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

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19 – 20 May, 2003

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

(October 2002 – April 2003)

UNEP/MAP
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Introduction

1. The present report covers the progress achieved in the implementation of the various activities carried out by the Coordinating Unit, its Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and MED POL since the last Bureau meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Monaco on 17 and 18 October 2002.

A. COORDINATION

a) Legal framework

2. Further to the decision of the last Bureau meeting, the Secretariat has followed very carefully the political and institutional developments within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its recent re-organisation as the **State Union of Serbia and Montenegro**.

3. Following the notification by the Depositary State on 16 of July 2002 of the succession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Barcelona Convention and its four protocols since 27 April 1992, the new State Union of Serbia and Montenegro notified on 20 March 2003 UNEP's Regional Office for Europe, through its Permanent Mission in Geneva, that the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, has become Party to the Barcelona Convention by succession, and that the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Montenegro has been nominated as the National Focal Point for MAP.

4. On the basis of these developments and at the request of the Embassy of Serbia and Montenegro in Greece, the Secretariat consulted with the Ambassador and his staff on issues related to institutional procedures, encouraging an early start of the process of ratification of the new or amended legal instruments of the MAP Phase II and to inform officially the Depositary state about the new name of the country.

Recommendation:

The Bureau could request the Secretariat to initiate the necessary procedure to invite the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro authorities to participate to the upcoming meetings of the MAP National Focal Points in Athens and Contracting Parties in Catania.

- *Status of ratification of the Convention and Protocols*

5. Concerning the ratification process, Monaco has ratified the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol; Cyprus has ratified the amended Convention and LBS protocol, the new SPA & Biodiversity, as well as the Offshore Protocols, while Slovenia has ratified the amended Convention, LBS and Dumping Protocols. Notification of the Depositary state is still pending. To speed up the ratification process, the Secretariat has, on several occasions urged those Parties, which have not done so to urgently ratify the MAP legal instruments.

6. On the other hand, following a decision of the last Bureau meeting held in Monaco, the President has addressed a letter to MAP National Focal Points with the request to immediately notify the depositary state as soon as the ratification process in their respective countries has been completed. A detailed table of the status of signatures and ratifications as at February 1, 2003 is attached as **Annex I.**

7. The Secretariat is communicating with the countries and in particular with those that have not ratified the revised and new legal instruments asking for precise information on any recent developments at the national level and urging to speed up the ratification process.

- ***Implementation of the Pilot Phase of the MAP Reporting System***

8. At their Twelfth Ordinary meeting in Monaco in November 2001, the Contracting Parties decided to approve the reporting format prepared by the Working Group On Reporting System and agreed to start the implementation, on a voluntary basis, of a reporting exercise during the 2002-2003 biennium.

9. Following this decision, seven countries (Algeria, Croatia, Libya, Monaco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) agreed to participate in the pilot Phase of the application of the Reporting System and six out of them are working to finalise their national reports.

10. During its last meeting in October 2002, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to convene a third meeting of the Working Group on Reporting System to review progress in the implementation of the pilot exercise. The meeting was held in Catania on 12 December 2002, and was attended by representatives of four of the seven participating countries (Croatia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey). Progress in the compilation of national reports as well as a number of questions were discussed. It appeared that the main problems that countries are facing were that (a) data have to be obtained from a number of different national bodies, and that (b) some statistical data are not easily obtainable. It was agreed that the final reports from participating countries would be required not later than the end of May 2003. This would allow not only discussions of the technical points during the meeting of MEDPOL, REMPEC and SPA/RAC National Focal Points but also will enable the Secretariat to submit the necessary information to the Bureau.

11. Following the Catania meeting, participating countries were informed by the Secretariat that as the next Bureau meeting was now scheduled to be held in Sarajevo from 19 to 20 May 2003, the process of preparation of national reports would have to be speeded up, and preliminary drafts handed over to the Secretariat by the end of April 2003. This would allow the Secretariat to submit some more information to the Bureau meeting on this issue. Meanwhile, the drafts of those reports could be further discussed during the MED POL coordinators and SPA Focal point meetings for their finalization.

12. However, as the Bureau meeting is being held earlier than scheduled, the Secretariat is providing only the main findings available.

13. The Secretariat remained in constant touch with national representatives to monitor progress in the implementation of the reporting exercise. Within this context, a training course for national officials was held in Ankara on 26 February 2003, upon the request of the Ministry of Environment of Turkey. To date, no other country has put in a request for technical assistance.

14. At the time of preparation of the present progress report, comprehensive drafts covering all sections of the reporting formats have been received from three countries (Spain, Tunisia and Turkey). The first-mentioned report contains complete information on all items in the reporting formats, while the latter two still have a number of gaps, which the national authorities of the countries in question are currently filling. Two other countries (Algeria and Croatia) have sent in material covering a number of sections of the reporting formats and are expected to submit the missing parts shortly. Of the remaining two countries, Monaco has reported progress in the finalization of the report, and will also be submitting it shortly. The

material received is satisfactory in terms of information on national legislation and related activities. At the same time, it is obvious that there are problems in collecting technical data.

15. Except for the report prepared by Spain, which is complete in every aspect, material received so far from the other countries has been mainly lacking in reference to the provision of (a) legal and administrative data, and (b) technical and statistical material. So far, in the drafts or other material submitted, the lacking parts of the questionnaires have not yet been completed. From correspondence with participating countries, as well as interventions made during meetings, it has, however, become evident that one major concern is the fact that completion of national reports requires the input of several different government institutions.

16. While the reporting period for the current exercise covered the phase 01 January 2000 to 31 December 2001, both Spain and Tunisia have submitted relevant information on activities undertaken during previous years. The fact is related particularly to the signature or ratification of relevant international legal instruments, and national legislation enacted. The partial information received so far from Croatia also includes similar information on action taken before the start of the period under review.

17. The progress made thus far appears to indicate (a) that most, national reports will be submitted on time, and (b) that they will be prepared more or less in line with the agreed formats. At this stage, it is too early to make any specific recommendations for possible amendments to the formats, which might be later necessary. This would only be possible following receipt and evaluation of the complete national reports.

18. However, one recommendation, which can already be made, is that on completion of the current exercise, a fourth and final meeting of the current Working Group should be held after evaluation of the national reports. The purpose of this meeting would be the conducting of *a posteriori* examination of the exercise and, in the light of experience gained during the completion of the various reporting formats, to decide on whether any amendment would be appropriate. There are already some remarks in the Spanish report to the effect that regional, as distinct from national, data have to be collated, and that some items in the reporting formats require further clarification to enable more precise responses to be made. The other countries are also expected to pass further remarks, with the result that the reporting formats might require some modifications prior to their adoption on a permanent basis.

19. On the basis of the experiences and lessons learnt from this exercise, a report will be elaborated and recommendations have to be submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The Secretariat feels that the above consultation meeting with participating countries in the trial exercise and other parties might be useful to ensure the implementation of a large scale participatory approach in the finalisation of the integrated report and relevant recommendations for the Contracting Parties.

Recommendation:

The Bureau might suggest to the Secretariat to follow up carefully the reporting exercise and organize a consultation meeting with participating countries before the MAP Focal Points' meeting.

- Liability and compensation

20. As requested by the last Bureau meeting (Monaco, 18-19 October 2002), the Secretariat organised on April 21, 2003 a small meeting of legal experts. Selected Experts

from the Basel Convention, the Industrial Accidents Convention, REMPEC, and the Universities of Genoa, Milan and Athens participated to the meeting. The report of the meeting on liability and compensation is attached as Information document.

21. In selecting the experts for this meeting, the Secretariat bore in mind the need for ensuring synergy with other liability regimes in force or expected to be in near future, if any, on the basis of a better knowledge and analysis of the recent and expected developments since the Brijuni meeting in 1997.

22. The aim of this meeting was to conclude whether there was a need for a new instrument on liability and compensation under the MAP or for other regimes that could help and be used. Thus, the potential implication on the Mediterranean Region of the new Protocol "On civil liability and compensation for damage caused by the trans-boundary effects of industrial accidents on trans-boundary waters" under the UN/ECE Conventions "On the protection and use of trans-boundary watercourses and international lakes" and "On Industrial Accidents on Trans-boundary context as well as the proposed EU Directive "On Environmental Liability" have been carefully reviewed with the aim of avoiding any overlapping and assuring any possible synergy.

23. After discussions, the meeting focused on the need for a new legal protocol "On liability and compensation on the Mediterranean". In general terms, the new instrument could be made of a general body describing mainly the principles, and four annexes addressing the main activities not covered by other global and regional initiatives (IMO and Basel conventions and probably the proposed EU Directive) as dumping, offshore activities, activities affecting the biodiversity as mentioned in the SPA& biodiversity protocol, and land based sources activities. Special attention was paid to the need of involving the potential stakeholders from the beginning of the process especially those coming from economic sectors such as insurance companies and industries.

24. The Meeting agreed on the following conclusions:

- to move forward with the preparation of a legal instrument which covers all the activities not already regulated at an international level, taking also into consideration the proposed European Directive on environmental liability, i.e., dumping, operation of off shore installations and land based activities. It was proposed to include activities affecting the biodiversity as referred to in the SPA protocol.
- to report to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties the outcome of the two Meetings of experts in order to get the agreement to go ahead and to present a consolidated draft proposal to the Contracting Parties.

Recommendation:

The Bureau is invited to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the expert meeting and to provide the Secretariat with any guidelines it may deem useful. The Bureau might suggest to the Secretariat, before preparing a final draft proposal for the MAP Focal points meeting, to carry out consultations with insurance companies about the financial limit and their interest in the establishment of such a market.

- Monitoring system for the enforcement of MAP legal instruments

25. Following the decision of the last Bureau meeting (Monaco, 17-18 October 2002) a report has been prepared by the Secretariat, on the proposed review mechanism for the implementation of the MAP legal instruments as suggested during the last Contracting

Parties Meeting and broadly discussed during the last Bureau Meeting in Monaco. This report is attached as **Annex II**.

26. Based on the legal provisions of the amended Barcelona Convention, Articles 26 and 27 (providing for binding obligations related to reporting and compliance) and the experience of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements in force, the present report proposes a draft-recommendation for the Catania CP meeting related to the establishment of an Implementation Working Group with clear Terms of Reference and composition which would elaborate during 2004-2005 biennium a consolidated platform about the review of the implementation or the control of compliance to facilitate the CPs to comply with article 27 of the Convention. The Article provides as follows: "to recommend, when appropriate, the necessary steps to bring about full compliance with the Convention and the protocols and promote the implementation of the decisions and recommendations".

Recommendation:

The Bureau might suggest that the Secretariat follows the issue of the review mechanism for the implementation of the MAP legal components in parallel with the implementation of the reporting exercise. The proposed reporting meeting might also be used to discuss the need for a mechanism to review the implementation of the MAP legal component and compliance control and to further discuss the feasible options for its application, including the institutional review or compliance control body, its terms of reference and working methodology, to the aim of preparing a sound and clear recommendation for the CP meeting in Catania.

- Updated Document of legal instruments in French

27. Following the decisions of the Bureau meetings in Damascus and Monaco, the Secretariat after the finalisation of the comparative document in Arabic, and the updated document in English, including the new approved legal instruments, is working to prepare and finalize, before the MAP Focal Points Meeting, the French version of the document.

b) Institutional matters

- Evaluation of MAP

28. Following the decision of the Monaco Bureau meeting the following steps have been undertaken since January 2003:

29. A Think Tank group to prepare the global assessment of the MAP requested by the Contracting Parties at their meeting in Monaco was set up and composed of :

- The President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Monaco);
- A representative of a Mediterranean country member of the EU (Greece);
- A representative of a southern or eastern Mediterranean country (Syrian Arab Republic);
- A representative of a Mediterranean country included in the enlargement of the EU (Slovenia);
- Two experts were appointed by the Secretariat: Prof. Harri Cocossis, University of Thessaloniki and Mr. Mohammed Sayed, the former Director of RAC SPA.

30. Two meetings of the Think Tank were organised in Athens. The main topics discussed on the basis of a prospective approach were:

- MAP response to the Sustainable Development challenge
- Cooperation with EU, focusing on the ongoing and expected enlargement process and EuroMed partnership
- Cooperation and synergy with other conventions and programs with a special focus on biodiversity conservation
- Criteria for more active participation by the MAP in technical assistance activities provided to countries.

31. An interim draft report " MAP Evaluation" will be submitted shortly to the Bureau as a separate document. The draft report of the Task Force on MCSD evaluation is attached as Bur60/Inf.2.

Recommendations:

The Bureau is invited to:

- **approve the trend and method in which the internal MAP evaluation is going on,**
- **consider the draft of the interim report 'MAP Evaluation" with its findings and proposals, and to provide the Secretariat with any guidelines it may deem useful.**

The Bureau might suggest to the Secretariat that, before preparing the final draft for the MAP Focal points meeting, another consultation of the Think Tank members be organized to provide for better rationale to support certain recommendations.

- Evaluation of RAC / SPA

32. The three experts that have been identified and appointed for the evaluation of RAC/SPA had initiated their respective tasks since October 2002 by a joint working session in Tunis and first contacts with host country representatives; December 2002 and January 2003 would be mostly devoted to analysis of existing information whereas February and March 2003 would be devoted to collecting additional necessary information from representatives and partners of Mediterranean countries through questionnaires and visits, each one covering a sub-region;

33. Preliminary findings and proposals would be presented to the Center's Focal Points meeting in June 2003 for a first discussion before preparing a first consistent draft that will be presented to and reviewed at the MAP NFP meeting in September 2003; a revised set of recommendations and proposals would then be presented to the CPs Meeting.

34. It is expected that this evaluation would provide ground for a "reform" of the Center so as to improve its regional and international visibility through a more objective information and communication strategy, a more pro-active cooperation strategy with relevant regional and international institutions, IGOs and NGOs as well as an efficient integration of biodiversity and sustainable development in its programme of activities, along with the recommendations of the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

- Evaluation of REMPEC

35. As agreed by the Contracting Parties, the process of evaluation of REMPEC started in October 2002. Selection of candidate evaluator was finalized in November in cooperation with IMO. The contract with the evaluator was signed in November 2002 and the evaluation of REMPEC was carried out between December 2002 and March 2003.

36. During the REMPEC Focal Points Meeting the consultants provided information about the ongoing evaluation process, its methodology that included preparation and dissemination of a questionnaire, direct interviews with national officials and Focal Points, IMO and UNEP representatives, etc. The first draft was submitted to the Secretariat end of April 2003. The final report will be submitted to the IMO and UNEP by the end of May 2003.

c) Cooperation and Partners

- Cooperation with European Commission

37. The new international context, in particular the Johannesburg Action Plan, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, the recent developments of the EU integration, accession, association and stabilization process call for a better coordination and synergy with EU and its assistance programs on regional and bilateral basis. This issue needs to be discussed by the Ministers during the Catania meeting. The process of the preparation of the background for the political discussion has to start as soon as possible.

38. Following the decisions taken by the Second Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of the Environment in Athens in July 2002, mainly regarding the cooperation with UNEP/MAP, resulting from a pro-active preparatory process by MAP Secretariat in conformity with relevant decisions by the 12th CP Meeting in Monaco, contacts were maintained on a regular basis with the EC/SMAP "Secretariat" so as to reach the definition of a certain implementation of these decisions.

39. Going along with the spirit of the Athens Declaration, a list of interesting and practical proposals to strengthen synergy were presented at the 5th SMAP Correspondents meeting, April 2003; among others issues, these concern a regular information and consultation mechanism on policy and activities matters (through meetings every six months between both "Secretariat" including, as appropriate, RACs and EC/DGs), invitation of MAP to Euro-Mediterranean Committees and to Conferences, invitation of EC/EuroMed to the CP Conference of the Barcelona Convention, to make appropriate use of MAP and MCSD capacities for EC/EuroMed/SMAP issues and programmes of activities;

40. Taking advantage of a restructuring of the DG ENV of the European Commission where a new team is taking over the relations with MAP and the Barcelona Convention, and an immediate explicit interest in improving cooperation and synergy with MAP is shown, both sides are working out a consultation and cooperation that would pave the way for an efficient and strengthened operational synergy.

Recommendation:

The Bureau might consider sending a letter to the EC/DG environment highlighting the importance of cooperation and synergy between MAP and EC/EU in general and between MAP and SMAP/EMP in particular, requesting the kind allocation of additional and substantial financial resources mainly for the assistance to countries to

implement the Contracting Parties decisions and for the preparation, implementation and follow up of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and to this end paying an official visit in Brussels.

- Synergy and cooperation with other programmes and initiatives in the region:

Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REREP) and Regional Environmental Center (REC)

41. REReP provides a donor coordination framework for environmental actions in South Eastern Europe (including Mediterranean Balkans countries), and targets the institutional and civil society reforms to create the conditions for sustainable environmental improvements in this region. This program aims to assist pre-accession and accession countries towards the sustainable development, stability and reconstruction of the environment in the region. Several projects are being implemented through REC. A Task Force is established with representative from EU, participating countries and a strong donor community from EU countries, international organizations, etc. The Task force is Co-chaired by a participant country and a high level representative from DG Environment.

42. REC was created in 1990 with the mission to assist in solving the environmental problems in concerned countries by promoting cooperation among NGOs, governments, business and other stakeholders, and by promoting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making; since then, REC has extended its fields of interest to issues that are also of great concern to MAP, such as legal instruments and related capacity, environmental policy, EIA and SEA, etc.

43. Moreover, REC benefits from special funds from Japan and Italy with national staff seconded for the management of these funds, and some of the awareness and public participation activities are undertaken with explicit support from private companies (MAP could draw lessons from such private support and consider feasibility in the Mediterranean for some of MAP activities);

44. REC has Country Offices with 5-8 persons each, in close cooperation with the Ministries of the Environment; MAP could benefit from these existing facilities and REC would welcome such cooperation through its national offices. Cooperation could also be seriously considered in the scope of the Adriatic Stability Pact;

45. Considering their expertise in information and awareness issues (REC has largely contributed to the preparation and implementation of the Aarhus Convention), REC is being associated to the preparation of the Mediterranean Information, Awareness and Public Participation Strategy;

46. REC has expressed an interest in cooperating with MAP through joint activities in concerned countries; in addition to some received from a few countries; most of the programmes funds are collected through projects

Euro Arab Management School

47. Considering the potential benefit of a cooperation with the Euro Arab Management School, established in mid-90s by the EU and the League of the Arab States, mainly regarding joint training and capacity building courses for Mediterranean administrators and experts on issues in the assistance programme of MAP, working sessions between both management of EAMS and MAP would be held in the short term so as to include MAP

training interests in EAMS programme for next and following years, and work out a Memorandum of Cooperation.

Baltic 21 Programme

48. Being both concerned with the protection and management of regional seas, a consultation and cooperation mechanism is under way with the Baltic 21 Programme; an invitation was extended to participate in the next MCSD meeting and the same could be done for the next CP Conference.

Recommendation:

The Bureau might consider it useful to suggest that the Secretariat looks for ways and means for improving cooperation and synergies with REReP, REC, EAMS and Baltic 21 through MoU/MoD and eventually participating in respective meetings as observers.

Cooperation with ESPO and other Conventions

49. The President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to EspO Convention 'On the environmental Impact Assessment on Trans-boundary Context" together with its executive Secretary paid a visit to the MEDU on 10 April 2003. They raised the issue of a closer cooperation in:

- promoting the Arabic countries to adhere the EspO Convention because it's opened for ratification on global level;
- finding mechanisms for synergy between two conventions to achieve the implementation on national level.

Recommendations:

The Bureau might consider requesting the Secretariat to:

- **Follow up this initiative by keeping in touch with ESPO Convention Secretariat in preparing a joint working plan to be implemented during the next biennium. (for example a joint seminar to explain the synergies between both conventions and the added value of their ratifications) and promotion of bilateral agreements on national level). The Bureau might ask the Secretariat to invite the Espo Convention to the CP Meeting in Catania.**

- **Strengthen the cooperation with Conventions addressing horizontal and cross cutting issues and the relevant programs of implementations taking into consideration the outputs of the future Kiev Conference and Process "Environment for Europe"**

- Partners and Review of the list of partners

50. Since last October, the Secretariat has processed several requests of NGOs for funding projects dealing with important and interesting subjects focusing and supporting the achievement of the MAP objectives. One of them was the activity organised by the Friends of Mediterranean, on the eve of the REMPEC focal points meeting, about the marine

environment protection and pollution prevention from accidents at the sea. Actually there are 5 MOUs with NGOs in progress.

51. The report of the last Bureau meeting held in Monaco 18-19 October 2002, including the updated list of partners was disseminated to all partners. The concerned organizations including those no longer on the list of partners as decided by the Bureau were notified as well. The Secretariat is working to update and receive the recent data about the contact addresses of the MAP partners.

52. In the course of processing a request for financial assistance by the NGO APNEK, it came to the Secretariat attention that their name was not included in the List of Partners from the last Bureau meeting (Monaco, 17-18 October 2002). On this basis APNEK was not considered a partner.

53. In reviewing the Progress Report (Bur59/3) submitted to the last Bureau meeting, APNEK did not figure either in the accepted list of partners nor in the rejected list, thus, increasing the probability that it was an accidental omission.

54. Two NGOs' networks have applied for the status of MAP partner: INARE (the Institute for Sustainable Development and Management of Natural Resources) located in Athens, and the Union of Northern Associations for Sustainable development located in Lebanon. On a basis of a analysis of the criteria approved by the Bureau at its last meeting in Monaco and the provided information, both applicants meet the necessary minimum criteria to become MAP partners.

Recommendation:

In the course of reviewing the list of Partners, the Bureau is invited to consider this report and add the organisations INARE, UNASD and APNEK in the list of MAP partners.

d) Financial and Personnel Matters

- *Financial Issues*

Status of Contributions to the M.T.F. related to the Barcelona Convention as at 31 December 2002.

55. On 31st December 2002, the status of contributions was as follows (Annex III):

A-Total pledges for 2002 : $ 5,981,246
B-Total collections during 2002 for 2002 : $ 5,710,220 representing 95.47%
C-Total Unpaid pledges for prior years : $ 1,377,921
D-Total collections during 2002 for prior years : $ 690,425 representing 50.10%
Total of collections in 2002 (B+D) : $ 6,400,645 representing 87%
Total pledges to be received (A+C)-(B+D) : $ 918,636.9 representing 13%

56. As at March 31st, 2003 and thanks to the improved mechanism of contributions adopted at the last meeting Bureau, the following countries' ordinary contributions were received:

57. Bosnia-Herzegovina, the European Commission, France, Israel, Monaco (ordinary and voluntary contribution), Syria (wiping off prior years arrears), Italy has pledged remittance of all dues (for prior year and 2003) by end of April.

58. As at March 31st, the total amount received is $ 2,117,726 representing 35.12% of 2003 pledges.

Interest earnings for 2001 and 2002

59. UNON headquarters has reported $ 314,397 interest for 2001 and $ 210,562 for 2002 totaling $ 524,959. Since $ 450,000 were forecasted for the current biennium, **the net positive balance is $ 74, 959 which will increase the MTF reserve.**

Withdrawals request from the MTF

60. The cost of the organization of the MAP focal points meeting in Athens, by the time of the budget approval, has been increased due to the higher cost of travel, hotel rates for conference facilities, per diem, as well as the introduction of the euro in Greece. Also, additional assistance to developing countries for participation in the meeting has been taken into consideration. Therefore, the existing budget for the meeting is no longer sufficient to afford the related expenses.

61. The value of US $ in Croatia has decreased by 14,14% in 2002 (from kuna 8,32284 for 1$ on 1 January 2002 to kuna 7,14574 for 1$ on 31 December 2002). The purchase power of all PAP/RAC staff salaries decreased due to the drop of the US dollar as of May 2002. In addition, the inflation rate in Croatia was more than 4% in 2002. The combined effect of the above changes represents loss of purchasing power of the staff salaries of more than 18% in 2002.

62. The last meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points decided to organize in September 2003, at the eve of the MAP NFP meeting (see paragraphs 158-160), a government-designated experts meeting to discuss the strategy for the implementation of the new Malta Protocol. The cost of the Meeting is calculated to be of about 85 000 USD. The meeting will take place in Monaco beginning September 2003.

63. The MAP evaluation process is ongoing. The budget previewed for this activity is spent. The Bureau may wish to suggest the Secretariat to carry out further consultation or to prepare additional support documents related to some of the recommendations. An approximate evaluation of the additional cost is about $ 20 000.

64. For the preparation of the MSSD additional funding of about $ 20 000 are requested (see paragraph 84) for consultation with partners before the meeting of the CP in Catania. A new program under MCSD is being established on cultural heritage replacing thus the historic sites program. The Nice meeting held in April 2003, (see paragraph 88) pointed out the need for a sound preparation of a three years working programme. To this aim a consultant has to be hired.

65. In light of the above-mentioned new developments, there would be the need to withdraw from the MTF the following additional budget allocations:

- $ 65,000, to supplement the existing funds ($ 50,000) for the forthcoming MAP Focal Points meeting.
- $ 10,000, to compensate for the purchase power losses on all PAP/RAC staff salaries

- $ 55,000, to organize the meeting related to the Malta Protocol to be held in Monaco in September 2003. (Monaco Government would kindly contribute for $30,000).
- $20,000 to finalize the MAP evaluation process
- $ 20,000 to MSSD preparation
- $2,000 to assist the establishment of a new program under MCSD about Cultural Heritage.

Recommendation:

The Bureau is requested to authorize the withdrawal of $172,000 for the holding of the above-mentioned meetings, the preparation of MSSD, finalization of the MAP evaluation process, the establishment of the new program on cultural heritage and the compensation of the loss on purchase power for the PAP/RAC.

- Use of the Euro in MAP activities and budget.

Background

66. At their last meeting in Monaco, 14-17 November 2001, the Contracting Parties have requested the Secretariat "to adopt the principle of use of the Euro as the operating currency; to submit, jointly with UNON, a report to the Bureau on ways, means and implications for its consideration and thereafter to the UN Controller for approval, the request by the Contracting Parties to use the Euro as the currency for the Mediterranean Trust Fund".

67. As a follow up to the decision of the Contracting Parties related to the use of the Euro versus the Dollar in MTF and MAP activities, the UNON/UNEP in Nairobi and the UN Secretariat in New York (the Controller and the Treasurer) were contacted requesting guidance and advice on the issue; during a mission to the United Nations in New York on April 2002, the Secretariat had met with concerned officials upon recommendation by UNON, explaining the importance of this issue and working out some alternative solutions, giving as far as possible due consideration to the Contracting Parties request and the relevant UN rules and regulations.

68. As the UN reference and operating currency is the US Dollar, moving to the adoption of the Euro as a UNEP/MAP reference and operating currency, presents difficulties to the UN System. However, following several reminders and exchange of correspondences between the UN Secretariat, the UNON/UNEP and UNEP/MAP, it was recognised that this issue could be resolved since more than 90% of the contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund are made in Euro and that the expenditures are and will be increasingly made in Euro. Considering that most of the inflows and outflows transactions are done in the latter currency, the conversion from Euro to the US Dollar and then to the Euro was regarded as inconvenient and costly in terms of losses due to the exchange rate fluctuations.

69. By a letter dated 22 August 2002, the UN Assistant Secretary-General and the Controller confirmed that the above is acceptable.

Developments

70. As a matter of fact and further to the presentation of a comprehensive analysis of the Euro and the US Dollar cash inflows and outflows, the UN Controller deemed that there was merit in the establishment of an Euro bank account to cover MAP Euro cash requirements.

71. The Secretariat then undertook to make the necessary steps towards the endorsement by UNON of :

- the establishment of a Euro bank account within the Mediterranean Trust Fund, the proposed startup date being January 2004.
- the processing of accounts and financial statements in the latter currency with a presentation in US dollar for indicative purposes (at prevailing exchange rate),
- the adoption of the Euro as the reference and operating currency for UNEP/MAP,
- the notification of contributions to the Contracting Parties by UNON in Euro currency.

72. Last February UNON related authorities have approved all the above with a note related to the next biennial budget presentation. While it should be formulated in both currencies, the Parties would approve the budget in Euro and at the same time take note of the budget in US dollars. The latter will be the basis of the records in the United Nations accounts in line with the UN Financial Regulations and Rules.

73. It is most likely that the MTF Euro bank account be opened at Frankfurt (Germany) and be operational very shortly.

- *Re-entry of the State Union of Serbia-Montenegro in MAP activities framework*

74. The 2003 UN regular budget rate of assessment for Serbia and Montenegro (FRY) has been sharpened down to approximately 0.019785 %. This amount is only an approximation and will need to be finalized by the U.N. Committee on Contributions in June 2003. In practice, once the level is agreed upon it would be multiplied against MAP budget figures for 2004 and 2005 as to determine the new State Union contributions for that period. It is suggested that it will be a net increase for the MAP budget as the incoming of Serbia and Montenegro will generate additional expenses.

Recommendation:

To request the Secretariat to present in Euro currency the 2004-2005 budget to the Contracting Parties for its adoption, using as reference the budget in Euro as adopted in Monaco in 2001.

- Personnel matters

At MEDU

75. As per normal procedure, the Coordinator post was advertised with the deadline of 14 November 2002. To date the recruitment process is still on-going. The Bureau had expressed the wish to extend the term of office of the present Coordinator of MAP until December 2003. Meanwhile, the Coordinator has been granted a three-month extension until June 2003. Following a recommendation from the Bureau, a new procedure is in progress, requesting an additional extension up to the next Contracting Parties meeting.

76. The MEDU Programme Officer Post - opened since last December - was filled in by Mrs Tatjana Hema - Albanian national - replacing Mr. Da Cruz. She took up office on January 2003.

77. As for the Information Assistant post, following the Departmental Panel interviews, a recommendation was made to HRMS - UNON and a fixed-term contract is about to be proposed to the incumbent, Ms Natasha Vergeris.

At REMPEC

78. Mr. Jonathan Pace, a Maltese national was recruited in September 2002, following the decision of the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to create a new post of the Programme Officer for dealing with the prevention of pollution from ships.

79. Since January 2003, within the framework of the EC/ESA project VASCO/GAIANET, aimed at exploring the potential for surveillance of oil spills by remote sensing from satellite based platforms, Ms. Cristina Farchi, a new graduate in marine science, was seconded to REMPEC in order to follow the development of the project and to act as a liaison officer between REMPEC and the European Space Agency (ESA).

e) Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

- Framework Orientations for a Mediterranean Strategy for SD

80. In conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties, the MCSD Secretariat has focused on the preparation for the Mediterranean Strategy for SD, starting with the Framework Orientations for which a team of high-level experts has been appointed for the preparation of the three key “pillars” studies on “management and natural resources”, economic development and social equity” and “governance, political and institutional issues”; preliminary drafts were first reviewed by the MCSD Steering Committee, Calvia, November 02; revised drafts were discussed by the 50 experts in a major workshop organized in Barcelona, March 03, together with the structure and the contents of the “Orientations” report that would be reviewed by the 8th meeting of the MCSD (Cavtat, 14-16 May 03). A first draft of these “orientations” was discussed by a limited group of qualified and eminent experts on 15-16 April 03;

81. These “orientations”, to be structured on a brief and pertinent diagnosis of major SD stakes, will identify the main scopes and fields of activities to be considered by the SD Strategy in an integrated way; these “orientations” are expected to correspond to a common vision for the Mediterranean, shared by all actors in the region that should be partners in the preparation and implementation of the Regional Strategy; A revised version of these “orientations” will be then prepared in view of its adoption by the 13thCP Conference, that will also agree on a road map and a methodology for its preparation during 2004-05. As this major and essential task would require substantial means that could hardly been covered in their entirety by the MTF, it is important that necessary additional resources would be looked for as soon as possible.

- Assessment of and prospects for the MCSD

82. Considering the importance of the assessment of and prospects for the MCSD in order to identify and propose realistic ways and means for improving MCSD visibility and efficiency as requested by the CP, the MCSD had decided at its 7th meeting, Antalya, March 02, to establish a Task Force for an in-depth analysis and well defined prospects; the Task Force, composed of some ten members, met twice to review revised proposals that give due consideration to MAP structure and means as well as MCSD mandate and regional needs and expectations. Several proposals were made with regard to MCSD composition and members’ selection, method of work, visibility, participation, contribution, follow up,

partnerships and necessary means for undertaking related tasks in a satisfactory and efficient manner, giving priority to an evolutionary and step by step approach.

83. In the framework of the preparatory process for the WSSD, MAP/MCSD Secretariat has presented a Type II Partnership Initiative that has been accepted and posted on the UNCSD website; it concerns the Mediterranean Strategy for SD with the objectives of improving the visibility of the MAP/MCSD, its activities and achievements in the field of SD, and getting support and effective partnerships for the preparation and implementation the MSSD. To that end, the MED MAP Partnership would be presented at the Partnership Fair during the UNCSD 11th session, and soon after the 8th MCSD, a communication and "marketing" strategy would be launched, depending upon availability of time, means and resources.

84.. For the preparation of the MSSD additional funds are needed for consultation with partners before the CP meeting. More over it would be of great importance that countries and partners would provide voluntary support for the preparation of the MSSD and related Type II initiative.

85. Finally, it would be worthwhile noting, that since it was established, the activities carried out by MEDU as MCSD Secretariat have been continuously increasing adding to the MCSD meetings and Steering Committees, the follow up and coordination of inter-sessions thematic activities, the preparation of the Strategic Review, the MCSD Assessment and Prospects, the Type II Initiative and the Mediterranean Strategy for SD; the Secretariat is also expected to induce, catalyze and improve/rationalize regional cooperation between regional organizations, civil society and major groups, with still other things in the mandate of the MCSD!

- Cultural heritage

86. At their last meeting the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention decided to entrust MCSD with the task of proposing a way of reaffirming and deciding upon, with a view to sustainable development, a new action for the Mediterranean cultural heritage that was both more open and better targeted.

87. The MCSD meeting in Antalya (16 March 2002) had already pinpointed the main thrust of the action, and so before its next meeting (to be held in Dubrovnik on 14, 15 and 16 May 2003) a group of voluntary representatives decided to meet: namely Tunisia, Greece, Morocco, the principality of Monaco, Turkey, Croatia, Naples, Medcités and France, which offered to host the meeting.

88. The meeting took place in Nice on 10 and 11 April 2003. The report of this meeting is attached as Bur60 Inf.5 This report will be further discussed at the MCSD meeting in Dubrovnik, May 2003.

89. The main output of this meeting was the outline of an working programme for 3 years, identification of the available resources for the establishment of such a programme and potential partners. The MAP will support the program through its centres and their various activities particularly the coastal area management programmes or CAMPS currently under way in Malta, Algeria and Murcia, as well as the cultural dimension to the Blue Plan reports and joint work with CAR/ASP for the interfaces between nature and built.

90. A light structure within MAP, organically linked to PAP, with some autonomy in its work and management. A small board would be made up of organization that have to participate over several years, mostly towns and cities, plus some universities and other

appropriate national and international institutions such as the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

91. Some cities as Marseille expressed already the interest to cooperate and give their support to the new program to be established.

f) Information

92. Over the period mid October 2002-mid May 2003, and in addition to consolidating the regular ones, new activities have been launched in order to further advance the implementation of the MAP Information Strategy, its main objective being the promotion of MAP visibility.

- Relations with the media in the Mediterranean

93. Special attention was given to networking with communication and media professionals in the Mediterranean, these being an efficient and appropriate channel for disseminating information on the MAP activities to the wide public. The following main new initiatives have been launched:

94. Workshop for Mediterranean Communication Professionals on Environment and Sustainable Development: the Role of the MAP.

95. Over 30 Mediterranean journalists have confirmed their participation in the first-ever event of this kind organized by the MAP. The workshop has been scheduled for 7 to 10 May this year, jointly organized by MEDU, CP/RAC and PAP/RAC.

96. These are the main subjects on the agenda:
the role of the MAP in protecting the environment while promoting sustainable development;
coastal zone management: issues at stake and MAP responses;
the Strategic Action Programme to reduce pollution from land-based sources; and d) the need for and the possibility of cleaner production in the industrial sector.

97. The workshop also includes round tables on the problems and responses in following the environment and sustainable development related issues in the different media in the region.

98. A full report on this workshop will be presented to the next meeting of the Bureau.

Briefing-sessions and Press Conference for Italian Media:

99. These activities have been scheduled coinciding with the MED POL National Coordinators meeting in San Gemini (Italy) in May. In addition to a Press Conference with senior MAP Officials and Italian Authorities, this activity also includes briefing sessions with the Italian media to assess their needs for regular flow of information from MAP as well as to agree on ways of receiving a regular feedback from them.

The Media Network:

100. With the addition of new contacts with the Mediterranean media including those obtained through the two above-mentioned activities, the MAP Media Network has been regularly updated and upgraded. It currently includes over 380 Mediterranean media and communication professionals dealing with the coverage of environment and sustainable development. It also includes over 100 publishers and editors of specialized magazines and

newsletters from international, regional and regional inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

- ***Evaluation and improvement of Information activities in the RACs:***

101. During their meeting in Sophia-Antipolis (France) in January, the RACs' Directors requested that the MAP Information Officer provide, through field visits to each RAC, further professional assistance, tailored to the specific needs of each one of them, to improve their respective information and communication activities.

102. This task has been already achieved with CP/RAC and PAP/RAC (Blue Plan is next on the agenda and others will follow).

103. The focus was put mainly on providing guidelines and orientations related to the definition of target groups; the preparation and dissemination of publications; the improvement of drafting style; the upgrading of websites; the enhancement of networking with scientific, academic communities; regional and international organizations; wide public and civil society with a special focus on the media.

104. For this purpose, the task concentrated on the evaluation of information instruments (general and technical publications, website, info. notes); the re-definition of target groups (mainly scientific and academic communities, industrial sector, wide public, and media), and the restructuring of the dissemination system according to target groups, with a perspective of building up a 3 000-contact mailing list.

105. It also included means of improving each RAC website, of increasing links to other sites of general and specific interest and of ensuring target groups are linked to the Centre's web page.

106. Particular attention has been given to improving the drafting style, preparation of executive summaries and fact sheets; information notes and press releases as well as means of increasing and improving contacts with general and specialized communication and media professionals, at the regional and national levels.

107. It also included the upgrading of sources of information on ongoing related activities carried out mainly by international and regional organizations, of specific interest for each RAC's fields of activity.

108. It was agreed to set up a general MAP Intranet (MEDU-RACs) including documents, reports, mailing lists, updated lists of National and RACs Focal Points, roster of consultants, and any other sources of information of interest to all MAP staff.

109. The improvement of their library services and the necessary steps to transform it into a documentation centre, have been among the key issues.

- ***Mediterranean Strategy for Information, Awareness and Public Participation***

110. The draft of this regional strategy is now being finalized, following two sub-regional meetings: one for the MAP Arabic speaking member countries, and one for the East Adriatic countries, Turkey, Cyprus, Malta and Israel.

111. A meeting of a team of experts was held in January this year to work on the drafting of the final regional proposal for this Strategy. The following step will be to disseminate the proposal to the MAP National Focal Points for review.

112. Once all eventual amendments are introduced, the Strategy will be submitted to the MAP National Focal Points for approval before its presentation to the Contracting Parties for its adoption.

- Information tools:

MAP Website

113. MAP website will be updated by the end of May this year. New links and link-backs, as well as new groups will be incorporated, including some of specific interest. Examples:

- Marine research centres and universities (over 100 Mediterranean centres categorized by country);
- Technical series of related organizations;
- Environmental Statistics;
- Oceanography,
- Maritime transport and
- Search engines and portals.

114. With these updates and new links, there will be over 450 links to related web sites, sorted by topic and organization. An efficient statistical software will be applied to help measure the outreach of the website.

Publications

MedWaves

115. A new issue, number 47 has been published in English, French. The Arabic version is under final preparation for printing. Another issue, number 48, is now being finalised for printing.

MAP Technical Reports Series (MTS)

116. Four new issues are now under preparation:

- Assessment of Mariculture in the Mediterranean Region (MED POL).
- Riverine Transfer of Water, Sediments and Pollution to the Mediterranean Sea (MED POL).
- Assessment of Sea Water Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean Region. (MED POL)
- MAP CAMP Project "Malta": Final Integrated Project Document and Selected Thematic Documents (PAP/RAC).

117. A new publication on land-based sources is now being prepared with updated information (MED POL).

MAP Library

118. The MAP Library has dealt with nearly 250 requests for information and research, one third of them from MEDU and RACs and two thirds from external sources. The automation process has been completed and it represents one of the main pillars of both the MAP website and Intranet.

119. The Library database has also been continuously updated on the MAP web site with 279 key items added, complete with links to web sites and full text versions where possible. Also, the Library Meeting Documents database has been continuously updated, with 25 documents from seven MAP meetings, already converted into PDF and made available through the MAP web site. All IMO conventions & documents were catalogued into the database and links to full texts were made where possible, e.g. Law of the Sea.

120. The MAP Library was invited to attend the European Aquatic Sciences Library and Information Centres Biennial Conference in Kiel, Germany, from May 7th to 9th 2003, bringing together representatives from over 100 organisations. The main focus of the MAP Library is the formation of a network of Mediterranean libraries and documentation centres concerned mainly with environmental and marine science related activities. Other items on the agenda are recent developments in marine science information resources and related developments in library information technology. A full report will be presented to the next Bureau Meeting.

Dissemination

121. MAP publications have been disseminated to over 3.500 different recipients. The list is expected to considerably increase and restructured with the addition of the RACs respective mailing lists. Recently, MAP had to increase the number of printed copies of its new publications in order to meet the growing demand, in particular for MedWaves magazine.

Mediterranean GEF Project

122. MEDU, through the Information Officer, has provided the Mediterranean GEF Project with professional assistance for the preparation of guidelines on Public Participation and its integration in the National Action Programmes.

Coordination and provision of News Services for UN Secretary General:

123. The MAP, through its Information Office, coordinated and provided a round-the-clock world wire news service and news-feed to the U.N. Secretary General during two official visits to Athens, one in January on the occasion of the UN mediation on Cyprus, and one in April, during the EU Summit of Heads of States on Enlargement (41 Mandataries and the UN Secretary General). This contribution was formally acknowledged by the Secretary General's team in Athens and New York.

B. COMPONENTS

g) Pollution prevention and control (MEDPOL, REMPEC, CP/RAC)

- Land-based pollution control (MEDPOL)

General policy and future plans

124 The Contracting Parties had decided that MED POL Phase III should last until 2005 when new objectives and activities should be identified and transposed into a new Programme (MED POL Phase IV). Although the objective of the Secretariat is to work during next biennium on the elaboration of an up-to-date work programme to be proposed for adoption to the 2005 Contracting Parties Meeting, work has started to identify the elements which will be taken into account. The implementation of the GPA and the Johannesburg Action Plan, the long-term targets of the SAP and in particular the preparation and

implementation of National Action Plans for land-based pollution reduction, the enlargement of the LBS to cover the hydrologic basin, the harmonization of work with EU policy and strategy, the closer links between the monitoring and the pollution hot spots, are only some of the elements which will be considered in preparing an integrated programme contributing to the process of sustainable development in the region.

Recommendation:

In view of the completion in 2005 of the Phase III of MED POL, the Bureau might ask the Secretariat to start the process of revising the MED POL Programme with the aim of preparing a new Programme (2006-2013) for adoption by the 2005 Contracting Parties Meeting. The new Programme should take into account the results achieved by the MED POL Programme, the long-term targets of the SAP and the latest international developments in the field of water pollution assessment and control, in particular, the new coverage of the LBS Protocol to include the hydrologic basin, the Johannesburg Action Plan and the EU policy and strategy.

- Implementation of the LBS and of the SAP

Process of preparation of National Action Plans

125. The main ongoing activity related to the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based activities are the preparation of National Diagnostic Analysis (NDAs) and National Baseline Budget of Releases (BB). From the results of the sub-regional meetings held and the frequent contacts with countries' experts, it appears that the activities are well ongoing in almost all countries. So far the Secretariat has received eight National Diagnostic Analysis and one baseline budget reports. In order to harmonize the information included in the reports, the secretariat is reviewing them with the assistance of a regional expert, and comments are being sent to the national experts for consideration and finalization.

126. In the context of the implementation of the industrial pollution reduction activities of the SAP, and with the support of the GEF project, the MEDPOL Secretariat has prepared two guidelines and three regional plans as follows:

- guidelines for ecosystem stress indicators
- guidelines for river monitoring
- regional plan for reduction of 50% of BOD from industrial sources
- regional plan for management of hazardous waste together with an inventory for hazardous waste in the Mediterranean region
- regional plan for management of PCBs and nine pesticides together with an inventory of PCBs and nine pesticides in the Mediterranean region.

127. These documents were sent to MEDPOL National Coordinators for comments. In addition, independent experts from the region have been asked to review exhaustively the documents through four experts meeting organized jointly between MEDPOL, WHO and CP/RAC with the assistance of the GEF project.

128 Finally, the Secretariat prepared three additional technical documents on tracking the compliance to the SAP obligations related to industrial activities, on the evaluation of national compliance to the SAP and on the national institutional set up needed to support the implementation of NAPs. The documents were prepared in the framework of the GEF Project.

129. A Regional training course on cleaner production techniques and practices was organized in Barcelona on 30 September - 4 October 2002. One sub-regional training course on sewage treatment plants operation and management for participants from Croatia and Slovenia was organized in Rijeka (Croatia) on 15-18 October 2002.

130 During the period under review, five Guidelines for use in the Mediterranean region were prepared by WHO/MED POL. as part of the GEF Project. The draft Guidelines on environmental compliance and inspection were translated into French and circulated for comments to the MED POL Coordinators, and following their comments the final version was prepared. In order to better implement the guidelines, these were accompanied by a set of four manuals on: Compliance inspection management, compliance inspection general issues, compliance inspection sampling and compliance inspection human infrastructure.

131. The draft Guidelines on industrial wastewater were reviewed by a team of experts during a meeting that was held in Split from 18-20 March 2003. The proposals and suggestions resulting from this meeting are included in the final draft that will be presented during the MED POL National Coordinators meeting. A Government designated experts meeting that was held in Athens, from 8-10 April, dealt with three draft Guidelines, respectively on sewage treatment and disposal, coastal litter and municipal wastewater reuse. The outcome of the discussions of the meeting will be presented to the MED POL National Coordinators meeting for approval.

Recommendation:

The Bureau is invited to urge Contracting Parties to make any effort to complete the preparatory phase of the elaboration of National Action Plans to Address Pollution from Land-based Activities, and in particular to finalize the National Diagnostic Analysis and the Baseline Budget of pollution releases.

- Hot Spots and Sensitive Areas

132. As part of the GEF Project, fact-finding missions were carried out in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Syria and Turkey, to re-validate the selected hot spots, to define the scope of pre-investment studies and to tailor Terms of Reference (TORs) and studies cost in accordance to the hot spot characteristics and complexity. Letters of agreement (LOAs) between MEDU and Albania, Egypt, and Bosnia and Herzegovina and Syria concerning the procurement procedure were signed. LOAs between MEDU and Turkey have not yet been signed . Bosnia and Herzegovina accomplished the procedure of recruitment of an expert, while in Albania the process of the evaluation of expert's proposals is currently under way. Due to some internal reasons, a procurement procedure in Egypt has not yet been initiated. Recently, Slovenia proposed one pollution hot spot for a pre-investment study.

133. FFEM has agreed to support the preparation of pre-investment studies in Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia in the framework of the GEF Project. However, the activities on the preparation of the studies have not yet been initiated. ICS-UNIDO is supporting the preparation of one pre-investment study in Croatia; an expert was hired and activities on the preparation of the pre-investment study were initiated at the beginning of March.

134. The updating of the report on Mediterranean pollution hot spots was carried out although some countries had not yet submitted their national reports. The missing reports were submitted in April and a final document was drafted taking into consideration the latest

information. The document will be printed shortly and will focus on the characteristics of these areas and on comparing the old and recent data.

135. A consultation meeting on the criteria for pollution sensitive areas was held in Athens in November. In accordance with the recommendations made by the participants on the proposed criteria, a final draft was prepared which was circulated for comments among the MED POL Coordinators. The final criteria were used to produce a document on the revised national pollution sensitive areas, indicating the immediate measures to be taken.

- Other activities related to the LBS Protocol

136. As a result to the interest of Mediterranean countries in responding to their growing water demands through the creation of new sea water desalination plants, the Secretariat, as result of a Government-designated Expert meeting held in Forli', Italy, in May 2002 and with the assistance of two experts, prepared Guidelines for environmental management of sea water desalination plants in the Mediterranean region. The Guidelines mostly focus on the proper siting of the desalination plants aiming at reducing the impact on the marine environment. The Secretariat intends to follow up the outcomes of the activity in the region taking into account the recommendation of the Expert Meeting to consider desalination activities an industrial activity subject to the provision of the LBS Protocol.

137. Following the recommendations of the last Contracting Parties meeting, a document on "Municipal wastewater reuse practices in the Mediterranean" was prepared and translated into French.

- Monitoring activities

138. Regarding the ongoing national monitoring programmes (Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey), the agreement with Turkey has been revised and the programme of Greece is under revision. Efforts have continued in order to finalize the draft monitoring programmes of Algeria, Syria, Malta, Monaco and Italy. First contacts have been completed with Lebanon and Morocco for drafting their programmes.

139. The process of preparation of the new database of MED POL has been completed. The new database will soon be installed and functioning. All the available data of the MEDPOL III monitoring activities has been loaded in the database and special efforts are being made to eliminate all errors through collaboration between data providers and the MEDPOL Secretariat. Monitoring data for the period 2001 and 2002 has been submitted to the Secretariat in the standard data reporting formats.

140. In order to harmonize the data reporting systems of MED POL and of EEA for the European/Mediterranean countries, an official agreement was reached with EEA for which data from European countries will be provided to EEA through the MED POL database.

141. Concerning the MAP web site, the monitoring programme of MED POL Phase III is temporarily located at the following address: http://195.97.105.164/medpol/ . Soon this site will be integrated into the MAP web site. It provides detailed information on the present status of the monitoring programmes as well as a search tool for stations and samples. The description of the monitoring criteria of MED POL Phase III and the data reporting formats can also be downloaded through this address.

142. The programme for monitoring eutrophication of marine waters to be inserted in the MED POL national Monitoring Programmes was elaborated in consultation with a group of experts and will be presented to the MED POL National Coordinators. The implementation phase of the programme is expected to be initiated later in 2003. As a fundamental step to

ensure data quality, a reference method manual was developed by IAEA/MEL and a training course on phytoplankton sampling/analysis will be organized in Italy in June 2003 as part of MED POL.

143. As part of the GEF Project, the Secretariat prepared comprehensive Guidelines for Monitoring of Mediterranean rivers. They include all aspects related to river monitoring in the context of the SAP. This document was sent to the CPs for comments. Meanwhile, a Power Point presentation was prepared as a basic tool for the scheduled regional and national training courses. The presentation is being translated into national languages as needed.

Recommendation:

The Bureau is invited to urge Contracting Parties to formulate and implement national monitoring programmes in order to complete the geographical coverage of the region and create an efficient system of marine pollution assessment and control to be able to track the pollution reductions expected to be achieved through the implementation of the SAP.

- Reporting under MEDPOL

144. A draft reporting system covering the Convention and all the Protocols has been prepared by MAP and is being tested in a number of countries. Reporting on the application of the SAP has not been included so far in the MAP reporting system in view of the complexity of the SAP and the evident difference in nature of the action contained therein (e.g. policy action, pollution reductions, implementation of action plans, etc.). Considering that SAP should eventually be included in the system, the Secretariat has prepared a draft report entitled ”Evaluation of compliance under the provisions of the SAP” which is presenting to the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators for comments and approval. The document outlines in detailed forms the necessary information that countries have to collate in order to report on their compliance with SAP activities.

145. In the framework of the implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) pilot project in Alexandria, Egypt, being implemented in cooperation with International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS) - UNIDO, the PRTR unit in Alexandria is continuing the collection of data from the six industrial partners according to the agreed formats.

146. The MEDPOL Secretariat, in cooperation of ICS-UNIDO, has produced three guidelines related to the implementation of the PRTR system in the Mediterranean countries, as follows:

1. Guidelines for the reporting PRTR format
2. Guidelines to set up data base for PRTR
3. Guidelines for process simulation.

147. A regional Workshop is planned in 2003 in Egypt to present the first results of the project and to present the guidelines. The launching of similar projects in other countries is expected during 2004.

Recommendation:

The Bureau might ask the Secretariat to strengthen, in close consultation with countries, the cooperation with EEA regarding the harmonization of the reporting and the EIONET process

- Inspection systems

148. The regional training course for trainers on environmental inspections organized by WHO/MED POL, was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 4-8 November 2002. Sixteen trainers from 14 Mediterranean countries attended the course, who, in turn, are expected to organize similar national training courses in their counties. Following the usual practice, the training material has been translated into Arabic, Croatian, French and Spanish to be more user-friendly and practical when conducting the national courses. As a result, a national training course on pollution inspection will be organized in May in Spain.

- Implementation of the Dumping Protocol

149. The preparation of an assessment of dumping activities in the region for the period 1995-2001 is finalized and will be soon printed. The major conclusion of the assessment is that industrial waste is still dumped by a number of countries and that often poor coordination exists between different national institutions for the control of dumping activities.

150. The Secretariat has finalized, under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, the last two missing Guidelines, respectively, for the management of inert and geological materials and dumping of platforms and other man made structures. These documents, which were prepared on the basis of comments received from countries, will be submitted to the MEDPOL National Coordinators Meeting for approval and later to Contracting Parties for adoption.

- Implementation of Hazardous Wastes Protocol

151. As part of the GEF Project, the Secretariat has prepared an assessment document on the management of hazardous waste in the region together with an inventories of hazardous waste produced on the basis of the information available in Basel and Stockholm conventions databases. The assessment was sent to countries for comments and was reviewed by an experts meeting which was held in Barcelona 8-10 April 2003.

- Preparation of the revision of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

152. With the assistance of the GEF Project, the Secretariat produced the first draft of the new Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) that is expected to update the information and expand the coverage of the previous document prepared in 1997. An expert meeting was held in Athens in December 2002 to review the draft. The secretariat is at present updating the TDA on the basis of the comments of the experts and will produce the TDA in the GEF format as well as individual additional assessment documents covering specific subjects of special interest.

- GEF Project Coordination and Implementation

153. Information on the GEF Project activities is given under the various sub-chapters of the present section on Land-based Pollution Control, above. The following paragraphs report on activities relared to the coordination and general implementation of the project.

154. The *Fonds Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial* (FFEM) is the largest partner to MAP for the implementation of the GEF Project. It will contribute 1.8 million Euro for the

preparation of pre-investment studies in four countries, capacity building in three countries and the organization of three regional training courses. A meeting of the MAP Coordinator and the GEF Project Manager with representatives of FFEM and of the Ministry of the Environment was organized in Paris on 24 February 2003, when a final version of the agreement between MAP and FFEM was discussed and prepared for signature. All activities, which will be supported by FFEM, will be initiated when the agreement is signed.

- Inter-Agency Steering Committee

155. The third meeting of the committee was held in Athens (Greece) on 28 January 2003. The meeting reviewed activities carried out during 2002 and discussed activities planned until the end of the project. Due to the complexity of the project, the large number of actions, the late initiation of the majority of actions due to the delayed recruitment of the Project Manager, and the somehow slow responses of countries, the meeting decided to propose the extension of the project until 2004 without additional funding. The meeting also decided to modify the action on public participation in a way that the countries would receive more direct support in the process of preparation, adoption and implementation of the public participation component of NAPs.

- Other activities

156. The Sustainability of the SAP MED, the public participation component of the GEF project and SAP BIO issues are reported in respective chapters on Information, Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones and Biodiversity Conservation.

- Marine pollution control and prevention (REMPEC)

157 In addition to the core activities financed by the MTF, a number of activities implemented by REMPEC during the period 1 October 2002 - 30 April 2003 were financed by the LIFE Third Countries and MEDA mechanisms of the European Community and by the funds provided by the Technical Co-operation Division (TCD) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). When necessary, this document indicates the relevant external sources of financing for the activities not financed by MTF.

- Strategy for the implementation of Malta protocol

158. The REMPEC National Focal Points meeting was held in Malta from 12-15 February 2003. The preparatory activities for the organization of the Meeting, including the preparation of working and information documents, had started in November 2002. The report of the meeting, in English and French, was disseminated by circular letter by the end of February 2003.

159. One of the decisions of the REMPEC National Focal Points meeting was to submit to the Contracting Parties a strategic document "On the implementation of the Protocol concerning co-operation in preventing pollution from ships and, in cases of emergency, combating pollution of the Mediterranean sea" and to this end to organize an governmental designated expert meeting in September 2003, on the eve of the MAP Focal Points meeting

160. The meeting, to be held at a date to be fixed by the Bureau, would aim at reviewing the strategic paper “On the implementation of Malta protocol”, the relevant recommendations for the Contracting Parties in Catania and the preparation of the Ministerial Declaration.

- Training activities

161. During the period under observation REMPEC has organized and implemented the following training activities:

- a Regional Seminar on response to oil and chemical spills for Government Administrators and Senior Managers, MEDIPOL 2002, Malta, 29 October – 2 November 2002, financed by MTF;
- various lectures concerning national, regional and global systems for preparedness and response, Mediterranean Action Plan, REMPEC and its activities, introduction to oil spill response management and contingency planning to:

162. Third Country Training Programme (Malta, 14 November 2003); in the "Port Policy and Management Programme" of the Commonwealth;

163. Visiting post-graduate students of the World Maritime University (WMU) from Malmö, Sweden (Malta, 25 February 2003);

164. Post-graduate students of the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) (Malta, 25 March 2003).

165. Preparations are currently in progress to hold a Sub-regional Seminar on oil spill preparedness and response, for senior administrators and government officials from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, in Casablanca, Morocco, 28-29 May 2003 (financed by IMO/TCD funds).

- Development of national and sub regional preparedness and response capacities

166. The implementation of the project LIFE TCY99/INT/017/SYR for the development of a national system for preparedness and response in Syria (financed by the LIFE Third Countries mechanism of the EC) continued during the whole period under observation. The following specific activities were carried out and/or completed:

- Three draft local and two draft area contingency plans for the main Syrian ports were revised and completed (November 2002 – March 2003).
- A proposal for setting-up a National Operational Oil Spill Response Centre was completed (November 2002 – March 2003).
- A Meeting with the representatives of the competent Syrian national authorities was held in Malta on 14 February 2003.
- The preparation of ToRs and negotiations with the consultants for the implementation of the oil spill modelling component of the project (November – March 2003) were completed.
- Negotiations were held with the consultants for the preparation of sensitivity maps of the Syrian coasts (November – March 2003).
- Arrangements were made for the purchase of computer hardware for the preparation of sensitivity maps and for the running of the oil spill model (March 2003).

167. Concerning the development of the Sub-regional system for preparedness and response in the south-western Mediterranean (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia), financed by IMO/TCD funds, the following was implemented:

- The collection of information for the completion of the second draft Sub-regional Contingency Plan and a draft Sub-regional Agreement (November – March 2003).
- A Meeting of the representatives of the competent national authorities of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, was held in Malta on13 February 2003.
- The proposed format of the Sub-regional Agreement was disseminated (March 2003).

168. Concerning the development of the sub-regional system for preparedness and response in the Northern part of the Adriatic, the first Technical Meeting between Croatia, Italy and Slovenia was held at REMPEC premises on 27 – 28 February 2003.

169. A project proposal for the "Development of national capacities of the Republic of Albania for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from sea based sources", was prepared and submitted to the European Commission for financing under the LIFE Third Countries mechanism of the European Community (November 2002).

170. A project proposal for the development of the local Contingency Plans for the ports of Mersin and Iskendrum (Turkey) was prepared and submitted to the European Commission for financing under LIFE Third Countries mechanism of EC (November 2002).

171. A report was prepared concerning the situation of the lagoon of Nador in Morocco and a fact-finding mission for the preparation of an emergency plan for the port of Nador was also carried out (financed by IMO/TCD funds).

- Assistance in case of emergency

172. A Memorandum of Understanding was finalized and signed with the Italian Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM) for its participation in the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (28 October 2002).

173. Concerning the "Prestige" incident (Spain, November 2002), the Centre put on stand the Mediterranean Assistance Unit, and regularly disseminated to all Mediterranean coastal States situation reports prepared by the European Commission.

174. During the period under observation, REMPEC provided upon request technical advise concerning response measures to the Moroccan authorities in the case of the M/V GELFO, which sunk on the 15th November 2002, 12 n.m off the Moroccan coasts.

175. The Centre did not receive any other requests for assistance in case of emergency.

- Prevention of Pollution from Ships

176. REMPEC continued the implementations of the project MED/B7/4100/97/0415/8 on Port Reception Facilities for Collecting Ship-Generated Garbage, Bilge Water and Oily Wastes financed by the MEDA mechanism of the EC. In particular:

- Further to the outcome of the project's 1st Steering Committee Meeting, REMPEC requested the European Commission to extend the duration of the project from two to three years. The request was in principle favourably received by the Commission.
- Consultants were selected to carry out the first two activities of the project which consist of an assessment of the situation and of the needs regarding port reception facilities in ten beneficiary countries. The relative consultancy contracts were signed in December 2002 and the consultants initiated immediately their work . A list of ports to be covered and a schedule of missions to the beneficiary countries was drawn up. The missions commenced in January 2003.
- At the present time the assessment phase in the MEDA countries is in progress and should be finalized in August 2003. In addition to that, REMPEC has already allocated some financial resources from its budget (MTF) in order to carry out the assessment in the countries not covered by MEDA (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Libya and Slovenia)

177. REMPEC is currently involved in the preparation of a legal document on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft in the Mediterranean sea, which will be submitted to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2003. An expert Meeting on this subject is being held in Monaco on 25 April 2003.

178. The Preparatory activities for the "Regional Conference on the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 and the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol in the Mediterranean region" which is going to be co-organized in Piraeus, Greece, 3 – 5 November 2003 by the Greek authorities and REMPEC, started and a preparatory meeting on this matter was held at REMPEC with the Greek Minister of the Merchant Marine on 25 November 2002.

179. The First Preparatory Meeting of the "Mare Nostrum" Project on Assessment of the Maritime Traffic in the Mediterranean Sea and related risks" was held in Sophia Antipolis, France, at BP/RAC premises on 19 March 2003. The meeting agreed on the procedure for the preparation of the project proposal which should be presented to EC (MEDA – SMAP) for funding.

- Dissemination of information

180. During the period under reporting the following was achieved:

181. Concerning RIS/D/9, Regional Information System, the French version "Equipements de protection personnelle et appareils de contrôle en cas d'accident chimique maritime" was disseminated to the national Focal Points in October 2002.

182. The Questionnaires aimed at updating and revising Sections 1 (Directory of Competent National Authorities) Section 2 (Inventory of Centres of Expertise and Resources) and Section 4 (Directory of Companies offering Services) respectively of Part B of the Regional Information System (RIS/B1, RIS/B/2 and RIS/B/4), were sent to the national Focal Points in March 2003. The relevant database is currently being updated, with a view to finalizing and publishing new editions of these documents.

183. The new English and French versions of the "Strategy for the Implementation of the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea" was disseminated to REMPEC's Focal Points and other participants to the 6th Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points on 7 March 2003.

184. The updating of the REMPEC web site (http://www.rempec.org) continued throughout the period under observation. At present, the major part of the RIS and a number of other documents prepared by REMPEC have been included in the web site. Another revision and updating of the web site is currently being made in order to improve the dissemination of relevant information concerning prevention of pollution from ships and preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution.

185. The "oil" section of the database on alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean was updated with the information concerning the period 1 January 1998 – 31 December 2002. The "chemicals" section of the database is at present being revised.

186. Transport Oriented Database on Chemicals (TROCS) has been entirely upgraded and replaced by the "Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support Information System" (MIDSIS – TROCS). This is no longer a database, but a more sophisticated tool to be used in the decision-making process in order to facilitate response in case of accidental marine chemical emergencies. A prototype was delivered in March 2003 to some scientific and

operational institutions in the Mediterranean countries for testing. It is expected that the final version of MIDIS – TROCS will be ready for dissemination by the end of April 2003.

187. A new brochure containing the texts in English and French of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol has been prepared and is expected to be ready for dissemination by the end of April 2003.

- Cleaner Production- CP RAC

Dissemination and publications

188. During the period under review the following materials, leaflets and studies were prepared, published and disseminated:

- CP News newsletter No. 12 has been published during this period.
- Med Clean case studies: 4 case studies (No. 41, 42, 43, 44) have been published.
- A Leaflet on both the role and the activities that the Centre carries out within the framework of MAP was published.
- Technology database. A technology database for the textile industry was prepared and is currently being reviewed with the aim of including it in the RAC/CP web site and contributing to technology transfer in the Region.
- Database of Mediterranean experts. A programme for filling out the expert CV form online is being prepared. At the same time, CVs are being compiled in view of updating the database with the aim of opening its access online.
- Web site. The RAC/CP web site was updated.
- State of CP in the MAP countries. A report on the state of CP in the Mediterranean basin was prepared for the southern and eastern countries of the region and is currently being reviewed.
- Graphic arts sector (leaflet). A leaflet that will present the study above and serve as a cover for the CD containing the study that will be included is being finalised.

- GEF Project

189. The CP/RAC has been involved in the implementation of the GEF Project since its incpetion. To this end, several Guidelines and Regional Plan have been prepared and reviewed in experts meetings as follows:

- Regional Guide for the application of BATs and BEPs in industrial sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids (finalised, reviewed at the meeting of 18-20 March in Split, currently being amended)
- Regional Guide for the application of BATs, BEPs and CTs in industries of the Mediterranean countries (finalised, reviewed at the meeting of 18-20 March in Split, currently being amended)
- Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries (finalised, reviewed at the meeting of 8-10 April in Barcelona and curently being amended)
- Regional training course on cleaner production techniques and practices (Barcelona, 30 September-4 October 2002), as stated on the previous report of activities for the period March – September 2002.
- Expert meeting on the management of industrial activities (Split, 18-20 March 2003). Participation at the meeting for reviewing the two regional guides above as well as a document carried out by MED POL and another one by MED POL / WHO within the GEF project (Regional plan for the reduction of input BOD by 50% by 2005 from industrial sources, Guidelines for the management of industrial effluents).

- Expert meeting on the management of hazardous waste and PCBs (Barcelona, 8-10 April 2003). Organisation and participation at the meeting for reviewing the regional plan above as well as 2 MED POL documents carried out within the GEF project (Regional plan for the management of PCBs and nine pesticides including inventory of quantities and uses of pesticides and PCBs, Regional plan for the management of HW including inventory of HW in the Mediterranean region).

- Life projects

190. Concerning a Life Project on capacity building in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which consists of creating a cleaner production centre in BH, RAC/CP has participated in the following training activities during 2003:

- A programme of training was held that addressed to 40 individuals of public and private institutions from BH "Introduction to cleaner production opportunities " (Sarajevo, 21 – 22 November 2002), The programme introduced the concept of CP, advantages and barriers for its application, stakeholders concerned, necessary tools and instruments, and case studies, referring to the Catalan experience and that of transition countries.
- A workshop for capacity building addressed to officials of the administration bodies as well as companies and technicians "The role of the government in industrial development" was held inBanja Luka, 27 – 28 February 2003. The training workshop focused on the role of governments in promoting environmental management, specifically in industries. Among others, RAC/CP staff contributed to the course by explaining the experience of Catalonia in issues such as transposing the IPPC Directive and the Catalan emission inventory within the EPER register.
- Approximately 25 individuals from enterprises (mostly from the food industry) were trained on MOED, Minimisation Opportunities Environmental Diagnosis, Objectives and Methodologies (Sarajevo, 20-21 March 2003).

- Meetings, workshops, missions and capacity building

191. An exchange of experiences was achieved between the Slovenian Regional Development Centre in Koper and RAC/CP (Barcelona, 22 November 2002). The activity contributed to building capacities of officials from Slovenia by presenting, from the part of RAC/CP, the model of environmental management in Catalonia. Notably, the RAC/CP presented the law IIAA (the Catalan transposition of the EU IPPC Directive), as well as how the Centre for the Enterprises and the Environment is operated.

192. Experts meeting was held on pollution prevention in the textile sector (Barcelona, 11 – 13 December 2002) that aimed at the exchanging experiences and promoting the transfer of know-how in the Mediterranean. The meeting, which counted on the participation of several renowned experts from Catalonia and international institutions, presented the study prepared by RAC/CP on pollution prevention in the Mediterranean textile industry and was complemented with a visit of a leading Catalan textile company showing how it had integrated the environment in its activities.

193 Cooperation between ADEME and RAC/CP was enhanced (Barcelona, 29 November 2002; Toulouse, 20 February 2003). RAC/CP received the French National Focal Point at the Centre with a view of exchanging presentations on the roles of both institutions and exploring new ways of enhancing the cooperation between them; as a follow-up and with the same goals, the Centre undertook a mission to the premises of ADEME, the institution hosting the Focal Point of France.

194. A Meeting was held for the follow-up to the recommendations of the MCSD working group Industry and Sustainable Development (Barcelona, 26 February 2003).

195. A meeting was organized to follow up the outcomes of the Regional workshop of the working group Industry and Sustainable Development of the MCSD on Status and trends of industry and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region (27-29 June 2001, Barcelona). Relevant Mediterranean institutions met in order to see which activities they were developing within the framework of the recommendations above and to analyse how those proposals for actions could be implemented or are already being implemented.

196. RAC/CP cooperated with MEDU in the organization and logistics of the Meeting on Framework orientations for the preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development – MCSD (Barcelona, 13-15 March 2003).

197. An informal meeting was organized with the MEDU information officer at the Centre with the aim of analysing and enhancing the information strategy of RAC/CP, including distribution of the outputs produced by the Centre (Barcelona, 27-28 March 2003).The organisation of a meeting of journalists was also discussed with relevant actors.

198. Cooperation was offered by CP/RAC in the logistics for the preparation of the 2nd Meeting of the task force for the MCSD (Barcelona, 3-4 April 2003), which was carried out at the premises of RAC/CP.

199. An Informal meeting was held for better defining the cooperation between RAC/CP and MED POL (Barcelona, 7 April 2003) and to better integrate the work of the Centre in the long-term implementation of the SAP.

Recommendation:

The Bureau may consider to recommend holding future meetings of the MED POL National Coordinators and of the CP/RAC Focal Points jointly, in order to better integrate the work of the two Programmes in the framework of the implementation of the SAP.

h) Biodiversity conservation (RAC/SPA)

- Preparation of the SAP BIO

200. The main activities and actions carried out in the framework of SAP BIO project, are the following:

201. The first preliminary draft of the SAP BIO (the strategic and the assessment parts) was finalised in Tunis on 23 – 24 January 2003 and reviewed by the 3rd Advisory Committee of SAP BIO Project. Following recommendations made at the meeting, the first preliminary draft of the SAP BIO was revised by RAC/SPA in collaboration with a team of international consultants. The result of the revision process was the preparation of an improved SAB BIO draft and two other outputs. The outputs were:

- The revised SAP BIO document
- The synthesis of the national report
- Draft summary of the National Action Plan, both elaborated within the SAP BIO project

The documents were discussed by the 4th Advisory Committee and SAP BIO national correspondents at the 2nd meeting held in Athens, 7-10 May 2003. The final draft will be

discussed at the SPA national Focal Points meeting to be held in Marseilles at the end of June 2003.

Recommendation:

The Bureau might ask the Secretariat to apply a wide participatory approach in the process of formulation of the SAP BIO. The SAP BIO, that represents a very important policy document to be approved by the Contracting Parties in Catania, should be based on a deep analysis of the present status of biodiversity and should indicate priorities and identify the existing and potential resources, the actors and the potential partners in order to ensure its successful implementation.

- Implementation of the action plans

Implementation of Action Plans for threatened species adopted within MAP framework

Monk Seal
202. RAC/SPA had elaborated a plan that identifies the priority activities to be carried out in the Mediterranean sea. The aim is to improve the consensus among Mediterranean countries on the measures needed to protect the monk seal and to identify concrete actions for stopping their decline in the region.

Marine turtles
203. The following activities were implemented to ensure the implementation of the action plan:

- Feasibility study on the standardization and centralization of information deriving from the tagging programme;
- Assistance to Turkey to set up a monitoring network over the three major nesting sites;
- Elaboration of a report on the normalization of tagging methods

Cetaceans
204. In the framework of implementation of Action Plan for the conservation of cetacean in the Mediterranean and in collaboration of ACCOBAMS and MEDACES, the main actions carried out were:

- Monitoring of cetacean stranding through the elaboration of a data base at the national and regional levels;
- Elaboration of a guide for the establishment of national action plans for the conservation of cetacean and elaboration of guidelines for the development of national networks.

Marine vegetation
205. With a view at promoting protection of the unique sea-grass meadow in the North Adriatic, financial assistance was provided by RAC/SPA, in association with the Government of Monaco, to the Slovenian Institute for Nature Protection (IRSNP), to undertake a detailed mapping of the meadow.

Elaboration of an Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex 2 to the SPA Protocol

206. An ad-hoc meeting of experts was organized to examine the draft action plan for the conservation of bird species to be submitted to the sixth NFP meeting of SPA. The aim is to have a regional strategy setting priorities and activities for the conservation of bird species appearing in the Annex II to the SPA Protocol.

Elaboration of an Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fish species in the Mediterranean Sea.

207. The aim of this activity is to limit the general decline of *elasmo-branch* populations, to set priorities and activities to be undertaken to protect cartilaginous fish at Mediterranean level. In this framework, an expert meeting was organized with the support of ICRAM to elaborate a draft action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean species of cartilaginous fish that will be submitted to the SPA NFP meeting.

Elaboration of an Action Plan for the monitoring of the introduction of marine and invasive species.

208. In the framework of this activity the following actions were undertaken:

- A draft action plan was elaborated by RAC/SPA and circulated for consultation to Mediterranean experts designated by the NFP for SPA. The draft action plan will be submitted to the SPA NFP Meeting.
- A meeting of government representative experts was organized by RAC/SPA in Barcelona with the support of the local authorities. Representatives from international organizations (IMO, IUCN, etc.) attend the meeting as observers.
- Scientific and financial supports were provided to the organization of a Regional Workshop on marine alien species held in Beirut by the National Council of Scientific Research and INOC.

- Other activities

Collection of data and assistance to countries for the preparation of inventories of species and sites.

209. The following activities have been carried out:

- a first draft of a manual on marine habitats was elaborated. This manual is made to facilitate the use of the standard data formats and help countries to make an inventory of their sites and species;
- a first version of a computerized Standard Data Format (SDF) was prepared.

Taxonomy

210. Three consultants were appointed to work on the formulation of a Mediterranean Initiative on Taxonomy. The objective of this activity is to promote and integrate the existing Mediterranean initiatives relevant to taxonomy into a regional strategy.

Establishment of a Mediterranean Clearing House mechanism on biological diversity

211. A consultant was recruited to elaborate a feasibility study on the establishment of a Mediterranean centre of exchange on biological diversity. The CBD secretariat was contacted concerning the organization of a workshop on the subject

Assistance to countries for the establishment and management of SPAs and development of SPAMIs.

212. The following activities were carried out

- In order to assist Mediterranean countries to improve the management of their marine protected areas, the RAC/SPA carried out three field surveys in the following areas: Al Hoceima National Park, Morocco, Cavo Greko et Mouilla, Cyprus, and Zembra National Park,Tunisia.
- Two field surveys were organized in Syria to identify marine sites of conservation interest with the view of proposing a national plan for the development of marine protected areas in Syria.
- Guidelines for the creation and the management of specially protected areas were elaborated and will be submitted to SPA NFP meeting in June 2003.

Elaboration of common criteria for register other species in the Annex of SPA Protocol

213 A consultant for the elaboration of common criteria to register other species in the Annex of SPA Protocol was recruited and the work started.

Elaboration and diffusion of data and information relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

214. The aim of this activity is to elaborate a GIS version of databases on protected areas and on SPAMIs. A consultant was appointed to elaborate a GIS version of the inventory of marine and coastal areas.

Assistance to the National Focal Points for SPA to undertake informative action on the SPA Protocol and the Actions Plans.

215. Documentation and financial assistance were made available for the NFP for SPA in Malta, Lebanon and Croatia to organize information events and/or to translate RAC/SPA documentation into local languages.

Assistance for the implementation of CAMP

216. The outputs expected from the activity "marine conservation area" of the CAMP for Malta were finalized and presented at the final presentation meeting organized in Malta. Inputs to the inception report of the CAMP Algeria were also provided.

- Training

217. Sessions on the scientific and technical aspects of the conservation of the common natural heritage were organised as follows:

- A training session on turtle nesting site conservation techniques was organized at the Lara station for one participant from Lebanon;
- A short training course was organised for 6 staff members of the Biodiversity Department of the Syrian State Ministry of Environment. The training included a field visit to the Rass Mohamed National Park in Egypt. The participants were also given the opportunity to attend the International Conference on Protected Areas organised by the Egyptian Authorities in Charm Esheikh.

- Publication

218. During the period under review, the RAC/SPA printed:

- MEDNATURE 2 : Cetacean strandings in the Mediterranean Sea, English Version;
- MEDNATURE 3 : Mediterranean co-operation for the sustainable use and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, English Version
- Brochure on sea grass : Guideline for impact studies on sea grass meadow, English and French versions
- Brochure on marine turtle: guidelines to design legislation and regulations relative to the conservation and management of marine turtles populations and their habitats, English and French version.

219. In the framework of the preparation of world congress on Protected Areas (Durban, Sept- 2003), the RAC/SPA organized with the Malaga Centre of IUCN a meeting of North-african managers of Protected Areas in order to discuss financial matters and the management of north Africa's parks. The RAC/SPA participation in the congress activities is planned in the framework of regional seas programme (UNEP) and WESCANA (IUCN).

i) Environment and Development (BP/RAC)

Environment and development report

220. The European Environment Agency (EEA) and the DG EuropAid of the European Commission (administrator of the MEDA Programme) (a total of €500,000 over three years) have decided to support the preparation of the Blue Plan's Environment/Development Report.

221. The report's steering committee met in January 2003, when the preliminary draft of Part I (general overview of trends in the Mediterranean) was presented, together with the drafts of three chapters of Part 2 (energy, cities, transport). Work on the remaining three chapters (water, coastline and tourism, and rural areas) commenced in spring 2003.

222. Two thematic seminars of experts were organized to discuss the drafts of the chapters on energy (February) and transport (March). The revision of these two chapters, that necessitates intensive work beforehand in collecting data, providing a prospective viewpoint, and gathering examples of good practices, is under way.

223. Work on collecting information and internal drafting has begun on all the chapters. The prospective vision to be developed should make it possible to sound the alarm regarding any possible impact by the year 2025. Examples of good practices should help to highlight the possible benefits of more sustainable development. The report should prove useful for the future Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy.

Recommendation:

The Bureau might request the Secretariat to pay special attention to the process of the preparation of the report Environment and Development in order to provide the CP in Catania with, at least, a first comprehensive draft.

- Problems of sustainable development

The impact of free trade

224. The record of the CIHEAM/MAP-Blue Plan forum held in Montpellier (May 2002) on agriculture, free trade, the environment and rural development in the Euro-Mediterranean context has been revised and corrected for publication in April 2003 in CIHEAM's *Mediterranean Options* series. The main findings will be presented to the next meeting of the MCSD.

225. A consultant has been recruited to initiate the study on the possible impact of free trade on textile SMEs and SMIs in Morocco and adequate responses (the study is being conducted jointly with METAP).

226. Blue Plan already has a heavy workload in comparison with its resources and would prefer to provide assistance and advice to Contracting Parties rather than undertake complex studies so it has decided not to respond to the invitation to tender for the study on the sustainability of the impact of the EuroMediterranean free trade area launched by the European Commission. A mission went to Brussels to explain Blue Plan's position. The specifications for the study include consultation with Blue Plan in any case, and the latter, on behalf of the Contracting Parties, should contribute to following up the study as well as the other activities under way. The MCSD should adopt a position on the follow-up to this activity.

Financing and cooperation for sustainable development

227. Blue Plan has recorded as precisely as possible (based essentially on data from the OECD) all the financial flows in the Mediterranean (origin, destination, type). The regional consultant for the activity has submitted an interim report analysing the problems and the solutions that could be adopted. A steering committee for this activity met in February 2003 to review the working documents. National case studies will shortly be launched in three volunteer countries (Croatia, Morocoo, Tunisia).

228. The study on economic tools for the environment in Egypt has been finalized and was submitted by the national consultant in February 2003. It shows the possible benefits of this kind of tool for environmental policies.

Tourism

229. A completed and corrected version of the future "White Paper" on tourism in the Mediterranean has been prepared. It will be discussed next autumn and be published at the end of 2003.

Water

230. The final document analysing water strategies and prospects in Tunisia has been published and circulated.

231. An important regional forum on "Water demand management in the Mediterranean" was organized at Fiuggi (Italy) from 3 to 5 October 2002, with the support of the GWP, Italy and France. Seventy-nine high-level participants from 20 countries and 57 institutions took an active part. On the basis of an analysis of national questionnaires and 32 contributions (case studies, regional analyses), the forum enabled the progress made to be assessed, as well as the difficulties encountered in implementing the orientations proposed by the Contracting Parties in 1997.

232. Three workshops (on economic tools, institutional tools, and mobilization of actors) and a round table of donors led to a revision of the proposals made at the previous forum held in Fréjus (France) in 1997.

233. The forum's findings were submitted to the 3rd World Water Forum (Kyoto, Japan, March 2003) and will be discussed at the next meeting of the MCSD. A six-page special Kyoto edition was prepared in French and English and widely distributed. The regional and local studies conducted for the forum will be an important source of information that can be downloaded from the Blue Plan's web site.

Rural development, agriculture, soil and forests

234. The following activities have been carried out:

- The fascicle on Mediterranean woodlands is being circulated.
- The synthesis of the threats to Mediterranean soil has been totally revised and corrected. It will be published shortly in the *Cahiers du Plan Bleu* series.
- A cooperation agreement with the FAO on the Silva Mediterranea programme was signed on 8 October 2002. France has made available to Blue Plan a senior expert, who has headed the project since February 2003. The detailed three-year study programme will be presented to the steering committee for the project.
- A workshop on Mediterranean mountains was held in Sophia Antipolis on 1 and 2 April 2003.
- A cooperation agreement between the CIHEAM and the MAP was signed by Mr. Busuttil and Mr. Chabason on 24 February 2003. Under this agreement, the CIHEAM and MAP/Blue Plan undertake to develop a common prospective analysis of the conditions for sustainable development in the Mediterranean.
- Prospective analyses on agriculture for the future Environment/Development Report have been collected.

Energy and transport

235 Blue Plan has undertaken substantial work on collecting data and prospective analyses on these two subjects.

Cities and urbanization

236. A study on local authority resources in countries of the South and East has been prepared in order to supplement the Cities chapter of the Environment/Development Report.The EC/DG Environment has approved the joint PAP/BP project on the exchange of experiences of urban regeneration in Mediterranean cities and this activity will begin soon.

- Indicators and statistics

Indicators

237. Around 20 additional entries for indicators are being prepared on the basis of national contributions. Morocco, with Blue Plan support, has finalized its national test on sustainable development indicators. A final national workshop was held at the end of April 2003.

238. The results of three case studies on indicators in coastal regions (Croatia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Syrian Arab Republic) were submitted to the second and last meeting of the steering committee on 14 October. A synthesis has been prepared by Blue Plan with proposals for generalizing these approaches in the Mediterranean.

239. Blue Plan participated in workshops of experts on indicators organized by MEDPOL (Athens, March 2003) and ERS/RAC (Tunis, March 2003).

240. The final workshop on the Malta CAMP (November 2002) reaffirmed the interest in the new approach to indicators developed by Blue Plan. Systemic and prospective analysis of sustainability commenced for the Lebanon CAMP (two workshops in October and December) and the Algeria CAMP (one workshop in February).

Statistics

241. The first phase of the "MEDSTAT Environment" Programme concluded with the publication of regional and national compendiums and the organization of an extremely important final conference on Phase I, held in Istanbul (February 2003), involving the statistics departments of various countries and representatives of a number of intergovernmental institutions (OECD, United Nations statistical services, EEA, EUROSTAT, MAP), FEMISE (Euro-Mediterranean Federation of Economics Institutes) and NGOs. The conference underscored the success of the project and the structural impact in countries. It led to useful proposals for Phase II. Blue Plan was chosen to lead Phase II, which would last three years, and have as its principal themes biological diversity, air quality, and sustainable development indicators.

j) Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones (PAP/RAC)

Integrated coastal area management (ICAM)

242. After the first expert meeting (9-10 September 2002), the ToR for the feasibility study for the Mediterranean Protocol on ICAM were prepared and contracts signed with a team of legal and technical experts. The second expert meeting was held on 12-13 February in Athens. The main objective of the meeting was to define more specific terminology to be used in the Feasibility Study, alternative options for the protocol, evaluation criteria, organisation of the work, and alike. The next meeting will be held on May 26-27, 2003 in Split.

243. PAP/RAC started the preparation of the the Strategy on CAMP and ICAM in the Mediterranean. The strategy, requested by the Bureau of the CPs at their meeting in Monaco on 17-18 October 2002, will serve as a framework for the activities of MAP and PAP/RAC in ICAM for years to come. An annotated version of the document will be discussed at the Joint National Focal Point Meeting in Cavtat in May 2003, a draft will be discussed at the MAP Focal Point Meeting in September, while it is expected that the Strategy will be adopted at the next Contracting Parties Meeting in Catania in November 2003.

244. Three joint training courses on ICAM were organised in co-operation between PAP/RAC and METAP in three Mediterranean countries, namely in Algeria, in Croatia (for Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina), and in Albania. The training in Algeria took place on 2-6 November 2002. The trainees were the representatives of the ministries and institutions dealing with coastal management, the local authorities of the coastal wilayas and national NGOs. A training course in Croatia (25-29 November 2002) was attended by more than 35 participants from the three countries. The training course in Albania was held on 2-6 December 2002.

245. An expert meeting aimed at a revision of the ICAM Guidelines was held in Nicosia on 8-9 November 2002, in order to discuss the need for the new guidelines, establish linkages between the existing and new guidelines, define the tentative contents of the guidelines, and

discuss the logistical arrangements related to the preparation of the document. Afterwards, ToR were prepared and contracts signed for the preparation of revised guidelines for ICAM. The second meeting on this matter took place in Athens on 5-6 May, 2003,.

246. ToR were prepared and a contract signed for the preparation of the National Report on ICAM for Turkey. The draft report is expected to be submitted in April 2003. The draft report for Malta is still pending. The delay appeared due to the engagement of the consultant in the finalisation of CAMP project reports.

247. The PAP/RAC project of Mediterranean ICAM Clearing House, which aims at providing a forum for exchange of information and practices, as well as to facilitate co-operation among practitioners of ICAM and decision-makers, was co-funded by the EU. In February 2003 PAP/RAC announced the launching of its Mediterranean Coastal Management ClearingHouse web page on the PAP/RAC web site (http://www.pap-medclearinghouse.org). The Clearing House consists of the following topics: MED Projects Inventory, Funding Guide, Experts Register, Books, Research Reports & Papers, Legislation & Institutions, Economic Instruments, Policies, Strategies & Plans, Tool Box, and Links.

248. Preparation of the first Mediterranean distance training course on Integrated Coastal Area Management “MedOpen” is in progress. After the meeting in July 2002 when it was decided on the structure of the training course, identification of the partners in preparation of the materials, and definition of the work-plan, outputs and responsibilities, the project is being implemented, in co-operation with EUCC and NetCoast.

249. PAP/RAC was invited to participate in a number of meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences where the activities and achievements of PAP/RAC and MAP were presented. The most important were the following: ARPE Conference, Techno-Ocean, Calvia Conference on ICAM, World Bank's Water Week and ESSD Week, Council of Europe's Colloquy on Sustainable Development of the Euro-Mediterranean Region. This project was in full swing duirng this period, and therefore many related activities took place.

Recommendation:

The Bureau might request the Secretariat to follow carefully the elaboration of the strategic paper on the future of CAMPs and of the new eventual legal instrument on ICAM in order to submit to the Contracting Parties solid and sound proposals.

Sustainable Management of coastal zones - MAP CAMP

250. The Final Presentation Conference for the MAP CAMP "Malta" was held on 28-29 November 2002 at Gzira, Malta. It was convened in order to present the results of the completed project to the main stakeholders and the general public. Apart from numerous Maltese representatives, including the new Minister for the Environment, the Conference was attended by representatives of the MAP Co-ordinating Unit and the three RACs involved in the project implementation, BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC. Final Reports of individual activities were well received, and the basis was created for post-project activities to be implemented in the next period. The Conference Report and the Final Project Document were prepared by PAP/RAC.

251. A series of co-ordination meetings with national consultants engaged in the CAMP Lebanon project, as well as with the PAP/RAC Focal Point, and with some national institutions relevant for the coastal area management in Lebanon, such as the Council for Development and Reconstruction and the National Remote Sensing Centre, were held

during the first week of February 2003. The PAP/RAC Deputy Director, together with the National Project Co-ordinator discussed the progress on individual project activities, problems, issue of co-ordination and integration of 'sectoral' outputs, as well as the already submitted reports. A review of the work-plan and submission dates of the various outputs, as well as proposal for the Final Presentation Conference, organisation of the ICAM training and other issues were on the agenda.

252. A mission of the international consultant for ICAM to assist national counterparts in preparing the National ICAM Strategy was combined with these meetings between 2 and 6 February. The consultant also met other national institutions relevant for this important issue. The main objective of his visit was to clarify the contents of the National ICAM Strategy document, various inputs needed from other consultants, way of integration and co-ordination.

253. The international consultant was nominated to assist in the preparation of Carrying Capacity Assessment (CCA) for Tourism in the proposed local communities of the coastal area of South Lebanon. To this end the consultant performed a short training course on this issue, namely an introduction to the use of the "Guidelines for CCA for the Development of Tourism in Mediterranean Coastal Areas" that was developed by PAP/RAC and applied in many Mediterranean countries. The course took place on 6-8 February in Beirut. About 30 participants attended the course.

254. Sectoral reports have been prepared for the PAP-related activities: water resources management; diagnostic analysis of environment, agriculture and fishery sectors; use of economic instruments; urban planning and sustainable development; and final report of the River Damour survey. The PAP/RAC National Project Co-ordinator, individual consultants and the NGO responsible for the Participatory Programme regularly visited the local communities, organising workshops on various topics, and in this way contributed significantly to the visibility of the project on the ground, as well as to the exchange of very relevant information on the issues, problems, possible solutions, raised awareness, and alike. The co-ordination between the MoE and the three local authorities on the project implementation has been very good.

255. After the submission of the Feasibility Report for the CAMP Cyprus project in the beginning of July, a meeting took place in Nicosia on 11 November 2002 to agree on further development of the project. Two major topics were discussed: the definition of the CAMP area, and a more detailed definition of the proposed project activities. A national consultant was engaged by PAP/RAC to facilitate the preparation of the CAMP Agreement.

256. ToR for the preparation of the Feasibility Study for this project were formulated and co-ordinated between PAP/RAC and the Ministry of Environment in Morocco. After the nomination, by the Moroccan authorities, of the national expert to conduct the study, a contract was signed. Accordingly, the study is expected to be finalised by July 2003.

257. Following the decision of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their last Meeting (Monaco, 17-18 October 2002), which in principle approved the decision to carry out a feasibility study for a CAMP project for Mar Menor (Murcia, Spain), a great interest expressed by the Regional Government of Murcia, as well as the Spanish MoE, the ToR for the FS were prepared by PAP/RAC and the contract signed in March 2003. It is expected that the study will be concluded in October 2003. However, it should be noted that the final decision to carry this CAMP project should be taken by the Contracting Parties at their meeting in autumn 2003.

Integrating Environment and development

258. A Good Practices Guidelines for the Carrying Capacity Assessment for Tourism in Coastal Areas is being prepared. At the moment it is being edited, and is expected to be published in April 2003. Together with the Provincia of Rimini, Italy, which is preparing a CCA Study following the PAP/RAC Methodology, the Mediterranean workshop to launch the CCA Guidelines will be organised in Rimini on 10 May 2003.

259. The PAP/RAC Training Course on the consolidated soil erosion mapping methodology (descriptive and predictive) for erosion processes, as developed by PAP/RAC and FAO, was organised in Fes, Morocco, on February 18-21, 2003 in co-operation with the Moroccan Ministry of Land-use Planning, Water Resources and the Environment. A series of practical exercises and a field visit allowed the participants to get acquainted with the various phases of the method in which the application makes the first big phase of the erosion and desertification control process, as conceived and proposed by PAP/RAC in collaboration with FAO.

260. The document Photo library on Soil Erosion Processes; Pictorial Annex to the Guidelines for Mapping of Erosion Processes, illustrating various types of erosion/desertification phenomena and degrees of their intensity, has been published by PAP/RAC. It will serve as an annex to the Guidelines on Consolidated Methodology for Mapping of Erosion/Desertification Processes previously published by PAP/RAC. The document is aimed at soil erosion experts and institutions dealing with this phenomenon in the Mediterranean. It is presented in English and French.

261. Two training courses on Interactive Participatory Programme in the framework of the LIFE Third Countries project "CoLD - Improving Coastal Land Degradation Monitoring in Lebanon and Syria" were organised, respectively, in Latakia on October 26-27, 2002, and in Beirut on October 29-30, 2002. The objectives of the Workshops were to gather all members of the national teams in Syria and Lebanon, representatives of relevant national and local institutions and authorities, and representatives of stakeholders to be involved in the participative actions of the project. After the workshops, two documents, namely Action Plan for each country, were prepared and adopted by both national teams. The Interactive Participatory Programme is one of transversal activities of this project carried out with the assistance of PAP/RAC.

Support to MCSD Activities

262. PAP/RAC is implementing the EU co-funded project "Exchange of Experience and Preparation of the Guidelines for Urban Regeneration in the Mediterranean Region", which will contribute to the implementation of recommendations adopted by the MCSD on urban management. Seven reports on Mediterranean cities where urban regeneration was implemented were commissioned. A synthesis report will be prepared for a Mediterranean workshop on urban regeneration to be held in June in Split.

263. PAP/RAC has been actively participating in the process of shaping the MCSD to become a useful tool for the Mediterranean countries, namely at the meetings of the TASK Force on MCSD, and at the Workshop on "Framework Orientations" for the Preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

GEF Project - Sustainability of SAP MED

264. A Workshop on the application of economic instruments for combating the land-based pollution in the framework of GEF project was held in Opatija, Croatia, on 24-25 October 2002. The training component of this workshop included the presentation of the theoretical bases of economic instruments, their types and uses. Successful experiences gained worldwide, as well as the application of economic instruments in Croatia, was also

presented. The second part of the workshop was dedicated to two on-going pilot projects in Croatia: the first being the baseline pilot project on introducing the tourist eco charge in the Town of Hvar, one of the best Croatian tourist destinations; and the second, the Kvarner pilot project dealing with the development of economic instruments for collection, transport, and disposal of used oils and oily waters.

265. The Faculty of Economics of Split and PAP/RAC organised jointly a workshop on economic instruments held on 28 November 2002. More than 30 participants attended the workshop, mainly form the coastal region of Dalmatia, as well as the participants in the METAP/PAP/RAC Training course on ICAM from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia that took place the same week.

266 Under the auspices of PAP/RAC and the Algerian Ministry of Land-use Planning and Environment, the representatives of the Algerian national and local authorities met in Algiers, on January 13 and 14, 2003 to discuss the possibilities of application of economic instruments in the pilot watershed of Zemmouri Sahel. The participants formulated a series of recommendations for the improvement of economic instruments already envisaged by national regulations in relation with the protection of the environment.

267. On 13 December 2002, a meeting of Croatian environmental economists was organised in Zagreb with the objective to present the Croatian edition of a brochure “Advantages of Using Economic Instruments”. Since this was the first occasion for the Croatian environmental economists to meet, all interested in this field were invited to present their activities. The meeting was attended by about 30 participants.

268. A training course on economic instruments for environmental protection was held in Tirana, Albania, on 16-17 December 2002. The training course was attended by 20 participants, including the representatives of national and local authorities, as well as NGOs. In addition to PAP/RAC experts and the Albanian Focal Point for economic instruments, ten more speakers contributed to the training course.

269. The meeting on economic instruments was held on 28-29 March 2003 in Split with 25 participants. At the meeting, progress in the pilot projects' implementation were presented, and the guidelines were given for the preparation of the National Action Plans (NAPs) on economic instruments. NAPs for economic instruments are to be prepared in 12 GEF eligible Mediterranean countries. During the meeting, a special emphasis was put on the discussion on maximising the project results.

Other Activities

270. The web site of PAP/RAC, http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org, is regularly updated, providing information on all current PAP/RAC activities, news, etc. Two new web pages have been developed, namely http://www.pap-sapei.org on implementation of the Activity “Sustainability of SAP” of the Project “Development of Economic Instruments for the Sustainable Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Address Marine Pollution From Land-based Activities in the Mediterranean (SAP MED)”, and http://www.pap-medclearinghouse.org on the Mediterranean ICAM Clearing House Project, co-funded by EU, which has been established in December 2002 and made available on web at the end of February 2003.

271. Due to many requests and interest expressed for the delivery of some of the earlier published documents, which were out of stock, PAP/RAC has published additional copies of three documents: Conceptual Framework and Planning Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (first printing in 1999, second in 2001), River Cetina Watershed and the Adjacent Coastal Area: Environmental and Socio-economic Profile (first

printing in 2000), and Good Practices Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Area Management in the Mediterranean (first printing in 2001).

272. Two interns from Italy were hosted by PAP/RAC in the last quarter of 2002. They were dealing with a variety of different projects, such as the CAMP Lebanon project, Med Clearing House and alike. In this way they not only improved their knowledge and experience in ICAM related projects but were of help to PAP/RAC. It has to be noted that there is a growing interest among Mediterranean students for internship at PAP/RAC.

273. The PAP/RAC library is regularly updated with relevant publications, books and other documents. Acquisition list is available on the web site, which is updated quarterly. PAP/RAC has improved its connections to the Internet servers (much faster ADSL service has been introduced). A new telephone switchboard has been installed and the telephone numbers of the centre have been changed accordingly.

C. THE CONTRACTING PARTIES MEETING

k) Status of preparation

274. The documents for the MAP Focal Points and CP meetings are classified in several categories:

- ***Working documents leading to recommendations***

Recommendations and Programme Budget for 2004-2005

1. Draft Strategic Assessment of the General Framework of Barcelona Convention (the operational bodies and the Coordination Unit)
2. Evaluation draft report of RAC SPA ,
3. Evaluation draft report of REMPEC ,
4. Biodiversity Strategy Draft (including only the recommendations)
5. Strategic Paper Draft “On the Implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol”
6. Draft paper for the future of MAP activities in the field of CAMPs including the legal frame development.
7. Draft regional plan for the reduction of input BOD by 50 percent by the year 2005 from industrial sources.
8. Draft Regional plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations
9. Draft-Recommendations drawn from the implementation of the trial phase of the reporting system.
10. Draft-Reporting System on National Compliance to Strategic Action Programme

Information Documents

1. Activity Progress Report by the Coordinator
2. Financial and Implementation Report of MAP program
3. Report on the Environment and Development (first draft)
4. Assessment Part of the SAP BIO document,
5. The trans-boundary diagnostic analysis of marine pollution
6. Information note on the orientation for a Mediterranean Strategy on SD
7. .MAP Legal framework; An Informal document.

l) The principal themes for ministerial consideration

275. The Secretariat feels that the Ministers could focus their discussion on the following themes packages:

- Post Johannesburg challenges
- Synergy and cooperation with EU,
- Adoption of the SAP BIO
- Adoption of the Strategy for the implementation of the new Malta protocol (Post Erika/Prestige strategy)
- Assessment of the ICAM protocol
- Assessment of the liability and compensation
- Evaluation of MAP

STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS As of 1 February 2003

	Barcelona Convention1/			**Dumping Protocol 2/**			**Emergency Protocol 3/**		New Emergency Protocol 4/	
Contracting Parties	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Acceptance of Amendments**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Acceptance of Amendments**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Signature**	**Ratification**
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	-	-
Algeria	-	16.02.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	25.01.02	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-
Croatia	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	25.01.02	-
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	15.10.01*	16.02.76	19.11.79	-	16.02.76	19.11.79	25.01.02	-
European Community	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	25.01.02	-
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	-	-
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	25.01.02	-
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	-	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	25.01.02	-
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	-	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	22.01.03	-
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	25.01.02	-
Lebanon	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	-
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	25.01.02	-
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	25.01.02	-
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	25.01.02	03.04.02-
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	-	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	25.01.02	-
Slovenia	-	15.03.94/AC	*	-	15.03.94/AC	*	-	15.03.94/AC	25.01.02	-
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	25.01.02	-
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	-	-	26.12.78/AC	-	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.02	-
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	25.01.02	-
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	-	-
Yugoslavia	-	27.04.92/**SUC****	-	-	27.04.92/SUC**	-		27.04.92/SUC**	-	-

Accession = AD Approval = AP Succession = SUC

*Slovenia and Cyprus – ratification status pending notification from the depositary country

** Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27. 04.92.

STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

	Land-Based Sources Protocol 5/			Specially Protected Areas Protocol 6/		SPA & Biodiversity Protocol 7/		Offshore Protocol 8/		Hazardous Wastes Protocol 9/	
Contracting Parties	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Acceptance of Amendments**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Signature**	**Ratification**
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	10.06.95	26.07.01	-	26.06.01	-	26.07.01
Algeria	-	02.05.83/AC		-	16.05.85/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	22.10.94/SUC		-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	12.06.92/SUC		-	12.06.92/SUC	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	-	-
Cyprus	17.05.80	28.06.88	12.10.2001*	-	28.06.88/AC	10.06.95	15.10.2001*	14.10.94	15.10.2001*	-	-
European Community	17.05.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	10.06.95	12.11.99	-	-	-	-
Egypt	-	18.05.83/AC		16.02.83	08.07.83	10.06.95	11.02.00	-	-	01.10.96	-
France	17.05.80	13.07.82/AP	16.04.01	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	10.06.95	16.04.01	-	-	-	-
Greece	17.05.80	26.01.87		03.04.82	26.01.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Israel	17.05.80	21.02.91		03.04.82	28.10.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	-	-
Italy	17.05.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	03.04.82	04.07.85	10.06.95	07.09.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Lebanon	17.05.80	27.12.94		-	27.12.94/AC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	17.05.80	06.06.89/AP		-	06.06.89/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Malta	17.05.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.06.95	28.10.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	28.10.99
Monaco	17.05.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	03.04.82	29.05.89	10.06.95	03.06.97	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	
Morocco	17.05.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	02.04.83	22.06.90	10.06.95	-	-	01.07.99	20.03.97	01.07.99
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AD	*	-	16.09.93/AC	-	*	10.10.95	-	-	-
Spain	17.05.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	03.04.82	22.12.87	10.06.95	23.12.98	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Syria	-	01.12.93/AC		-	11.09.92/AC	-	-	20.09.95	-	-	-
Tunisia	17.05.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	03.04.82	26.05.83	10.06.95	01.06.98	14.10.94	01.06.98	01.10.96	01.06.98
Turkey	-	21.02.83/AC	18.05.02	-	06.11.86/AC	10.06.95	18.09.02	-	-	01.10.96	-
Yugoslavia	-	27.04.92/SUC**	-		27.04.92/SUC**	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Slovenia – ratification status pending notification from the depositary country.
**Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27. 04.92.

ANNEX II

Proposal to establish a working group to elaborate an implementation and compliance mechanism under Barcelona System.

Background

The main tools for the implementation of the environmental conventions are the protocols, bilateral and multilateral agreement for assistance and coordination in implementation between programs, countries, resources, etc., development of action plans, initiatives, programs or guidelines, establishment of monitoring and reporting on MEA compliance, participation of the public in the monitoring process, direct enforcement by using administrative, civil and criminal sanctions on a national level, use of economic instruments to encourage and favour the implementation of the MEA obligations, etc.

The analysis of the behaviour of the Parties vis a vis a MEA is carried out through the review and controls mechanisms of implementation and compliance status. Such systems are made up mainly of the following elements.

- MEA reporting
- Review of MEA implementation
- Review of Compliance with MEA provisions
- Review of effectiveness of the implementation

Those steps are consecutive. The reporting and review mechanisms have been established generally by all MEA whereas compliance control mechanism is still limited. Information given in Table 1 is drawn from several relevant studies and it presents briefly some common generalized relevant experiences from several conventions already in force or expected to be shortly and that would be of interest for the MAP.

Barcelona Convention Implementation

Since 1995, the Contracting Parties are undertaking several steps forward towards the implementation of the Barcelona system and its review. The main tools being used are:

- Elaboration of a sound and very advanced legal base related to the implementation and compliance control (Articles 26 and 27 of the convention provides for binding obligations related to reporting and compliance and effectiveness of measures taken).
- Elaboration of new or update of existing protocols
- Elaboration of Policy Documents (Strategic Orientations for SD in the Mediterranean, SAP, SAP/BIO, Strategy for the implementation of Malta protocol)
- Elaboration of some cooperation agreements with other programs and organizations
- Assistance to countries including technical, legal and action oriented projects)
- Implementation of the recommendations of CP meetings
- Elaboration of the reporting format
- Application of reporting exercise for several countries
- Initial phase of the national reporting reports review and assessment by the Secretariat and one international independent recruited expert.

From the above, it appears that, once the reporting format is validated, an body/mechanism might be needed to review the national reporting and prepare an implementation and compliance report. Such a tool would assist the CP to comply with articles 26 and 27, in other words to review and assess the status of implementation and propose the due recommendations for the CP meeting.

The Secretariat thinks that, among the possible options, establishing an institutional implementation review and compliance control body would be the best, because it would better guarantee the ownership of the parties over this very important process, contribute to the increase of the transparency and commitment and would be in line with the development trend of other MEA in this sector.

It is therefore objective and reasonable to propose to the CP in Catania to establish a working group under the guidance of the Bureau that could focus its work on the following:

- Review the national reporting reports
- Assess the general status of the implementation of the convention on national and regional level and submit the report to the 14th COP in 2005.
- Prepare recommendations and actions on a national level to the countries that would participate in the reporting exercise
- Prepare the recommendations related to national legal needs towards the implementation
- Review any remarks from the NGO related to the non-compliance issues
- Update the reporting format on the basis of the lessons learnt
- Draft a proposal or draft- recommendation for the 14th "On the approval of an implementation review and compliance control mechanism under Barcelona Convention" to assure the compliance of the CP meetings with article 26 and 27 of the convention.

The working group could meet twice a year back to back with the Bureau meetings and will report to the Bureau and to the CP meeting. The working group could be made up of 6-8 experts (legal and technical) proposed by the Parties (two per sub-region) on the basis of very clear ToRs and decided on by the Bureau of the CP. The Secretariat could nominate 1-2 legal independent experts to support the working group.

Legal References: Articles 26 and 27 of the amended Barcelona convention

Art. 26 Reports

1. The contracting parties shall transmit to the organization reports on:
a) The legal administrative or other measures taken by them for the implementation of the Convention, the protocols and of the recommendations adopted by their meetings
b) The effectiveness of the measures referred to in subparagraph a) and problems encountered in the implementation of the instruments as mentioned above
2. The reports shall be submitted in such form and at such intervals as the meeting of the CP may determine.

Art.27 Compliance Control

The meeting of the CP shall, on the basis of periodical reports referred to in article 26 and any other report submitted by the CP, assess the compliance with the Convention and the Protocols as well as the measures and recommendations. They shall recommend, when appropriate, the necessary steps to bring about full compliance with the Convention and the protocols and promote the implementation of the decisions and recommendations.

Convention	year	Entry into force	Reporting system and format	National reports Review	Implement Review	Compliance Review	Effectivness Review	Implementation Review Body
Ramsar	1971	1975	yes	no mandatory	no mandatory	no formal system in place	never done	formally not established
CITES	1973	1975	yes	yes	yes	no formally designated	partially	yes
Bonn	1979	1983	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Berne			yes	yes	yes	yes	N.a	yes
Montreal protocol	1987	1989	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Helsinki (Helcom)	1992	2000	yes	yes	yes	no information	no information	yes
Ospar	1992	1998	yes	yes	yes	yes	no information	yes
CBD	1992	1993	yes	not mandatory	no	no	no	no
Basel	1989	1992	yes	yes	in process	no	no	yes
Barcelona (revised)	1995	not yet	in process of finalisation	mandatory/ in process	mandatory/ in process	mandatory / not yet implemented	partly mandatory	not yet established

*Bern convention system was explained by the Secretariat during the last bureau meeting in Monaco. The institutional review body is the standing committee that has the general responsibility for overall monitoring of the conventions through reviewing complaints by the contracting parties and NGOs, opening of case files, adoption of relevant recommendations and follow up of their implementation including on the spot expert and Secretariat visits. The standing committee acts according to the rules of procedures that provide details for all its activities.

CITES Convention has an extensive and well functioning data gathering system. A central aspect of the implementation review institution is what is essentially a paper review of domestic implementation legislation conducted by the Secretariat known as the national legislation project. This system helps the countries to review and evaluate domestic legislative measures to implement the convention. The Secretariat or external consultants review and analyse the legislation produced by the countries.

*Basel Convention has no formal implementation review. However they have created a working group for the implementation of the Basel convention that doesn't review domestic implementation on party by party basis but instead looks broadly at implementation-related issues. Since 1998 the legal working group is working to prepare a decision approved by the COP 6 (establishment of a procedure for monitoring implementation and compliance with Basel convention).

*CBD has begun formal consideration of an implementation review mechanism in 1999. The first approach was the creation of a new body to review implementation, which could meet inter-sessionally to take different forms as open ended or limited in composition. The second suggestion was to adapt an existing working groups. The third approach was to use regional and sub-regional meetings to review implementation.

ANNEX III

As at 31 January 2003

COUNTRIES	Unpaid pledges for 2001 & prior yrs	Adjustments		Pledges for 2002	Collections during 2002 for 2002 and fut. yrs		Collections during 2002 for prior yrs	Unpaid pledges for prior yrs.	Unpaid pledges for 2002 & prior yrs
Albania	25	0		3,490	3,490		0	25	25
Algeria	51,834	0		52,352	52,352		51,834	0	0
Bosnia & Herzegovina	53,955	0		14,958	0		0	53,955	68,913
Croatia	47,883	0		48,362	20,000		47,883	0	28,362
Cyprus	0	0		6,980	6,980		0	0	0
European Commission	0	0		124,647	124,647		0	0	0
Egypt	165	0		24,431	24,431		0	165	165
France	0	0		1,893,125	1,893,125		0	0	0
Greece	138,714	0		140,102	140,102		0	138,714	138,714
Israel	0	0		73,291	73,291		0	0	0
Italy	590,683	0		1,564,060	1,516,834		590,683	0	47,226
Lebanon	25	0		3,490	3,490		0	25	25
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0	0		98,222	0		0	0	98,222
Malta	25	0		3,490	3,490		25	0	0
Monaco	0	0		3,490	3,470		0	0	20
Morocco	27,375	0		13,961	0		0	27,375	41,336
Slovenia	0	0		33,405	67,144			0	(33,739)
Spain	0	0		747,378	747,378		0	0	0
Syrian Arab Rep.	7,424	0		13,961	0		0	7,424	21,385
Tunisia	(10,163)	0		10,470	307		0	(10,163)	0
Turkey	0	0		112,182	112,182		0	0	0
Yugoslavia	469,976	0		0	0		0	469,976	469,976
T o t a l	**1,377,921**	**0**		**4,985,847**	**4,792,713**		**690,425**	**687,496**	**880,630**
Additional Contributions (for information only)									
European Commission	0	0		545,399	518,129		0	0	27,270
Host Country *	0	0		400,000	399,377	2/	0	0	623
Malta	0	19,943	1/	0	19,943			0	0
UNEP Env. Fund	0	0		50,000	0		0	0	50,000
T o t a l	**1,377,921**	**19,943**		**5,981,246**	**5,730,163**		**690,425**	**687,496**	**958,523**

N.B. Amounts in brackets mean credit to the Government

The additional contributions are included in this report for information purposes only.

1/ Refund of unspent balance

2/ EUROs 408,163.26