997. The report of the first meeting of the Commission is contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.120/4.

First meeting of the Bureau of the Commission

6. During its first meeting (Athens, 20-21 February 1997), the Bureau reviewed the progress achieved in the work of the Task Managers relevant to the two short-term themes, namely, "Sustainable management of coastal regions", and "Management of water demand".
7. The Bureau noted that consultation between the Task Managers, the members of the Thematic Working Groups and the supporting RACs had been limited, due to the short time available and the complexity of the themes. Nevertheless, tangible progress has been achieved towards these two short-term themes.
8. During the discussion on this item, members of the Bureau made various concrete comments on the programme of work of the two Task Managers and their proposals for future work. The report of the first meeting of the Bureau of the Commission is contained in document UNEP/MCSD/BUR/1/5.
9. With a view to enhancing and speeding up the work of the Task Managers and the Thematic Working Groups, the Secretariat approached all Task Managers (March 1997) urging them to undertake the necessary consultations with their Thematic Working Groups in order to prepare a working programme, including timetable, of their relevant themes for presentation to the present meeting of the Commission.
10. As it is also envisaged that a workshop for each Thematic Working Group is to be held, the Secretariat has already engaged in a consultation process with donors in order to solicit financial resources for these workshops.
11. In this connection, intense consultation with METAP III is being undertaken, with a view to coordinating MCSD activities with those of METAP priorities, and avoid overlapping. Keeping in mind that the overall budget of METAP III for the period 1996-2000 is about \$118 million Dollars, there would be a good chance for the Commission to benefit from this financial programme.

TABLE
THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

Themes	Task managers	Members of the group	Support from MAP
Short-term (over about a one-year period)			
- Sustainable management of coastal zones	Morocco and MEDCITIES	CREE, European Community, Greece, City of Rome, Spain, EcoMediterrania, Monaco, WWF, Italy, EOAN, Cyprus, France, Tunisia, MIO-ECSCDE, Egypt, Malta	RAC/Priority Actions Programme, RAC/Blue Plan, RAC/Environment Remote Sensing and RAC/Specially Protected Areas
- Management of water demand	Tunisia and Morocco	Libya, WWF, APNEK, European Community, Egypt, Italy, France, CEFIC, MIO-ECSCDE, Malta, Spain, EcoMediterrania	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme
Medium-term (until 1999 Contracting Parties meeting and beyond)			
- Sustainable development indicators	France and Tunisia	European Community, Morocco, EcoMediterranean	RAC/Blue Plan
- (Eco)Tourism	Spain, EOAN and Egypt	Malta, Monaco, Cyprus, Croatia, European Community, Greece, EcoMediterrania, WWF MIO-ECSCDE	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme
- Information, awareness and participation	MIO-ECSCDE and CREE	European Community, WWF, France, APNEK, Croatia, Egypt, Morocco, MEDCITIES, EcoMediterrania	MED Coordinating Unit
- Free trade and environment in the Euromediterranean context (strategic impact assessment)	FIS	Tunisia, France, European Community, APNEK, Morocco	MED Coordinating Unit
- Industry and sustainable development (cultural, economic, technical and financial aspects of progressive elimination of land-based pollution)	Italy	WWF, Israel, EOAN, ASCAME, CEFIC, Spain, European Community	MED POL, RAC/Clean Production
- Management of urban/rural development	Egypt	MEDCITIES, FIS, MIO-ECSCDE, Spain, Morocco, France, Malta (Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina)	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme

Relationship with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)

12. In conformity with the Terms of Reference of the Commission, that the MCSD shall maintain relations with the UNCSD, the first meeting of the MCSD (Rabat, December 1996), agreed that the Commission should submit a short report to the forthcoming fifth meeting of the UN Commission (New York, 8-25 April 1997) and the Special Session of the General Assembly (New York, 23-27 June 1997), on the establishment of the MCSD, supported by useful background information on the situation with regard to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.
13. A draft report prepared by the Secretariat was presented to the first meeting of the Bureau of the Commission (Athens, 20-21 February 1997), under the title: "The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - A Tool for Mediterranean Strategy and a Regional Bridge between Global and National Levels". The Bureau thoroughly reviewed the draft report, made certain modifications and requested the Secretariat to finalize it with a better presentation, in order to obtain wider dissemination during the meetings. The Bureau also suggested that the MAP Coordinator represent MAP in these two U.N meetings.
14. The Report on the MCSD was amended, finalized and sent in many copies to the U.N for distribution. As for representation, UNEP agreed to MAP's request that the Coordinator of MAP be included in the UNEP delegation to the fifth meeting of the UNCSD for the second week of the meeting.

(b) Observation and systemic and prospective analysis of environment and development in the Mediterranean

Regional Activity Centre for Blue Plan (BP/RAC)

Institutional

1. BP/RAC prepared and held its annual Advisory Board meeting which took place in Paris, at the Ministry of Environment, on March 14th, 1997.

Systemic and prospective analysis

2. A major international seminar on « Territorial prospective and the role of actors » was prepared and held in Sophia Antipolis, from 7 to 9 November 1996. It was attended by 32 experts from 14 countries, and a synthetic and proceedings report will be published by end of May 1997.
3. Applied to the region of Sfax, within the framework of the Sfax CAMP, the development of systemic and prospective tools made an extensive use of GIS and Remote Sensing technologies and proved to be helpful in land use management and planning. The results of this case study will be published by end of May 1997.
4. In close co-operation with Blue Plan experts assisted by a student, a tandem of international consultants from Greece and Tunisia are preparing a detailed programme of activities over three years for the « urban and rural development in the Mediterranean coastal regions ». Such a programme will of course be based on a relevant position paper. Both complementary products are expected for end of June 1997. A preparatory working session was organised in Tunis on February 22, 1997 and a follow-up working session will be held during June 1997 (this subject was also selected by the MCSD).
5. In order to push ahead the study on « Mediterranean Agro-systems and impacts on Environment », an international seminar on « Agriculture and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean » was organised in Montpellier jointly with CIHEAM and ADEME from 10 to 12 March 1997. The study is going on satisfactorily mainly thanks to a local expert seconded to the Blue Plan by the French Government, and assisted by two part-time « low-cost » local consultants.
6. Upon request from and in close co-operation with the Algerian Authorities, an international seminar on « Evaluation stratégique et prospective : de l'aide à la décision à l'action » was organised in Algiers on April 28 and 29 1997. Proceedings will be published later on and jointly with the Institut National d'Etudes de Stratégie Globale.
7. Considering the high demand on Blue Plan fascicles, even though they are unfortunately only in French, the French Ministry of Environment has bought and offered to Blue Plan about one thousand copies so as to assure a large diffusion. Moreover, some have already run out and the one on « Mediterranean

ecosystems » is actually being reviewed and updated and will be reprinted soon. A new fascicle on « Natural hazards and environment » is under preparation. Both are expected for next Contracting Parties meeting.

8. Preparatory activities (framework, programme, components, consultants) are going on for the elaboration of a « Blue Plan 2000 » to be published within three years, a kind of updating of the former « Blue Plan » major book, building on all activities carried on with special focus on coastal regions.

Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory (MEDO) :

Co-operation with EC

9. In the framework of MEDO, the European Commission (Life/DG XI) has accepted BP's request for a financial support (ECU 774.000) over three years for a project on Mediterranean Sustainable Development Indicators (with related activities such as data, thematic and institutional studies).
10. In co-operation with other partners, Blue Plan has won an EC/DG XII call for bids on « PolAgwat Project » (use of water in agriculture) for which Blue Plan will get about ECU 80.000 over 36 months.
11. In co-operation with EC/IPTS (Seville) and with a marginal financial support, a database on water is being prepared (to be finalised in May 1997).

Co-operation with METAP

12. Closely associated with METAP III preparatory activities and Partners meetings, Blue Plan was asked to conduct the PPM regional programme (Project Performance Monitoring) for which USD 1.8 M have been allocated over METAP III period (about 50 % would be devoted to Blue Plan direct activities).
13. A substantial part of this PPM programme will consist in the elaboration of Environmental Performance Indicators at three levels. A major international workshop will be organised in Beirut in end-September/October 1997 where national and subject performance milestones and indicators will be discussed and projects ones prepared.
14. In view of the November Helsinki Euro-Med Environment Ministers meeting, a MAP/Blue Plan-METAP list of Mediterranean Sustainable Development Indicators will be prepared.

National Observatories

15. Upon request from the Tunisian Authorities, a joint Blue Plan/IFEN mission was organised in October 1996 to assist the national Observatory-OTED to identify a set of national sustainable development indicators in relation with priority subjects to be considered in the next State of the Environment report. A relevant report was prepared and as a follow up, a Tunisian team will visit Blue Plan and

IFEN during a week in May 1997.

16. For internal reasons to the Ministry of Environment, mainly due to changes in concerned department, the effective launching of the Turkish Observatory - TEDO was delayed. The process was revived from discussions with concerned staff, mainly that first instalment was already paid by EC, a Blue Plan mission to Ankara is planned for end of May to re-institute dynamic co-operation among close partners. Specific staff and office are expected for 5th of June, the Environment Day.
17. Albania : the identification and preparatory process for the Albanian Observatory was stopped because of the major disruptions in the country.
18. Lebanon and Syria : identification and preparatory process was recently launched in both countries where respective Environment Ministers and international organisations (UNDP and EC) have expressed great interest. Key national partners will be associated to the preparatory process and a feasibility study with a project document for funds raising will be launched soon.

Institutional studies / Country profiles

19. Draft report on France Country Profile is under review. Finalization is expected for September 1997.
20. A draft report for an Algerian Country Profile was prepared in April 1996 by a national consultant. Its finalization is expected for September 1997, after being reviewed and edited by Blue Plan expert.
21. Preparation of Country Profile reports for Lebanon and Syria were launched in April 1997. Draft reports, being prepared by respective national consultants, are expected within 3 to 4 months. If possible, one of them would be finalized for next Contracting Parties meeting.
22. Benefiting from an additional financial support from French Ministry of Environment, a specific institutional study is being conducted on Tunisia (laws, actors, internet page,...).

Statistics and Indicators

23. Based on the extensive research initiated through the EC/Eurostat/Medstat programme to which the Blue Plan was closely associated (as a technical partner for the environment statistics) and the expectations created, an important regional project was launched on « environmental statistics and indicators » for which 5 national Mediterranean teams were identified and contracted for a two-months work, jointly with respective Ministries of Environment and Statistical Administrations. It concerns, inter alia, institutional responsibilities, identification and collection of environmental statistics, and a research activity on a set of 33 indicators.
24. Based on an analytical report on soil and land cover/forest, related indicators

were identified for the Mediterranean region. The overall draft report will be reviewed during May and June by selected experts from « southern » countries before finalization.

25. In order to « frame » properly the indicators and related statistical activities, a background document is being prepared. It will be used for an expert meeting on indicators to be organised in July in Sophia Antipolis.
26. An in-depth research on industrial information and data was conducted by a senior expert during the period January-March 1997. The draft report is under review.
27. Approach and study of most, if not all subjects (water, soil, air, waste, agriculture, industry ...), to be considered under MEDO's SDI project will go through the following steps : position paper to identify problematics and major stakes, list of indicators, analytical and « decision making » presentation in synthetic sheets and key boards, before final report on the subject within two or three years.
28. Obviously, MAP related activity lines and budgets have been used as incentives and « seed money » for discussions and preparatory documents for projects with EC/DG XI/Life and METAP (see above).

Specific studies

29. Considering the accumulated knowledge and expertise on water, the Blue Plan was asked to prepare a consistent report for the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Water which was held in Marseilles on November 96. The report on « Water in the Mediterranean Region » in both French and English was highly appreciated, with a very large dissemination.

Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

30. Upon request from MED Unit, Mr. Arab HOBALLAH was asked to assist in the preparation of the MCSD Rabat meeting as technical secretary, until the appointment of MAP Deputy Co-ordinator. He devoted about one fifth of his time to such task. A visit to UN-CSD staff has provided the basis for the preparation of MCSD working methods.
31. Blue Plan contributed intensively to the preparation of the preliminary report submitted to MCSD members at their first meeting in Rabat, December 1996.
32. As a direct support Centre for four of the selected priority subjects to be studied in the short and medium terms (Management of water demand, Sustainable Development Indicators, Eco Tourism and Management of Urban/Rural Development), Blue Plan has provided the respective Task Managers with preliminary analytical reports.
33. As « Water Demand » is a short term activity, a more consistent report was prepared, in close co-operation with the Tunisian Task Manager, additional funds are being looked for the organisation in the South of France of related and

necessary workshop in the second half of June 97 to discuss the conclusions of the study and the policy recommendations to be submitted to MCSD and CP.

34. Encouraging contacts for fund raising for MCSD workshop were also undertaken by EcoMediterranea (NGO-Barcelona).

Miscellaneous

35. Blue Plan staff have participated in several workshops and seminars around the Mediterranean and in Europe on subjects related to MAP activities in general and Blue Plan ones in particular. As much as possible, priority was given to the meetings in which travelling costs were paid by the organisers.
36. Blue Plan has moved from January 1997 to new and larger premises, still in Sophia Antipolis and close to previous ones, offered (for at least 10 years) by the Alpes-Maritimes Department and with a financial support from PACA Region.

(c) Coastal planning and management
Regional Activity Centre for Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC)

General PAP activities

1. PAP/RAC organized, together with MEDCOAST Ankara, the International Workshop on Mediterranean and Black Sea Integrated Coastal Management. In the first half of the Workshop, presentations of the ICZM country review reports were programmed in two parallel sessions. In the second half of the Workshop the participants were discussing the state-of-the-art of ICZM in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The Workshop participants identified difficulties and limitations existing in ICZM today, gave recommendations addressing these difficulties and limitations, described opportunities for the Mediterranean and Black Sea interaction, and identified roles and contributions of international collaboration networks in ICZM in the future.
2. PAP/RAC participated at the First Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) in Rabat, December 1996. PAP/RAC received new tasks in the meeting. This particularly refers to providing professional support to various working groups that the MCSD has established to tackle the problems which require priority. PAP/RAC has taken the primary responsibility to support the Working group on coastal zone management, and, together with BP, on water resources. PAP has also been entrusted, together with BP, with the problems of tourism and urban development, which are considered medium-term priorities.
3. At the meeting of the working group for coastal zone management it was agreed that PAP prepare the terms of reference for the expert and to prepare a synthesis of the relevant problems in the Mediterranean. According to conclusions of the Working group for sustainable development of coastal zones, PAP/RAC prepared: (a) terms of reference for the Working group; (b) terms of reference for an expert on the existing ICAM policies and strategies in the Mediterranean. Task leaders have chosen the expert, PAP/RAC has signed the relevant contract and the synthesis report is being prepared.
4. PAP/RAC has been engaged by the METAP Programme of the World Bank to make an assessment of coastal zone management activities in the Mediterranean, with the purpose of identifying successes and failures in hitherto activities aiming to repeat the former and avoid the latter in future regional initiatives. A group of renowned experts has been chosen to carry out the evaluation, and a certain number of case studies have been selected for in-depth analysis. The conclusive meeting took place in France in October 1996. The final draft report on coastal zone management initiatives is being drafted.
5. Workshop on Carrying Capacity Assessment for Tourism in Mediterranean Coastal Areas was held in January 1997 in Split. The Workshop participants evaluated the draft Guidelines for Carrying Capacity Assessment for Tourism in Mediterranean Coastal Areas. Participants also discussed the basic elements of the existing CCA studies (Brijuni archipelago, Vis, central-eastern part of the island of Rhodes), and those being prepared now (Lalzi Bay, and the area of

Marsa Matrouh - Fuka). The follow-up for PAP/RAC activities of the action Development of Mediterranean Tourism Harmonized with the Environment were recommended.

6. A number of PAP/RAC Guidelines were translated into French (ICAM guidelines, CCA guidelines, Soil erosion cartography guidelines, Aquaculture guidelines) and a number of PAP Guidelines are being translated into French (Erosion measurement guidelines, Historic settlements rehabilitation and reconstruction guidelines). This will help the results of PAP/RAC activities to be wider disseminated.

Environmental Impact Assessment

7. A PAP/RAC training course on environmental impact assessment was held in December 1996 in Rijeka (Croatia). Some 30 national participants were trained the role of EIA in planning- and decision-making process, EIA methods being implemented throughout the world and experience of Mediterranean countries in preparing EIA.
8. A PAP/RAC training course on environmental impact assessment was organized in Tirana in January 1997, together with the Albanian Committee of Environmental Protection. Albanian experts were informed on the practical approach to the preparation of EIA, presented the relevant international experience, and explained the basic steps and methods used in the application of EIA.
9. Israeli experts prepared EIA case studies of Herzliya Marina and A Polypropylene Plant in Kiryat Nahum. The studies were translated into English, published and disseminated

Water Resources Management

10. Draft version of Guidelines for Integrated Waste Resources Management, Development and Use of Coastal Water Resources has been completed by a team of Mediterranean experts.
11. Expert Meeting to discuss, amend and adopt Guidelines for Integrated Waste Resources Management, Development and Use of Coastal Water Resources will be held in Split on May 12-14, 1997. The final version of the Guidelines is expected to help national and local authorities in Mediterranean to manage water resources efficiently.

Soil erosion

12. With the financial support of the Spanish Government, a PAP/RAC Workshop was organized in October 1996 in Barcelona, to present Guidelines for the Application of Common Consolidated Methodology of Mapping of Rainfall-Induced Erosion Processes in the Mediterranean Coastal Areas and Guidelines for Measurement of Erosion Processes in the Mediterranean Coastal Areas. The representatives of Mediterranean countries evaluated the above two Guidelines

and the relevant case studies. They also visited the Vallcebre area which had been selected for the Spanish case study on mapping and measurement.

13. Expert Meeting to edit the Guidelines for Mapping and Measurement of Rainfall-Induced Erosion Processes in the Mediterranean Coastal Areas took place in January 1997 in Rome. The participants reviewed the recommendations and suggestions for editing adopted by the Barcelona workshop, in particular the basic approach when merging the two documents, the recommended amendments and the problems related to merging of glossaries and bibliographies.
14. Turkish experts prepared case study entitled Erosion Measurement in Caybogazi Catchment, South-Western Mediterranean Coastal Region and Spanish experts prepared case studies Erosion and Sediment Yield in the Vallcebre Experimental Catchments and Erosion Mapping of the Vallcebre Area (River Saldes Basin).
15. A number of Mediterranean countries and their institutions and experts agreed to continue with the PAP soil erosion activity in order to enhance their soil erosion management

Aquaculture

16. Guidelines for the Selection and Protection of Sites Suitable for Aquaculture in the Mediterranean have been completed, both in English and French.
17. PAP/RAC continues to coordinate the EAM Network activities. The EAM Coordinator and the Director of PAP/RAC took part in the meeting (Rome, September 1996) which discussed the harmonization and course of EAM activities after the dissolution of MEDRAP.

Other activities

18. During the visit of MAP Coordinator to PAP/RAC and Croatia on 28-29 October 1996, the Host country agreement was signed between UNEP and Croatia. The Agreement set forth the terms and conditions under which PAP/RAC shall act pursuant to the decision of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. By this Agreement, the Centre's regional and local role were clearly divided, contributing to the future operational efficiency of the Centre.

(d) **Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP)**

The following is a summary of the progress achieved concerning the various CAMP projects being implemented by MAP:

CAMP Albania

The activities currently being implemented by PAP/RAC under the CAMP Albania are:

- Water Resources Management Study for the Erzeni and Ishmi Rivers;
 - Carrying Capacity Assessment Study for Tourism in Lalzi Bay;
 - EIA for a Tourist Complex and Marina at Ksamili region.
1. Four chapters of the "Water Resources Management Study for the Erzeni and Ishmi Rivers" were completed. The chapters present, in an integrated manner, all the characteristics of water resources of the two watersheds which will enable proposing the optimal system of their exploitation, protection and sustainable management. Five more chapters of the Study are being prepared. A PAP/RAC expert visited Albania in February 1997 in order to review the work accomplished so far and to give recommendations for preparation of the remaining chapters.
 2. The work on the Carrying Capacity Assessment Study for Tourism in Lalzi Bay (the northern section of the Albania's coast) is continuing. The local experts' reports, as well as the sectoral and mission reports of international experts have been completed. The first draft of the final document is prepared by the core team of PAP/RAC experts. The study is expected to give the synthesis of the tourism demand and development and to propose possible alternative approaches to tourism, with the special emphasis on the sustainable tourism development option.
 3. EIA for a Tourist Complex and Marina at Ksamili Region, proposed by Societa Turistica Saranda, is being prepared. The objectives of the document preparation are to train national experts in carrying out of EIA, to prepare the EIA document for the development project at Ksamili region and to use the prepared document in management of the Ksamili region.
 4. On the occasion of the Training course on environmental impact assessment (Tirana, January 1997), PAP/RAC expert reviewed the work accomplished so far on preparation of the EIA for a Tourist Complex and Marina at Ksamili Region.
 5. The document "CZM Plan for Durres-Vlore Region" was translated into Albanian. PAP/RAC disseminated a number of copies to relevant Albanian local decision-makers and experts.
 6. Final report was submitted by Blue Plan to Albanian Authorities for comments, corrected and sent to CEP. The recent dramatic events prevented Blue Plan, for time being, from presenting directly to concerned local authorities the conclusions of the scenarios.

Fuka-Matrouh CAMP (Egypt)

1. The activities currently being implemented by PAP/RAC under the CAMP "Fuka-Matrouh" are:
 - Carrying Capacity Assessment of the Fuka Matrouh Area;
 - Integrated Coastal Area Management Plan (ICAM) of the Fuka Matrouh Area;
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the ICAM Plan.
2. PAP/RAC Expert Meeting on the above mentioned activities within CAMP Fuka was held in Alexandria on 17-18 November 1996. The participants of the meeting agreed upon the workplan of these activities which are to take place until the end of the Project in December 1997. They also discussed the national team members and the team leader, time schedule of the team engagement, venue of the ICAM plan preparation and logistics, terms of reference and contracts.
3. The PAP/RAC project manager of the CAMP Fuka-Matrouh presented the Programme objectives, the Programme institutional framework and the Programme components and activities accomplished so far at the National Seminar on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Cairo, December 1996). During the Seminar contacts were established with other ongoing projects related to coastal areas and it was agreed to exchange information with other projects teams through project managers and EEAA.
4. Under the Carrying Capacity Assessment activity the tourism data is being collected and processed by PAP/RAC, preliminary tourism options are being elaborated; under the Integrated Coastal Area Management Plan (ICAM) activity the relevant information was gathered and main stakeholders were contacted; under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) activity the SEA Guidelines are being prepared, sectorial studies are being completed, and the SEA study is being finalized. Also, GIS data for CZM plan were collected and the relevant document prepared.
5. The document on land evaluation was prepared and the Soil Degradation and Desertification Study of the Fuka-Matrouh area was completed.
6. A mission on CZM plan Fuka-Matrouh is being prepared by PAP/RAC for May 1997. The terms of reference for the mission have been prepared and the experts.
7. In January and February 1997, ERS/RAC experts have carried out the processing of relevant georeferenced data, in order to produce the final Land System map to be annexed to the CAMP Report, together with the Land Unit map set out by the PAP/RAC. At the same time, the ERS/RAC experts have revised the final version of the report, jointly prepared by PAP/RAC and ERS/RAC in October 1996.
8. The CAMP activities planned by ERS/RAC can be thus considered accomplished (February 1997). The final document - named - "Assessment of Natural

Resources and Soil Conservation Issues in the integration of complementary activities carried out by the two centres.

PAP/RAC will take care of printing the document, in time for the final presentation of the CAMP, in Egypt.

Meanwhile, ERS/RAC is already seeking for a follow-up to the outcomes of its intervention in the CAMP, through a possible extension of them in Egypt or in other Mediterranean countries with similar needs.

9. Blue Plan final report will be produced in June 1997. One international expert and four local ones were involved in this case. After a good start with encouraging participation and products, the finalisation was rather hard and tiresome, losing about 18 months in encouraging a team of 'young' professionals and ending up mainly with the report of the international expert.

Sfax CAMP (Tunisia)

1. The activities currently being implemented by PAP/RAC under the CAMP "Sfax" are:
 - Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan of Sfax area;
 - Water Resources Management Study of the Sfax area;
 - Establishment of the GIS database for Sfax.
2. A PAP/RAC mission of experts visited Tunisia in September 1996 with the task to launch activities in the Water resources management study. A detailed programme for the Study preparation was drafted, the working team was selected, relevant terms of reference were prepared and contracts signed.
3. A PAP/RAC mission of experts visited Tunis and Sfax in December 1996 concerning preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan of Sfax. A meeting was held with the local team leader, a detailed programme for the Plan preparation was drafted, the working team was selected, relevant terms of reference were presented, a GIS document and thematic charts were also presented, the financial plan was proposed to local team
4. A PAP/RAC consultant on GIS visited Sfax and Tunis on March 8-14, 1997, and (a) reviewed the activities of the local GIS team defined as the follow-up after the mission in March 1996; (b) reviewed the existence and availability of the data needed for the activities within the CAMP Sfax; (c) checked the hardware equipment to be used for the establishment of the GIS database for Sfax; (d) defined the final contents of the GIS data base and the proposal for organization of the work; and (e) discussed the follow-up activities.
5. A PAP/RAC mission visited Sfax and Tunis on March 10-14, 1997, and:
 - (a) discussed the workplan of the ICAM Plan of Sfax and assigned relevant tasks among local team members;

- (b) discussed the timetable of the Water resources management study with the local team leader and presented him comments on the draft chapters I and II of the Study;
 - (c) discussed the timetable of the GIS activity and assigned relevant tasks among local team members.
6. In its capacity of coordinator of CAMP Sfax, SPA/RAC has prepared a synthesis report of the activities undertaken by the different MAP components between January 1994 and December 1996. The report has been transmitted to the Tunisian Focal Point and to the concerned MAP components. In accordance with the Activity 7.7 "Specially Protected Areas" SPA/RAC organised a workshop on the impact assessment of urban planning on natural sites and wild flora and fauna. The workshop was held in Sfax on 2 and 3 April 1997 and was attended by 20 participants from local administration, university and NGO. Following the workshop and within the framework of the elaboration of a management plan for the natural site of Thyna, SPA/RAC organised a field study with participation of SPA/RAC experts and consultants, the representative of ANPE and the representative of the COTUSAL company which is the main user of the wetland of Thyna.
7. The final document of the ERS/RAC intervention in the CAMP - named "Modélisation de la circulation côtière et de la distribution des rejets côtiers dans le chenal de Sfax" - has been issued in January 1997, and few copies have disseminated to involve Tunisian Authorities and MAP components for comments and suggestions. Its full distribution will be made on the occasion of the final presentation of the CAMP.

The outputs of the performed study have showed that the hydrodynamical characteristics of the Sfax coastal area cause pollutants' accumulation on coastal ecosystems rather than their transport and dispersion into open sea. Thus, high vulnerability to pollution results to be a characteristic of the concerned coastal strip. Moreover, this study highlights the importance of its integration with further. specific impact assessments to be developed in the concerned area.

8. Blue Plan final report will be ready for June 1997. Working closely with experts from Sfax, Blue Plan experts have invested much more of their time and expertise in this case, more than in other CAMPs, and where systemic and prospective tools were used and developed more in depth. The draft final results were presented and discussed in Sfax at Abou Nawas Hotel on 20 and 21 February 1997 with participation of local and national concerned public staff and experts.

CAMP Israel

1. The activities currently being implemented by PAP/RAC under the CAMP "Israel" are:
- First National Strategy for Sustainable Development;
 - Management of Coastal Resources and Hazards - Sediments and Cliffs;

- Economic Instruments;
 - Coastal Area Management.
2. The Agreement on the Coastal Area Management Programme for Israel was signed on 12 November 1996 between the Government of the State of Israel and UNEP/MAP. PAP/RAC Deputy Director in his capacity of CAMP "Israel" Coordinator on this occasion discussed with the local authorities the workplan and budget of PAP-related part of the CAMP Israel. The list of Israeli consultants, contents of terms of reference for consultants and financing issues were agreed upon during the mission.
 3. PAP/RAC Deputy Director had a meeting in Rabat in December 1996 with representatives of Israel and the BP/RAC regarding the preparation of the terms of reference and contracts for Israeli consultants engaged in the implementation of the CAMP "Israel".
 4. Under the First National Strategy for Sustainable Development the following terms of reference were prepared by PAP/RAC and contracts signed with: Industry Target Group Facilitator, Tourism Target Group Facilitator, Environmental Expert on Industry and Environmental Experts on Hazardous Substances. Under the Management of Coastal Resources and Hazards activity a contract was signed on two subactivities: "Management of Coastal Sand Reservoir" and "Management of Cliff Instability"
 5. In the framework of the implementation of activity 1.8 "Sustainability Development for Open Space and Biodiversity", SPA/RAC is preparing a document on major long-term environmental issues in Israel relating to biodiversity is under preparation by a national consultant. The activity is implemented with the collaboration of PAP/RAC in its capacity of coordinator of this CAMP.
 6. On the occasion of the signing of the Agreement between the UNEP/MAP and the Israeli Government, ERS/RAC mission to Israel (November 1996) - together with the MAP delegates - has been focused on making a survey of the coastal area to be studied, and to lay the foundations for the joint work planned with the Israeli counterparts.

ERS/RAC presented a project focused on the remote sensing support for analysis of coasts - the results of which will contribute to the CAMP implementation - to be developed with the direct involvement of the Israeli Ministry of Environment.

Shoreline changes, coastal land cover, bathymetry assessment, suspended sediments analysis, sand inventory, sea state and wind are all topics to be studied, which will contribute to the implementation of an information system to support the planning and decision-making processes of Israel, for coastal management.

7. A further mission to Israel made in early March 1997 was aimed at starting-up the ERS/RAC activities for the CAMP. Within them, it was agreed with the Israeli

Planning Department of the Ministry of Environment to entrust local experts with the analysis of carried-out and ongoing satellite remote sensing applications at national and local level. As for capacity building, ERS/RAC has proposed that an Israeli expert could spend one/two months in Palermo working on satellite data processing together with ERS/RAC experts.

CAMP Morocco

A contract was prepared and signed in December 1997 with Moroccan experts for the preparation of a report and critical review on the recent activities carried out in the area of Al-Hoceima in the field of planning and management. The results of the work will identify the existing gaps and the need at the local level which will therefore form the content of the CAMP agreement.

CAMP Algeria

1. Following a preparatory mission by Mr. L. Chabason and Mr. B. Glass, regular contacts were established with concerned experts from the Under-Secretariat for Environment, concerning technical and financial aspects for the feasibility study. Finally, a green light for the launching of this study was given on April 16 to the Environment Officers, for a USD 20.000 lumpsum and for the expected feasibility study to be done by ANAT and ISMAL in close co-operation with Under-Secretariat for Environment and Blue Plan. A working session will be held in Algiers on April 26 1997 with concerned experts. This study will provide an in-depth analysis of selected region, with a good information base and will prepare the ground for the Algeria-MAP Agreement..
2. PAP/RAC entrusted BP/RAC with preparing terms of reference and contracts with Algerian counterpart regarding the feasibility study on CAMP Algeria. The funds for the Study preparation were transferred to BP/RAC.

CAMP Lebanon

1. Even though requested in Antalya Meeting of the Contracting Parties (1993), the Lebanese CAMP could not be launched mainly because of local very specific conditions (reconstruction of the country after a 16 years war period and re-birth of the Ministry of Environment). Yet, a lot needs to be achieved but the situation is improving.
2. On behalf of MED Unit/MAP, Blue Plan has revived this project during a multi purpose mission to Lebanon from 8-11 April 1997. The Minister, his Advisor and concerned staff were briefed on MAP CAMP projects, concepts and approaches, and a great interest was shown for such a project, south or north of Beirut, rather far from Beirut. However, in the overall on-going process for revitalising Beirut and Lebanon, a great interest has been put on coastal management and several national/local studies were done and programmes elaborated, but by many institutions and without necessary information of concerned partners. UNDP is also active in that field, mainly in protected areas.
3. Preparatory steps will be defined soon with the Ministry of Environment for the

launching of a Lebanese CAMP. Meanwhile, it is important noting that it will be necessary to review the related studies and programmes, define an added value, assist the Ministry's staff to select a relevant coastal region and identify the consultant(s) for the feasibility study. Considering the actual Ministry's staff (quantity and expertise), a national co-ordinator for the CAMP project and Coastal Zone Management (CZM) in general to be based in the Ministry for staff on-the-job-training could be an interesting option for all partners.

(ii) Conservation of nature, landscape and sites

(a) Specially protected areas

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

I. Collection of data and periodic assessment of the situation

Activity: Collection of data and assistance to countries for the preparation of inventories of species and sites of special interest

1. Following a recommendation of the IX Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to "assist States in drawing up inventories of those elements that make up the natural marine and coastal Mediterranean heritage, as a first step in view of developing national strategy for the conservation of biodiversity", SPA/RAC has started several preparatory activities. These include:

- i) the preparation of an assessment report on the existence and state of national relevant inventories;
- ii) a census of the capabilities available at the country and regional levels, that could participate in the drawing up of the inventories;
- iii) the elaboration of common criteria for the preparation of the inventories, to be agreed and adopted by the Contracting Parties (see above).

A contract for assistance in the undertaking of the above activities has been defined with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Questionnaires have been elaborated and sent to the focal points for SPA and other institutions/organisations with the aim of collecting information relevant to the activities (i) and (ii). The main outputs of these activities will be two reports dealing with existing relevant inventories and institutional capacities respectively, which will be presented at the next meeting of the Contracting Parties (November 1997).

Concerning the third activity, it is planned to accomplish the elaboration of the criteria through the following main steps:

- elaboration of a draft common criteria by an Ad-Hoc Working Group, including representatives of competent organisations, either intergovernmental and non-governmental;
- revision of the draft of common criteria in a meeting of experts representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention;
- formal adoption of the criteria by the Contracting Parties, at the next ordinary meeting (November 1997).

A meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group was convened in Tunis on 6 and 7 March 1997, and was effective in defining draft criteria or providing guidance for

their further elaboration, currently in progress. The group included representatives of the Council of Europe (Bern Convention Secretariat), European Topic Centre on Nature Conservation (ETC/NC), IUCN, World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), WWF, SPA/RAC. The outcomes of the group will represent the working basis for the forthcoming meeting of experts representatives of the Contracting Parties.

II. Legal measures (SPA Protocol)

Activity: Assistance to countries in their legislation dealing with Specially Protected Areas and species conservation

2. SPA/RAC is undertaking a comparative study between the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1995) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). The study is also expected to briefly consider the other relevant international treaties applicable to the Mediterranean. The study is mainly aimed at:
 - (i) providing assistance to the Parties in fulfilling their obligations under different international instruments according to a consistent and integrated approach;
 - (ii) providing the bases for the establishment of operational links between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. The study is expected to be presented at the X Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

III. Planning and Management

Activity: Implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles

3. Upon the request of the Croatian National Focal Point, SPA/RAC is supporting a marine turtle project in Croatia. The project consists of two main aspects:
 - (i) a survey of potential marine turtles nesting beaches along the southern coast of Croatia, which is expected to be carried out in summer 1997. At the moment of the preparation of this report, contacts are underway between SPA/RAC and the Croatian Natural History Museum for the definition of SPA/RAC support;
 - (ii) a public awareness programme on marine turtle in Croatia. In this regard, SPA/RAC has defined an agreement with Natura, Society for the Protection of Nature in Croatia, for the production of a poster and a pamphlet (see also para. 4).
4. Within the framework of a coordinated marine turtle tagging programme, SPA/RAC is working to the production of information and awareness material.

The conception and realisation of a poster and a folder are in progress. The material is expected to be produced in a first stage in two languages (English and French or Arabic), and is expected to be available for distribution to the participating groups by the first half of 1997. A version in Croatian language of the folder is also expected.

5. The French version of a manual on marine turtle tagging (title: *Manuel de marquage des tortues marines en Méditerranée*), produced within the framework of a coordinated marine turtle tagging programme, was published. The manual is currently being distributed to the participants to the programme, and to other interested researchers and organisations.

Activity: Implementation of the Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal

6. SPA/RAC is organising, in collaboration with Department of Fisheries of Cyprus and the Cyprus Wildlife Society (CWS), a field study along Cyprus coasts aimed at assessing the existence of a resident monk seal colony and of suitable habitats for the species. To this effect, contracts have been defined with the CWS and Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal (MOM-HSSPMS). The field mission is expected to be carried out either in late May to early June or late September to early October. The report of the activity is expected to be ready within 3 months from the end of the field survey.

Activity: Implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

7. In accordance with the recommendations of the meeting of the Ad-Hoc group of experts convened in Montpellier on 5 March 1994, SPA/RAC is promoting the organisation of a Research/Training cruise for the study of cetaceans in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. The cruise will take place during the summer months of 1997 (end of May - beginning of June) in the Ionian waters around Kefallonia Island (Greece), its duration is fixed to ten (10) days with participation of researchers and trainees from Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy and Malta. A workshop attended by representatives from the participating countries was organised by RAC/SPA at the UNEP/MEDU office in Athens on 16 and 17 December 1996 to set out the programme, the methodology and the geographical scope of the cruise. The workshop offered also the occasion to present and discuss several research methods and techniques used in cetacean surveying. Tethys Research Institute (Italy) is entrusted by RAC/SPA with the scientific and technical coordination of the cruise, it will make necessary arrangements for the efficient running of the cruise including the assignment of an appropriate vessel.
8. The first edition of a Directory of Marine mammal specialists (Mediterranean and Black Sea) has been finalised, and is being distributed in a first phase to those who are included in it. The Directory has been prepared within the framework of a joint project between SPA/RAC and the Tethys Research Institute (Italy). It includes at present 167 specialists, each record containing the contact address and number(s), the field(s) of interest and the working language(s).

Activity: Assistance to countries in the field of biodiversity conservation

9. In order to foster the integration of marine biodiversity within the national strategies for the conservation of biodiversity under preparation in several Mediterranean countries with support from GEF/UNDP, SPA/RAC is promoting the preparation of national synthesis on the marine components of biological diversity aimed at highlighting the major and/or sensitive components and identifying activities and practices which have or are likely to have an adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity. A first initiative in this field was launched by RAC/SPA to prepare complementary studies to the Tunisian national biodiversity study. This SPA/RAC activity consists in the preparation of:

- (i) a report on the marine biodiversity in Tunisia, containing inventories of species and ecosystems based on the available data. The report will also include recommendations for conservation and for data collection.
- (ii) a report on the biological biodiversity components submitted to exploitation in Tunisia. The report will include an analytical study on the interaction between fishery activities and biodiversity conservation.

A mission to Tunis of the consultants expected to prepare the above reports was accomplished was carried out between 24 and 28 March 1997, and included working meetings with the concerned Tunisian authorities and institutions.

Activity: Assistance to countries in the selection, establishment and management of Specially Protected Areas of ecological value

10. The area of Rads El Heka was identified by the studies prepared within the framework of the CAMP Fuka-Matrouh project as a site of natural interest on which a Marine and Coastal Protected area could be established. SPA/RAC is promoting the preparation of a feasibility study for the establishment of a Marine and Coastal Protected Area in Ras El Heka, through the compilation of existing data on the area and a field visit. A mission to the site was accomplished by the consultant in charge with the preparation of the study. The report of the consultant is expected to be available by the first half of 1997.

11. SPA/RAC launched a project aimed at undertaking the preparatory studies for the establishment of a marine and coastal protected area on the site of Oum Toyour in the Northern Mediterranean coast of Syria. The project implies the participation of national and international experts, and will cover both the natural and legal aspects. The following main outputs are expected:

- (i) report on the marine ecosystems;
- (ii) analytical study of the Syrian legislation in the field of species and natural sites conservation;
- (iii) feasibility study for the establishment of a marine and coastal protected area at Oum Toyour. The report on the marine ecosystems was received

from the Syrian consultant charged with its preparation. A mission to Syria was accomplished by the international experts involved in the project.

Activity: Assistance to countries for the improvement of the management of SPAs

12. SPA/RAC is undertaking an assessment of the management of marine and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean region, mainly aimed at identifying major shortcomings and needs of the national and site levels. The activity provides for the definition at the outset of a standard methodology to be applied in the assessment. A first version of the methodology was prepared. With a view to obtaining information necessary within the assessment, two types of questionnaire have been elaborated on the basis of the methodology, for the national and at the site level respectively, and have been sent to the Focal Points for SPA. The final report is expected by June 1997.

IV. Exchange of experience and strengthening of national capabilities

Activity: Training sessions on the scientific and technical aspects of the conservation of the natural common heritage

13. SPA/RAC sponsored the participation of three trainees from Southern Mediterranean countries, namely Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, to the international seminar *Marine mammals: biology and conservation*, organised at Valencia, Spain, 9-13 September 1996 by the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo.
14. SPA/RAC is sponsoring the participation of three trainees from Morocco, Spain and Tunisia to the *Stage de Formation en Cétologie Méditerranéenne*. The stage is expected to take place in Sète (France) from 14 to 19 April 1997, and is organised by the *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes of Montpellier*.
15. SPA/RAC is organising a training workshop on the management of public access to SPAs. The workshop is tentatively scheduled in July/August 1997.
16. Upon the identification of appropriate candidates, SPA/RAC will sponsor the participation of trainees from Mediterranean countries to the following training seminars/courses:
 - Training Seminar on Sea Turtle Basic Research and Conservation Techniques (Greece, July/August 1997);
 - Training Course on Turtle Conservation (Lara Station, Cyprus, July/August 1997).

V. Strengthening of the Legal Framework

17. SPA/RAC assisted the MAP Co-ordinating Unit in providing Secretariat services during the following meetings:

- Meeting of Government-designated experts on the Annexes to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.119 (Monaco, 23 November 1996);
- Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Annexes to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.10 (Monaco, 24 November 1996).

Such assistance mainly consisted of:

- Preparing the working document at the two meetings;
- SPA/RAC staff joining the Secretariat during the working sessions of the meetings;
- Preparing the report of the Meeting of Experts and participating in the preparation of the Final Act of the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries.

VI. Other activities

18. Within the framework of the project "Formulation of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Mediterranean Sea, to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities", mainly funded through a GEF PDF Grant, SPA/RAC was requested by the MAP Coordinating Unit to prepare a report on critical habitats and ecosystems and endangered species in the Mediterranean Sea. The report was aimed to contribute to the preparation of a Transboundary Diagnostic analysis (TDA) for the Mediterranean region, expected to be the basis for the preparation of the SAP. A SPA/RAC staff attended the Ad-Hoc Consultation of Regional Experts on the Mediterranean GEF Project, held in Athens, 14-16 January 1997. At the moment of the preparation of the present progress report, the above-mentioned report is being finalised, and is expected to be transmitted to the MAP Coordinating Unit by the second half of April.
19. Following a recommendation of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), SPA/RAC participated in several meetings held within the Bern Convention and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, in particular:
 - Meeting of coordination for the establishment of a European Action Programme for threatened species (Strasbourg, 12-13 September 1996);
 - Group of experts on implementation of Recommendation No. 16 (1989) on Areas of Special Conservation Interest (Paris, 4-6 November 1996);
 - 16th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Strasbourg, 2-6 December 1996).
20. In the general framework of the activities of the Centre, SPA/RAC staff attended

the following other meetings or seminars:

- XIII Meeting of MED Unit and Regional Activity Centres (RAC) Barcelona, Spain, 17-19 September 1996);
- Réunion officielle de négociation sur l'accord sur la conservation des cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente (Monaco, 19-24 November 1996);
- IV Mediterranean Environmental Forum, Cooperation for a Sustainable Development (Barcelona, Spain, 13-15 December 1996);
- First Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Rabat, Morocco, 16-18 December 1996);
- XIV Meeting of MED Unit and Regional Activity Centres (RAC) (Athens, Greece, 3-4 March 1997);
- Training the Trainers Workshop in Biodiversity Information Management (Cambridge, UK, 17-21 March 1997);
- Meeting of the IUCN Working Group for the Mediterranean (Tunis, 10-12 April 1997);
- Meeting of the Bureau of the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MEDPAN) (Porto Torres, Italy, 16 April 1997);
- Symposium on "Management of Protected Islands in the Mediterranean" (Porto Torres, Italy, 17-19 April 1997).

(iii) Assessment, prevention and elimination of marine pollution**(a) MED POL activities**

1. With regard to the implementation of the national monitoring programmes, in view of the very limited funds available, during 1996 only one agreement was finalised for Malta (40,000 US \$) and limited assistance for the purchase of chemicals was given to Algeria (3,500 US \$) and Egypt (13,500 US \$) in the framework of their respective data quality assurance programmes.
2. The XXX Meeting of the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee for MED POL was held in Athens from 9 to 11 December 1996 to review the activities implemented in 1996 and to discuss and prepare the work for the implementation of Phase III.
3. The two-year project "Enhancement of Data Processing Facilities for Environmental Data at the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MEDU)", which had been signed in 1994 between UNEP/MAP and the Italian Government, was formally completed with a final closure meeting that took place in Rome, Italy, on 6 March 1997. The Italian Government provided the main funding of this project (US\$ 312,000) and the Laboratory of Marine Biology (LMB) of the University of Trieste was designated as the supporting and cooperating organization. The LMB provided the scientific expertise by seconding a full-time Data Analyst to Athens for the entire duration of the project, and the International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS) of Trieste provided a part-time Scientific Advisor.
4. Three main objectives of the project were:
 - (a) strengthening of UNEP/MAP with additional scientific know-how and technology, staff, hardware equipment, and software in order to upgrade handling of the MED POL marine pollution data (collection, computerization, verification, analysis, and presentation);
 - (b) improvement of UNEP/MAP capabilities in processing and efficiently disseminating the information concerning the Mediterranean marine environment and the coastal zones to developing countries; and
 - (c) improvement of regional cooperation and assisting the implementation of UNEP/MAP programme in the Mediterranean countries.
5. With the completion of this project, the following tasks were achieved:
 - (a) MEDU PC hardware was upgraded, and the users were trained on the use of Windows and various other PC software;
 - (b) the MED POL marine pollution data at MEDU was computerized and maintained in a database constructed using PC ORACLE software;
 - (c) computerized MED POL data were analysed to provide information on the quantity of data, strategy of monitoring activity and statistics on

contamination;

- (d) a training course on handling, processing, interpretation and presentation of Mediterranean marine pollution data was held jointly by LMB, UNEP/MAP and ICS at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, 11-16 December 1995, and was attended by 22 technical officers and scientists from the Mediterranean region;
- (e) Geographic information system/desktop mapping (GIS/DM) and desktop publishing (DTP) were employed for the creation and compilation of the Project output; and
- (f) MEDU was connected to Internet in December 1994 with the purchase of high-speed MODEMs from Project funds (as a follow-up to the project, a major study on UNEP/MAP's Internet connection and home-page setup is now underway and it is hoped that it will be finalized by the spring of 1997).

The various aspects of the Project and its output were presented at several meetings of Mediterranean countries where the overall value of the Project for UNEP/MAP was underlined.

- 6. Extensive work was carried out by the Secretariat in order to prepare the basis for the implementation of the MED POL Phase III Programme adopted in Montpellier.
 - 7. As part of the Pollution Assessment component of MED POL Phase III, the Secretariat worked on the compilation of a draft operational document for the pollution trend monitoring. Several contacts were made with scientists from and outside the region and a small consultation meeting was held in Athens on 10-11 April in order to propose a programme which would take into account the experience gained from other programmes and which would, at the same time, take into consideration the specific needs of the region. The draft operational document for the monitoring of trends will be presented to the Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators to be held in Delphi, from 20 to 23 May 1997 for comments and approval.
 - 8. As part of the Pollution Control component of MED POL Phase III, the Secretariat, with the assistance of experts of the region, worked on the compilation of a draft operational document for the compliance monitoring. The document was prepared and will be presented to the Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators to be held in Delphi, from 20 to May 1997 for comments and approval.
- (b) GEF Project
- 9. In the framework of the implementation of the LBS Protocol, during 1996 the Secretariat submitted a proposal for a grant to the GEF Secretariat, for the formulation of a Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities. The proposal was approved and the activities started in 1997.

10. The activities include the formulation of a costed and targeted Strategic Action Programme as well as Guidelines for the preparation of national action plans to be prepared on the basis of a regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and a Report on the pollution "Hot Spots" to be identified country by country. The activity also includes the preparation of an investment portfolio covering possible interventions related to the solution of problems of transboundary significance. The portfolio will be examined by a Donors' Conference who will consider the possibility to launch a full project in 1998. MED POL was assigned the responsibility of the overall coordination of the project while WHO was asked to be technically responsible for the preparation of the Report on the pollution "Hot Spots".
11. A letter was sent on 24 October 1996 to all MAP Focal Points to inform them of the launching of the project and to ask them to designate national Focal Points for the coordination of the project. All MAP Focal Points were also asked to examine the possibility to establish inter-ministry committees in view of the multidisciplinary nature of the project. As at May 1997 only two countries have not yet nominated National Coordinators.
12. A first Meeting of the project Steering Group, composed of MAP/MED POL, GEF Coordination Unit in Nairobi, UNDP and World Bank, was held in Athens in January 1997 to agree on the overall implementation strategy and on the selection of the experts in charge of the preparation of the various documents. An Ad hoc Consultation Meeting was also held in January 1997 to discuss with the experts and to agree on the first draft outlines of the documents. Three National Coordinators also attended the Consultation. A technical Consultation on the preparation of the Report on the pollution "Hot Spots" was held in Athens in April 1997.
13. According to the workplan and timetable of the activity, all draft documents will be presented to a Meeting of Government-designated experts scheduled to take place in Bacoli, Italy, in June 1997 which will comment, amend and approve the Strategic Action Programme, the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Report on the Pollution "Hot Spots". The documents, as amended, will be transmitted to the Contracting Parties in November 1997 for adoption.

The activity also foresees to hold in July 1997 in Athens a Meeting of the designated National Coordinators to examine and approve the Guidelines for the formulation of national action plans.

After the adoption of the documents by the Contracting Parties, the Donors' Conference will be held in December 1997 to examine the follow up to the results of the project.
14. The Secretariat feels that the outputs of the activity will greatly assist the implementation of the Protocol and establish solid basis for the future activities required by the provisions of the Protocol.

(b) Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

A. Activities organised by REMPEC

1. Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, Malta 22-26 October 1996

- (a) Following the decision of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Montpellier which requested the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points to examine the question of regional co-operation in the field of prevention and response to marine pollution from sea-based activities within the new context of MAP Phase II and to submit proposals to the next ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting approved a draft regional strategy and a draft Resolution for adoption by the Contracting Parties.

The regional strategy on prevention of the pollution of the marine environment by ships proposed for adoption implies that the Protocol on Emergency is to be amended in order to introduce the provisions necessary to implement this strategy. The Meeting proposed that the corresponding amendments should be adopted on the occasion of the 1999 Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The meeting also requested the Director of REMPEC to prepare a draft revision of the Annex to the Resolution 7 regarding the objectives and functions of REMPEC and to present it for approval by the Contracting Parties together with the strategy on the prevention of pollution by ships.

- (b) The Meeting approved a programme for the 1998-1999 biennium for the activities of REMPEC in the field of preparedness for, response to and cooperation in case of accidental marine pollution.
- (c) The Focal Points of REMPEC, noting the extent of the tasks to be carried out by the Centre requested forcefully that the Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan include in the REMPEC budget a post of an administrative and financial professional without reducing the current resources of the Centre.

2. The Regional Training Course on preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents involving oil and other hazardous substances in the Mediterranean was organised by REMPEC in cooperation and with the assistance of the Marine Environment Protection Division of the Ministry of Mercantile Marine of the Hellenic Republic of Piraeus, Greece between 29 November and 7 December 1996.
3. A specialised regional training course on response to packaged dangerous goods lost at sea was organised by REMPEC in collaboration with CEDRE in Brest, France between 4 and 8 February 1997.
4. The first meeting of the Steering Committee for the development of spill response capabilities of Cyprus, Egypt and Israel took place in Cyprus on 24 and

25 March 1997. This meeting was the first activity organised under a new LIFE 3 years project approved in December 1996 following the signature of a contract in February 1997. The total budget of the project is 699,200 ECUs.

The activities planned in 1997 under the LIFE project are:

- 3 national training courses on shore clean-up techniques (September-October 1997);
- a subregional training course on the use of oil spill modelling in emergency management (December 1997 in Egypt);
- a Meeting of the national operational authorities responsible for the implementation of the subregional contingency plan (December 1997 in Egypt);
- Phase one of three consultancies on sensitivity mapping, oil spill modelling and communications - (to be installed starting from June 1997).

5. Consultancies

A consultant visited Albania from 8-16th December 1996 and another visited Syria from the 25-30th January to prepare a comprehensive draft project proposal concerning the completion of the national system for preparedness and response of each respective country, which could be subsequently submitted for financing to potential donors.

6. The project for the preparation of sensitivity maps for the region of Sfax in Tunisia is in its final phase. The next steps are: validation in May, installation of ENIS (Sfa) in June and training in July.

7. REMPEC is currently working closely with the Greek authorities for the preparation of a pilot project on risk analysis for port storage and handling facilities. The project concerns a VCM terminal in the port of Thessaloniki.

8. Training activities under preparation

REMPEC is preparing in cooperation with the Italian chemical industry (ENICHEM) a regional specialised training course on prevention, preparedness and response to accidents involving hazardous and noxious substances carried in bulk, which will be held in November 1997 in Porto Marghera, Venice at the ENICHEM's training centre.

REMPEC is also working on the preparation of national training courses or workshops which are planned to be conducted this year in Libya, Croatia, Turkey, and Syria.

9. During the period under consideration, the Director and/or his colleagues visited the following countries and had working sessions with REMPEC Focal Points:

Syria (November 1996), Lebanon (November 1996), Greece (December 1996 and March 1997), Morocco (December 1996), France (February 1997), Cyprus (March 1997), Croatia (March 1997) and Italy (April 1997).

B. ACTIVITIES IN WHICH REMPEC PARTICIPATED

1. The Director participated in the first Meeting of experts on the implementation of the multi-annual rolling work programme for maritime transport in the Mediterranean within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership which was held in Cyprus 14-16 October 1996 during which projects concerning maritime safety and pollution prevention were identified.

As agreed by the Cyprus meeting and subsequently by the REMPEC Focal Points Meeting (the following week) REMPEC prepared and submitted to the European Commission two project proposals: one on Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution by Ships and the other on Port Reception Facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily wastes. Prior to their transmission to the European Commission REMPEC received, as requested, written support from Ministries in charge of maritime transport or/and Ministries of Environment from the non EU countries participating in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

2. During the period under consideration, the Director and/or his colleagues participated in the following meetings/seminars or workshops.
 - The 13th meeting of the ICE Integration Group organised by CEFIC in Italy, November 1996;
 - Seminar on marine pollution in Lebanon, November 1996;
 - Meeting on the drafting group for the preparation of the IMO manual on Chemicals, Brest, January 1997;
 - GESAMP EHS Working Group meeting, London, February 1997;
 - MARPOL Congress on port reception facilities, Hamburg, March 1997;
 - 39th Session of the MEPC Meeting, IMO, London, March 1997;
 - Seminar on the IMO International Safety Management Code, Malta, March 1997;
 - 14th Meeting of the ICE Integration Group organised by CEFIC, Brussels, April 1997;
 - ESA/ISIS Workshop on oil slick monitoring, Frascati, Italy, 28 April 1997;
 - Workshop on the intermediate temporary storage of dangerous substances in port organised by the European Commission in conjunction with ESPO and EFPORT in Barcelona, 28 April 1997.

(c) Remote sensing activities

Regional Activity Centre for Environment Remote Sensing (ERS/RAC)

I. **Capacity-building activities**

1. Planning and decision-making processes for sustainable development in Mediterranean coastal areas are increasingly and concretely proving to be more effective the more they can rely on synoptic, multitemporal, updated and objective information. A proposal for encouraging planning authorities on one hand, and advanced technologies experts on the other hand, to meet each other, with the aim of strengthening the integration of information systems supported by earth observation data in the decision-making processes, is currently in progress. Presently, contacts with EEAA, Egypt, have been established, and a "forum" to be jointly organized by EEAA and MAP ERS/RAC might be held by the second half of 1997.

Such a proposal is expected to be extended to as many Mediterranean Countries as possible, according to the available budget of RAC/ERS.

II. **Synergies between remote sensing and MEDPOL information sources**

2. In February 1997, Mr. Civili from MEDPOL, Mr Barale from European Commission Joint Research Centre, Mr Raimondi and Ms Viel from ERS/RAC met in Rome in order to plan the setting-up of possible synergies for supporting the MEDPOL programme with satellite derived information. In conclusion, they agreed that the opportunity to use satellite remote-sensing in the MEDPOL programme should be deeply considered, in view of an operational cooperation in a short time.
3. It has been stressed that, in order to select the location of appropriate stations for the detection of contaminant trends, the knowledge of coastal dynamics in a specific coastal area as well as of its seasonal and annual patterns is necessary, in particular for evaluating how wide is the area which is (statistically) under, or not, the influence of a specific discharge. In this context, it could be very useful the support of dynamic and spatial information derived from satellite remotely sensed data. As a matter of fact, satellite sensors could provide spatial and temporal patterns relevant to some sea surface parameters (such as, temperature, chlorophyll-like pigments, suspended matter) which are directly influenced by river discharges and by plant discharges, as well as by sea dynamics, season, biology productivity, etc.. Subsequent integration with other environmental information could further contribute to the designing of an efficacious trend monitoring programme, in particular, concerning the appropriate sampling stations distributions and measurement periods.

III. **Oil spills pollution monitoring and surveillance in the Mediterranean area**

4. The use of the European ERS satellites (SAR data) for oil spills detection at sea is already well experienced in Northern Europe. ESA/ERSIN (European Space Agency) is interested in extending to the Mediterranean sea these applications

which result to be very useful and cost-effective. In this connection, ERS/RAC, in the framework of an ESA activity, is performing a survey, at Mediterranean level, on the state-of-the-art of oil spills monitoring for surveillance and intervention, in order to identify possible users (countries) that could be the addressees of a demo-service based on satellite remote sensing. This ERS/RAC activity, supported by ESA, is fully compliant with the recommendations ERS/RAC received from Contracting Parties.

IV. Raising of external funds

5. In January 1997, after about a two-month preparation, three projects have been submitted for funding to the European Commission DG XII, Environment and Climate Programme. All of them are relevant to activities recommended to ERS/RAC by the Contracting Parties and envisaged to be carried out in the Mediterranean. The results of the EC evaluation are shortly expected, even if it must be pointed out that a strong selection of the proposed projects is made and only few of them will be approved.

Submitted projects are:

- MED-LEAVES - MEDITERRANEAN Long-term Extended Analysis of Vegetation State and changes. CTM ERS/RAC is the co-ordinator of an international partnership, composed, as requested, of European Companies (from The Netherlands, France, Italy). The users of the outcomes of the project are all the Mediterranean coastal countries.
 - SEMEFOR - Satellite based Environmental Monitoring of European Forest. ERS/RAC is partner in an international team including also organizations and Universities from Sweden, Austria and Germany. The project, among other things, envisages the setting-up of a methodological approach aimed at assessing deforestation phenomena and relevant causes in pilot areas, like Italy, that could be then transferred to interested Mediterranean states.
 - MEDEA - Mediterranean sea: environmental data aggregation for water quality monitoring and assessment. ERS/RAC is partner in an international team including organizations from EC, Italy, Great Britain, France and the Topic Centre for marine and coastal environment of the European Environmental Agency. RAC/ERS' envisaged role is devoted to link the outcomes of the project with the requirements of Mediterranean countries.
6. In April 1997 a ERS/RAC mission to EC in Brussels was finalized to check other existing opportunities of raising funds as for activities in similar or different fields (i.e. education and capacity building) compliant with the recommendations received by the Contracting Parties and with the short-term priorities defined by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

V. Euro-Mediterranean strategy

7. In the framework of the MEDA programme focused on cooperation between Europe and Mediterranean Organizations, the first calls for proposals are expected to be issued in short time. In preparation of such forthcoming events, the ERS/RAC is establishing connections for joint actions, in particular with EC bodies and Directorates General. Water management might be one of the topic priorly considered by MEDA. The MAP system, relying also on its consolidated network of National Focal Points and relationships all over the Mediterranean countries, is in a strategic position to commit itself in the implementation of advanced information systems supporting the sustainable management of natural resources.

VI. Arrangement and participation to international workshops

CEDARE Workshop

8. The workshop on the "Use of integrated information systems for land degradation assessment" was held in Palermo on 9-12 September under the cooperation of ERS/RAC and CEDARE. It has been co-sponsored by MEDU. Attendants from five countries (Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria and Tunisia) and experts from France, Germany, The Netherlands and Italy, discussed about the most suitable approach for the study of land degradation supported also by the application of remote sensing. The report has been finalized in February 1997 by CEDARE and ERS/RAC and will be shortly issued by CEDARE. Further co-operations with CEDARE are envisaged in the field of capacity-building.

International Eurisy Colloquium on "Satellite Observation for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Area" - Frascati (Rome), 2-3 October 1996

9. On behalf of the MAP Co-ordinator, the ERS/RAC Director introduced the key-note "The Mediterranean situation: key issues and priorities" and chaired the session "Current experience of satellite applications for sustainable development".

A poster relevant to the ERS/RAC intervention in the CAMP for Fuka-Matrouh was also presented.

10. A number of other international conferences have been attended where ERS/RAC activities, as well as the MAP system, have been introduced.

(d) **Cleaner production activities**

Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)

I. XIII Meeting of MED Unit and Regional Activity Centres (RACs)

1. The XIII Meeting of MED Unit and RACs was held in Barcelona on 17-19 September 1996, at the invitation of the CP/RAC. The meeting took place at the premises of the Waste Agency of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia and all RAC Directors were invited to attend.

II First Meeting of CP/RAC National Focal Points

2. During the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols that was held in Montpellier last July 1996, there were established some of the objectives to be developed by the CP/RAC. During the period of time from September 1996 to May 1997, the CP/RAC has been working on these objectives.
3. One of these objectives was to organise the First Meeting of CP/RAC National Focal Points in order to set up a network between all of them. The goals of this network are:
 - to disseminate the concept of clean production and techniques and practices required for the achievement thereof, and information on the advantages that clean production offers in terms of the global improvement of the productive sectors.
 - to facilitate transfer of knowledge, technology and experiences between the different NFP's to help invigorate and accelerate the introduction of clean production techniques and practices.
 - to foster initiatives and programmes that have a holistic approach to the environment, permitting the pollution generated by the countries of the Mediterranean Basin to be reduced, and to collaborate on the start-up of such initiatives and programmes.
 - to collaborate with the training of professional and institutions that have to promote the technology in the different countries of the region, and help to provide them with access to such technology.
 - to agree on proposals of regional interest and analyse the status of clean production in the Mediterranean Region.
4. It is foreseen that the First Meeting of CP/RAC National Focal Points will be held in Barcelona on 9 and 10 June 1997. The most important objectives of this meeting according with priorities of the Contracting Parties are to set up a network between all the NFP and to establish the working mechanism of this network according to circumstances, interests and priorities of every National

Focal Point.

CP/RAC Bulletin

5. On the occasion of the first meeting of the NFP, it is expected to present the publication of a bulletin about CP/RAC. On this bulletin the objectives and functions of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production will be explained, as well as the cleaner production concepts, methodology and benefits of its implementation. This bulletin is to be published in English and French and will be distributed to all National Focal Points.

MEDCLEANER Fact Sheets

6. A new publication of fact sheets called MEDCLEANER about success stories within the Mediterranean region will be introduced to show real examples of pollution prevention achieved by different companies. This fact sheet collection is also to be published in English and French and will be distributed to all NFP.

Penetration to the Industrial Sector

7. As cleaner production practices should be implemented by the companies, it becomes convenient setting up a fluid stream of knowledge between the local agencies (NFP) and the industrial sectors. Companies, mostly small and medium size enterprises, need to be provided with the most objective, up-to date information available, concerning the opportunities they have to implement an environmental manager system that gives priority to preventive rather than corrective practices, and the advantages it would represent. For this reason, it should be suitable to check if NFP are the most effective mechanism to disseminate the concepts, practices and pollution prevention techniques within the industrial sectors of each country or if it could be necessary to set links with centres/institutions in each country which deal near the companies in coordination with the NFP of each country.

C. INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

1. The library, which houses and manages a special collection of scientific and technical publications, together with a complete collection of MAP meeting documents, offered assistance and reference services to the MEDU staff and the Mediterranean scientific, professional and student community.
2. During the period 1 November - April 1996, 59 visitors were received and assisted in the library. Eighty three mail requests were filled, for a total of 372 items. One hundred and fifty two issues of periodicals, 63 technical reports and 27 monographs were received, classified and processed.
3. The weekly report on the activities of the Coordinating Unit continued to be compiled and faxed to Nairobi. Development and maintenance of the documents database (MEDDOC) continued as did the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) database and reference/documents collection.
4. UNEP/MAP Internet Home Page is under development and is expected to be electronically published in May 1997.
5. The following MAP Technical Reports were published: No. 107, UNEP/WHO: *Guidelines for authorisation for the discharge of liquid wastes into the Mediterranean Sea*; No. 108, UNEP/WHO: *Assessment of the state of microbiological pollution in the Mediterranean Sea*; No. 109, UNEP/WHO: *Survey of pollutants from land-based sources in the Mediterranean*; No. 110, UNEP/WHO: *Assessment of the state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by anionic detergents*; No. 111, UNEP/WHO: *Guidelines for treatment of effluents prior to discharge into the Mediterranean Sea*; No. 112, UNEP/WHO: *Guidelines for submarine outfall structures for Mediterranean small and medium-sized coastal communities*; No. 113, UNEP/IOC: *Final reports of research projects on transport and dispersion (Research Area II) - Modelling of eutrophication and algal blooms in the Thermaikos Gulf (Greece) and along the Emilia Romagna Coast (Italy)*; No. 114, UNEP: *Workshop on policies for sustainable development of Mediterranean coastal areas, Santorini island, 26-27 April 1996. Presentation by a group of experts*; No. 115, UNEP/BP: *Methods and Tools for Systemic and Prospective Studies in the Mediterranean*. They were sent to 461 individuals and institutions, MTS recipients, a total of 3,227 items. Thirty copies of each MAP report were sent to UNEP, Nairobi.
6. Issue number 33 of MAP Bulletin "MEDWAVES" was issued and distributed in English and French. It should be noted that the layout of this issue has been made internally by the computer service of MEDU.

D. STRENGTHENING OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Liability and compensation

1. In consultation with Croatia, the first meeting of Government-designated Legal and Technical Experts on the draft procedure on liability and compensation for damages resulting from the pollution of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean, will be held in Split, during September and October 1997. Croatia agreed to provide the additional financial resources as well as all the Conference facilities.
2. A draft procedure on liability and compensation is being finalised by the Secretariat for the consideration of the first meeting of experts.

Status of the legal instruments

3. An informal document containing the texts of the amended Action Plan, the Barcelona Conventions and its protocols, as well as the new protocols on Offshore and Hazardous Wastes, was issued (April 1997).
4. As at 31 March 1997, no Contracting Party has satisfied any of the new legal instruments approved by the meetings of the Contracting Parties. The status of signature and ratifications of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols as at 31 March 1997 is attached as Annex III to this report.

Recommendation

The Bureau is requested to urge the Contracting Parties to speed up the process of ratification of the MAP legal instruments.

REGIONAL TRUST FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION
Status of Contributions as at 31 March 1997
(in United States Dollars)

COUNTRIES	Unpaid pledges as at 31 Dec. 1996	Adjustments for prior years	Pledges for 1997	Collections during 1997 for 1997 and fut. years	Collections during 1997 for prior years	Collections in 1997 for 1997 & fut. years	Unpaid pledges for 1997 & prior years
Albania	3,084	0	3,300	0	3,084	0	3,300
Algeria	9,236	0	49,505	0	0	0	58,761
Bosnia Herzegovina	37,475	0	14,145	0	0	0	51,620
Croatia	61,933	0	6,601	0	0	0	88,534
Cyprus	0	0	45,733	0	0	0	45,733
E.C.	0	0	114,014	0	0	0	114,014
Egypt	0	0	23,103	0	0	0	23,103
France	0	0	1,731,639	0	0	0	1,731,639
Greece	(354,994)	0	132,485	0	0	0	(222,509)
Israel	0	0	69,307	0	0	0	69,307
Italy	3,096	0	1,430,643	0	0	0	1,433,739
Lebanon	0	0	3,300	0	0	0	3,300
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	503,362	0	92,681	0	0	0	596,243
Malta	(254)	0	3,300	0	0	0	3,046
Morocco	0	0	3,300	0	0	0	3,300
Marocco	(50)	0	13,202	0	0	0	13,152
Slovenia	0	0	31,589	0	0	0	31,589
Spain	0	0	683,626	0	0	0	683,626
Syrian Arab Republic	12,336	0	13,202	0	0	0	25,538
Tunisia	0	0	9,901	0	0	0	9,901
Turkey	0	0	106,082	0	0	0	106,082
Yugoslavia	469,976	0	0	0	0	0	469,976
Total	765,240	0	4,530,858	0	3,084	0	5,343,014
Additional Contribute							
E.E.C.*	559,888	0	559,033	0	559,888	0	556,033
Host Country**	0	0	400,000	0	0	0	400,000
Total	1,325,128	0	5,536,891	0	562,972	0	6,299,047

* The E.C. requests that these funds, which are indicative estimates should be used for specific activities to be decided, and after agreement.

** Drachmae 97,369,600 deposited with Commercial Bank of Greece 27 March 1996.

ANNEX II

Draft Recommendations

A. General recommendations

1. The Group is of the opinion that as the issues facing MAP are well defined and prioritized through the newly approved Convention and protocols, MAP-Phase II, Agenda MED 21 and the MCSD, a more holistic and well coordinated approach is needed in the work of MEDU, MED POL and RACs. Streamlining of the Secretariat work, improving its managerial process, synergy and transparency in its work, has to be enhanced in order to be able to shoulder the new responsibilities.
2. The Group restates the fact that the Coordinating Unit is the main and leading body in the MAP system.
3. Ultimate responsibility of protocols lies with the Coordinating Unit of MAP. The relevant centres implement the technical aspects of the protocols.
4. However, the Group recommends that implementation of certain activities be delegated from the Athens MEDU office to other RAC Centres, such as the coordination of few CAMP projects, the coordination of biodiversity issues, and the representation of MAP in outside fora, keeping the overall responsibility of the Coordinator of MAP.
5. The principle of equitable geographical distribution within the Mediterranean region should be respected whenever vacant or new internationally recruited posts are to be filled.
6. As MTF funds are considered as seed money, it is recommended that MAP relation with relevant financial and development institutions and programmes be strengthened, in order to solicit additional finance, human resources and expertise. Concrete and well prepared projects should be presented to these organisations by the Coordinating Unit.
7. The Group recommends that UNEP Headquarters augment its support to MAP (and IMO for REMPEC), in particular through a better utilization of the programme support cost for the financing and administration of these structures.
8. The Group recommends the strengthening of MEDU capability to manage the legal component of MAP.

B. Meetings of the Contracting Parties and MAP National Focal Points

1. Meetings of the Contracting Parties are held at the Ministerial level, in order to deliberate on the general policy, strategic, and general political issues relevant to MAP as a whole.

2. The meetings of the MAP National Focal Points would be mandated to thoroughly review and finalize the MAP programme budget and prepare a framework strategy for subsequent approval by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties.

C. Regional Activity Centres (RACs)

The Group recommends:

1. A unified approach concerning the status of RACs other than REMPEC, which has a UN status, should be pursued, as much as possible.
2. Agreements or formal exchange of letters are to be prepared for all RACs taking into account the diversity of the administrative systems and the prevailing circumstances in the host country.
3. The Contracting Parties hosting RACs are requested to simplify the procedures for issuing entry visas, residence permits, and work permits of internationally recruited staff, as well as granting entry visas to representatives of Contracting Parties on official MAP business.
4. Project documents should be signed by UNEP and RACs covering the activities to be carried out by them on the basis of priorities decided by the Contracting Parties. Host countries of national centres should provide counterpart contribution to cover operational costs.
5. RACs should do their best to solicit additional funds for MAP activities from outside sources, in full cooperation and prior consultation with the MEDU,
6. The Group recommends that an assessment of the activities of RACs and other MAP Programmes should be undertaken on a regular basis by MEDU, taking into consideration the cost-efficiency ratio.
7. The Group recommends that financial auditing of the activities of RACs financed by the MTF should be undertaken by UNEP/MEDU on a regular basis.

Staff

8. The recruitment of international or foreign staff paid under the MTF, should be based on a vacancy announcement to be circulated by MEDU to all Contracting Parties. The appointment of the Director of a Centre is to be undertaken in consultation with the MEDU, on the basis of vacancy announcement jointly prepared by the host country and MEDU.
9. Consultants and experts recruited by RACs in the framework of MAP shall be selected in full consultation with the MEDU. The principle of diversification of the nationalities of the recruited consultants should be observed.

STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS
Status as at 31 March 1997

	Convention ¹		Dumping ²		Emergency ³		Land-based Sources ⁴		Specially Prot. Areas ⁵		Offshore ⁶		Hazardous Wastes ⁷			
	Signife	Ratification	Signife	Ratification	Signife	Ratification	Signife	Ratification	Signife	Ratification	Signife	Ratification	Signife	Ratification	Signife	Ratification
Albania	-	30.5.90/AC	-	30.5.90/AC	-	30.5.90/AC	-	30.5.90/AC	-	30.5.90/AC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Algeria	-	16.2.81/AC	-	16.3.81/AC	-	16.3.81/AC	-	2.5.83/AC	-	16.5.85/AC	-	-	01.10.96	-	-	-
Bosnia & Herzivina	-	1.3.92/SUC	-	1.3.92/SUC	-	1.3.92/SUC	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	8.10.91/SUC	-	8.10.91/SUC	-	8.10.91/SUC	-	12.6.92/SUC	-	12.6.92/SUC	-	14.10.94	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	16.2.76	19.11.79/R	16.2.76	19.11.79/R	16.2.76	19.11.79/R	17.5.80	28.6.88/R	-	28.6.88/AC	-	14.10.94	-	-	-	-
European Community	13.9.76	16.3.78/AP	13.9.76	16.3.78/AP	13.9.76	12.8.81/AP	17.5.80	7.10.83/AP	30.3.83	30.6.84/AP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	16.2.76	24.8.78/AP	16.2.76	24.8.78/AP	16.2.76	24.8.78/AC	-	18.5.83/AC	16.2.83	8.7.83/R	-	-	01.10.96	-	-	-
France	16.2.76	11.3.78/AP	16.2.76	11.3.78/AP	16.2.76	11.3.78/AP	17.5.80	13.7.82/AP	3.4.82	2.9.86/AP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	16.2.76	3.1.79/R	11.2.77	3.1.79/R	16.2.76	3.1.79/R	17.5.80	26.1.87/R	3.4.82	26.1.87/R	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-	-
Israel	16.2.76	3.3.78/R	16.2.76	1.3.84/R	16.2.76	3.3.78/R	17.5.80	21.2.91/R	3.4.82	28.10.87/R	-	14.10.94	-	-	-	-
Italy	16.2.76	3.2.79/R	16.2.76	3.2.79/R	16.2.76	3.2.79/R	17.5.80	4.7.85/R	3.4.82	4.7.85/R	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-	-
Lebanon	16.2.76	8.11.77/AC	16.2.76	8.11.77/AC	16.2.76	8.11.77/AC	17.5.80	27.12.94/R	-	27.12.94/AC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	31.1.77	31.1.79/R	31.1.77	31.1.79/R	31.1.77	31.1.79/R	17.5.80	6.6.89/AP	-	6.6.89/AC	-	-	-	01.10.96	-	-
Malta	16.2.76	30.12.77/R	16.2.76	30.12.77/R	16.2.76	30.12.77/R	17.5.80	2.3.89/R	3.4.82	11.1.88/R	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-	-
Monaco	16.2.76	20.9.77/R	16.2.76	20.9.77/R	16.2.76	20.9.77/R	17.5.80	12.1.83/R	3.4.82	29.5.89/R	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-	-
Morocco	16.2.76	15.1.80/R	16.2.76	15.1.80/R	16.2.76	15.1.80/R	17.5.80	9.2.87/R	2.4.83	22.6.90/R	-	-	-	01.10.96	-	-
Slovenia	-	15.3.94/AC	-	15.3.94/AC	-	15.3.94/AC	-	16.9.93/AC	-	16.9.93/AC	-	10.10.95	-	-	-	-
Spain	16.2.76	17.12.76/R	16.2.76	17.12.76/R	16.2.76	17.12.76/R	17.5.80	6.6.84/R	3.4.82	22.12.87/R	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-	-
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	-	26.12.78/AC	-	26.12.78/AC	-	1.12.93/AC	-	11.9.92/AC	-	20.09.95	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	25.5.76	30.7.77/R	25.5.76	30.7.77/R	25.5.76	30.7.77/R	17.5.80	29.10.81/R	3.4.82	26.5.83/R	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-	-
Turkey	16.2.76	6.4.81/R	16.2.76	6.4.81/R	16.2.76	6.4.81/R	-	21.2.83/AC	-	6.11.86/AC	-	-	-	01.10.96	-	-

Ratification: R Accession: AC Approval: AP Succession: SUC

- 1/ Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution
Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976
Entry into force: 12 February 1978
- 2/ The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft
Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976
Entry into force: 12 February 1978
- 3/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in cases of Emergency
Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976
Entry into force: 12 February 1978
- 4/ The Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources
Adopted (Athens): 17 May 1980
Entry into force: 17 June 1983
- 5/ The Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas
Adopted (Geneva): 3 April 1982
Entry into force : 23 March 1986
- 6/ Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil
Adopted (Madrid): 14 October 1994
Entry into force:
- 7/ Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
Adopted (Izmir): 1 October 1996
Entry into force:

ANNEX IV

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS ORGANIZED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

(as of 1 April 1997)

Meeting	Date, Place	Organizer & co-sponsor (co-sponsor in brackets)	Responsible Officer	Report Status
	<u>1997</u>			
Regional Workshop on Application of Environmental Sound Approach to Planning and Development of Tourism	9-11 January Split	PAP/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	I. Trumbic	to be issued by PAP/RAC
Meeting of the Steering Group for the Implementation of Mediterranean GEF Project to address Pollution from Land-based Activities	13 January Athens	UNEP-MEDU	F.S. Civili	Issued by GEF/Nairobi
Ad-hoc Consultation Meeting to review Draft Outlines of Mediterranean GEF Documents	14-16 January Athens	UNEP-MEDU	F.S. Civili	UNEP(OCA)/ MED WG.123/2
National Training Course on the Application of EIA	20-24 January Tirana	PAP/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	A. Baric*	to be issued by PAP/RAC
MEDEXPOL 97	4-8 February Brest	REMPEC (UNEP-MEDU)	J-C Sainlos* S. Micallef*	to be issued by REMPEC
First Meeting of the Bureau of MCSD	20-21 February Athens	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason A. Hoballah*	UNEP/MCSD/ BUR/1/5
XIV Meeting of RAC Directors	3-4 March Athens	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason I. Dharat	UNEP(OCA)/ MED WG.122/3
Working Session Hypothesis and Scenarios CAMP Sfax	6-7 March Sfax, Tunisia	BLUE PLAN (UNEP-MEDU)	B. Glass*	to be issued by BP/RAC

Meeting	Date, Place	Organizer & co-sponsor (co-sponsor in brackets)	Responsible Officer	Report Status
Ad hoc Group for the Elaboration of Draft Criteria for Inventories of Species and Sites	6-7 March Tunis	SPA/RCA (UNEP-MEDU)	M. Barbieri	to be issued by SPA/RAC
Starting Session for Coastal Zone Management Plan-CAMP Sfax	10-14 March Sfax	PAP/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	I. Trumbic	to be issued by PAP/RAC
Meeting of the Competent National Authorities of the Parties to the Subregional Contingency Plan (Cyprus, Egypt, Israel)	24-25 March Cyprus	REMPEC (UNEP-MEDU)	J-C Sainlos* D. Domovic*	to be issued by REMPEC
Ad hoc Group on MAP/RAC Structure	26-27 March Athens	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason I. Dharat	UNEP(OCA)/ MED WG.126/3
Seminar Syria	March (tentative)	REMPEC (UNEP-MEDU)	J-C Sainlos* D. Domovic*	to be issued by REMPEC
Consultation Meeting of Regional Experts on the Preparation of a Report on Regional "Hot Spots"	7-9 April Athens	GEF/ UNEP-MEDU	G. Kamizoulis F.S. Civili	to be issued by MEDU
Consultation on Trend Monitoring	10-11 April Athens	UNEP-MEDU	G.Gabrielides*	UNEP(OCA)/ MED WG.128/3
Expert Meeting to adopt Guidelines for Integrated Use, Development and Management of Water Resources	21-23 April Split	PAP/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	I. Trumbic	to be issued by PAP/RAC

Meeting	Date, Place	Organizer & co-sponsor (co-sponsor in brackets)	Responsible Officer	Report Status
Regional Workshop on Applied Systemic and Prospective Tools	28-29 April Algiers	BLUE PLAN (UNEP-MEDU)	A. Hoballah*	UNEP(OCA)/ MED WG.128/3
Workshop on Impact Assessment of Urban Planning on Natural Sites- CAMP Sfax	April Sfax (Tunisia)	SPA/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	C. Rais*	to be issued by SPA/RAC
Working Session Hypothesis and Scenarios CAMP Albania	April Tirana	BLUE PLAN (UNEP-MEDU)	A. Hoballah*	to be issued by BP/RAC
National Training Course	April Turkey	REMPEC (UNEP-MEDU)	J-C Sainlos* D. Domovic*	to be issued by REMPEC
Training Courses on Cetaceans	April Montpellier	SPA/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	C. Rais*	to be issued by SPA/RAC
Second Meeting of Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)	6-8 May Palma de Majorca	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason* I. Dharat* A. Hoballah*	to be issued by MEDU
Meeting of the Bureau (BUR/50)	9 May Palma de Majorca	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason I. Dharat	to be issued by MEDU
Meeting of MEDPOL Coordinators	20-23 May Delphi (Greece)	UNEP-MEDU	F.S. Civili*	to be issued by MEDU
National Training Course for On Scene Commanders Libya	May (tentative) Tripoli	REMPEC (UNEP-MEDU)	J-C Sainlos* D. Domovic*	to be issued by REMPEC
First Meeting of National Focal Points for CP/RAC	9-10 June Barcelona	CP/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	V. Macià G. Kamizoulis*	to be issued by CP/RAC

Meeting	Date, Place	Organizer & co-sponsor (co-sponsor in brackets)	Responsible Officer	Report Status
Meeting of Government-designated Experts to examine a Strategic Action Programme to address Pollution from Land-based Activities	15-18 June Bacoli (Naples-Italy)	GEF/ UNEP-MEDU	F.S. Civili*	to be issued by MEDU
Expert Meeting to define the Best Practices of Urban Planning as the Basis for the Sustainable Coastal Cities	June Split	PAP/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	I. Trumbic	to be issued by PAP/RAC
Training Session on Planning and Control of Pullic Access to SPAs	June France	SPA/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	M. Saied* C. Rais*	to be issued by SPA/RAC
Meeting of Experts on Criteria for Inventories	June Athens (tentative)	SPA/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	M. Saied* M. Barbieri*	to be issued by SPA/RAC
Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators	June Sophia Antipolis or Tunis (tentative)	BLUE PLAN (UNEP-MEDU)	A. Hoballah	to be issued by BP/RAC
Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators	June (tentative) Beirut	BLUE PLAN (EUROSTAT/ UNEP-MEDU)	A. Hoballah* J-P Giraud*	to be issued by BP/RAC
Meeting of MAP National Focal Points	7-9 July Athens	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason I. Dharat	to be issued by MEDU
Training Sessions on Marine Turtle Nesting Beaches Management	July-August Cyprus	SPA/RAC (CWS/ UNEP-MEDU)	M. Barbieri*	to be issued by CWS

Meeting	Date, Place	Organizer & co-sponsor (co-sponsor in brackets)	Responsible Officer	Report Status
Regional Training Course on Reuse of Urban Waste Waters	September Israel	PAP/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	S. Tedeschi*	to be issued by PAP/RAC
Meeting of GEF National Coordinators to examine Guidelines for the Formulation of National Action Plans to address Pollution from Land-based Activities	September Athens (tentative)	GEF/ UNEP-MEDU	F.S. Civili	to be issued by MEDU
Regional Workshop on Guidelines for Integrated Use, Development and Management of Water Resources	September (tentative)	PAP/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	I. Trumbic	to be issued by PAP/RAC
First Meeting of Experts on Liability and Compensation	Sept./Oct. (Split) (tentative)	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason*	to be issued by MEDU
Final Presentation Conference for Fuka-Matrouh CAMP (closing of the project)	Sept./Oct. Matrouh (tentative)	UNEP-MEDU (EGYPT)	L. Chabason* I. Dharat* I. TRumbic*	to be issued by MEDU
Meeting of the Bureau (BUR/51)	Sept./Oct.	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason	to be issued by MEDU
Regional Workshop on the Evaluation of ICZM Initiatives in the Mediterranean	October Rhodes (tentative)	METAP/UNEP- MEDU/ PAP/RAC	L. Chabason* I. Trumbic* M. Hatziotos	to be issued by MEDU and METAP

Meeting	Date, Place	Organizer & co-sponsor (co-sponsor in brackets)	Responsible Officer	Report Status
Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development	September Brussels	UNEP-MEDU EU	L. Chabason* A. Hoballah*	to be issued by MEDU
MEDEXPOL 97	October Italy	REMPEC (UNEP-MEDU)	J-C Sainlos* S. Micallef*	to be issued by REMPEC
Third Meeting of Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development	October France	UNEP-MEDU	L. Chabason* A. Hoballah*	to be issued by MEDU
Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	18-21 Nov. Tunis	UNEP-MEDU (TUNISIA)	L. Chabason* I. Dharat*	to be issued by MEDU
National Training Courses in Cyprus, Egypt, Israel	November (tentative)	REMPEC (IMO/EU UNEP-MEDU)	D. Domovic*	to be issued by REMPEC
Presentation Meeting for Sfax CAMP	December Sfax (Tunisia)	SPA/RAC (UNEP-MEDU)	M. Saied*	to be issued by SPA/RAC
Subregional Training Course	December (tentative)	REMPEC (IMO/EU UNEP-MEDU)	D. Domovic*	to be issued by REMPEC
Meeting of the National Operational Authorities responsible for Subregional CP (Cyprus, Egypt, Israel)	December (tentative)	REMPEC (IMO/EU UNEP-MEDU)	J-C Sainlos* D. Domovic*	to be issued by REMPEC

Meeting	Date, Place	Organizer & co-sponsor (co-sponsor in brackets)	Responsible Officer	Report Status
Donor's Conference on the Implementation of National Action Plans to address Pollution from Land-based Activities	December Athens (tentative)	GEF/ UNEP-MEDU	F.S. Civili	to be issued by MEDU
MCSD Workshop on Sustainable Management of Coastal Regions	Turkey (tentative)	UNEP-MEDU TURKEY	L. Chabason	yo be issued by MEDU
MCSD Workshop on Management of Water Demands	France (tentative)	UNEP-MEDU FRANCE	L. Chabason	to be issued by MEDU