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Introduction

The present report covers the progress achieved in the implementation of the various activities carried out by the Coordinating Unit, MED POL and the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) since the last meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols held in Cairo, (Egypt) on 30-31 October 2006.

I. COORDINATION

1. Legal Issues

1.1 Status of Ratification

Compared to the status of ratification recorded at the last Bureau meeting in October 2006, there is one additional acceptance of the amendments to the LBS Protocol by Croatia and one additional ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol by Greece, both pending official notification from the depositary country.

With the new acceptance by Croatia, the revised LBS Protocol needs two more acceptances to enter into force. On the basis of informal discussions with some Contracting Parties, the Secretariat believes that the amendments to the LBS Protocol will enter into force by next year.

As at June 2007, a total of 18 Contracting Parties had accepted the amendments to the revised Convention, 14 had accepted the amendments to the revised Dumping Protocol and 14 to the revised LBS Protocol. In addition, 14 Contracting Parties had ratified the new Specially Protected Areas (SPA) and Biodiversity Protocol, 4 the new Offshore Protocol, 5 the new Hazardous Wastes Protocol and 8 the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

A detailed table on the status of Signatures and Ratifications is attached as **Annex I** to this report. It is expected that the Depositary country, Spain, will provide updated information on the status of ratification by the time the Bureau meeting is held.

1.2 Status of Serbia

At the last meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which was held in Cairo, Egypt on 30-31 October, 2006, the Secretariat was requested to clarify with the Serbian authorities the country's future participation in the Barcelona Convention system.

According to Article 60 of the Constitutional Charter of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, 2003 "*should Montenegro break away from the state union of Serbia and Montenegro, the international instruments pertaining to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly UN SC Resolution 1244, would concern and apply in their entirety to Serbia as the successor.*"

As a result, Serbia is a successor to the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. On the other hand, Serbia, because of the succession, has ceased to be a Mediterranean Coastal State and, according to the Barcelona Convention system and the practice followed by the Contracting Parties, Serbia is not entitled to be a Contracting Party.

In the circumstances, the Republic of Serbia was kindly requested to clarify its position vis-à-vis its future relation to the Barcelona Convention system and inform the Secretariat

accordingly to enable it to report to the next meeting of the Bureau and eventually to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties. A reply is still awaited from the Serbian authorities.

1.3 Development of the new Protocol on ICZM

As reported to the Bureau last October, the first Meeting of the Working Group of experts designated by the Contracting Parties to develop a draft Protocol on ICZM that was held in Split (Croatia) on 27-29 April, 2006 has reviewed and adopted the Preamble and Articles 1, 2 and 4.

The second meeting of the Working Group on ICZM was held in Loutraki, Greece from 6 to 9 September 2006. After a careful review of parts I and II of the proposed draft Protocol, the meeting adopted 8 Articles. The other articles were considered at the third meeting of the Working Group which was held from 12-15 February 2007 in Loutraki, Greece. Of the 36 articles of the draft Protocol 5 still need to be reviewed and nine are under reservation in whole or in part by one or more Contracting Parties. There are also some paragraphs in brackets, pending from previous meetings.

In order to ensure agreement on the last remaining articles of the draft Protocol at the next meeting of the Working Group, the Secretariat together with the Director of PAP/RAC, has been having bilateral discussions with a number of Contracting Parties to address any concerns which they might still have before the meeting in Split.

Following the approval by the Bureau to allocate the necessary funds from the revolving fund of the MTF, a fourth meeting of the WG on ICZM will be held from 13 to 16 June 2007 in Split, Croatia.

It is expected that the fourth meeting will finalize all pending parts of the draft Protocol and agree to submit it to the MAP Focal Points meeting and the Contracting Parties meeting for their consideration and approval.

1.4 Reporting

With the view to implementing the recommendations of the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Portoroz, Slovenia, 2005), with respect to the submission by the Contracting Parties of their national reports on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols during the 2004-2005 biennium, 11 Contracting Parties have submitted their reports namely: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, EC, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Syria.

Two meetings were convened by the Secretariat in order to conclude the work on the draft new reporting format of MAP. The meetings were held in Loutraki, Greece (5-6 December 2006) and Istanbul, Turkey (21-22 May 2007). The last meeting agreed to submit the draft of the new reporting format to the MAP Focal Points meeting for its consideration and approval.

The draft reporting format has been elaborated by taking into account the relevant guidelines adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP on this subject.

The new draft is oriented toward the use of indicators and one time reporting and aims at facilitating the provision of the necessary information by the Contracting Parties on:

- a) the legal, policy, financial, administrative and enforcement measures taken by the Contracting Parties to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and the related decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties;

- b) the difficulties encountered and/or challenges to enhance implementation and
- c) the effectiveness of measures taken.

While the parts a) and b) of the report, as described above, are rather fully elaborated, the part on 'effectiveness' requires further substantial work during the next biennium in order to prepare a definitive list of 'Effectiveness'-related criteria.

The draft reporting format also contains a number of tables for the inclusion of technical data as per the specific requirements of all Protocols, on the basis of which on-line data bases will be established by each Center and Programme in close cooperation with INFO RAC with the view to establishing in the near future a shared Information system for MAP.

The last meeting also addressed the issue of non submission by some Contracting Parties of their Implementation reports for the biennium 2004-2005. A new deadline of 30 June was agreed; this will allow the Secretariat to draft the Regional Implementation Assessment report for submission to the MAP Focal Points in October 2007 by taking on board the reports of as many Contracting Parties as possible.

1.5 Compliance Mechanism

Since the last Bureau meeting, two meetings of the WG on Compliance and Implementation were convened by the Secretariat back to back with the meetings on Reporting. The meetings were held in Loutraki, Greece from 6 to 8 December 2007 and Istanbul, Turkey from 23 to 25 May 2007 respectively.

The discussions were very fruitful and the last meeting concluded the draft compliance mechanism and agreed to submit it to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points and the Contracting Parties for their consideration and approval.

The compliance committee to be established will be composed of 7 members and 7 alternates that shall act on their individual capacity.

The meeting requested the Secretariat to submit to the MAP Focal Points meeting in October 2007 a draft procedure for the nomination of the Committee members.

1.6 Liability and Compensation

As reported to the Bureau in Cairo in October, 2006, the first meeting of the WG agreed to propose appropriate rules and procedures on liability and compensation for damage from pollution in the form of a soft law instrument such as Guidelines. Due to the non legally binding character of such guidelines the meeting agreed that they should provide for high environmental protection standards.

The Secretariat has finalized the first draft guidelines and circulated them for comments and inputs by the WG well in advance of the next meeting which is scheduled to be held in Athens, Greece on 28-29 June 2007.

Due to the very tight schedule between the two meetings, the Bureau members will be briefed by the Secretariat on the main outputs and conclusions of the meeting of the WG on Liability and Compensation during the meeting in Madrid.

2. MCDSD

The 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development was held from 30 to 31 May, 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey at the kind invitation of the Turkish Government. Around eighty members of the Commission, including representatives of the Contracting Parties, local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs participated. UN specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and other partners attended the meeting as observers.

The meeting elected a new Steering Committee for the MCDSD which will now be chaired by Turkey as the host country of the 12th MCDSD meeting. The other members are Bosnia & Herzegovina, Morocco, Slovenia, Italian Local Agenda 21, Legambiente and UMCS-Businessmed.

In line with UNEP's call to move forward the climate change debate, the main item of the agenda of this year's Commission meeting dealt with Climate Change in the Mediterranean. Mr. Filippo Giorgi, Head of the Earth System Physics Section of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics of Trieste Italy, and a member of the IPCC, made a presentation in which he described the particularities of the Mediterranean climate. This was followed by an interesting question and answer session between MCDSD members and Mr. Giorgi. Two breakout sessions then followed dealing with Energy and Climate Change and Tourism and Climate Change. The results of the breakout sessions were then presented to the Commission in plenary.

At the end of the meeting, the MCDSD members agreed on a number of recommendations on Energy and Climate Change which are being finalized by the Secretariat and which will now be submitted to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties together with the recommendations of the Regional Workshops on Energy and Sustainable Development and Water Demand Management in the Mediterranean, which were organized by Blue Plan in line with the thematic programme of work of the MCDSD.

Another item on the agenda of the MCDSD was the Information and Communication Strategy for the MCDSD developed by INFO/RAC which will be revised on the basis of the changes proposed by the Commission members before it is submitted to the next meeting of MAP Focal Points.

Another interesting item on this year's MCDSD Agenda was the Monitoring Mechanism of the Strategic Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area. Ms. Carol Chouchani, from the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, made a presentation about the SIA/EMFTA monitoring mechanism that needs to be set up at the end of the project. The presentation was organized in order to seek the feedback of the MCDSD about the feasibility of the recommendations regarding the monitoring mechanism, before they are proposed to the EC.

Following the presentation by the Secretariat of the Progress Report of the MCDSD for the period May 2006 to May 2007 and the Implementation Plan for the period 2008-2011 including the Programme of Work 2008-2009, the Commission members engaged in a discussion on both documents and proposed amendments to the programme of work for the next biennium. At the end of the discussion, the MCDSD recommended the approval of these two documents after amendments have been incorporated to reflect the concerns expressed during the meeting and subject to possible further comments in view of the ongoing discussion on the future role of the MCDSD.

2.1 National Strategies for Sustainable Development

During the period May 2006 and May 2007, assistance continued to be provided to Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic to develop their NSSDs with the financial contribution of Italy and Monaco. Moreover, with the financial support of the Spanish Azahar Programme, four additional countries, namely Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia, are now also involved in the development of their respective NSSDs.

When the relevant MoUs are signed, visits will be organized to the four new countries to launch the process of NSSD formulation. In the case of Tunisia, the MoU has been signed and the process launched. In the coming weeks the MoU with Bosnia & Herzegovina will also be signed. The purpose of the visits is to meet the concerned institutions and stakeholders including the donor community to provide information on the NSSD formulation process and obtain their support.

2.2 MCSD related activities by MAP components

Following the adoption by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz of the MSSD and the MCSD programme of work, working groups were established by BP/RAC to address the thematic and cross cutting issues dealing with (i) Water Resources; (ii) Energy & Climate Change; (iii) Quality Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Development; (iv) Sustainable Tourism. These activities are reported in Part II.4.3 of this report "Integrating Environment and Development".

3. **Cooperation and Partnership**

3.1 Cooperation with UN Agencies

UNEP's GPA and Regional Seas Programme

Regular consultations were held with the Head of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) and the Coordinator of the Regional Seas Programme with respect to the role and involvement of MAP in the international environmental scene; MAP has been the oldest regional seas programme of UNEP and is involved in the implementation of the Land-based Sources Protocol (LBS Protocol).

In October 2006, the MAP Secretariat participated in the 2nd Inter-governmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources which was held in Beijing, China. All UNEP Regional Seas participated.

Presentations were made during this meeting to promote the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development as well as the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Large Marine Ecosystem. The Secretariat also acted as Rapporteur during the Ministerial Roundtable discussions. Contacts were made with various Government delegations from the Mediterranean, with the Secretariats of other Multilateral Environment Agreements and other UN agencies and international organizations with a view to strengthening cooperation.

Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (Strategic Partnership)

The GEF Project "**Strategic Partnership**" was officially submitted on the 23rd of March 2007 to the GEF Secretariat by UNEP/DGEF for the consideration of the the June Council. Originally, the intention was to submit the project in September 2006. Following instructions

by the GEF Secretariat, all projects had to go through a re-pipelining exercise and therefore had to be submitted at a later date.

The long-term goal of the **Strategic Partnership** (SP), consisting of an Investment Fund and a Regional Component is a) to assist countries to achieve full implementation of the SAPs and NAPs, thus reducing pollution from land-based sources and preserving the biodiversity and ecosystems of the Mediterranean from degradation, in line with MDG/WSSD Environmental targets, b) to leverage long-term financing, and c) to ensure through the Barcelona Convention and MAP systems the long-term sustainability of activities initiated within the project..

The objective of the **Investment Fund** is to accelerate the implementation of transboundary pollution reduction and biodiversity conservation measures, in priority hotspots and sensitive areas of selected countries of the Mediterranean basin that would help achieve the SAP MED and SAP BIO targets.

The objective of the proposed **Regional Component** is to promote and induce harmonized policy, legal and institutional reforms and fill the knowledge gap aimed at reversing marine and coastal degradation trends and living resources depletion, in accordance with priorities agreed by the countries in the SAP MED and SAP BIO and to prepare the ground for the future implementation of the ICZM Protocol. Accordingly, the Regional Component focuses on: i) the facilitation of policy, institutional and legal reforms for the protection of biodiversity and reducing pollution from land based sources consistent with the provisions of the two SAPs; ii) providing assistance to countries in advancing their ICZM and IWRM plans (including the management of aquifers) with emphasis on the protection of biodiversity and the prevention of pollution from land based sources, iii) ensuring the effective involvement of all stakeholders in the Regional Component and NAP implementation; iv) executing a number of demonstration projects that address biodiversity protection, pollution from land-based sources and enhanced application of ICZM, IWRM and management of aquifers; v) the design and application of a replication and communication strategy.

All 13 GEF eligible countries in the Mediterranean area have endorsed the Project. Regarding country (in kind) co-financing UNEP/MAP has been particularly successful in securing an amount of **4,227,000 USD** from 11 countries. Negotiations with Egypt and Lebanon are still under way. This substantial country co-financing shows strong commitment and political support by the countries.

Because of existing problems with the new institutionalized GEF Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) for Biodiversity and Climate Change, no funds are available at this stage from GEF for Component 3 (Biodiversity). For the moment, and until the existing problems with RAF are solved, it was decided that this component would be run solely on co-financing sources. In this context FFEM has agreed to support this component with 2 Mil Euros and the Spanish Agency for Cooperation and the Andalusia Junta will contribute 1.75 Mil Euros and 750 k USD respectively.

Regarding the membership of the Steering Committee, it was decided that in addition to the 13 countries participating in the project and the agencies (UNEP/MAP, UNESCO, UNIDO, FAO, WB, WWF, MEDPOL, PAP/RAC, RAC/SPA, and CP/RAC) all major donor countries will also have a seat. In this respect, France, Italy and Spain will be members of the SC along with the EC that has accepted to be a member.. This means that almost all the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention will closely be linked to the SP. A strong ownership of the project will thus be secured by the Contracting Parties and the Barcelona Convention.

It has to be noted that the concerned MAP components MED POL, RAC SPA and PAP RAC have contributed greatly to the development of the **Strategic Partnership**.

3.2 Cooperation with the EU

Relations between the European Commission and MAP continued to be strengthened through the implementation of the Joint Work Programme which was signed in Portoroz in 2005. The Joint Work Programme pays particular attention to enhanced cooperation at institutional level and in support of the implementation of the relevant EC environmental policies and the achievement of MAP objectives.

By far the most significant event in this connection was the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Cairo on 20th November, 2006 which adopted the Cairo Declaration and the Horizon 2020 timetable for the de-pollution of the Mediterranean. At this meeting Ministers agreed to implement the Horizon 2020 initiative through the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its related Protocols and the MSSD.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for MAP to inform the Environment Ministers about its initiative to increase its synergy with the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The Minister of Environment of Slovenia, addressing the meeting in his capacity as President of the Bureau emphasized the role of MAP in the implementation of sustainable development in the region. The representative of UNEP's Executive Director called on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to continue involving the capacities of MAP so that both initiatives reach their ambitious goals of environmental protection and sustainable development. In other interventions, several Ministers and Heads of Delegations expressed support for the role of MAP as an important regional mechanism to address pollution problems in the Mediterranean. They also called for the implementation of the MSSD.

Specific cooperation projects include SAFEMED which is a response to the interest of the EC in developing cooperation in the field of maritime safety and security as well as in dealing with marine environmental issues. The project is managed by REMPEC in cooperation with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and facilitates the implementation of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

PAP/RAC is implementing another substantial EC funded project with the objective of promoting awareness and enabling a policy framework for environment and development integration in the Mediterranean, with focus on integrated coastal zone management. BP/RAC and World Bank/METAP are partners in this project which is being implemented in several Mediterranean countries and which will pave the way for the future implementation of the new ICZM Protocol.

The EC is also supporting a project being implemented by MAP regarding the application of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean.

More details about these projects are given by the respective MAP components in another section of this progress report.

All these activities, which are being carried out within the framework of the EC-MAP Joint Work Programme, will be reviewed during a joint meeting in Brussels in the middle of July, 2007.

Cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA)

In January, 2007 MAP and the European Environment Agency (EEA) agreed on a Joint Work Plan 2006-2008. It provides the framework for the establishment of a stable and effective cooperation between MAP and the EEA for the period 2006 to 2008 and beyond, with the prospect of developing a sustainable working partnership.

The work plan aims to consolidate, further develop and intensify the existing cooperation between both sides, increasing the effectiveness of their work and supporting improved environmental governance in the Mediterranean region.

The activities proposed as part of this work plan cover the following areas of work:

1. State of the environment reporting activities;
2. Data, indicator and scenario activities;
3. Impact assessment studies;
4. Networking, partnership building and support activities;
5. Shared information and communication activities.

The Joint Work Plan will be published in pamphlet form.

3.3 Cooperation with MAP partners

Pursuant to the recommendations approved in Portoroz, financial assistance has been given to a number of NGO/MAP partners to strengthen their own capacities and implement several activities relevant to the MAP scope and objectives.

As a result of contacts between UNEP/MAP and NGO MAP partners, MoUs were concluded or are being finalized with the following organizations: MIO ECSDE for organizing training on legal instruments of MAP (concluded in November 2006); CME for organizing an International Forum (concluded); MEDITERRANEAN-SOS for organizing an exhibition (concluded), RAED for newsletters (under implementation), FRIENDS OF THE EARTH for leaflets (extended), IOI for training course (concluded); MIO-ECSDE for organizing a meeting in the framework of the EMP Environmental Ministers meeting to be held in Egypt in November 2006 (concluded), RAED to support financially for the expenses of the participants from the Mediterranean Arab countries in the Consultation meeting of Arab civil society organizations, (concluded).

During the period covered by this report, two NGOs have submitted an application to become MAP partners. According to the procedure in place, the Secretariat has informed the MAP Focal Points, requesting them to express their views in writing on these applications. The Secretariat has so far received two responses, one in favour of the applications and the other in favour of postponing the decision till after the meeting of the Contracting Parties. In this respect, it is expected that an assessment of the efficiency of the cooperation with the MAP partners will be launched during the next biennium, subject to the decision of the Contracting Parties meeting in Almeria.

4. Communication and Media Relations

The Secretariat is submitting its input with respect to the drafting of the GEO4 publication, to be issued by UNEP in 2007.

Two hard copies of the magazine Medwaves were published.. The first issue was devoted to the 2006 activities wrap up, while the second 2007 issue focused on climate change; this was in line with the new trend to have an in depth feature article on a news-related issue in each number of Medwaves magazine. The next issue of the magazine will be devoted to energy. Medwaves is now circulated both as electronic PDF and as hardcopy.

In January 2007 , a monthly MEDU e-newsletter was launched. It features three main sections featuring reports about UNEP activities, environmental news and MAP and Barcelona Convention components activities. The electronic design of the first issue was prepared by INFO/RAC. The subsequent issues were produced in-house.

4.1 Website homepage and structure

Following the October 2006 Bureau Meeting, the Secretariat was requested to develop the new website in cooperation with INFO/RAC.

The process was launched in 2006 by preparing and launching an online questionnaire by which MAP Components and partners, international organisations and media were requested to provide input concerning the functions that the new website should fulfil, the envisaged audience and the possible format.

The questionnaires were then processed and a proposal was submitted by INFO/RAC to MEDU. Comments were provided and INFO/RAC drafted a proposed space allocation for the homepage.

At the the moment, the process is at a standstill due to the funding constraints faced by INFO/RAC. According to INFO/RAC, until such funds are obtained, it will not be possible to finalize the website.

The re-designed website that MEDU had developed in 2006 and presented in October to the Bureau Meeting is offline and not accessible. However we have continued to update it with the new publications and items to ensure that the moment the INFO/RAC developed site is ready, updates can be uploaded and transferred.

Unless INFO/RAC resumes work on the new website in the coming weeks, it will not be possible to have a ready online website before the next meeting of the Contracting Parties..

4.2 Publications and Communication Tools

On the basis of an agreement between the Secretariat and INFO/RAC at the end of 2006, a series of initiatives were agreed upon to give visibility to MAP and promote its activities. These included the production of posters, an exhibition stand and a general brochure and the competition for the design of the new MAP logo. Due to the same funding problems being faced by INFO/RAC there has been no progress on these initiatives.

Following the publication of the Joint Plan of Action between UNEP/MAP and the EEA a bilingual brochure in English and French is being prepared for distribution.

MEDU Secretariat has also started exploring sponsoring options for publications and media activities, in Greece in particular. Following meetings with UNEP, other UN agencies in Athens and with the Secretariat of the Danube River Basin Convention in Vienna, a preliminary study is currently under preparation to identify current practices and make proposals for future MEDU/MAP activities.

5. Financial and Personnel matters

5.1 Financial matters

5.1.1 Remittance of Contributions

The status of the Mediterranean Trust Fund as at 31st May 2007 stood as follows:

- Total pledges of ordinary contributions for 2007: € 6,595,844
- Total contributions during 2007 for 2007: € 4,695,657 (71.19 % of 2007 pledges).
- Total of unpaid pledges for 2006 & prior years: € 1,135,641;
- Total contributions during 2007 for prior years: € 346,611 (30.52% of prior years' outstanding pledges).

Details of payments and outstanding contributions are at **Annex 2** to this report.

5.1.2 Additional Funds

During the period covered by this report, the following in-cash voluntary contributions have been received :

From Italy: Euro 40,000 for the Extraordinary meeting of MAP Focal Points held in Catania, Italy on 7 - 11 November 2006.

From France: Euro 20,000 for the organization of the Extraordinary Meeting of MEDPOL National Coordinators held in Mytilini, Greece, 26 - 28 March 2007 to discuss the operational document of MEDPOL Phase IV.

5.2 Personnel Issues

Deputy Coordinator : the post is frozen until the next Contracting Parties Meeting (10-13 December 2007, Almeria, Spain)

MEDPOL Coordinator : the selection process is completed. Mr. Francesco Saverio Civili was selected and promoted to the post at the D-1 level as of 1 May 2007.

MEDPOL Programme Officer : following the departure of the incumbent , Ms. Colpan Beken, on 13 October 2006, the post was advertised on the Galaxy. The deadline for submission of applications was 19 March 2007. The selection process is ongoing.

Programme Officer (Sustainable Development) : Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, a Greek national, was appointed to the post with effect from 2 May 2007.

Vacant posts in the general service grades have been filled while others have been re-classified.

Consultants working at UNEP/MAP premises:

Mr. Alexander Lascaratos was engaged in January 2006 as GEF Project Manager for the development of the GEF PDF-B project.. His contract expires on 31 August 2007.

Ms. Virginie Hart was hired as regional expert for the GEF PDF-B project in January 2006. Her contract expired on 15 April 2007.

Ms. Giovanna Agostinelli is seconded by the Italian Ministry and has worked as regional expert for the GEF PDG-B project from 1 June 2006. Her contract was initially for one year and has been extended until 31 December 2007.

Mr. Gabriel Gabrielides was hired as a Consultant in the MEDPOL Department to replace the Programme Officer from 16 November 2006 until 29 June 2007.

II. COMPONENTS

1. Combating Land based Pollution (MED POL)

1.1 Policy and Coordination

The MED POL Secretariat has intensely worked during the biennium on the preparation of a draft **Operational Document for MED POL Phase IV** (2006-2013). A first draft was prepared by the Secretariat and presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL Coordinators (Mytilini, 26-28 March 2007). The Meeting reviewed it and suggested a number of amendments that were incorporated into a new draft that will be brought to the next Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators (Hammamet, 25-28 June 2007) for approval. The Operational Document will then be presented to the Next Meeting of MAP Focal Points and later to the Meeting of Contracting Parties for adoption.

The Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Mytilini reviewed two additional documents prepared by the Secretariat: a Review of the basic elements to be used for the preparation of the **new legally-binding text to address land-based pollution** and a draft MED POL Information System. The document related to the new SAP was thoroughly reviewed by the MED POL Coordinators who felt that a number of steps were still to be taken before deciding what type of measures countries could accept as part of the new legally-binding document. As a result, the Secretariat prepared two additional documents that will be presented to the next Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators.

Concerning the process of gradually applying a **differentiation approach** to pollution reduction, a Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group was organized by MED POL in Barcelona on 1-2 March 2007 and agreed on a road map up to the year 2020 aiming at the identification and implementation of an appropriate differentiation mechanism to ensure the implementation of NAPs.

A draft **MED POL Information System** was prepared in collaboration with INFO/RAC and presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL Coordinators in Mytilini. The Coordinators appreciated the initiative and the technical specifications of the System, but considered that there was a number of policy issues that remained to be discussed. As a result, the Secretariat, in full cooperation with INFO/RAC, prepared a document on policy issues inherent to the System which will be presented to the next Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators for review and approval.

1.2 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

MED POL considers the **EU 2020 Initiative** a dynamic platform for the implementation of NAPs. In addition, the Secretariat succeeded in increasing the credibility of the NAPs and having them as the main source of information upon which the Initiative would be built up. In fact, the Cairo Declaration of the Mediterranean Ministers that launched the Initiative emphasized the role of MAP in the development and implementation of the Initiative. As a result, the European Investment Bank (EIB) established a special investment programme (FEMIP) to assist the financing of the priority actions described in the NAPs of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Israel. Other Mediterranean countries could be supported for the implementation of their NAPs through different European financial instruments. For this reason, a launch Meeting was held in March in Luxemburg to make an initial review of the content of the NAPs and to prepare and agree on a road map. As a follow up to the Meeting, EIB consultants visited MAP on several occasions and, as a result, a long list of possible projects to be financed was established by a joint team from MED POL

and the EIB. In line with the agreed road map, the joint team has so far visited Egypt and Syria to assess the status and prospects of implementation of the priority actions of the NAPs and has already identified a first short list of bankable projects. Tunisia will be visited in June and the other countries will follow. By the end of 2007 the full list of projects that may be financed in the framework of the EU initiative will be prepared.

Regarding Environmental Inspections, and in particular the **systems of inspection**, a meeting of the Network on Compliance and Enforcement of legislation will take place from 24 to 25 October 2007 in Athens.

The new MED POL Phase IV includes the health risks in tourist establishments as a very important regional issue and tourism is indicated by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development as a sector of utmost importance for development. Considering the link between the human **health aspects of tourism** and the provisions of the LBS Protocol, an assessment is being prepared of health risks associated with tourist establishments in the Mediterranean region that will provide scientific evidence of the major risks. A meeting of experts was organized from 24 to 26 April 2007 in Athens, in order to identify possible activities to be implemented in the framework of MED POL.

MED POL was actively involved in the preparation of the reporting system for the LBS Protocol as part of the MAP reporting System, ensuring harmonization with other international bodies.

1.3 Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

Considering the relevance that dumping activities have for planning pollution monitoring and control activities, and the expected entry into force of the 1995 revised Dumping Protocol, the Secretariat organized national stakeholders meetings to review the state of the art of dumping in Egypt, Morocco, Malta, Syria and Libya and planned a meeting in Turkey for the end of 2007.

In this connection, MED POL agreed with the Secretariat of the London Convention-London Protocol (LC-LP) to organize joint sessions during the 30th meeting of the scientific group under the London Convention and the 1st meeting of the scientific group under the London Protocol. The 1st Meeting of the scientific group will be held in Spain, 18-22 June 2007, and MED POL will sponsor the participation of five representatives from Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Israel, Syria and Turkey) who are not Parties to LC-LP. This initiative is intended to facilitate the exchange of information among representatives on means and ways to overcome difficulties and barriers in the implementation of the Dumping Protocol and strengthen the coordination between the two Secretariats.

In addition, the Secretariat collected the necessary information related to the development of Threshold Limit Values (TLV) for dredging materials to be used for the preparation of guidelines for the development of TLVs by national authorities. The Secretariat is coordinating its efforts with LC-LP and will make use of its guidelines for inland waste management.

MED POL was actively involved in the preparation of the reporting system for the Dumping Protocol as part of the MAP reporting System, ensuring harmonization with other international bodies and in particular the LC-LP Secretariat.

1.4 Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

In parallel to the implementation of the second phase of the Project to set up inventories of lubricating oils and assess their impacts carried out in Bosnia Herzegovina in cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat and its Centre in Bratislava, MED POL is currently negotiating with the Basel Convention Regional Center for the Arabic countries based in Cairo, Egypt, the launch of a project during 2007 to develop a regional strategy and action plan for combating illegal traffic and disposal of hazardous wastes in the Arab region. In the framework of the project, MEDPOL will provide financial and technical assistance to the Mediterranean Arabic countries. The project rationale is based on the information from civil society and NGOs that illegal traffic and disposal are occurring in the region and that a strategy and an action plan to combat them are largely missing.

It is expected that many organizations, bodies and institutes, such as the Basel Convention, Greenpeace, port authorities, customs, environment sectors, coast guards, Interpol and many others will be key players and beneficiaries.

MED POL was actively involved in the preparation of the reporting system for the Hazardous Wastes Protocol as part of the MAP reporting System. Special attention was given to harmonization with the reporting system of the Basel Convention.

1.5 Information System

A draft MED POL Information System was prepared in collaboration with INFO/RAC and presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL Coordinators held in Mytilini on 26-28 March 2007. At present, the MED POL Information System includes the following modules:

- Intranet to facilitate the contacts and dissemination of documents and information between the secretariat and the national coordinators
- On line reporting currently includes reporting on the trends and compliance monitoring programme; it will be developed to cover all reporting activities for LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols.
- Data acquisition and drawing
- GIS

The development of the first two modules is almost finalized, an Alpha test for MEDPOL staff was achieved in 2006 and the Beta test which covers national coordinators and stakeholders is expected to be launched towards the end of 2007. MED POL is actively working with INFO/RAC to ensure the switching into the on line reporting system by January 2008.

At the Meeting in Mytilini, the Coordinators appreciated the initiative, the technical specifications and the implementation plan of the System, but considered that there were still a number of policy issues that remained to be discussed. As a result, the Secretariat, in full cooperation with INFO/RAC, prepared a document on policy issues inherent to the management of the System which will be presented to the next MED POL National Coordinators Meeting for review and approval.

1.6 Assessment of pollution

The Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory of IAEA-MEL continued to cooperate with the MED POL programme in the implementation of a comprehensive Data Quality Assurance programme for chemical contaminants in the framework of the national monitoring programmes.

Work has also continued on biomonitoring with the assistance of DISAV (University of Alessandria, Italy). A MED POL workshop entitled "Workshop on the MED POL Biological Effects Programme: Achievements and Future Orientations" was organized on 20 and 21 December 2006, at the University of Alessandria, Italy. It was attended by 22 Mediterranean scientists, participants of the MED POL biological effects programme, as well as by two outside experts.

MED POL accepted the invitation to participate in the ICES Working Group on Biological Effects of Contaminants, which met in March 2007 in Alessandria, Italy. During the meeting the need for harmonization was brought up and the possibility of organizing common activities by ICES (OSPAR), MED POL and HELCOM was discussed. It was agreed to propose, in relation to the North Sea ICES/OSPAR ICON workshop, the organization of a parallel activity in the Mediterranean in 2008/2009 using the 2-tiered approach. This workshop could serve as a European platform for harmonization and intercalibration exercises of biological effect techniques that are used in all three Convention areas and which will largely fall under the EU Framework Water Directive.

A regional study was initiated on the assessment of coastal human agglomerates with more than 2,000 inhabitants and less than 10,000 and their ability to treat efficiently and dispose their effluents. As information from a number of countries is still missing, the study will be completed by the end of 2007.

A number of countries expressed their interest in organizing national training courses on the safe use of wastewater. It is expected that by October 2007 three countries, namely, Turkey, Malta and Greece, will have organized national training courses with support consisting of lecturing, training materials and financial assistance. The remaining countries will organise their courses in 2008.

A consultation meeting of country designated experts on bathing waters was held from 11 to 12 June 2007, where the proposed methodology for beach profiles was reviewed and draft guidelines for criteria and standards were presented and discussed.

A national training was held in Podgorica, Montenegro, from 19 to 20 April 2007, on pollution monitoring and environmental inspections, using the training material prepared for this purpose. The course was co-organized by WHO/MEDPOL and the Hydrometeorological Institute of Montenegro. Sixteen inspectors from the environmental services of the Ministry attended the course.

During the implementation of the capacity building programme related to environmental inspections, it was indicated by some participants as well as national organizers of the training courses that additional issues should also be tackled in the years to come. Therefore, appropriate training material was prepared, consisting of guidelines and instructions on how to perform technical inspections to industries along with inspection check lists for each individual industry of relevance in the Mediterranean countries and will be presented for discussion and comments to the meeting of the network on compliance and enforcement to be held in October 2007.

2. Combating and Preventing Sea Based Pollution (REMPEC)

During the period covered by this report, the following activities were implemented:

2.1 Assistance to countries in the field of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution

Contingency Planning

REMPEC continued to support--- the activities within the Agreement concerning the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution in the South-Western Mediterranean, which had been concluded and signed in Algiers by Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in July 2005. In particular, the Centre assisted in the organization of the Second Meeting of National Operational Authorities that took place in Rabat, Morocco between 23 and 24 January 2007. During the Second Meeting, the level of implementation of the Agreement was reviewed and some common activities were planned.

On 20 November 2006, REMPEC participated in a National Meeting in Bar, Montenegro, the agenda of which included the discussion on the draft National Contingency Plan being prepared within the framework of the programme "Development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships".

Training Activities

Participants from all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention participated in various training events organized by the Centre in the field of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution. During the period covered by this report, REMPEC organized the following training activities in this field:

- Sub-Regional Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution for Government Administrators and Senior Managers (IMO OPRC Level III), Casablanca, Morocco, 20 – 22 March 2007 (14 participants from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia attended this training course which was conducted in French);
- National Seminar on Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, Cairo, Egypt, 11 -13 July 2007;
- National Training Course on Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution for Government Administrators and Senior Managers, Bar, Montenegro, 21 – 23 November 2006 (25 representatives of relevant Ministries/Departments attended);
- National Training Course on Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution, Dürres, Albania, 13 – 15 December 2006 (25 representatives of relevant Ministries/Departments attended).

Exercises

In December 2006, within the framework of the European Chemical Industry's Responsible Care Programme (ICE), the Centre, together with CEFIC, organized a communication exercise (sophisticated test) between the Hellenic Coastguard and BASF.

2.2 Assistance in the field of prevention of pollution from ships

The activities of the Centre in the field of prevention of pollution from ships focused on some of the specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships . Moreover, the Centre is implementing the EU-funded MEDA Regional Project "Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED", which is primarily related to the field of prevention of pollution from ships. Some

of the activities of the SAFEMED Project also fall within the scope of some of the specific objectives of the Regional Strategy, and taking this into consideration, a number of project activities have been extended to other Contracting Parties which are not benefiting from the Project.

Ensuring effective maritime administrations

One of the activities included in the programme “Development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships”, referred to above, aims at strengthening and enhancing the performance of the maritime administration in Montenegro, by assessing the existing situation and proposing recommendations for an improved organisation of the maritime administration.

In order to improve the knowledge and expertise of maritime administration officials (including ship inspectors) in the Mediterranean region on relevant international maritime conventions, during the period under review, REMPEC commissioned the World Maritime University (WMU), Sweden to prepare a Comprehensive Training Programme on Prevention of Pollution from Ships. The objective of preparing this training programme, which was financed with funds made available by IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) 2004-2005, was to ensure that REMPEC has a structured programme of training in the field of prevention of pollution from ships which would facilitate the systematic training of personnel in the Mediterranean region by the Centre. The training programme provides the framework for the delivery of general and specific short training courses aimed at training different categories of personnel and it covers the subject matter with six basic distinct courses. It includes the training course, objectives, outline, detailed programme, subject areas to be covered, and practical sessions (if any) to be carried out.

Port Reception Facilities

Within the framework of the EU-funded SAFEMED Project currently being implemented by REMPEC and as a follow-up to the activities already carried out by REMPEC in the field of port reception facilities, the Centre commissioned a report to identify possible sources of financing for the establishment of such facilities. The report, which was prepared by a consultant who was previously employed by the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and has extensive experience in the financing of transport infrastructures, was finalised at the end of 2006 and disseminated to all Contracting Parties at the end of March 2007.

An activity included under the programme “Development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships” consisted of an assessment of port reception facilities in the port of Bar, Montenegro, as well as proposals for optimum solutions for the collection and treatment of oily wastes and garbage from ships. The final report of this activity was delivered in April 2007.

As a result of the Centre's previous activities in the field of port reception facilities and as mandated by the 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, the Centre has initiated the process of coordinating the joint action at the regional level, leading to the submission of the required relative document to IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), in order to give effect to the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea under Annex V of the MARPOL Convention.

Improving the level of enforcement and prosecution of offenders

The Centre is currently implementing parts of the CLEANMED Project which was designed before the current biennium and aimed at enhancing the level of enforcement and prosecution of offenders to MARPOL regulations. In this regard, as part of the SAFEMED Project, the Centre will carry out a study on the level of enforcement of MARPOL, focusing *inter alia* on operational pollution. It is planned to extend this study, based on a questionnaire and on needs assessment missions, to the other Contracting Parties not benefiting from SAFEMED in order to have a full picture of the state of play in the Mediterranean on this important issue. Moreover, in view of the limited budget allocation, the Centre has decided to combine the planned regional workshop on the enforcement of maritime regulations on operational pollution with MEDEXPOL 2007. This workshop is now scheduled for the end of November 2007 and will also address legal issues. It is expected that judicial representatives will attend this workshop.

Reducing pollution generated by pleasure craft activities

Following the approval by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of a Set of Principles to be taken into consideration for the preparation of Guidelines on prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities, the Centre was requested to develop Guidelines based on the Set of Principles. The Centre, with the assistance of a consultant, prepared Draft Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean, which were submitted to a Meeting of National Experts held in Monaco, 13 - 15 February 2007. The Meeting, organized in collaboration with and thanks to the support of the Government of Monaco, agreed upon a revised text of the Draft Guidelines, which were presented to and endorsed by the 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points which recommended their submission to the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, for approval.

Procedures for the designation of places of refuge

With a view to assisting Mediterranean coastal States in designating places of refuge, REMPEC has, within the framework of the SAFEMED Project, commissioned a consultant to prepare a set of procedures and guidelines that could be followed by Mediterranean coastal States during the decision making process concerning the designation of places of refuge for ships in need of assistance. The consultant's study, containing procedures, guidelines and other relevant information, was presented and discussed during a three day Regional Workshop on Places of Refuge organised by REMPEC in Barcelona, Spain between the 28 and 30 November 2006, and attended by 52 participants from 19 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. On the basis of the Consultant's study and taking into consideration the comments and proposals made by representatives of the Contracting Parties during the Regional Workshop, REMPEC prepared draft Guidelines on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance, which have been amended and subsequently endorsed by the REMPEC Focal Points at their 8th Meeting, with a view to their submission and subsequent approval by the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Training Activities

During the period under review, REMPEC organized and/or supported the organization of the following training activities in the field of prevention of pollution from ships:

- Regional Workshop on Places of Refuge, Barcelona, Spain, 28 - 30 November 2006 (52 participants from 19 Contracting Parties attended);
- National Training Course on the MARPOL Convention, Durrës, Albania, 25 - 27 October 2006 (20 representatives of relevant Ministries/Departments attended);
- National Training Course on the MARPOL Convention, Bar, Montenegro, 12-14 June 2007.

2.3 Dissemination of information

During the period under review, REMPEC has disseminated a French version of the publication entitled "Port Reception Facilities – A Summary of REMPEC's Activities in the Mediterranean Region", outlining the activities carried out by the Centre in the field of port reception facilities and their results. A leaflet presenting REMPEC's role and activities has also been released in May 2007. Moreover, the Centre carried out an update on the software and the data contained in its incidents, database and disseminated version 2 of the decision support tool MIDSIS TROCS.

2.4 8th REMPEC Focal Points Meeting

The 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points was successfully held in Malta between the 7 and 11 May 2007. Delegations representing twenty Contracting Parties and one observer country attended the Meeting as well as representatives of IMO, UNEP/MAP, several MAP partners, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, and an international governmental organization.

3. Conservation of Biodiversity (RAC SPA)

Implementation of SAP/BIO

SAP BIO Advisory Committee

The SAP BIO Advisory Committee was re-launched in a first meeting held on 19 April 2006 at CITET (International Centre for Environment Technologies of Tunis) premises in Tunis. A further meeting was held on 1 March 2007. The SAP BIO Advisory Committee is a very important coordination body for environmental actions in the Mediterranean region. Its reactivation has also been welcomed by donor agencies, which see it as an important mechanism to increase synergies, avoid overlapping of activities and properly address the allocation of economic resources to develop conservation actions in the region by multiple actors.

3.2 Development of Specially Protected Areas

When the Focal Points drafted their national reports on the implementation of the Protocol, they were asked to review the list of SPAs they had submitted to RAC/SPA. According to the data provided by the national Focal Points, there are now 582 SPAs. There is a significant increase when compared to the 123 sites notified at the end of 1995. However,

the figures need to be verified due to the possibility of the geographical surfaces of SPAs being quoted several times. A database is being developed to enable regular easy updating of such information in the future.

In the context of assistance to countries, two main activities were carried on the definition of a national plan for the creation of protected areas along the Syrian coast. As a result of the (2003-2005) MedMPA project, the Syrian Government asked RAC/SPA to assist them in organising a national consultative workshop aimed at presenting this project at national level. A Memorandum of Cooperation between RAC/SPA and the Syrian Ministry of the Environment is now being prepared, as well as a provisional programme and a projected list of actors. The national workshop is planned for late 2007 in Lattakia.

The MedPAN Network was revived in January 2005 thanks to Community funding (INTERREG IIIC). RAC/SPA worked closely with WWF France, the body appointed by the Port-Cros National Park (the Network's Executive Secretariat) with operational responsibility for the MedPAN Network, on reviving the Network. In late 2006, a new Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with WWF France to collaborate on creating a permanent coordinating unit for the Network and in organising a First Congress of the Network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas, to take place in Porquerolles (France) in October 2007.

In the context of the partnership between RAC/SPA and ACCOBAMS, RAC/SPA prepared draft guidelines on creating and managing Marine Protected Areas for cetaceans. The document was prepared from studies initiated by ACCOBAMS as part of its work programme on Marine Protected Areas, presented at the Fourth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (Monaco, 5-9 November 2006). This includes criteria for selecting specially protected areas, a special form for proposing such areas drawn up on the basis of the annotated form for inclusion on the SPAMI List, and information on sites containing habitats that are important to cetaceans in the zone of the ACCOBAMS Agreement. In this respect, the Focal Points for SPAs and those of ACCOBAMS were invited to work with the two Secretariats to: (i) extend, if necessary, the protection of cetaceans to already existing protected areas, (ii) identify sites, particularly in the open sea, containing habitats that are important to cetaceans, and (iii) implement all the necessary measures for the protection of cetaceans.

In order to continue the reflection on assessing SPAMIs, launched during the previous biennium, RAC/SPA entrusted IUCN with the task of proposing an assessment procedure and testing it on two volunteer SPAMIs: Cabo de Gata-Nijar (Spain) and Portofino (Italy). The aim was to judge the relevance of the selected criteria and the robustness of the assessment in the light of the results obtained.

3.3 Implementation of Action Plans for the Conservation of Threatened or Endangered Species

Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles

In compliance with the recommendation made by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, RAC/SPA assessed the Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles, and started updating it. To this end, an *ad hoc* group met in November 2006 in Misurata, Libya, with the financial and logistical help of the Libyan Government.

Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

In the context of implementing the joint work programme as appended to the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in June 2005 with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, the following actions were, or are being carried out by SPA/RAC in close collaboration with ACCOBAMS :

- (i) Updating the directory of organisations and experts dealing with marine mammal species in the ACCOBAMS area. This directory, now being compiled, should become available to countries via the Mediterranean CHM (Clearing House Mechanism) and/or RAC/SPA's website
- (ii) Publication of an educational kit on cetaceans
- (iii) Setting up a clearing house mechanism for exchange of information on cetaceans (CHM Cetaceans).

RAC/SPA also contributed to the 4th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (Monaco, 5-9 November 2006) by providing assistance to the Secretariat. On this occasion, the following reports were presented:

- (i) A progress report on the Mediterranean Database on Cetacean Stranding (MEDACES), drawn up for RAC/SPA by the University of Valencia (Spain) with the support of the Spanish Ministry of the Environment.
- (ii) A report on national cetacean stranding networks, prepared on the basis of questionnaires filled in by the ACCOBAMS and RAC/SPA National Focal Points.

With regard to the small amount of information included in the MEDACES database, ACCOBAMS and RAC/SPA asked their Contracting Parties to make these inventorying actions an integral part of their obligations towards the SPA/BD Protocol and the ACCOBAMS Agreement.

RAC/SPA kept up its support to the project on the dolphin community in Amvrakikos Lagoon (Greece) carried out by Tethys in collaboration with the local government and NGOs. This programme has provided the first pieces of information on the size of the local dolphin population over the 2002-2006 period, its movements, social organisation, reproduction and its interactions with fishing activities. It has proved to be the densest known population of *Tursiops truncatus* remaining in the Mediterranean.

Implementing the MedPosidonia Project

In order to be more effective in helping countries carry out their commitments under the updated programme to implement the Action Plan, RAC/SPA elaborated a Project to develop inventorying, mapping and monitoring the *Posidonia* meadows in four Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Turkey (MedPosidonia Project).

This project, 60% cofunded by the Total Enterprise Foundation for Biodiversity and the Sea , was validated by Total's Board of Directors in late December 2005. Intended to run for three years (2006-2008), it aims to:

- (i) Make an inventory and characterization and/or map of the meadow sites selected in consultation with the concerned countries
- (ii) Set up meadow monitoring networks and possibly enhance the existing monitoring networks, and
- (iii) Communicate information on the *Posidonia* ecosystem and the results of the project.

In mid-2006, a sponsorship agreement was prepared as a result of close collaboration between RAC/SPA and the Foundation. The partnership agreement was signed in Tunis on 30 October, 2006 in the presence of partners from the two parties.

Operational planning was designed and a coordinating and validating meeting for the operational programme was held on 30 March 2007 in Marseilles, at the end of the Third Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation, taking advantage of the fact that most of the project's scientific partners in the concerned countries were present.

Memoranda of Cooperation with the concerned authorities in the four countries are being prepared so that field work can begin in summer 2007.

Third Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation (Marseilles, 27-29 March 2007)

The Third Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation was held from 27 to 29 March in Marseilles. This Symposium, organised with the generous contribution of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council and the Seagrass 2000 Association, attracted 120 participants from 17 Mediterranean countries.

It was also stated that it would be judicious to benefit from the enhanced mapping capacities and the setting up of monitoring and follow-up systems. Similarly, it would be interesting to prepare an atlas of key plant formations on a Mediterranean scale.

The Symposium offered an opportunity to the Mediterranean scientific community to assess the results obtained as part of the Interreg III B "POSIDONIA" Programme: "Consistency, development, harmonization and validation of the methods of assessing the quality of the coastal environment by monitoring the *Posidonia oceanica* meadow". This programme was realized by IFREMER (the French Research Institute for the Use of the Sea), in collaboration with ARPAL (Regional Agency for the Protection of the Ligurian Environment), the PACA (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) Regional Council, the ENEA (Agency for New Technologies, Energy and the Environment, La Spezia) and the Universities of Corsica and Barcelona. RAC/SPA was also actively involved in this project as an international partner. The first session of the Third Symposium was devoted to presenting the results of the POSIDONIA Project which was also the theme of the closing seminar of this programme.

Action Plan on introductions of species and invasive species into the Mediterranean Sea

Through its two regional activity centres, REMPEC and RAC/SPA, MAP has been invited to join the second phase of the GEF/UNDP/IMO's Global Programme for Managing Ballast Water (GloBallast), called "Building a partnership to assist developing countries reduce the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms via ships" (GloBallast Partnerships: GBP).

Both RAC/SPA and REMPEC participated in the consultation process that led to the elaboration of a five-year project (2007-2011), which should be launched after approval of the PDF-B proposal by the GEF Council. RAC/SPA and REMPEC will act as Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean.

In compliance with the recommendation by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, 2005) and the schedule for implementing this Action Plan, RAC/SPA prepared a report assessing the implementation of the Action Plan at national and regional levels.

3.4 Cross cutting Issues

Capacity building and training activities

Several activities to enhance national skills were carried out concerning in particular:

- (i) Inventorying habitats (Albania, Cyprus, Libya), mapping marine caves (Albania, Cyprus, Libya) and monitoring monk seal populations (Cyprus)
- (ii) Techniques of studying cartilaginous fishes (Libya)
- (iii) Studying marine biodiversity in islands (Tunisia)
- (iv) Taxonomy, with the identification of ascidian species in Tunisian waters, in the context of a training course at Bari University
- (v) An expert (from Montenegro) participated in the Sixth European Conference on Marine Mammals, organized by the Menendez Pelayo International University and the University of Valencia, (11-15 September 2006).

Dissemination of data

As a result of the recommendation by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and in the context of setting up a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) on Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity, RAC/SPA put out a tender for restructuring and updating its databases and directories to make them accessible via a common web portal (<http://medbiodivchm.rac-spa.org>).

As part of its activities for developing national CHMs, RAC/SPA supported the participation of a Tunisian and Moroccan national in a training course on developing national CHMs, in collaboration with the Belgian CHM Secretariat (2-20 October 2006, Brussels). This course focused on the use of the programme developed by the European Environment Agency (European CHM's Portal Kit; AEE).

Following this training course, RAC/SPA helped Tunisia design and physically set up its national CHM, at the request of the national Government; technical assistance will be provided for developing a Moroccan national CHM.

The Centre also published:

- (i) The proceedings of the European Conference on Elasmobranchs through the Journal of the French Ichthyologic Society;
- (ii) The proceedings of the Second Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation (September 2006), which were sent to participants attending the Symposium. An electronic version is also available for downloading from RAC/SPA's web site;
- (iii) The proceedings of the workshop, including experts' proposals, on cartilaginous fish conservation, in collaboration with the Turkish organisation TUDAV. The electronic version can be downloaded from the RAC/SPA web site;
- (iv) The proceedings of the First Symposium on the Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol (November 2005);
- (v) The proceedings of the Third Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation (March 2007). In addition to the proceedings, various papers and the main recommendations of the round tables were put onto a CDROM and are available for downloading on RAC/SPA's web site.

Further CDROMs were made on:

- (i) The conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles
- (ii) The SAP BIO
- (iii) The Mediterranean Colloquium on Red Coral, held in Tabarka in May 2006.

In the context of enhanced communication, the Centre launched a more frequent updating of its site; it published an information letter (flash news) and following awareness documents:

- (i) The Action Plan for invasive species, illustrated and printed in English and French
- (ii) The Action Plan on cartilaginous fishes, illustrated with pictures of the rarest and most threatened species and including an appendix, with the kind permission of FAO, with an illustrated checklist of all the species in the Mediterranean

(iii) Translations of the Sea Turtle Handling Guidebook for Fishermen (in Spanish, Albanian and Hebrew). This document and the corresponding Teachers' Manual (in Spanish), were printed by the Spanish Ministry of Environment which supported their distribution.

(iv) A poster on threatened elasmobranches, their problems and possible solutions, printed in a bilingual version

(v) A set of posters presenting the various Action Plans on threatened species.

During field assignments in Libya, awareness activities on the conservation of marine turtles were organized for persons making a living from the sea; the relevant reports were broadcast on Libyan TV.

3.5 Other Activities

Assistance for implementing CAMP Cyprus

RAC/SPA carried out two field missions in Cyprus to launch the implementation of the CAMP biodiversity component, together with a multidisciplinary team including officers of the Cyprus Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, the local NGO CWS as well as an international consultant. The work regarding the impact of human activities on the biodiversity in the area is presently focused on the effects of desalination plant outfalls on the surrounding ecosystem at Larnaca Bay. Results are expected to shed light on the possible impact at Mediterranean level, given the expansion envisaged for these installations. A final working meeting of the biodiversity team aims at finalising the biodiversity component in 2007.

Assistance for implementing CAMP Morocco

RAC/SPA will take part in implementing CAMP Morocco, now being finalized. RAC/SPA's activities mainly aim at:

(i) Implementing a pilot activity of inventorying marine biotopes, using the technical tools elaborated in the MAP context, in two sites (El Hoceima National Park, Moulouya and Jebel Moussa area)

(ii) Providing a basis and experience for marine area conservation activities, devising measures to protect and manage the marine and coastal part of the CAMP area, particularly the Moulouya and Jebel Moussa areas

(iii) Helping create a SPAMI for the El Hoceima National Park.

Mediterranean Initiative on Taxonomy

In order to assess on the taxonomical guidebooks, training and reference collections available on Mediterranean marine flora and fauna, RAC/SPA, in collaboration with a group of experts, prepared a questionnaire which was widely circulated to national and international specialists, institutions and bodies concerned by the subject.

The results of the questionnaires will be compiled and integrated within a reference database that will be made available to Mediterranean countries, concerned institutions and qualified experts in order to revive marine taxonomy and encourage the implementation of national and regional strategies on the subject.

Furthermore, the situation of reference collections of Mediterranean marine species is now being assessed, in order to prepare a programme to make them available as back-up tools for taxonomic work. This programme should lead to a presentation at a Mediterranean workshop on taxonomy.

RAC/SPA has supported the preparation and publication of a catalogue on loricated Ciliata (tintinnidates) in Lebanese coastal waters.

Actions for the sustainable use of biodiversity

In the context of their Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention recommended that the SPA/RAC Secretariat pay greater attention to the implementation of biodiversity-related sustainable development actions.

To this end, a consultant was asked to prepare a document on applying the Addis Ababa Principle to the Mediterranean region. RAC/SPA also participated in meetings of experts aimed at:

(i) Publishing guidelines for implementing sustainable aquaculture, at the invitation of IUCN;

(ii) Defining additional indicators to monitor the sustainable development of coastal areas, at the request of the Blue Plan;

(iii) Developing a process to assess elements of biological qualities, at the invitation of the European Environment Agency.

4. Environment and Development

4.1 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (PAP/RAC)

During the period under review, PAP/RAC implemented two groups of activities related to sustainable management of coastal zones:

- Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM)
- CAMP projects

4.1.1 Participation in ICZM related projects

Beach Management in the Mediterranean

In the framework of the beach management activity, PAP/RAC prepared Terms of Reference and signed a contract for the preparation of the "Beach Management Guidelines Applicable to the Mediterranean Region". The work is in progress and the draft text of the guidelines will be submitted for comments to the participants in the workshop to be organized in Malta, July 2-3 2007.

On the basis of comments provided by the participants in the Malta workshop, the final text will be produced and the guidelines published by the end of 2007.

Beachmed project

The general objective of the Beachmed project is the characterization and improvement of technical and administrative instruments for a strategic management of the coastal defence in the framework of sustainable development in the Mediterranean coastal zones. PAP/RAC is involved as a partner in the sub-project related to ICZM-MED, whose main objective is to promote the ICZM in different Mediterranean pilot sites in five regions of three Mediterranean countries (Greece, Italy and France), and to contribute towards the setting up of a Mediterranean and local integrated management strategy. PAP/RAC participated in the Beachmed meeting in Genoa, Italy (February 8, 2007) where its involvement in the project was defined. The task of PAP/RAC is to assist in integrating results and ensure the liaison with MAP and other Mediterranean countries, as well as with important outputs like the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and the draft ICZM Protocol.

Coastal Erosion and Risk Management

PAP/RAC participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Intergovernmental Co-ordination Group for the North-East Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (NEAMTWS) organized by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in Bonn (Germany) on February 7-9, 2007. The Centre took an active role in the Working Group which was concerned with the advisory, mitigation and public awareness measures, in particular the integration of the vulnerability assessment in the ICZM process.

Conscience project

PAP/RAC is involved in the Conscience project as a partner. The project is implemented under the EU 6th FP with Delft Hydraulics, Netherlands, as the Lead Partner. Its strategic objective is to develop and test concepts, guidelines and tools for the sustainable management of erosion along the European coastline, based on the best available scientific knowledge and on existing practical experience. PAP/RAC co-ordinates the End-User Advisory Group to guarantee optimal communication between the scientists working in the project and the end users.

Marine Spatial Planning

The need for the introduction of marine spatial planning was elaborated in various MAP, EU and other international documents (e.g. EU Marine Strategy) and was accordingly reflected in the PAP/RAC work programme. This is undoubtedly an emerging issue in many countries because of the inappropriate use of the marine space causing conflicting situations. Experience from other regions shows similar trends; actions have already been launched in the Baltic Sea, the Irish Sea, and the North Sea. Integration of sea and land planning in coastal zones, as well as co-ordination of related uses, are a key component of ICZM.

In addition to the participation of PAP/RAC as a partner in the PlanCoast project (see below), the Centre initiated the preparation of a short review of the spatial planning systems in the Mediterranean countries with particular stress on marine spatial planning in the framework of ICZM. Six Adriatic countries, involved in PlanCoast, prepared an extensive analysis of their respective spatial planning systems; all the other Mediterranean countries were invited to prepare a brief report on this topic.

PlanCoast project

PlanCoast is an INTERREG IIIB CADSES project aiming at developing the tools and capacities for an effective integrated planning in coastal zones and marine areas in the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea regions (16 partners from 11 countries).

PAP/RAC was the initiator for the involvement of all Adriatic countries in the project and was very successful in the nomination of partners. PAP/RAC contributes to PlanCoast with its expertise in studying the new field of spatial planning in marine areas, i.e. maritime spatial planning in the Adriatic Region by analysing the current legal basis, procedures and processes. Furthermore, it will promote the role of spatial planning in ICZM in general and discuss the topic of maritime spatial planning in particular while contributing to awareness raising and influencing planning policy and procedures throughout the Mediterranean countries. On the basis of the national reports for all six Adriatic countries, a Synthesis Report on marine spatial planning and ICZM will be prepared. The results will then be presented at the 3rd PlanCoast meeting in combination with the Conference on Marine Spatial Planning to take place in Split, Croatia, on September 20-21, 2007. All the other

Mediterranean countries will also be invited the aim being to share the experience and disseminate the results within the Mediterranean region.

The Centre participated in the sub-regional meeting for the Adriatic partners that took place in Kotor, Montenegro, on March 26-27, 2007 and the second PlanCoast conference held in Constanta, Romania, on May 31 – June 2, 2007. The inputs for the PlanCoast web site (www.plancoast.eu) were provided. PAP/RAC participated in two information meetings for CADSES projects, organized by the contracting authority, i.e. the EC Delegation in Croatia.

4.1.2 ICAM

National Reports on ICAM

The objectives of the national reports are to present the characteristics of the coastal areas of a specific country, the pressures to which they are exposed, the activities that the country is undertaking in order to manage its coastal areas and to evaluate possibilities for a more efficient ICAM. In the reporting period, a national report for Croatia was under preparation by national consultants and with the assistance of the Centre. The draft report was submitted and comments provided by PAP/RAC. It is envisaged to complete the report by the end of this year when it will be formatted, published and disseminated to the concerned partners. Due to limited financial resources allocated to this activity, work on two other reports, namely for Albania and Egypt, has not started yet. By the end of 2007 it is expected that the Report on ICZM in Croatia will be finalized, printed and disseminated.

SMAP III MAP/METAP Project

The project “Promoting Awareness and Enabling Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with Focus on Integrated Coastal Zone Management” is carried out under the SMAP III umbrella. Its geographical scope covers 10 SMAP eligible Mediterranean countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian Authority (the West Bank and Gaza), Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. The Project partners are PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and the World Bank/METAP.

The project will last 3 years, starting in early 2008. Within the overall objective of the SMAP III, it will contribute to the improvement of the enabling environment in beneficiary countries by strengthening the partnership of the EU/SMAP, MAP and the World Bank in order to ensure the proper allocation of resources and sustainable implementation of SMAP III. By the end of 2007 the remaining ICZM Policy Briefs will be prepared and presented; briefings will be carried out for national teams.

4.1.3 Capacity Building

On September 20-22, co-ordination meeting was held at UPO Seville. Representatives of the partners, namely the University of Seville, Venice, Split, the Faculty of Economics and PAP/RAC participated in the meeting. On this occasion, the programme curriculum, and the modules of the programme were reviewed. During the module presentation, ideas for integration were discussed and action points for the partners developing the modules defined. The course started in February 2007. PAP/RAC will be responsible for organising the field study component. The experience and lessons learned from CAMP Slovenia will be presented to the students in the Slovenian coastal area in September 2007.

PAP/RAC Clearing House

The Clearing House (CH) has been constantly updated, according to its categories (projects, calendar of events, funding guide, books, research reports and articles, education opportunities, list of experts, etc.). In order to introduce some new technological solutions on the CH website, a proposal for CH redesign and restructuring was made. The idea is to make the CH more attractive, functional and informative. Currently, a web design consultant is working on this project.

In addition, the idea to produce a regular PAP/RAC "Med alert" newsletter was proposed. The "Med alert" will inform the relevant stakeholders about current events and issues in the domain of ICZM and in the Mediterranean. "Med alert" will consist of 3 or 4 article abstracts, which could be bought from the source specified at the bottom of each article. It will be sent to addresses contained in the PAP/RAC e-mailing list twice a month, with the possibility of expanding the list of subscribers. In this way, it is hoped that "Med alert" will raise awareness on ICZM in the Mediterranean.

PAP/RAC Library

The PAP/RAC library has been regularly updated with relevant publications, books and other documents. The acquisition list is available on the web site, updated quarterly. Leaflets to promote some of PAP/RAC projects were reprinted and widely distributed on various occasions in order to disseminate and exchange web-available information. In addition, an extensive photo library has been prepared to serve as an archive of photographs from various Mediterranean countries and projects. This is a very useful tool shared by all experts in the Centre.

The Adriatic Sea Partnership (ASP)

The Adriatic Sea Partnership (ASP) was launched at the MAP sub-regional conference on the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, held in Portoroz, on June 5-6, 2006. By early 2007, all Adriatic countries had joined the partnership, along with several international organizations.. The First meeting of the ASP took place in Sarajevo, on April 3, 2007. Representatives of the five Adriatic countries of the Partnership, as well as representatives of other partners, such as REC, IUCN, Adricosm, and PAP/RAC, attended. The meeting discussed fundamental topics of the Partnership, including the legal status of the partnership, the institutional structure and functioning of the ASP, the different roles of the countries and other partners, the main objectives and projects to be implemented in this framework. Also, the representation of the ASP and its contribution to the Environment for Europe conference to take place in Belgrade was on the agenda. In this way, the new Partnership focuses on better and more coordinated actions for the protection and management of common problems in the Adriatic Sea Region.

PAP/RAC participated in the Partnership meetings and contributed with its ICZM experience and knowledge of the situation in the Adriatic, as well as with the relevant MAP documents, commitments and information on the main projects. The Centre also contributed with comments and suggestions to a paper on the Adriatic ecosystem and its preservation through various organizations and initiatives currently under preparation.

4.2 CAMPs Projects

CAMP Slovenia

The CAMP Slovenia project was in the full-scale implementation phase during the reporting period and will be concluded in June 2007. All the project activities have been completed.

The Final Integrated Report is currently under finalization and will be presented at the Final Presentation Conference to take place in June 2007.

The "Regional Conception of Spatial Development" was one of the most important CAMP activities, closely linked to the legal procedures of spatial planning legislation. The Law on Spatial Planning was under revision during the project implementation and consequently there were unexpected delays. There was also some uncertainty related to the unspecified methodology for SEA which the Ministry of the Environment requests for regional plans. However, the completion of this major activity was discussed several times at the MoE and solutions were found in order to overcome the problem and complete this activity. In spite of this, all activities and results were well integrated in the Regional Development Programme for 2007-2013, which was in preparation in parallel to the CAMP activities in the Primorska region. This showed a good level of coordination among the various ministries at the national level and administrations at local levels, as well as other institutions responsible for economic development and environmental protection and resulted in harmonized and well elaborated CAMP outputs.

Regular meetings with the local communities, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and consultants were convened by the National Project Coordinator. Outputs of most of the individual activities were submitted for revision to the members of the Project Committee and their comments were regularly presented at the Steering Committee Meetings, which instructed the Team Leaders on the necessary improvements.

Currently, the Final Presentation Conference is being organized, scheduled for June 20-21, 2007; this includes the preparation of the Final Integrated Report. The Report of the Final Conference will be prepared after its completion, along with a report to be published within the MAP Technical Report Series.

CAMP Cyprus

Currently, the project is in the full implementation phase. The ICAM Methodology activity started with a two-day workshop in October 2006 presenting and discussing the key elements and principles of the ICAM Methodology and relevant international, European and Mediterranean experiences. The Second ICAM Methodology activity workshop was held in January 2007 identifying policy gaps towards ICAM in Cyprus, as well as main areas of concern regarding tourism, water, agriculture, land-use planning, sea-use and land-use interactions, etc. Also, a draft report on the ICAM Methodology was discussed in order to integrate the key results of other CAMP activities in this umbrella activity.

Some basic information on the CAMP Cyprus and several relevant outputs have been put on a trial website of the CAMP Cyprus.

In order to contribute to the public participation process and prepare the ground for pilot project activities, several meetings were organized with the representatives of the village councils in the Larnaca Pilot Case Study area (Pervolia, Meneou, Kiti and Dromolaxia). The CAMP Cyprus National Co-ordinator and Task Manager participated in a bi-communal conference on coastal management in Cyprus in March 2007.

April 2007 was marked by the start of the second phase of the CAMP, which is to complement the underlying ICAM methodology activity with the ICAM tools activities: Environmental Economics, Tourism Carrying Capacity Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

On February 16, 2007 a mid-term review meeting on the CAMP Cyprus was co-organised by the Cypriot Ministry for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, and PAP/RAC. The

CAMP activities' Team Leaders, the CAMP Task Manager and the national experts participated in the meeting as well. Detailed information on the CAMP work programme accomplished so far was presented, an agreement was made with the team leaders and national experts on the expected final achievements of the CAMP and the follow-up actions until the termination of the CAMP were discussed.

CAMP "Levante de Almeria", Spain

In early 2006, after the completion of the Feasibility Study for CAMP "Levante de Almeria", Andalucia, PAP/RAC started preparing the Agreement for this project in collaboration with the Spanish counterparts. On the occasion of the CAMP Algeria Final Conference (end January 2006), a delegation of the Regional Ministry of Environment of Andalucia and the PAP/RAC consultant for the preparation of the Agreement were present and a meeting with PAP/RAC took place to discuss the details of the Agreement. By mid-March 2006 the final text was sent to the national Ministry of Environment for final approval. It was expected that by summer 2006 the Agreement for the CAMP "Levante de Almeria" would be signed, but the translation of the text into Spanish and the revision of the Agreement by the International Legal Advice Office of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation were more time consuming than originally envisaged. On several occasions PAP/RAC tried to speed up the process, but the review of some legal aspects of the Agreement held up its signature. Also, the recommendation of the Legal Advice Office was to convert the Agreement into a MoU and to separate the financial clauses from the document. Currently, the MoU and the related financial agreement between the Spanish authorities (national, regional) and MAP are being finalized.

As soon as the MoU is signed all the preparatory activities for the CAMP will commence. By end 2007 the appointment of the Project coordinator and the preparation of the Inception Report should be the main activities.

CAMP Morocco

The CAMP Morocco is in a preparatory stage, i.e. after the Diagnostic Analysis had been completed the preparation of the Agreement was the main focus in this CAMP. Upon request of the Moroccan Ministry of Physical Planning, Water and Environment (MATEE), a "Prior-to-CAMP" Workshop was organised in Fes on February 14, 2006. The workshop allowed the local actors to express their views and positions with regard to the future CAMP and to define activities to be implemented in this framework. These suggestions and comments were taken into account when formulating the Agreement.

The first draft of the Agreement was sent to the Moroccan authorities for comments in July 2006. These along with some additional information regarding the national financial contribution reached PAP/RAC by the end of the year.

Finalization of the Agreement including negotiations with other RACs is currently on going. At the request of the Moroccan ministry, the CAMP was presented and discussed at the national SMAP III meeting with high-level decision makers held in Rabat on May 7-8, 2007. Prior to the SMAP meeting a working meeting of PAP/RAC and Moroccan representatives was held to finalize the Agreement.

The Agreement is expected to be signed before the summer this year. This should be followed by the arrangements for project implementation (nomination of national coordinator, consultants, etc.) and by the preparation of technical specifications for individual CAMP activities (autumn) and then by the Inception Report (end of this year).

CAMP Montenegro

In accordance with the decision of the Contracting Parties at their Ordinary Meeting in Portoroz (November 2005) to start preparatory activities for the CAMP project in Montenegro, PAP/RAC organised a meeting in Split on December 18-19, 2006. The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss the issues related to coastal zone management in Montenegro, to get acquainted with the gaps and the need for CAMP and to discuss the next steps in the preparation of the project. One of the main conclusions was that as soon as the Montenegrin Ministry nominated a consultant for the preparation of the Feasibility Study for CAMP Montenegro, PAP/RAC would prepare the relevant contract. PAP/RAC will also provide the Terms of Reference and some case studies to facilitate the preparation of the report.

On this occasion, some related topics were also discussed, such as the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy for Montenegro, the preparation of the legislation on the definition of the set back zones in coastal areas. During the weeks that followed this meeting PAP/RAC provided comments to the draft National ICZM Strategy and assisted Montenegro in organizing a workshop to discuss the definition of the set back zones. PAP/RAC provided two experts on this matter to participate in the meeting. It is envisaged that by the end of 2007 the relevant TOR and contract for the preparation of the Feasibility Study will be elaborated.

CAMP Italy

On the occasion of the Second Meeting of the WG for the preparation of the ICZM Protocol in Loutraki (September 6-9, 2006), the first ideas for the CAMP Italy were exchanged with the Italian delegation. In this way the preliminary talks for this project were initiated and some documents related to the formulation and implementation of CAMP provided. Examples of CAMPs already completed were also given to the Italian delegates. It is expected that a formal proposal to implement the CAMP in Italy will be presented at the relevant MAP meetings.

4.3 Integrating Environment and Development (Blue Plan)

4.3.1 Thematic issues

Water Resources

With respect to the thematic issue on Water Resources a regional workshop was organized on 19-21 March, 2007 in Zaragoza, Spain which brought together experts on water resources management to discuss the formulation of national plans and the preparation of regional studies in the broad areas of water use (agricultural water, drinking water, industrial water), in terms of ecosystems water needs and national policies and policies of cooperation. The results of this workshop were discussed during the 12th Meeting of the MCSD in Istanbul.

Energy

With respect to energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy, a regional study on energy trends in the Mediterranean region and the perspectives to the year 2020 was carried out in partnership with the Mediterranean Energy Observatory (OME). A second regional study, taking into consideration renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency actions, to support national development is being carried out. A third regional study on the economic advantages of development linked to an alternative energy scenario is also being prepared by the Mediterranean Institute/FEMISE.

The concluding seminar was hosted by the Principality of Monaco on 29 and 30 March 2007. The results of this seminar were also discussed during the 12th Meeting of the MCSD in Istanbul and a number of recommendations were formulated.

Quality Agriculture and Rural Development

The activity on quality agriculture and sustainable rural development is being organized jointly with the Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM). It was launched through the organization of an expert workshop in December 2006. It focused on supplementary indicators, on defining better the national reports and on validating the terms of reference of a study to be carried out at regional level on the territorialization of approaches to rural development.

4.3.2 Sustainable Consumption and Production

RAC/CP is now preparing the ground for the setting up of a working group of Mediterranean experts on MSSD to discuss and identify needs and priorities for sustainable consumption and production and agree on measures and actions for tackling them. The aim of the Centre is to link the creation of the working group with the Marrakech Project and thus facilitate the coordination between the MSSD and this global programme for accelerating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production.

4.3.3 Tourism Development Harmonized with the Environment

Destinations project

PAP/RAC was successful in obtaining the grant for the application of the project entitled "Destinations to the EU financial scheme LIFE – Third Countries". The Grant between EC and PAP/RAC was signed in September 2006 and the project will be implemented between February 2007 and November 2009. Besides PAP/RAC, which is the Lead Partner, the other partners involved in the project are Info/RAC and the Mediterranean Programme of WWF/MedPO in Rome, as well as three national partners from the Maghreb countries where the project will be implemented, namely Algeria (Ministry for Physical Planning and Environment – MATE), Morocco (Ministry for Physical Planning, Water and Environment – MATEE) and Tunisia (Agency for Protection and Management of Coastal Areas– APAL).

Several preparatory meetings took place after the project was approved. On December 4, 2006 the PAP project coordinator attended a meeting in Algiers with the representatives of LIFE-Third countries and MATE. This was an opportunity to discuss various practical aspects of project implementation. Early in 2007 the public tender for recruitment of consultants was announced. Also, preliminary contacts were made with Tour Operators' Initiative (TOI) which has shown interest in the project for sustainable tourism development. Since TOI offices are in the WTO building in Madrid, the information was forwarded to WTO officials who are ready to support the project. PAP/RAC representatives attended the kick-off meeting of LIFE projects held in Brussels on March 19-20, 2007. Following that the organization of the three national kick-off meetings was launched, including the preparation of a leaflet. The first kick-off meeting took place in Tunis on May 10-11, 2007.

With this project, PAP/RAC has enriched the 'seed money' allocated to the Sustainable Tourism activity within the MAP work programme. The EU project will enable the Maghreb countries and PAP/RAC to analyze much more thoroughly the carrying capacity for tourism and to achieve a greater number of objectives. Among the main outputs of the project are the strategy related to the development of tourism in the three pilot areas selected by the

national partners and the creation of the demonstration centres for the use of various instruments of environmental management (e.g. EMAS, ISO 14001, EU Ecolabel).

The second kick-off meeting will take place in Algeria on May 20-21, 2007. Tentatively, the kick-off meeting for the Destinations project in Morocco is scheduled for June 19-20, 2007 in Al Hoceima. The implementation of the activities, according to the project work programme, will follow these initiation meetings.

Water Resources Management

The document "Guidelines for Urban Water System Management in Mediterranean Coastal Areas" Volumes I and II was edited and printed. The text of Volume I was translated into French and is being prepared for printing

This activity also contributes to the implementation of the MSSD orientation to improve integrated water resource and demand management.

It is envisaged that by the end of 2007, Volume II of the Guidelines will be translated into French and printed. Furthermore, a regional workshop to present the Guidelines (in English) is tentatively scheduled for October 2007 in Split. Both publications, once printed, will be disseminated and will also be published in the PAP/RAC website for download.

Nostrum project

PAP/RAC edited the National Report on Assessment of Water Management Practices, Use and Needs for Croatia that was prepared in 2005 and disseminated it to the stakeholders in the country. Also, during the biennium under review, PAP/RAC has acted as a dissemination office for all the newsletters and information documents received by the Lead Partner and distributed them to the Croatian stakeholders.

PAP/RAC participated in the Science and Policy Workshop that took place in Bari, Italy, on February 15-16, 2007. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the draft Guidelines for DSS design and implementation, as one of the main outputs of the project. The Final Dissemination Conference of the project will take place in September 2007 in Cyprus.

Soil Erosion and Land Degradation

A watershed in Cap Bon, Tunisia was chosen for the application of the PAP-FAO consolidated methodology for soil erosion control. This particular watershed was chosen to complement two other PAP/RAC activities that are being carried out in the Cap Bon region, i.e. landscape typology as one of the thematic studies under landscape management activity and activities under the "Destinations" project. Although independent and financed from different sources, these activities are complementary and could be considered a small CAMP for the region.

The mapping phase of the project was carried out in 2006. Draft maps and a report were prepared by the Tunisian team and submitted to PAP/RAC in December 2006. These were reviewed by a PAP/RAC consultant who considered them of a very high quality and needing only minor adjustments.

Immediately after the submission of the final documents of the first phase, a contract was signed between the Tunisian team and the PAP/RAC consultant for the second phase, which encompasses the formulation of a programme for combating soil erosion and a related technological package. This second phase will result in a consolidated document including a summary of the results of the first phase and proposals of measures to be taken to prevent or reduce erosion processes in the Oued Lebna watershed.

5. Information and Communication

During the period covered by this report, INFO/RAC continued the work on the design and development of INFO/MAP, the common information sharing infrastructure for MAP which is also expected to be an important capacity for the MSSD. A detailed Table of Contents for the INFO/MAP Strategy document was formulated in February 2007 and will be used as the basis for the formulation of the strategy document with the EEA. The collaboration with EEA on INFO/MAP development was consolidated and formalised in a specific MAP and EEA Joint Work Plan covering 2006-2008 whereby the EEA confirms its willingness to openly share resources, expertise and technologies for the setting up of INFO/MAP.

INFO/RAC continued to develop also formal working partnerships that will be instrumental in the implementation of the INFO/MAP prototype. These partnerships are operative and involve tester Barcelona Convention countries (Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Morocco) other MAP components, international organisations (EC, ITU, CBD, ACCOBAMS etc.) and the private sector. INFO/RAC is currently waiting for information on the results of the EEA call for applications, launched in February 2007, for an expert to be assigned to support the development of INFO/MAP.

Remarkable progress has also been achieved in the development of the MEDPOL Info System prototype. System-wide usability testing and acceptance is the next important phase after March 2007, followed by a preparatory assistance phase, including user training, to help plan and manage the phasing out of the old system and phasing in of the online MEDPOL Information System. The system will then be gradually integrated and made interoperable with INFO/MAP.

In the field of information, communication, education, public participation and awareness INFO/RAC continued to develop the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD. The draft IC Strategy was in fact submitted to the 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on the 30 – 31 May, 2007. Following a discussion in the Commission, it was agreed that the strategy should be revised, taking into account the comments made by Commission members and submitted to the meeting of MAP Focal Points in December for their consideration and approval.

INFO/RAC continued to disseminate “Mediterranea” the video documentary about the 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention, the publication of the monthly online magazine EcoMedia and the preparation of the Directory of Who’s Who of the Barcelona Convention.

UNEP/MAP Website

As requested by the meeting of the Bureau in Cairo in October, 2006, the development and management of the UNEP/MAP website by INFO/RAC was given top priority. The re-design website questionnaire/survey was distributed on 29 November, 2006. The results of the user survey were made available on 24 January, 2007 thus completing Phase I (user requirements) of the project and approved on 11 February. The Terms of Reference between the Coordinating Unit and INFO/RAC were signed on 8th March, 2007. Phase II started on 10 March, 2007 in line with the work plan agreed upon by the two sides. In this respect, the new UNEP/MAP website-cms-intranet was expected to be ready in time for the meeting of the Contracting Parties in December.

It has to be noted, however, that at present, this activity, together with the launch of the call for tenders for the new MAP logo and other ongoing IC activities cannot be finalized. This is due to the fact that INFO/RAC has not yet received the funds from the Italian authorities in order to carry out its programme of work.

ANNEX I

**Signatures and Ratifications of the Barcelona Convention
for the Protection of the Marine Environment and
the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean
and its Protocols
as at October 5, 2006**

Contracting Parties	Barcelona Convention 1/			Dumping Protocol 2/			Emergency Protocol 3/		New Emergency Protocol 4/	
	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	09.06-04	-	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	01.10.03
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	15.10.01	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	25.01.02	-
European Commission	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	25.06.04
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	02.07.03
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	25.01.02	¹ -
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	29.09.05	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	18.02.03
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	07.12.2004	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	25.01.02	-
Serbia & Montenegro*	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-
Slovenia	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	25.01.02	16.02.04
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	10.10.03	-	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	-	04.06.03

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

¹ Pending notification from the Depository country

* F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92. On 20 March 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganized State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention.

Contracting Parties	Land-Based Sources Protocol 5/			Specially Protected Areas Protocol 6/		SPA & Biodiversity Protocol 7/		Offshore Protocol 8/		Hazardous Wastes Protocol 9/	
	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	-	26.07.01	-	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	² -	-	12.06.92/SUC	10.06.95	12.04.02	14.10.94	-	-	-
Cyprus	17.05.80	28.06.88	12.10.01	-	28.06.88/AC	10.06.95	15.10.01	14.10.94	15.10.01	-	-
European Commission	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	10.03.03	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
Serbia & Montenegro*	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	-	16.09.93/AC	-	08.01.03	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	-	10.10.03	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	03.04.04

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

² Pending notification from Depository country

* F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92. On 20 March 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganized State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention.

1/ Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

The 1995 Amendments (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean)

Adoption (Barcelona) 10 June 1995

Entry into force 9 July 2004

Status: Parties to the Amendments: 18

2/ The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol)

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

The 1995 Amendments (The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea)

Adoption (Barcelona) 10 June 1995

Not Yet in Force

Status: Parties to the Amendments: 14

3/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol)

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

4/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol)

Adoption (Malta): 25 January 2002

Entry into force*: 17 March 2004, replacing the 1976 Emergency Protocol in accordance with Article 25(2)

Status: Signatories: 16, Parties: 8

5/ The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources (LBS Protocol)

Adoption (Athens): 17 May 1980

Entry into force*: 17 June 1983

Status: Signatories: 22, Parties: 22

The 1996 Amendments (The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol))

Adoption (Syracuse): 7 March 1996

Not Yet in Force

Status: Parties to the Amendments: 14

6/ The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPA Protocol)

Adoption (Geneva): 3 April 1982

Entry into force*: 23 March 1986

Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 22

7/ The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)

Adoption (Barcelona): 10 June 1995

Entry into force*: 12 December 1999, replacing the 1980 SPA Protocol in accordance with Article 32

Status: Signatories: 17, Parties: 14

8/ Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol)

Adoption (Madrid): 14 October 1994

Not Yet in Force

Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 4

9/ Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol)

Adoption (Izmir): 1 October 1996

Not Yet in Force

Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 5

ANNEX II

TRUST FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION
Status of contributions as at 31 May 2007
(Expressed in Euros)

COUNTRIES	Unpaid pledges for 2006 & prior yrs		Adjustments	Pledges for 2007	Collections during 2007 for 2007 and fut. yrs	Collections during 2007 for prior yrs	Collections during 2007 for prior yrs - US \$	Unpaid pledges for prior yrs.	Unpaid pledges for 2007 & prior yrs
Albania	1,775		0	3,877	0	0	0	1,775	5,652
Algeria	174,489		0	58,163	0	0	0	174,489	232,652
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0		0	16,619	16,619	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0		0	53,730	0	0	0	0	53,730
Cyprus	0		0	7,755	0	0	0	0	7,755
Egypt	132		0	27,143	0	0	0	132	27,275
European Union	0		0	138,483	138,483	0	0	0	0
France	0		0	2,103,262	2,103,262	0	0	0	0
Greece	155,653		0	155,653	0	155,653	0	0	155,653
Israel	79,151		0	81,427	56,187	79,151	0	-0	25,239
Italy	0		0	1,737,670	1,737,670	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	3,641		0	3,877	0	0	0	3,641	7,518
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	230,717		0	109,124	0	0	0	230,717	339,841
Malta	3,877		0	3,877	3,877	3,877	0	0	0
Monaco	0		0	3,877	3,877	0	0	0	0
Morocco	90,938		0	15,511	0	90,938	0	0	15,511
Serbia and Montenegro	18,000		0	18,000	0	0	0	18,000	36,000
Slovenia	6,129		0	37,113	37,113	6,129	0	0	0
Spain	0		0	830,337	0	0	0	0	830,337
Syrian Arab Rep.	-428		0	15,511	0	0	0	-428	15,083
Tunisia	23,264		0	11,632	0	10,863	0	12,401	24,033
Turkey	0		0	124,634	0	0	0	0	124,634
Total	787,338		0	5,557,275	4,097,088	346,611	0	440,727	1,900,914

Additional Contributions (for information only)									
European Commission	-1		0	598,569	598,569	0	0	0	-1
Host Country *	348,304		0	440,000	0	0	0	348,304	788,304
UNEP Env. Fund	0	1/	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,135,641		0	6,595,844	4,695,657	346,611	0	789,031	2,689,217