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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
AEWA	African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement
BOD	Biological oxygen demand
BCRC	Basel Convention Regional Center
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Project
CCA	Capacity Carrying Assessment
CIHEAM	Centre international de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CP/RAC	Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIB	European Investment Bank
ELV	Environmental Limit Value
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ERS/RAC	Environment Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre
FFEM	Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GPA	Global Programme of Action
HELMEPA	Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA-MEL	International Atomic Energy Agency Marine Environment Laboratory
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICRAM	Central Institute for Research Applied to the Sea
ICS/UNIDO	International Centre for Science and High Technology of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zones Management
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	International Oceanographic commission
IUCN	International Union for the conservation of Nature
MARCOASTt	MARine and COASTal Environmental Information Services
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocols of 1978 and 1997 relating thereto
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MedGOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
MEDASSET	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
MEDU	Coordinating Unit for UNEP/MAP
MEPC	Marine Environment Protection Committee
MPI	Marine Pollution Indicators
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund
NAP	National Action Plan
NBB	National Baseline Budget
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OME	Mediterranean Observatory Energy
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PCB	Poly chlorinated Biphenyl
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants

PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
RACs	Regional Activity Centres
RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
RAMOGE	Accord St-Raphael - Monaco – Gênes
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SPAMIs	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
SP	Sectoral Plan
TLV	Threshold Limit Values
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
UNADEP	Union of Northern Association for Development
UNESCO/IOC	International Oceanographic commission of UNESCO
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GPA	UN Environment Programme / Global Programme for action
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WMU	World Maritime University

Introduction

This progress report has been prepared in accordance with Article 17(vi) of the Barcelona Convention which requires the Secretariat to regularly report to the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. It covers the biennium 2006-2007 and gives an account of the various activities and programmes carried out and initiatives taken by the Coordinating Unit, MED POL and MAP Components in line with the mandates given by the last meeting of the Contracting Party in Portoroz, Slovenia, in 2005 and the previous decisions of the meeting of the parties.

This biennium has been eventful. There have been several developments and initiatives with respect to legal issues and institutional matters. Significant progress was achieved in developing partnerships and relationships with other institutions and donor organizations that will have a positive effect on MAP and its components for the coming years. There were some concerns too that will hopefully be resolved.

In terms of ratification and acceptances of MAP legal instruments there has been very little progress. There has been only one ratification and acceptance of amendments of MAP legal instruments. Also, in spite of promising prospects in the beginning of the biennium, the amendments to the Land Based-Sources Protocol have not yet entered into force. As has been stated on several occasions, the delay in the entry into force of legal instruments undermines the credibility of the Convention and needs to be addressed.

However, with regard to the development of new legal and policy instruments considerable progress has been registered with the finalization of the draft text of the ICZM Protocol, the Compliance Mechanism as well as the Guidelines on Liability and Compensation. In all these areas MAP is breaking new and challenging ground.

MED POL and the MAP Components continued to provide technical support to MAP in their specific fields of expertise. During the biennium three new Directors were appointed one for REMPEC, one for SPA/RAC and another for Blue Plan. They have already settled in their new roles and are continuing and improving where their predecessors left off. It is appropriate at this point to acknowledge also the contribution of the previous Directors and express the Secretariat's thanks and appreciation.

An important institutional matter was the preparation of the Governance Paper and the Strategy Declaration for MAP by a Drafting Committee established by the countries themselves in Catania in 2006. This is the final chapter in a long process which started a few years back with an internal and external evaluation of MAP. At the same time it is a new beginning because it is expected to further clarify the mandate of the Coordinating Unit and the RACs which should help to bring about better coordination and governance within the system.

Relations with other institutions continued to be strengthened during the biennium in particular with UNEP's Department of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) and the Regional Seas Programme. UNEP continued to provide guidance and support to MAP. Joint initiatives were also taken in particular with respect to marine litter.

As regards relations with the European Commission, especially following the signing of the Joint Work Programme in 2005, the Euromed Environment Ministers in their Cairo Declaration specifically identified the Barcelona Convention and the MSSD as the mechanisms for the implementation of its Horizon 2020 initiative. MAP is taking an active role in this initiative together with the European Investment Bank because of its importance for the implementation of the National Action Plans under the LBS Protocol. A Joint Work Plan

was also agreed upon between MAP and the European Environment Agency (EEA) which will strengthen relations between both organizations in the field of information and data management.

A very concrete step was taken during the biennium with respect to the launching of the process for the application of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean region. During 2008 –2009 the process will be taken forward on a step by step approach on the basis of a roadmap which is expected to be adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties. This will bring about a complete change in the work of the whole MAP system and should contribute towards bring about better coordination among its components.

Climate change is also becoming a feature of debate within MAP. Already, the main topic for discussion during this year's meeting of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development was "Climate Change in the Mediterranean" with the participation of IPCC experts. This debate will be taken to a higher political level with Climate Change and the Mediterranean as the main topic for the Ministerial Segment of the next meeting of the Contracting Parties. It will be the Barcelona Convention's contribution to the discussion on this issue in the region. One common conclusion coming out of all these activities is that climate change will have very serious consequences for the Mediterranean as a result of sea level rise, water shortage, loss of biodiversity and higher temperatures. Already, whatever measures are taken to tackle climate change, some level of impact is now inevitable and Mediterranean countries would do well to think about adaptation measures.

While the present report looks back at the progress over the last eighteen months, it also sets the scene for the next biennium during which important decisions that will be taken at the next COP will have to be implemented. Through the implementation of the MSSD, MAP needs to continue to mainstream environment protection and sustainable development into strategies for the elimination of pollution, safeguarding of biodiversity and coastal zone management. The way things are developing in these fields drives one point home very strongly – that there is no time to lose.

I. COORDINATION

I.A. MAP Legal Framework

I.A.1 ***Current Status of ratification of the Convention and its Related Protocols***

Since the last meeting of the Contracting Parties in November, 2005, there has been one additional acceptance of the amendments to the LBS Protocol by Croatia and one additional ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol by Greece. The amendments to the LBS Protocol now need two additional acceptances to enter into force. A detailed table on the status of Signatures and Ratifications is attached as Annex I to this report.

Following the decision of the Bureau at its meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, April 2006, the President of the Bureau has sent letters to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Environment of Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Libya and Syria, bringing to their attention the necessity of the entry into force of the LBS and Dumping Protocols.

In his meetings with Ministers of the Environment from the Contracting Parties, the MAP Coordinator always puts on top of the agenda the ratification and acceptances of MAP legal instruments.

Status of Montenegro

After the dissolution of the state union of Serbia and Montenegro, the New Republic of Montenegro informed the Secretariat of its intention to become party to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by way of succession.

As provided for in Article 22 (5) of the Barcelona Convention (old Article 16 (5) "*After the entry into force of an amendment to this Convention or to a protocol, any new Contracting Party to this Convention or such protocol shall become a Contracting Party to the instrument as amended*"). As a result, Montenegro, as a new state is under the obligation to ratify the amended Barcelona Convention together with at least one Protocol in order to become a Party to the Barcelona Convention.

In light of the above, at its meeting held in Cairo, Egypt on 30-31 October, 2006, the Bureau agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat to grant Montenegro the status of "Observer" until the ratification process is completed.

Status of Serbia

As far as Serbia is concerned, 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. At the same time, Serbia has ceased to be a Mediterranean Coastal state according to the Barcelona Convention system and therefore is no longer entitled to be a Contracting Party.

At its meeting held in Cairo, Egypt on 30-31 October, 2006, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to clarify with the Serbian authorities the country's future relationship with the Barcelona Convention system and to inform the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The Republic of Serbia has been requested to clarify its position vis-à-vis its future relationship to the Barcelona Convention system and a reply is still awaited.

1.A.2 Development of the new Protocol on ICZM

On the basis of the decision by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz in November 2005, a Working Group (WG) of legal and technical experts, designated by the Contracting Parties, was established to develop a draft text of the Protocol on ICZM with a view to its consideration and possible approval by the 15th Meeting in 2007 and for its adoption by a Diplomatic Conference to be held immediately following the 15th Meeting.

By end February 2006, the Contracting Parties were invited to nominate legal/technical experts to represent them at the meetings of the Working Group. They were also asked to submit in writing any proposals regarding the development of the new Protocol.

Four meetings of the Working Group were held (April 2006 in Split, September 2006 in Greece, February 2007 in Greece and June 2007 in Split).

Prior to the meetings of the Working Group, consultation and coordination meetings were held by the Coordinating Unit with the legal experts and PAP/RAC.

The fourth meeting of the Working Group (June 2007 in Split) concluded successfully the negotiations on the draft protocol and reviewed and adopted the whole text. However, at the end of the negotiation process, the representatives of five Contracting Parties maintained their reservations with respect to three articles or specific references in the text, while the other Contracting Parties reached a consensus on the whole text of the draft Protocol. This draft is submitted to the meeting of MAP Focal Points for its consideration and transmission to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for approval (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.320/7).

1.A.3 Establishment of the Compliance Procedures and Mechanisms

Following the decision of the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to extend the mandate and the membership of the Working Group on Compliance and Implementation, two meetings were convened by the Secretariat (Loutraki, Greece, December 2006 and Istanbul, Turkey, May, 2007) back to back with the meetings on Reporting in order to develop further and finalize the Compliance mechanism. The last meeting concluded the negotiation of the draft compliance mechanism and agreed to submit it to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points for their consideration and to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for approval (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.320/8).

According to the draft Compliance mechanism being proposed, a Compliance Committee shall be established, composed of seven members that shall act in their individual capacity. Another seven shall be nominated as alternate members. The composition of the Compliance Committee shall ensure a) equitable geographic representation; b) rotation of members and c) balance among technical, legal and scientific experts.

At its meeting held in Madrid, Spain 2-3 July 2007, the Bureau agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat on the composition of the compliance committee. On this basis a draft Decision has been prepared by the Secretariat for the consideration of the MAP focal points meeting referred to in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.320/8.

1.A.4 Reporting on Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols

Twelve Contracting Parties namely: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, EC, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Syria and Turkey have submitted their reports on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention for the biennium 2004-2005. To this end the Secretariat has provided assistance to Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Morocco and Syria. Contacts have also been maintained with MAP Focal Points with respect to the finalization and submission of such reports on time.

These reports have been analyzed and a Regional Assessment Implementation Report will be submitted to the MAP Focal points Meeting for its consideration (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.320/Inf.3).

The Contracting Parties meeting in Portoroz mandated also the Secretariat to prepare a new reporting format on the basis of criteria defined by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties such as the indicator based approach, integrated system covering all MAP components, harmonization with other reporting systems in place, etc.

In this context, two meetings with MAP components have been held in June 2006 and September 2006 at the premises of the Coordinating Unit. After a careful review of the reporting requirements/obligations within the framework of the Convention and its Protocols, a draft format in line with the criteria decided by the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties was developed taking into account also the relevant guidelines adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP on this subject.

The EEA representative has also attended the first meeting of the MAP components, providing useful suggestions and proposals on the basis of the agency's experience in this field.

Following two meetings of experts nominated by the Contracting Parties (Loutraki, Greece, December 2006 and Istanbul, Turkey, May 2007) a draft reporting format and a draft decision, as presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 320/9, were agreed upon and will be transmitted to the MAP Focal Points meeting for its consideration and approval.

The new draft reporting format is oriented towards 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 for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and the related decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties;
- b) the difficulties and/or challenges encountered to enhance implementation and
- c) the effectiveness of measures taken.

While the parts dealing with (a) and (b) of the report, as described above, are fully elaborated, the part on 'effectiveness' requires further substantial work for the preparation of a definitive list of 'Effectiveness'-related criteria. The draft reporting format also contains a number of tables for the inclusion of technical data in accordance with the specific requirements of all Protocols, on the basis of which on-line databases will be established by each RAC and MED POL in close cooperation with INFO RAC with the view to establishing in the near future a shared Information system for MAP.

1.A.5 Guidelines on Liability and Compensation

On the recommendation of the 14th meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Portoroz, Slovenia, in November 2005, an Open-Ended Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts was set up by the MAP Secretariat to propose appropriate rules and procedures for the

determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area. MAREVIVO was nominated by the NGOs to represent them on the WG.

The first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (Loutraki, Greece, March 2006) recommended proceeding cautiously through a step-by-step approach and requested the MAP Secretariat to prepare draft guidelines on the subject by early 2007.

The second meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (Athens, Greece, June 2007) adopted the draft guidelines and a draft Decision and requested the Secretariat to transmit them for the consideration of the meeting of the MAP focal points in October 2007 (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 320/10).

An Explanatory Text to Draft Guidelines on Liability and Compensation, to facilitate their implementation after adoption, has been prepared by the Secretariat and is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 320/Inf.6.

I.B Implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the marine and coastal environment

At their 14th Ordinary Meeting (Portoroz, Slovenia, November 2005) the Contracting Parties endorsed the cooperation with the EC in a project to be implemented by MED POL, on behalf of MAP, regarding the elaboration of a roadmap for the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the Mediterranean region. The project was implemented in cooperation with all Regional Activity Centres, with a view to the possible application of the ecosystem approach by the whole MAP system.

According to the signed project document, the aim of the EC/MAP project was to facilitate the implementation of the ecosystem approach by MAP and its components by proposing, after studying the various implications, a road map for its implementation and for the development of Mediterranean Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs).

On the basis of the project planning, a working group was set up composed of 15 experts from Mediterranean institutions, the RACs and OSPAR, HELCOM, ICES and MAP secretariat. MED POL facilitated the work of the group through a consultant. The working group met twice (April and November 2006) to agree on a document that included definitions, proposals for a road map, specific proposals for vision and strategic goals and possible implications.

The final document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 320/Inf.8) was the subject of the discussions at the Government-Designated Expert Meeting on the application of the ecosystem approach by MAP, which took place in Athens in February 2007. After discussing the document the meeting agreed on specific recommendations to be made to the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The meeting also agreed on a number of actions that would be necessary in the application of the ecosystem approach. On this basis a draft decision has been prepared by the Secretariat which is referred to in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 320/11, for its consideration by the meeting of the MAP Focal Points.

I.C Institutional matters

I.C.1 Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points

In Portoroz, Slovenia (November, 2005) the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat *“To convene an extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points to consider the conclusions*

and recommendations of the external evaluation of MAP and to discuss a Draft Vision and Strategic Statement prepared by the MAP Secretariat, and to make recommendations to the meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007”.

In view of the preparation of the Mission Statement and Strategic Vision of MAP as part of the evaluation exercise, the Secretariat held internal discussions involving all RAC Directors in order to arrive at a common position with respect to the various recommendations of the external evaluation. One meeting took place in Athens, Greece in January 2006 during the annual meeting of RAC Directors, and the second at the premises of the Italian Environment Agency (APAT) in Rome, Italy in March, 2006 before the INFO/RAC workshop on the new MAP/INFO System at which all MAP components participated.

The Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points took place in Catania in November 2006, and agreed to establish a Drafting Committee composed of a group of Contracting Parties, coordinated by Italy, to prepare a Strategy Declaration and a Governance Paper. The meeting adopted an Outline for Strategy Declaration on the basis of which the Drafting Committee had to develop the full text of the Strategy Declaration.

A final draft of the Strategy Declaration was being circulated for comments, up to the time that this Progress report was being prepared. It was also copied to the Secretariat and MAP components. A final draft of the Governance Paper was also circulated among the members of the Drafting Committee.

The Bureau of the Contracting Parties, at its meeting held in Madrid 2-3 July 2007, suggested that the Drafting Committee prepares and submits three separate documents for consideration by the meeting of the MAP Focal Points in relation to the MAP evaluation namely a) the Strategy Declaration; b) the Governance Paper c) a paper on the future role of the MCSD and its mandate.

1.C.2 Preparations for the 15th Contracting Parties Meeting

Originally, the meeting of the Contracting Parties was scheduled to be held in December, 2007. However, because it coincided with the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and following agreement with the Host country Spain, the Bureau agreed that the meeting of the Contracting Parties would be held on 15-18 January 2008. The provisional agenda of the meeting will be prepared during the MAP Focal Points meeting. The Bureau, in its meeting held in Madrid 2-3 July 2007, suggested that the MAP Focal Points should consider the subject of “Climate Change and Biodiversity” as the topic for the Ministerial discussion.

As decided in Portoroz, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries will be held back to back with the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the adoption of the Protocol on ICZM. Spain has also agreed to host this Conference which is planned for January 19-21, 2008.

1.C.3 MAP Calendar of Meetings

The calendar of MAP meetings held during the 2006-2007 biennium is presented as Annex II to this report.

I.D MCS D and MSS D

I.D.1 MSS D preparation, adoption and political support

After the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was approved by the 10th Meeting of the MCS D, it was adopted by the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, Slovenia, November 2005.

Subsequently, the MSSD gained important political thrust after being endorsed by the Euro-Mediterranean summit meeting in Barcelona, Spain, in November 2005. As a result significant opportunities for synergy and concerted action for the implementation of the MSSD with the EU emerged. One important field is the implementation of the *Horizon 2020 Initiative*. At a Ministerial meeting that was organized by the EU in December 2005 to support the launch of this initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean, recommendations were made on improving synergies between MAP and the EC for its implementation.

The MSSD also featured prominently in both the Cairo Declaration and the Timetable for implementation of Horizon 2020 approved at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial meeting, Cairo, Egypt, November 2006. The MSSD implementation strategy, prepared and presented to the 12th Meeting of the MCS D, Istanbul, Turkey May 2007, encompasses all these important synergies and provides a medium-term plan for its effective implementation.

I.D.2 National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs)

Terms of Reference and recommended steps and actions for the development of an NSSD were prepared and four countries (Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria) have already started the process for the preparation of NSSDs, with support by Italy and Monaco. Montenegro has also received additional support from UNDP. The process for Montenegro, Egypt and Syria is at a very advanced level.

In 2006, the AZAHAR programme (Spain) provided additional support so that the NSSD process could be launched in another 4 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Tunisia). The MoU with Tunisia for this purpose is already signed, while the relevant procedures with the other countries are ongoing. Visits to the countries are being organized, for meetings with the institutions involved and the organization of national information workshops as appropriate.

The AZAHAR programme also provides support for the organization of a regional workshop on NSSDs. This is an important forum for the exchange of experiences between Contracting Parties as regards the process for the development and adoption of NSSDs. In addition, it is expected that in this forum national authorities will have the opportunity to interact with other stakeholders, including the private sector and local authorities, so that joint activities for the implementation of NSSDs can be launched. The workshop is planned for 2008. A first step to this direction was the regional working session on Challenges and Opportunities for NSSD formulation, which took place in Athens, Greece, October 2006.

I.D.3 Review and assessment of NSSDs in the Mediterranean

A publication reviewing the status of NSSD development in the Mediterranean region was prepared and published in 2005. The country profiles presented in this assessment were further updated in 2006.

In order to take accounts of developments in the region it is considered useful to prepare a further update, on NSSD development and implementation, as a first opportunity to apply the

Sustainable Development Indicators developed by the Blue Plan/RAC. This report would be the basis for discussions at the regional NSSDs workshop in 2008.

1.D.4 MCSD Thematic issues and participation of MAP Components

The MAP components participated in the formulation of the MSSD and are actively involved in its implementation, as appropriate and in line with the mandate of each RAC/Programme.

A number of RACs have been more directly involved with the preparation and launch of the MSSD:

- *BP/RAC* played a central role in the preparation of the MSSD and developed the Sustainable Development Indicators for the assessment and evaluation of progress. It also organized the regional Working Groups on Water Demand (Zaragoza, Spain, March 2007) and Energy and Climate Change (Monaco, March 2007), the recommendations of which were presented at the 12th Meeting of the MCSD.
- *CP/RAC* has organized national/regional training workshops on different sectors and carried out studies on pollution prevention in the industrial sector, information dissemination on successful experiences, knowledge and technology transfer, assessment of status and trends of industrial sector/sustainable development, as well as sustainable consumption and production.
- *INFO/RAC* has prepared and presented to the 12th MCSD meeting the draft Information and Communication strategy for the MSSD. It also launched the www.medstrategy.org website and EcoMEDia magazine, along with other 'pilot' activities, including MEDday.

Other RACs/Programmes that had contributed to the development of the MSSD, are currently involved in actions that will be streamlined with the MSSD through its implementation strategy:

- *PAP/RAC* is pursuing its efforts in the preparation process for the adoption of an ICZM Protocol and has developed guidelines for coastal urban water resources management.
- *MED POL* is playing a central role for the formulation and launch of the Horizon 2020 initiative on the basis of the National Action Plans (NAPs) to address Land Based Sources of Pollution.
- *REMPEC* is involved in the implementation of MSSD through the Strategy for Prevention of and response to Marine Pollution from Ships and the implementation of MEDA/SAFEMED project.
- *SPA/RAC* is active in the launch of the SAP/BIO project, which is expected to enhance the marine and coastal biodiversity aspect of the MSSD.

1.D.5 MCSD issues

Following the Extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points held in Catania, Italy, November 2006, it was agreed that a Drafting Committee would be set-up to review the composition and Terms of Reference of the MCSD. In the draft Governance Paper alternatives are being proposed for MCSD composition and rules of procedure. These will be presented at the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

At the 12th Meeting of the MCSD in Istanbul, Turkey, May 2007, its members requested that they be informed about the process and outcomes of the Drafting Committee and its proposals prior to their submission to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The proposals of the Drafting Committee on the MCSD were circulated in June 2007 to all its members for information and comments.

At the 12th Meeting of the MCSD the members requested the review of the Programme of Work, with a focus on action-oriented objectives for the effective implementation of the MSSD. Subsequently, the MSSD Implementations Strategy and Programme of Work for 2008-2009 were circulated to all MCSD members for comments, to establish a basis in the mid-term for concerted action in the implementation of the MSSD.

The 12th MCSD meeting also focused strongly on technical matters and drew heavily on the work carried out by the Blue Plan/RAC on water demand management and on climate change. The meeting endorsed the recommendations that emerged from the two Working Groups organized by the Blue Plan on the above themes in line with the MCSD programme of work.

I.E Cooperation and Partnership

I.E.1 Cooperation with UN Agencies

During the current biennium, the MAP Secretariat participated in the Ninth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum which was held in February 2006 in Dubai as well as in the 24th UNEP Governing Council Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Nairobi in February, 2007. The former was the last meeting for Dr. Klaus Toepfer as Executive Director of UNEP while the latter was the first Governing Council for Mr. Achim Steiner as the newly appointed Executive Director of UNEP.

During the discussion on UNEP's report to the 14th Session of the UNCSD, the MAP Secretariat presented the adoption by the Contracting Parties in November, 2005 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development which is considered a major development within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

Apart from participating in the various sessions of the Governing Council in order to follow developments and keep abreast of emerging global environmental issues, the MAP Secretariat took the opportunity of its presence at these meetings to hold bilateral talks with Environment Ministers and Government officials from the Contracting Parties as well as with representatives of UN and International Organizations and secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

I.E.1.1 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. 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 Mediterranean 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.

I.E.1.2 Cooperation with IMO on the Lebanon oil pollution incident

Lebanon's oil pollution incident in August 2006 following hostilities in the Middle East was an opportunity for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Mediterranean

Action Plan (MAP) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to translate their close cooperation into concrete action on the ground to assist Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to fight a major environmental disaster.

The Mediterranean Assistance Unit was activated by REMPEC immediately after both the MAP Secretariat and REMPEC, which is administered by IMO, received an urgent request for assistance in August 2006 from the Lebanese Ministry for the Environment concerning a massive oil spill along the Lebanese coast. A similar request for assistance was subsequently received from the Syrian Government after it was also affected by the oil slick. In compliance with Article 12 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, REMPEC called on all Mediterranean countries to provide assistance.

The response was immediate from both individual countries and international organizations. Due to the number of Governments, international organizations, institutions and NGOs which offered assistance, a clear strategy to coordinate the response was needed. In this regard, a High Level Coordination Meeting on the Response to the Marine Pollution Incident in the Eastern Mediterranean was organized jointly in Piraeus, Greece by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary General of IMO with the support of the MAP Secretariat. Ministers of Environment and high level Government representatives from Lebanon and Syria as well as Cyprus, Turkey and Greece (the latter three because they could potentially be affected by the oil slick), as well as other representatives from the Joint UNEP/OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), the European Commission (EC), CEDRE, the US Embassy in Greece, MAP and REMPEC also participated.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that IMO, UNEP, OCHA and the EC would coordinate the global response, MAP/REMPEC would ensure the regional coordination and the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon would take on coordination at the national level. While REMPEC focused its activities on the coordination of the technical aspect of the whole operation, the MAP Secretariat dealt with enquiries from the international media in close coordination with the Press Office of UNEP in Nairobi.

1.E.1.3 IMO/UNEP Forum

The 2006 IMO/UNEP Forum on Regional Cooperation to Combat Marine Pollution was held in May, 2006 in London. The primary objective of these forums is to bring together representatives from the Regional Centres, Secretariats of Regional Seas Programmes, Regional Organizations, National Governments and industry to explore ways of enhancing regional cooperation in combating marine pollution.

In its presentation, the MAP Secretariat highlighted the close cooperation that exists with IMO in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and in particular the Prevention and Emergency Protocol through REMPEC. Proposals were also considered on future IMO-UNEP/MAP cooperation through REMPEC in assisting Mediterranean countries to implement relevant conventions and protocols at regional and national levels, the creation of regional response units in case of spills other than hydrocarbons, in supporting capacity building in maritime administrations and especially in the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from ships.

1.E.1.4 Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (Strategic Partnership)

The GEF Project “**Strategic Partnership**”, which was developed during the current biennium, was officially submitted on the 23rd of March 2007 to the GEF Secretariat by UNEP/DGEF for the consideration of 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 trans-boundary 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, the Spanish Agency for Cooperation and the Andalusia Junta will contribute 1.75 Mil Euros and 750 k USD respectively and the EC will contribute another 2 million euros.

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, MED POL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, 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. Almost all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will closely be linked to the Strategic Partnership. 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.

I.E.2 Cooperation Agreements

The following MoUs have been signed by UNEP/MAP with partners:

1. MoU with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, signed on 9 November 2006;
2. Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), signed on 07 February 2006
3. Agreement with the International Ocean Institute (IOI), signed on 1 March 2006.

As a result of these cooperation agreements, MAP and its partners have carried out joint activities in their respective fields of interest for mutual benefit.

I.E.3 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.

I.E.3.1 MAP's Involvement in the Euromed Horizon 2020 Initiative

Considerable progress has been made with respect to MAP's participation in the Euromed's Horizon 2020 initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean. Following UNEP/MAP's contribution at the Technical Session and Ministerial Meeting held in Barcelona in December, 2005, UNEP/MAP's involvement in Horizon 2020 was again discussed in May 2006 during the first meeting with the EC's DG Environment within the framework of the Joint Work Programme.

At the high level meeting in Barcelona in December, 2005 a strong case was made for the involvement of MAP in the Horizon 2020 initiative and for synergy between the EC and MAP activities to address pollution problems in the Mediterranean. UNEP/MAP proposed that the Horizon 2020 time-table for activities to de-pollute the Mediterranean should take into account the SAP targets and in particular the specific pollution reduction interventions indicated by the countries in their National Action Plans under the Land-based sources Protocol. Apart from emphasizing the point that MAP is an appropriate regional mechanism for the joint implementation of the initiative, the Secretariat called for the plan to de-pollute the Mediterranean to be a concrete manifestation of the cooperation between the EC and MAP in the Mediterranean.

MAP will in fact be involved in the various activities of Horizon 2020 dealing with pollution reduction projects, capacity building measures, research and monitoring, areas in which MAP, and in particular MED POL, brings years of accumulated experience and expertise and an unequalled track record as an added value to the process.

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 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 Executive Director of UNEP called on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to continue involving the capacities of MAP to achieve the 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.

1.E.3.2 Implementation of the Joint Work Programme EC-MAP

The first meeting between the European Commission and MAP, within the framework of the Joint Work Programme signed between the two sides in Portoroz in November, 2006, was held on 15th May, 2006. The meeting was intended to promote coordination on strategic matters of common interest. This was the first in a series of annual meetings which will be held in order to review the progress of work in the priority areas of cooperation and to discuss issues related to furthering the objectives of the Joint Work Programme.

All activities, which are being carried out within the framework of the EC-MAP Joint Work Programme, were reviewed during a joint meeting in Brussels on 12 July, 2007 between MAP and the EC officials. All MAP components and their counterparts in the EC Services participated in these discussions.

1.E.3.3 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 was published in pamphlet form.

1.E.3.4 Hearing at the European Parliament

At the invitation of Ms Maire-Noelle Lienemann (MEP) and Mr. Aldis Kusikis (MEP), Rapporteurs of the European Parliament on the Proposed EU Marine Strategy Directive, MAP participated in the hearing on the Proposed Directive and on the Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment organized on July 11th 2006. The objective of the hearing was for the Rapporteurs to listen to the views of stakeholders on improving the proposal of the European Commission. Other participants at the hearing included representatives from NGOs, the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER), Europeche-Cogega representing the fisheries and aquaculture sector, HELCOM, OSPAR and the Committee of the Regions.

1.E.3.5 Cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB)

Following the endorsement by the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers Meeting in Cairo in November, 2006, of the EC Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean and the time-table for Horizon 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) launched the process for the elaboration of a Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP) in close cooperation with the European Commission, MAP and the World Bank. The first inception meeting involving all these partners was held in Luxembourg in March 2007

The initiative is operating within existing political processes and institutions including the Barcelona Convention as the legal cornerstone for multilateral cooperation on environment and sustainable development issues, and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development which is considered an important component of Horizon 2020. The main focus of this investment programme are the Southern Mediterranean countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). A desk research exercise on hot spots in the countries has already been carried out through a review of existing documentation with particular focus on MED POL's Strategic Action Programme and the countries' National Action Plans (NAPs) which have been prepared in view of the provisions of the amended LBS Protocol. The list of hot spots investment projects being considered under the MeHSIP is based on the list of projects included in the NAPs.

During the second phase of the project, the EIB Consultants developing the MeHSIP together with representatives of MED POL visited a number of Mediterranean countries for talks with Government Ministries, EIB offices, World Bank representations and EC Delegations where they collected hands-on information about hot spots and on the bankability of the potential investment projects.

This exercise is expected to be concluded in September 2007 when the EIB together with the partners involved will identify a number of projects under the NAPs which would be bankable and eligible for EIB funding.

1.E.4 Cooperation with other regional initiatives

1.E.4.1 Cooperation with the Adriatic initiative

In June 2006, MAP participated in an International Conference organized by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia on the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Adriatic.

This conference was organized on the personal initiative of the Slovenian Minister for the Environment in his capacity as President of the Bureau in order to promote sub-regional sustainable and spatial planning development initiatives and the MSSD.

Representatives from Adriatic countries participated in the conference which dealt with the sub-regional approach for the Adriatic eco-region, the sub-regional impact of a dedicated information and communication strategy, marine spatial planning and other issues related to the Adriatic.

1.E.4.2 Cooperation with ICPDR

On the initiative of the President of the Bureau, the MAP Secretariat had a meeting with the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) at their premises on 21 September 2006.

The objective was for the ICPDR and UNEP/MAP to exchange experiences in the field of water resource management and to identify areas for future cooperation. Both institutions

share a lot in the management of pollution reduction, water resource management and biodiversity conservation.

Both sides discussed the legal framework, the institutional set-up as well as the plans and programmes of ICPDR and UNEP/MAP. A number of areas were identified for future cooperation in particular in the fields of pollution reduction from land-based sources, monitoring and data management and public information and communication.

1.E.4.3 Meeting on the Strengthening of Regional cooperation

In his capacity as President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, Mr. Janez Podobnik, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, organized a one-day meeting in Postonja, Slovenia for the strengthening of Regional Cooperation for shared water resources in particular between the Barcelona Convention and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). Another objective of the meeting was to focus on sub-regional cooperation in the framework of the Sava River Basin and the Adriatic.

Apart from the Executive Secretaries of the Danube and the Sava River Basins, participants included representatives from the European Commission, Regional Environment Centre (REC) and government representatives from Italy, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the possibilities of strengthening regional cooperation and the role Slovenia could play in the implementation of international agreements on the management and protection of two international water bodies namely through UNEP/MAP for the Barcelona Convention area and the ICPDR for the Danube River, as well as sub-regional initiatives like the Sava River Basin and the Adriatic.

1.E.4.4 Cooperation with ACCOBAMS

On 17th September, 2006 the MAP Coordinator attended the 10th Anniversary celebrations of ACCOBAMS which were held in Monaco under the aegis of H.R.H. Albert II who participated in the events. The Coordinator participated on behalf of MAP which has a very close relationship with ACCOBAMS, especially through SPA/RAC, while at the same time representing the Executive Director of UNEP at this event.

1.E.5 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 with, among others, the following organizations: MIO ECSDE, CME, MEDITERRANEAN-SOS, RAED, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, IOI.

During the period covered by this report, five NGOs have submitted their application to become MAP partners. According to the procedure in place, the Secretariat has informed the MAP Focal Points on these applications, requesting them to express their views in writing.

With respect to the applications by "Athens Environmental Foundation", Greece, "Association U Marinu CPIE Bastia Golo Méditerranée", France and "Syrian Environmental Protection Society", Syria submitted before the Bureau meeting held in Ljubljana in April 2006, the three NGOs have been admitted as MAP partners. Their membership is subject to confirmation by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

New applications were received after the Bureau meeting held in Egypt on 30-31 October 2006. According to the agreed procedure, the Secretariat forwarded the applications to MAP Focal Points for their consideration and position. The Secretariat has so far received three responses, two in favour of the applications and one in favour of postponing the decision until the Meeting of the Contracting Parties decides on a full assessment of such Partnerships to be carried out by the Secretariat in close cooperation with the MAP NGOs Partners.

The number of MAP partners has reached 78. It is being proposed to carry out an assessment during the next biennium about the added value of such partnerships and its effectiveness.

I.F Communication and Information

I.F.1 Media database

The MAP media database has been reviewed and updated. It now consists of Greek national media, foreign correspondents in Greece, and environmental-focus media in the Mediterranean countries. Additions concern also media based in Brussels and other countries with an interest in Mediterranean issues.

I.F.2 MedWaves

Two editions of MedWaves were published in 2006 and another one in 2007. The next issues are due in August and December 2007 integrating a new design and aiming at making it a more dynamic magazine.

A new more modern layout has been developed. The magazine is also focusing more on issues of wider appeal and environmental topics at the top of the world's agenda like climate change and energy, primarily from a Mediterranean perspective. MedWaves provides also a platform for MAP components, partners, and NGOs to present their activities and promote their views on these issues.

In order to optimize the use of the MedWaves as a communication tool, a new publication frequency has been put in place for 2007:

- The printed magazine will be published quarterly, focusing on a thematic issue (MedWaves 57 "climate change"; MedWaves 58 "energy"; MedWaves 59 "15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties")
- A monthly e-newsletter is being published in order to maintain a steadier flow of information and communication with MAP Focal Points and partners.

I.F.3 Website

During the summer 2006 it appeared clearly that the existing website no longer corresponded to the communication needs of MAP. The Coordinating Unit with the support of an external web developer, designed a new MAP website. However, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, during its meeting in October 2006, decided that the website should be developed by INFO/RAC in accordance with the relevant recommendation of the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz in 2005. The task was in fact assigned to INFO/RAC.

Following the Bureau Meeting on 2-3 July 2007 and given the current situation where all websites managed by INFO/RAC including the MAP website have been offline for several weeks, the Coordinating Unit was requested to take all possible action to ensure that a MAP website was online within 4 weeks. On 16 July 2007, the MAP website was again on line.

1.F.4 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention Exhibition

The Coordinating Unit has worked on an exhibition concept to illustrate the work done over the past thirty years and the challenges to come. The exhibition focused on the beauty and richness of the Mediterranean region, acknowledging initially the main threats to the ecosystem.

The exhibition consisted of 8 sections plus a “pollution room” and was built around strong visuals, with short texts. It also integrated videos and sounds, making it an interactive experience for the visitor. A section integrated and displayed materials and data from the RACs. A poster was designed for the occasion together with other publicity material.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of the Greek Foreign Minister and was inaugurated by the MAP Coordinator, Paul Mifsud and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Evripidis Stylianidis in the presence of Yannis Vournas, Director General for the Ministry of Environment. A hundred guests including representatives of Greek Ministries, representatives of the diplomatic corps in Greece, representatives of UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centres, NGOs, and other civil society members also participated.

A video message for MAP’s Anniversary was recorded by UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner and broadcast at the conference.

1.F.5 Publications and Media Events

The Mediterranean Technical Studies (MTS) are now being made available on CD ROMs, with coloursleeves as covers. The full reports are also accessible online, with direct links to specific sections.

Other publications that were produced by the Coordinating Unit included the MED POL brochure on NAPs; it was also available as on CD ROM for distribution during the GPA Conference in Beijing in 2006. The EEA – MAP Joint Work Plan was produced as CD ROM. Moreover, twelve Press Releases were published and three Press Conferences organized.

There was also the organization of a joint event with Clean up the World, HELMEPA and MIO-ECSDE to launch the clean up activities supported by UNEP in the Mediterranean with a press conference in Athens and local clean up activities around Greece. This activity received extensive media coverage.

The Coordinating Unit was the key contact point for media during the Lebanon oil spill crisis in August 2006. Daily conferences in coordination with UNEP Headquarters and other international organizations were held. This incident attracted major international media coverage.

An international press conference for the launching of the Lebanon Plan of Action was organized in Athens by MAP on behalf of UNEP and IMO in Athens, with the participation of the UNEP Executive Director and, the IMO Secretary General, the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, a representative of the EC and a representative from the Lebanon Ministry of Environment.

1.F.6 Sponsorship study

A sponsorship analysis was launched in 2007. The aim of the study is to look at sponsorship options in the private sector for the Coordinating Unit’s publications and public activities.

The study is structured around 3 main aspects:

- what other UN agencies, international organizations and NGOs are doing in terms of sponsoring, both in Greece and abroad;

- analysis of potential partners and their current sponsorship activities;
- identification of MAP activities that could be financed through sponsorships.

Two main activities seem to be possible at present:

- the development of an education kit for schools on the Mediterranean and its environmental issues, with focus on sustainable development
- public awareness activities in Athens, like tree planting or beach cleaning, that would involve the municipalities, schools, NGOs, and private companies as sponsors. This would be a way of bringing people to take positive action to protect their environment.

I.F.7 New MAP identity

In the course of 2006, a new MAP visual identity – including a logo - had been developed, focusing on the Barcelona Convention.

The proposal was presented to the meeting of the Bureau in October 2006. However, the Bureau decided to assign this exercise to INFO/RAC and suggested that the MAP logo should be developed following a Mediterranean-wide competition.

Guidelines and terms of reference were therefore provided by the Coordinating Unit to INFO/RAC.

I.F.8 Picture database

In 2006, the Coordinating Unit started new collecting high-resolution images that could be used in MAP publications, magazines and website. A proper photo database will be developed in the next biennium.

I.G Financial issues and personnel matters

I.G.1 Financial issues

Status of contributions to the MTF related to the Barcelona Convention as at 30 June 2007.

On 30 June 2007, the status of contributions was as follows:

A-Total pledges for 2007: €6,595,844.

B-Total collections during 2007 for 2007 : €4,828,046, representing 73.2 % of total pledges.

C-Total unpaid pledges for prior years : €789,031.

D-Total collections during 2007 for prior years : €346,611, representing 30.5% of the outstanding amount.

Total collections in 2007 (B+D) : €5,174,657, representing 66.9%.

Total outstanding pledges (A+C)-(B+D) : €2,556,828, representing 33.07% of total pledges.

Details of payments and outstanding contributions are found in **Annex II** to this report.

I.G.2 Additional Funds

In-cash voluntary contributions have been received at the Coordinating Unit as follows:

From Italy: Euro 40,000 originally pledged for the Ad-hoc MAP Focal Points Meeting held in Catania, Italy on 7 - 11 November 2006.

From France: Euro 20,000 for the organization of the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Mytilini, Greece, 26 - 28 March 2007.

From EC: For the project on the ecosystem approach (Euro 80,000).

I.G.3 Personnel matters

I.G.3.1 In the Professional Category

- **Post of Deputy Coordinator:** frozen until the next meeting of the Contracting Parties.
- **Post of MED POL Coordinator :** Mr. Francesco Saverio Civili was appointed to this post at D-1 level as of 1 May 2007.
- **Post of Information Officer:** The incumbent, Ms. Luisa Colasimone, (Italian national), reported for duty on 2 May 2006.
- **Post of MED POL Programme Officer:** at P-4 level, was advertised on the Galaxy, following the departure of the incumbent of the post, Ms Colpan Beken last October. The selection process is ongoing.
- **Post of Programme Officer (Sustainable Development):** Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, a Greek national, was appointed to the post at L-4 level as of 2 May 2007.
- **Post of GEF Project Manager:** Mr. Ante Baric retired at the end of June 2006.

A number of vacant posts in the General Service grade were filled and others were re-classified. A list of all the Professional and General Service staff at the Coordinating Unit is found in **Annex IV** to this report.

Consultants:

- Mr Alexander Lascaratatos was hired as GEF Project Manager for the GEF PDF-B project in January 2006. 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 on loan from the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and has worked as regional expert for the GEF PDG-B project from 1 June 2006. Her contract was initially for one year but has now been extended until 31 December 2007.
- Mr Gabriel Gabrielides was hired from 16 November, 2006 until 29 June, 2007 in the MED POL Department to fill temporarily the post of Programme Officer vacated by Ms. Colpan Beken.

II. COMPONENTS

II.A Land-based Pollution (MED POL)

II.A.1 *Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme SAP)*

II.A.1.1 National Action Plans (NAPs)

At the beginning of the 2006-2007 biennium, as a follow up to the countries' preparation and endorsement of NAPs, the Secretariat prepared two synopsis documents: a regional synopsis (ref. Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.289/Inf.4) highlighting the actions which are included in the NAPs, classified by the sectors described in the SAP, and a country by country synopsis (ref. Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.289/Inf.3) listing the planned national actions to be implemented to comply with the SAP commitments. The two documents, presented to a Meeting held in Durres, Albania, on 1-3 June 2006 (see ref. doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 289/4), have been widely used by MED POL to launch the process of monitoring the status of the implementation of the actions described in the NAPs and preparing an assessment document to evaluate the compliance of the NAPs with SAP commitments.

The assessment of the evaluation of the compliance of NAPs to SAP commitments (ref. Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.289/3) has been fundamental for preparing the process for the long-term implementation of NAPs. In fact, the assessment, while highlighting a number of non compliance cases by some countries, gave the Secretariat strong indications of the fact that NAPs could not be fully implemented without the application of a differentiated mechanism needed because of very heavy socioeconomic burdens faced by many countries. This was one of the conclusions presented by the Secretariat at the Durres meeting in June 2006 on the long-term implementation of NAPs. As a result, the meeting established a Working Group to review criteria and measures for the application of a differentiated approach for the implementation of NAPs. The Working Group met in Barcelona in March 2007 to review a document prepared by the Secretariat (ref. Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 307/3) on several possible differentiation criteria to be considered for the development of a comprehensive Mediterranean mechanism. The Group agreed to develop during the next biennium a differentiation mechanism based on Environmental Limit Values (ELVs) and a prioritization process for the substances to be addressed. The Group finally requested the Secretariat to develop a full differentiation mechanism during the next biennium to be submitted to the Contracting Parties for possible adoption in 2009.

Sustainable financing is obviously the most critical issue of the process of implementation of the NAPs. Aware of that, the Secretariat has been actively working with GPA, with the EC in the framework of the EU 2020 initiative for the depollution of the Mediterranean and the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Large ecosystem of the Mediterranean.

MED POL considers the EU 2020 Initiative a dynamic platform that concerned parties should utilize for the implementation of NAPs. In addition, the Secretariat succeeded in increasing the credibility of the NAPs and having them as one of the main sources of information upon which the activities promoted by the initiative could be developed. 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, within the FEMIP program, the European Investment Bank (EIB), assisted by MED POL, is considering whether the priority actions described in the NAPs of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Israel could be funded. Other Mediterranean countries could be supported for the implementation of their NAPs through different European financial instruments. In this context, an initial list of possible projects to be financed was defined by a joint team from MED POL and the EIB. The list will be revised after assessing the status of implementation

of NAPs priority actions in concerned Parties and a short list will be set up. The process of identification of possible actions is expected to be completed by the end of 2007.

Furthermore, MED POL concentrated its efforts in the development of the Strategic Partnership (SP) between MAP, GEF and the World Bank.

The work on setting the basis for a mechanism of transfer of technology and know how to facilitate the implementation of NAPs continued during the 2006-2007 biennium, as it is considered one of the pillars of the long-term implementation of the NAPs. Integrated pollution control with emphasis on cleaner production and its tools was successfully integrated in the framework of Strategic Partnership project activities as part of the replication strategy and as an important element for the implementation of the LBS Protocol. In this context, a close working cooperation with CP/RAC is envisaged.

II.A.1.2 Municipal sewage

Concerning municipal pollution, a number of activities were carried out during the 2006-2007 biennium 2006-2007 to provide assistance and guidance to countries for the implementation of the related activities of their NAPs.

Following the preparation of the Guidelines on sewage treatment, disposal and use, along with those on sludge treatment, disposal and use, the discharge of the treated wastewater in the cases that no further use can be obtained was addressed in a more efficient manner, taking also into consideration the results of the survey of the wastewater treatment plants in the coastal Mediterranean cities carried out in 2000 and 2004. The above studies showed that a considerable number of coastal cities are not discharging their effluents appropriately and consequently the quality of the receiving waters is not compatible with uses such as bathing and shellfish growing areas. Therefore, a document was prepared on appropriate sewage discharge including coastal outfalls (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 4, in cd-rom format).

Since the operation of the wastewater treatment plants is usually the competence of local authorities that do not frequently possess the needed scientific and technical skills, a document on the construction, management and operation of treatment plants was prepared for the use of local administrations. The document is concise, indicative, simple, scientifically based and provides solutions for decision-making purposes. Along with this document, and in order to ensure the effective use of the documents so far prepared and assist in the implementation of the sectoral studies, particularly those of municipal wastewater, a guide was drafted on the efficient application and use of the sewage-related documents (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/ Inf. 4, in cd-rom format).

The preparation of the updated survey of the wastewater treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities in 2004, revealed that only a part of the estimated coastal population is concentrated in cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants. Therefore, in order to assess better not only the needs but also the discharge of untreated wastewater in the Mediterranean, it was considered important to proceed with a survey related to human agglomerates with more than 2,000 inhabitants and less than 10,000. Thus, a regional study was initiated on the assessment of such coastal human agglomerates and their ability to treat efficiently and dispose their effluents. Data and information have so far been received from Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Since data and information from other countries are still missing, it is expected that 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 supported national training courses with lecturing

training material and financial assistance. Due to increased demand, priority was given to the countries where no national courses were ever held before, like Malta and Greece, or where only one national course was held, like Turkey. As for the remaining countries, national training courses will be organized in 2008.

The last assessment of the quality of bathing and shellfish growing waters was carried out in 1996. It was considered that, ten years after, it was appropriate to reevaluate the state of bathing and shellfish growing waters in the Mediterranean countries by conducting a regional survey of the quality of such waters. Therefore, an assessment of the state of microbiological contamination in the Mediterranean Sea was prepared, based on the data provided by countries in the compliance reports (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf.5). The document includes a comparison with the 1996 assessment report, so as to outline the trend in bathing and shellfish growing waters compliance monitoring and to provide a clear picture of the microbiological contamination in the Mediterranean.

In addition, and following the pilot studies on beach profiles, a document on the methodology for developing beach profiles, was prepared to assist countries with the implementation of the proposed legislation (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 6).

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

As a follow up to the regional training course on municipal wastewater treatment plants operation and management held in the past, one national training course on the same subject in Arabic took place in Beirut, Lebanon from 28-30 September 2005. The course was jointly organized by WHO/MED POL and the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and was attended by thirty-four participants from various treatment plants and ministerial officers. The course also included a part on sludge management, following a request from the Lebanese authorities.

II.A.1.3 Coastal Solid Wastes and litter

During the 2006-2007 biennium MED POL concentrated its activities in two fields:

- Concrete application of the MED POL Guidelines on coastal solid waste management in the Mediterranean region, through the implementation of a model Pilot Project for coastal litter management in Lebanon in the metropolitan area of Tripoli in cooperation with RAMOGE. The objectives of the pilot project included the following activities:

- a) improvement of the institutional set up dealing with coastal solid waste management of the municipality of Al Mina (MED POL in cooperation with the Municipality of Al Mina, the municipality committee and the Union of Northern Association for Development (UNADEP) of Lebanon);
- b) improvement of the coordination between stakeholders (MED POL and RAMOGE with the national and local authorities);
- c) provision by MED POL of technological advice concerning the different elements of the management of solid waste in coastal areas;
- d) identification of sources and distribution of solid wastes in the marine environment close to the Palm islands (RAMOGE in cooperation with University students through the use of a specialized GIS system);
- e) promotion of local public participation and awareness of the solid waste management process (RAMOGE and MED POL through an expert provided by RAMOGE).

The project was implemented by UNADEP under the supervision of the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and the MED POL National Coordinator.

As a result of the successful implementation of all the activities of the project, UNADEP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment in Lebanon, MED POL and RAMOGE, organized a national workshop to ensure the replication of the pilot project in other coastal municipalities in Lebanon. Mayors of coastal cities and representatives from relevant public administrations, industry, NGOs and civil society participated in the workshop. In addition, MED POL disseminated through its MAP website all outputs, such as documents, brochures, leaflets which were produced in the framework of the pilot project to be used for the development and implementation of similar projects throughout the region.

- Large awareness campaigns on the issue of coastal litter in the Mediterranean. MED POL, with the financial assistance of UNEP/RS, signed three MoUs with three NGOs, namely, HELMEPA, Clean Up Greece and MIO-ECSDE 1) to undertake awareness campaigns on the coastal litter issue in the Mediterranean and 2) to develop a medium term public awareness and education strategy on management of marine litter in the Mediterranean (see Doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 7).

Brochures and leaflets in French, English, Arabic, Greek, Albanian, Croatian and Turkish were disseminated to the public, fishermen, industrials, tourists, hotels and other stakeholders during several national awareness campaigns organized during 2006 and 2007.

In addition, the three NGOs jointly prepared guidelines entitled "Medium term public awareness and education on management of marine litter" which propose a regional approach on how to raise awareness, appropriately inform on marine litter and implement appropriate policy at national and local levels. The guidelines address all stakeholders and in particular the general public, the maritime industry, the tourism sector, the agricultural sector, regional and national authorities, NGOs and the media.

In addition, with the assistance of a regional expert, MED POL prepared a draft strategic action plan, including targets and time frame for implementation (see Doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 8) for the management of coastal litter in the Mediterranean. The plan, which could be considered as the basis for the preparation of a medium-term work programme by the Secretariat and the national authorities for the development of a multilevel watch dog system of the state of management of coastal litter in the region, a capacity building programme, a regulatory framework and a proposal for the financial improvement of the management of coastal solid waste management system, was formulated on the basis of the current situation related to the major sources of litter in the marine environment and the national institutional and legal setups. The Secretariat considers that the action plan combined with the "Medium term public awareness and education on management of marine litter" would constitute a solid regional action plan/strategy for the reduction of inputs of litter and solid waste into the marine environment from different sources.

II.A.1.4 Air Pollution

In relation to the estimation of emissions of pollutants into the air, the data and information submitted by the countries through the preparation of the Baseline Budgets of emissions and releases showed that most of air releases, in addition to mobile sources, are generated by the energy sector and energy production plants associated with industrial processes. As a result, the Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Portoroz in 2005 recommended MED POL to develop and plan the implementation of initiatives in the energy efficiency and renewable energy fields that could play a major role in pollution reduction and control in the framework of the SAP. As a follow up to the recommendation, MED POL prepared an assessment of the current related practices in Mediterranean countries and a plan for the implementation of specific activities to be carried out during 2008-2009 as well as in the long-term as a support to the implementation of the SAP. In this connection, MED POL will propose specific actions for the coming biennium and seek cooperation and partnerships with competent Institutions and interested stakeholders.

II.A.1.5 Industrial Pollution

Concerning industrial pollution, during 2006-2007 MED POL finalized the database (DB) with the data and information from the **National Baseline Budgets of emissions and releases** which were provided by the countries in the framework of the preparation of the NAPs. The DB is structured in such a way that the data and information are classified by administrative region, sector, sub-sector and process. The DB also includes data and information on wastewater treatment plants. MED POL, in his attempt to ensure high quality data on sources of pollution, actively contacted the national coordinators the national experts to clarify issues related to a number of anomalies, which were detected during the QA/QC process of the data included in the database. This activity was finalized in April 2007 and the Secretariat now believes that the data and information provided by the countries could be considered a solid basis for the development of compliance programmes and future policies related to pollution reduction.

In addition to the above, MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC prepared a **guide for non-European Mediterranean countries for the implementation of a pollution control system based on BATs and BEPs** (see Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 9).

During the 2004-2005 biennium, the document "Assessment, including Guidelines, for the development of national Regulations for releases of pollutants from industrial installations" (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.12) was prepared.

On the basis of the above document, the Ministère de l'aménagement des territoires, de l'eau et de l'environnement of Morocco, with the financial and technical assistance of MED POL, launched a pilot project for **the development of national standards for the quality of releases from the metals industry sector**. The project was based on a bottom up approach starting from an exhaustive analysis of the state of the art of the sector in Morocco, an assessment of the depollution technology available in relation to the environmental receptors, the national socio-economic and technical capacities to manage the related pollution issues and finally a proposal for a set up of ELVs for water and air releases. The proposal was based on a wide national consultation process. It is expected that the Ministry will adopt the proposed ELVs according to national rules and regulations (see Doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 10). The Secretariat considers the approach and methodology followed by the Moroccan authorities for the establishment of national ELVs in different industrial sectors as appropriate and as a model for other countries. To this purpose, the document was placed in the MAP website.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Portoroz in 2005, agreed to include in the MED POL programme of activities for the 2006-2007 biennium the preparation of five **regional plans** as follows:

- the reduction of inputs of nutrients from industrial installations
- the reduction of inputs of mercury
- the management and disposal in an environmentally sound manner of stockpiles of PCBs, obsolete chemicals
- the management of lubricating oils
- the reduction of generation of used batteries

The plans were to be based on the up-to-date information data and included in the recently prepared NDAs, NBBs and NAPs. The process of plan preparation evolved two parallel and closely linked processes, i.e. negotiations for the identification of a differentiation mechanism for pollution reduction and negotiations for the identification of the approach to be used in the formulation of programmes and measures to be included in the future legally binding text called for by Art. 15 of the LBS Protocol, once in force. As a result, and taking into account that the above negotiations were still currently ongoing and in close consultation with the MED POL National Coordinators, the Secretariat felt that the preparation of the

abovementioned regional plans was to be deferred until decisions were made on the overall future regional pollution reduction process policy. In this context, the Secretariat considered that the updating of the adopted Regional Plan for the reduction by 2010 of 50% of BOD from industrial sources, requested by the 14th meeting of the Parties meeting in 2005, on the basis of the proposed differentiation criteria would provide countries with a concrete example of the possible commitments which could be included in the future pollution reduction policy process. As a result, MED POL prepared an updated version of the regional plan for the reduction of BOD taking into account the conclusions of the Working Group meeting on the differentiation approach held in Barcelona in March 2006 for consideration by the MED POL Coordinators (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/5).

II.A.1.6 Destruction of habitats

As a follow up to the work carried out by the Secretariat during the previous biennia on the management of **sea water desalination** that led to the preparation of an assessment, Guidelines and the decision by the Contracting Parties to consider such activities as industrial activities falling under the provisions of the LBS Protocol, MED POL has attempted to disseminate as widely as possible the information available on the environmental risks associated with desalination and on good management practices. As a result, the documents prepared by MED POL were widely distributed and a MED POL staff member participated in the international symposium on sea water desalination organized by the European Association for Desalination (EDS) held in Montpellier 2006 and Greece 2007. Key-note papers were presented related to desalination activities in the Mediterranean and their impacts on the Mediterranean marine environment.

II.A.1.7 Reporting

In the framework of the testing trial of the **MAP reporting system** covering the Convention and all the Protocols for the biennium 2002-2003 and the outputs of the several MAP meetings on reporting, MED POL has been actively involved in the process of preparation of an updated format for the reporting on the implementation of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols.

Considering the importance of the establishment of national **Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)** systems, MED POL continued to provide technical and financial assistance to the countries to facilitate the implementation of pilot projects. In this context, and as result of the successful implementation of Phase I of the pilot project carried out in Egypt, MED POL in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO finalized the programme for the implementation of Phase II of the project to cover all the Mediterranean regional branches of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the industrial partners located in that area. It consists of an online reporting system ensuring remote linkage of the EEAA branches and industrial partners. The system is supported by a database to handle all data and information on the releases and transfer of selected pollutants from the industrial sites.

In addition, MED POL with the assistance of ICS-UNIDO launched in June 2006 a PRTR pilot project in Izmir, Turkey. The project consists in the establishment of an online reporting system between the industrial partners and the Izmir Environmental Directorate, the setting up of a database for the relevant data and information and training in the ICS-UNIDO premises in Trieste, Italy, of two experts in the management and customisation of the overall system. A wrap-up meeting is planned for October 2007 to review the first outputs of the project and agree on a road map to extend the application of PRTR to cover a wider coastal area.

During the biennium, MED POL continued the implementation of the road map adopted by the Contracting Parties included in the concept paper for **Marine Pollution Indicators (MPis)** to be used as tools for national reporting on the effectiveness of the implementation

of the Dumping, Hazardous Wastes and LBS Protocols and the SAP document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/17). In this connection, with the assistance of regional experts, MED POL undertook a region-wide assessment of the capacities and capabilities of the countries to assess the core set of indicators adopted in the framework of the concept paper. The results of the assessment are shown in Doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 11.

In summary, from the testing of the application of the MED POL Marine Pollution Indicators at national level, made by 14 countries, it appeared that countries shared most problems, issues of concern and constraints and consequently most of their suggestions for improvement of MPIs at a national level could be universally applied. Some of the suggestions were general, applying to the whole spectrum of MPIs while others were specific.

The Secretariat will use the above findings for the future development of the MPIs in close connection with the monitoring programmes.

II.A.1.8 Other activities related to the LBS Protocol and the SAP

Regarding **Environmental Inspections** and in particular systems of inspection in the Mediterranean countries, as a follow up to the meeting of the Network on Compliance and Enforcement of legislation held from 4-6 October 2005 in Athens, another meeting of the above Network is scheduled to take place on 24-25 October 2007 in Athens.

In line with the regional training course to "train the trainers" on environmental inspection systems, held during the last biennium, several national training courses were organized by WHO/MED POL and took place during 2006-2007. In this connection, a national training course on environmental inspectors was conducted on 4-6 October 2006 in Nova Gorizia, Slovenia, and was co-organized by WHO/MED POL and the Inspectorate for Environmental and Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Environment of Slovenia. Thirty senior national experts participated from all over the country.

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

Upon request by the Syrian authorities, assistance was provided for the launching of inspections in Syria, through arrangements and technical and financial support by WHO/MED POL. With a view to increasing technical collaboration in the region, a team of Egyptian inspectors travelled to Syria and assisted the Syrian authorities in June 2006.

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. In particular, it was stressed that the development of inspection technical checklists with reference to each one of the industries operating in the country would have been a useful tool. Therefore, appropriate training material was prepared, consisting of guidelines and instructions on how to perform technical inspections to industries along with inspection check lists specific to 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.

Due to the increasing importance of indicators in all aspects of the environmental compliance monitoring programme and their proposed use, a set of indicators for environmental inspections was prepared and it is under testing in three countries (Tunisia, Slovenia, Israel).

Further implementation will be discussed during the meeting of the Network on Compliance and Enforcement scheduled for October 2007.

The implementation of NAPs will require a complex mechanism in order to assess the reduction of pollutants at source. This assessment mechanism is based on three pillars; the authorization of discharge systems or Permit system as the starting point to regulate the reduction of pollutants; the inspection system as the system to control the compliance and the enforcement of the regulations related to the Permit set targets; and compliance monitoring which is directly related to the inspection system as the most important tool to verify the proposed measures for pollution reduction. In order to address the important issue of compliance and enforcement in the region, a proposal was made for inclusion of such an activity in the new GEF Strategic Partnership. As part of the preparation of the Project Brief, an assessment was prepared to provide a thorough picture of the institutional framework of the Regulation and Inspection systems as well as the Compliance monitoring policy. The assessment identified overlaps and gaps and proposed ways and means for every country to strengthen the systems and effectively to enhance capacity building as part of the full scale Project that is expected to commence in 2008. In particular, the following activities were carried out in 2006 with the financial support of GEF:

- Assessment with the assistance of national experts of needs in countries ; and
- Preparation of a programme of action concerning the strengthening of the permit, inspection and compliance systems in the countries.

The new MED POL Phase IV includes **health risks in tourist establishments** as a very important issue to be assessed in the Mediterranean, since tourism is indicated by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development as being of outmost importance for development. Considering the existing link between the human health aspects of tourism and the provisions of the LBS Protocol, it was considered necessary to prepare an assessment of health risks associated with tourist establishments in the Mediterranean region that would provide scientific evidence of the major risks. A meeting of experts was organized from 24-26 April in Athens, in order to identify possible activities to be implemented in the MED POL framework (see ref. doc. EUR/07/5069441/5). The outcome of the Meeting provided clear indications of the activities to be implemented during 2008-2009.

II.A.2 Assessment of pollution

National monitoring agreements were signed with the following countries: Albania (data submitted since 2001), Croatia (data submitted since 2000), Cyprus (data submitted since 1999), Greece (data submitted for 1999 and 2004), Israel (data submitted since 1999), Slovenia (data submitted since 2000), Tunisia (data submitted since 2001) and Turkey (data submitted since 1999).

Agreements for national monitoring programmes have also been signed with Morocco, Algeria and Syria but efforts are still needed to extend the coverage temporally and geographically and to ensure good quality data. Three of the monitoring programmes (Cyprus, Tunisia and Turkey) were revised to extend their coverage and to include pilot eutrophication studies. Eutrophication pilot studies were also implemented in Croatia, Morocco and Slovenia. Egypt signed an agreement in April 2006 for the implementation of a pilot programme on trend monitoring of contaminants.

Based on the recommendations of the 14th Contracting Parties Meeting and the conclusions of the Third Review Meeting of the Monitoring Activities (December, 2005), the countries that had no agreements with MED POL or had gaps in the provision of data were contacted with a request to provide the data and results of their monitoring activities according to MED POL specifications. As a consequence, Italy provided contaminant data for coastal waters, sediments and biota as well as eutrophication data for the 2001-2005 period. France had

already provided contaminant data on biota for the 1996-2003 periods and confirmed that data submission would continue. Monaco provided compliance monitoring reports for bathing waters for the 1996-2005 period and also an inventory of biological effects studies for the period 2000-2005. Spain submitted data for the 2004-2005 period.

The Third Review Meeting of MED POL III Monitoring Activities held on 12-15 December 2005 in Palermo, Italy, had reviewed the overall activities of MED POL Phase III including a detailed analysis of the monitoring data and Data Quality Assurance activities. The implementation and results of each MED POL monitoring component were reviewed and proposals were made for the development of MED POL Phase IV activities. As a result, the MED POL Phase IV operational document discussed by the National Coordinators at their Mytilini meeting (26-28 March 2007) agreed that monitoring would continue retaining all the basic characteristics of Phase III.

As a follow up to the approval by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the MED POL Phase IV programme, work started on the organization of **sub-regional surveys** for the better understanding of the contamination levels of Mediterranean coastal waters. As an initiative was already in progress, it was decided to join hands with the ongoing activities and assist other Mediterranean laboratories to participate. The project MYTILOS, basically funded through INTERREG, covered the western Mediterranean. Cages with mussels are placed in selected stations and the mussels are later analysed for all chemical contaminants (heavy metals and organics). MED POL assisted the participation of Tunisia and Morocco. MED POL participated as a partner in the kick-off meeting (October, 2006) of a new project (MYTIMED) that is basically a continuation of MYTILOS and will cover the North-Eastern Mediterranean. MED POL is assisting the participation of Lebanon and Syria in the 2007 cruise.

The Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory of IAEA-MEL continued to co-operate 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.

As outlined below and described in more detail, the work of IAEA/MEL during the 2006-2007 period focused on training courses in marine analytical chemistry of pollutants, inter-laboratory studies and the provision of expert technical advice through country missions and attendance at meetings.

Two training courses in Monaco were implemented during the later part of 2006 and complete reports of the individual courses have been submitted to MED POL. A training course for the measurement of chlorinated pesticides and PCBs in marine samples was organized from November 6 to 21, with the participation of 5 trainees from 5 countries. Similarly, a training course for the analysis of heavy metals in marine samples was organized from November 27 to December 8, with the participation of 5 trainees from 5 countries.

A report was completed for the inter-laboratory study of sample IAEA-435 (Tuna homogenate) in which 31 laboratories from 14 Member States participated. (*World-wide and regional intercomparison for the determination of organochlorine compounds and petroleum hydrocarbons in tuna homogenate IAEA-435*, Report IAEA/MEL/78, February 2006).

A report was completed for the interlaboratory study of sample IAEA-436 (Tuna homogenate) in which 31 laboratories from 13 Member States participated. (*World-wide Intercomparison Exercise for the determination of trace elements and methylmercury in tuna fish flesh homogenate IAEA-436*, Report IAEA/MEL/77, February 2006).

Two samples of coastal sediments were prepared for interlaboratory study of organic contaminants (IAEA-159) and metals (IAEA-158). IAEA-159 was distributed in July 2006 and

31 laboratories from 13 Member States participated. The deadline for reporting results was extended to the end of March 2007. IAEA-158 was distributed in May 2006 and 30 laboratories from 14 Member States participated. The deadline for reporting results was set for the end of November 2006. The data submitted will be interpreted and two reports will be prepared in the 3rd quarter of 2007.

The expertise of MESL has also been called upon to assist MED POL laboratories in a number of ways during the current biennium. Quality assurance missions were organised for two laboratories in Turkey (Izmir and Erdemli) and sediment and mussel samples were analysed in MESL to support capacity building of the laboratory in Izmir.

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 between 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-tier 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.

The sampling and analysis techniques for the **eutrophication monitoring** of MED POL was published as MAP Technical Series No. 163 and widely distributed.

As a follow up to the agreed MED POL work programme, work started on the preparation of a new updated Eutrophication Assessment Report. Small expert meetings were organised and later the preparation of the report was undertaken by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research. The report is also based on information provided by country experts and National Coordinators through questionnaires circulated by the Secretariat. In February 2007 a workshop was organized which reviewed the first draft of the report. The final draft will be prepared by the end of June 2007, on the basis of the comments provided by the workshop. The workshop also had the opportunity to examine the document on the Eutrophication Monitoring Strategy, which was first presented to the Third Review meeting of monitoring activities, and to make proposals for its improvement.

A draft method of sediment sampling and analysis that had been discussed at the meeting of experts on sediment studies (April, 2005), was also presented and widely commented at the Palermo review meeting. The document is now being improved and once finalized, will provide an important contribution to the revision of the trend monitoring programme

A Meeting was held in Cyprus on 30 September-1 October with MOON and MED GOOS to further establish cooperation with MAP and MED POL for the use of the existing products related to operational oceanography. The available products and data are expected to be utilized by all MAP components.

II.A.3 Information System

During the biennium MED POL launched the development of an information system. A draft MED POL Information System was prepared in collaboration with INFO/RAC and was 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 which would 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 and would be developed to cover all reporting activities for LBS, Dumping and Hazardous waste.
- Data acquisition and drawing
- GIS

The development of the first two modules is almost finalized, an Alpha test for MED POL staff was achieved in 2006 and the Beta test which covers national coordinators and stakeholders is expected to start 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 Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Mytilini in March 2007, the Coordinators appreciated the initiative, the technical specifications and the implementation plan of the System, but considered that there was still a number of data policy issues that remained to be discussed. As a result, the Secretariat, in full cooperation with INFO/RAC, prepared a document related to policy issues inherent to the management of the System which was presented to the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators in Hammamet, Tunisia, 25-28 June 2007 for review and approval (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/6).

II.A.4 Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

Under the provisions of Article 5 of the 1976 Dumping Protocol, national authorities are requested to keep records of the dumping activities by issuing permits and informing the Secretariat accordingly. However, as it was reported on several occasions, since the entry into force of the Protocol, only few countries have regularly reported to the Secretariat on the permits issued.

In this context, considering the relevance that dumping activities have for planning pollution monitoring and control activities, and that the 1995 revised Dumping Protocol is expected to enter into force soon, the Secretariat, on the basis of the assessment of dumping activities for the period of 1995-2001 prepared in 2005 and the outcomes of the regional Workshop held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 15-16 February 2005, 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. Particularly relevant and useful was the information brought by the Nicosia Meeting which reviewed the dumping activities in the Mediterranean countries, including the implementation of the Dumping Guidelines; the Meeting identified national needs and shared information on the state of the art of the management of different types of materials mentioned in Art 4 of the Dumping Protocol.

The national meetings showed that there is a need to deploy greater effort to increase the preparedness of the countries for the implementation of the commitments under the Dumping Protocol of 1995 and more specifically the adopted Guidelines.

In this connection, MED POL agreed with the Secretariat of the London Convention-London Protocol (LC-LP) to organize a joint session 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 was held in Spain, 18-22 June 2007 and

MED POL sponsored the participation of five representatives from Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Israel, Syria and Turkey) which are not Parties to LC-LP. This initiative intends 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, in order to be cost effective in the implementation of this activity, is coordinating its efforts with LC-LP and will make use of the latter's guidelines for Inland waste management.

The Secretariat has also prepared a more complete report on the dumping sites of ammunitions in the region (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/Inf. 12). The report and the attached map are intended for use by maritime authorities, fishermen's associations etc., and will be further updated with the assistance of National Coordinators.

MED POL has been actively involved in the preparation of the reporting system for the Dumping Protocol as part of the MAP reporting System.

II.A.5 Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

As part of its cooperation strategy with the Basel Convention Secretariat, MED POL finalized Phase I of the pilot project to set up national inventories of lubricating oils and assess their impacts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project, jointly coordinated with the Basel Convention regional Office in Bratislava, Slovakia, and the national authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina would be a model for consideration in the future by other Mediterranean countries. The project deliverables were widely disseminated throughout the region and posted on the MAP website. In addition, in March 2007 MED POL launched phase II of the project, which consists in the development of a management plan for lubricating oils in Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on the results of Phase I.

In parallel to the abovementioned project, MED POL is currently negotiating with the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) 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, MED POL 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 fight against them are largely missing.

It is expected that many organizations and institutes, e.g. 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 a 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.

II.A.6 Policy and Coordination

Concerning personnel issues, Ms Colpan Beken, responsible for the monitoring activities, left the MED POL Secretariat on 13 October 2006. The post was advertised on 18 January 2007 and several internal (UNEP staff) and external candidates applied. A short list of candidates was prepared by the Coordinating Unit in cooperation with UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi and a Panel was established. The short-listed candidates were interviewed on 11 June 2007.

While a decision by UNEP Headquarters, on the basis of the recommendations of the Panel, is expected soon, steps were made to cover the post temporarily until it is filled. For this purpose, MED POL recruited Mr. Gabriel P. Gabrielides, an ex- MED POL Programme Officer, to undertake the duties of the post until a new Programme Officer is recruited

As a result of the decision of the Contracting Parties Meeting held in Portoroz in 2005, the post of MED POL Coordinator (P5) was reclassified at the D1 level. The post was advertised on 12 October 2006 and several internal (UNEP staff) and external candidates applied. A short list of candidates was prepared by the Coordinating Unit in cooperation with UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi and a Panel was established. The short-listed candidates were interviewed on 6 December 2006. As a result of the recommendations of the Panel, UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi appointed Mr. Francesco Saverio Civili to the post of MED POL Coordinator, as from 1 May 2007.

In addition to the long-standing **cooperation** with WHO in respect of the activities related to the sanitary aspects of the SAP and the LBS Protocol, compliance and enforcement, work has continued in close cooperation with IAEA/MEL in relation to data quality assurance of chemical analyses through training, intercalibration, scientific visits, purchase of instruments and advice on monitoring issues. Work also continued in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO through their very active involvement in and contribution to the PRTR activities.

Cooperation and exchanges of information were intensified with the Basel Convention and the London Convention/London Protocol Secretariats. A cooperation agreement was signed with the Basel Convention and joint activities were started with the Regional Centres of the Convention in Bratislava and Cairo in the field of hazardous wastes. Exchanges were also ensured regarding the respective reporting systems with a view to harmonizing and simplifying the corresponding national obligations. Data and information were exchanged with the London Convention/London Protocol Secretariat on dumping permits and practices. In addition, a joint session was organized during the 1st Meeting of the scientific group of the London Convention held in Spain, 18-22 June 2007, where MED POL sponsored the participation of five representatives from Mediterranean countries that were not Parties to the Convention.

Concerning cooperation with MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs), MED POL strengthened cooperation with INFO/RAC for the preparation of the MED POL Information System (see below). Close contacts were ensured with CP/RAC in order to prepare complementary programmes of work in relation to the future implementation of the SAP, taking into account the specific roles and experience of the two Centres. Close contacts were also kept with the Blue Plan for the preparation of marine pollution indicators. In the framework of the work carried out by MED POL on behalf of MAP on the application of the ecosystem approach (see below), work was carried out together with all RACs to identify the possible role of each Centre and the implications of the future application of the approach for the respective programmes of work.

Cooperation continued with sub-regional Agreements and in particular with RAMOGE on coastal litter management and the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII) by putting at the disposal of the Adriatic and Ionian countries the experience of MED POL and the results of the activities carried out in their respective area (e.g. monitoring).

Cooperation with MedGOOS was marked by the successful involvement of MED POL in the IASON project. The Project was concluded and the products of IASON were linked to the MAP website. As a follow up, MED POL became a formal member of MOON through a Cooperation Agreement that facilitates the exchange of data and information and synergy in selected projects.

The Agreement with the University of Alessandria (Italy), to promote the use of biomarkers and to ensure good quality data related to biological effects monitoring, was successfully continued through the organization of training and intercalibration exercises. On the same subject, MED POL is following the work of the ICES Working Group on Biological Effects of Contaminants and hopes to initiate common activities with ICES (OSPAR) and HELCOM aiming at harmonization of techniques.

Close contacts were kept with the UNEP Office of the Regional Seas Programme in Nairobi and the UNEP GPA Coordination Office in The Hague for overall guidance and coordination. In particular, the GPA Office kept constant contacts with MED POL and provided support in the framework of SAP implementation.

In the framework of the preparation of the **European Marine Strategy** by the European Union, MED POL has been an active contributor on behalf of MAP to the preparation of the various components of the Strategy, by promoting Mediterranean interests in harmony with EU objectives and principles. While a new related EU Directive has been proposed to EU member states, MED POL believes that its implementation in the Mediterranean region 1) rests in harmony with MAP and MED POL objectives, principles and targets (in particular the SAP and the process that has been initiated for the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities), and 2) could contribute to the improvement of all forms of cooperation among the parties (both EU and non-EU) to achieve the common targets and objectives.

MED POL closely co-operated with the EC in the formulation of the **Horizon 2020 Initiative** which was adopted by the European Ministers in Cairo in December 2006.

In this context, cooperation was strengthened with the European Environment Agency (EEA) in the field of monitoring and assessment and the identification of appropriate indicators. Several meetings were held to discuss the related work of MED POL and the Agency on indicators and data availability to try and find a common approach and strategy for the future work of monitoring and assessment that the Horizon 2020 Initiative will require. In the same context, MED POL has participated in all the Meetings organized by EMMA (the European Marine Monitoring and Assessment) together with all the European Marine Conventions.

Finally, 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 was 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 is brought to the present Meeting for approval. The Operational Document was presented to the Meeting of MAP Focal Point (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/3).

As agreed by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz in 2005, in addition to the Operational Document for MED POL Phase IV, 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 reviewed by the MED POL Coordinators who felt that a number of steps were still to be made 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 were presented to the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators, Hammamet, Tunisia in June 2007, for review (see doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/4 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/5).

II.B Sea-based Pollution (REMPEC)

During the 2006-2007 biennium REMPEC continued to focus on prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. These activities included those agreed upon by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP (DEPI)/MED IG. 16/13) and financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) as well as those carried out by REMPEC within the framework of externally funded projects and programmes. In implementing its activities, the Centre has taken into account the recommendations approved by the last Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the objectives contained in the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, approved by the said Meeting of Contracting Parties.

It should be pointed out that the implementation of the large number of activities, carried out by REMPEC within the framework of its MTF programme of activities and externally funded projects and programmes, would not have been possible without additional contributions of the Contracting Parties and financial provisions of externally funded projects which enabled the reinforcement of the personnel of the Centre.

II.B.1 *Assistance to countries in the field of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution*

II.B.1.1 Contingency Planning

During the current biennium the Centre continued supporting 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 participated in a two-day exercise within the framework of the Sub-Regional Agreement organized by Algeria in June 2006 and assisted in the organization of the Second Meeting of National Operational Authorities that took place in Rabat, Morocco between 23 - 24 January 2007. During the Second Meeting, the level of implementation of the Agreement was reviewed and some joint activities were planned.

On 20 November 2006, REMPEC participated in a National Meeting in Bar, Montenegro. The agenda 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".

II.B.1.2 Training Activities

During the biennium, participants from all the 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 this period, 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 carried out 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).
- A comprehensive programme entitled “Development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships” was prepared in the second half of 2005 in order to assist Montenegro in enhancing its capacities in the fields of prevention of and preparedness for and response to marine pollution. A Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of part of the programme, financed through MTF, was signed at the end of 2005 and its implementation started in 2006. Due to the major political changes that have recently taken place, the implementation of the programme was delayed and the Memorandum was extended.

II.B.1.3 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.

During the period under review, the Centre also took part in an alert and communication exercise organized by the competent national authorities of Morocco (June 2006). Moreover, REMPEC also participated in the following exercises:

- POLLUX 2006 Exercise organised within the framework of the RAMOGE Agreement (France, 16 – 18 May 2006);
- Joint Oil Spill Response Exercise OB SR 2006 organised by the competent national authorities of Algeria within the framework of the South Western Mediterranean Sub-Regional Contingency Plan (Algeria, 20 -21 June 2006).

The Centre was also expected to participate in the RAMOGE 2007 exercise organized by Italy.

II.B.1.4 Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)

The three Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with CEDRE, ICRAM, and FEDERCHIMICA for the participation of these organizations in the MAU have all been renewed for a further period of two years.

For the first time since the M/V “NASSIA” incident in March 1994, the Centre officially activated the MAU following a request received on 6 August 2006 from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, whose southern shoreline was affected by oil slicks. Mr Ezio Amato, an expert from ICRAM, was deployed under the MAU for an assessment mission in Syria between 8 – 11 August 2006.

II.B.1.5 Assistance to countries in case of emergency

Following a request received from the Libyan Authorities, the Director and the Senior Programme Officer (OPRC) visited the GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 7–8 March 2006 to provide technical advice to the competent Libyan Authorities following a spill in the port of Misurata.

During the second half of 2006, the Centre was heavily involved in the response to the marine pollution incident which occurred in the Eastern Mediterranean. In accordance with the provisions of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, in liaison with MAP and in close

co-operation with UNEP, UNEP/OCHA, IMO, UNDP, EC, other partners and the competent national authorities in the region, REMPEC co-ordinated, at the regional level, the exchange of information related to assistance needed and proposed and also provided the Lebanese authorities with expert advice. While immediately providing technical advice and guidance to the Lebanese authorities, REMPEC also co-ordinated the Experts Working Group which prepared the Action Plan approved by the High-Level Co-ordination Meeting jointly organized by IMO and UNEP in Piraeus, Greece, on 17 August 2006 and co-ordinated its implementation at the regional level particularly by monitoring the cleanup operations on site and advising the Lebanese authorities through expert missions.

II.B.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 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regional Strategy"). Moreover, the Centre is also 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.

The Regional Strategy was approved by the Contracting Parties at their 14th Ordinary Meeting. During the same Meeting, the Contracting Parties also adopted the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which refers to the Regional Strategy as a tool to achieve sustainable development with regard to shipping activities in the Mediterranean region.

The Regional Strategy, being a comprehensive and detailed document, will serve as the roadmap for REMPEC's future activities in line with the Centre's objectives, functions and core activities. During the period under review, some tasks of the Regional Strategy have been implemented either through REMPEC's programme of activities or through externally funded projects, most notably, the SAFEMED Project. In order to facilitate the presentation and reporting of the activities carried out in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, in the present document, a reference to the relative Specific Objective of the Regional Strategy is being made next to the title of the activities.

II.B.2.1 Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment (Specific Objective 1 of the Regional Strategy)

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" was aimed at assisting the competent national authorities of Montenegro in the ratification and transposition of relevant international maritime conventions particularly MARPOL and OPRC'90. Likewise, specific training activities carried out in Albania in 2006 were aimed at facilitating the ratification and implementation of the said conventions.

With a view to familiarizing representatives of Mediterranean coastal States with the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (hereinafter referred to as "the Bunkers Convention, 2001") and related international conventions, and to encourage the ratification and implementation of the said convention in the Mediterranean region, the Centre organized, on 5-7 June 2006, within the framework of the SAFEMED Project and of REMPEC's programme of activities for 2006 – 2007, a Regional Training Course on the Bunkers Convention 2001.

II.B.2.2 Ensuring effective maritime administrations (Specific Objective 2 of the Regional Strategy)

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 organization 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) to prepare a Comprehensive Training Programme on Prevention of Pollution from Ships. The objective of preparing this training programme, which was financed from 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 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.

II.B.2.3 Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Port State Control (Specific Objective 3 of the Regional Strategy)

At the invitation of the Turkish Authorities, which were hosting the 8th Committee Meeting of the Mediterranean MoU on Port State Control, one officer of the Centre attended the meeting which took place from 17 – 19 April 2006.

II.B.2.4 Port Reception Facilities (Specific Objective 4 of the Regional Strategy)

Within the framework of Task 3.2 P 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 port reception 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.

A relevant 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 proposing 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 during this biennium initiated the process of coordinating joint action at the regional level, leading to the submission of the required relative document to IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), with a view to giving effect to the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea under Annex V of the MARPOL Convention.

II.B.2.5 *Monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges at sea (Specific Objective 6)*

A pilot project called AESOP (Aerial and Satellite Surveillance of Operational Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea), which was prepared by the Centre in the first half of 2005, was carried out in the Adriatic Sea in 2005 and 2006 together with various partners including ERS/RAC (subsequently renamed INFO/RAC), the Italian Ministry of Environment, the Italian Coast Guard, ICRAM and the European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC). This project had two phases: the first was an assessment of the reliability of information related to operational discharges provided by satellite imagery, which was carried out in the Summer of 2005, and the second, carried out in Summer 2006, which was based on near-real-time intervention as soon as a satellite detection of a possible operational discharge was transmitted to the Command and Control Centre of the Italian Coast Guard.

During the period under review, REMPEC was invited to participate in a project entitled MARCOAST (MARine and COASTal Environmental Information Services) funded by the European Space Agency (ESA). The project is providing operation services in satellite based water quality and oil spill detection and drift forecast services. The envisaged role of the Centre in the MARCOAST project is to co-ordinate the assessment of the reliability of satellite images by transmitting the images to selected Mediterranean coastal States in order to check the accuracy of the detection and take appropriate action.

II.B.2.6 *Improving the level of enforcement and prosecution of offenders (Specific Objective 7)*

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.

II.B.2.7 *Reducing pollution generated by pleasure craft activities (Specific Objective 8)*

Following the approval at 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 on 13 - 15 February 2007. The Meeting, organized jointly with 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 transmission to the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, for approval.

II.B.2.8 *Procedures for the designation of places of refuge (Specific Objective 12)*

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 on 28-30 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.

II.B.2.9 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 Training Course on the Bunkers Convention 2001, Malta, 5 - 7 June 2006 (45 participants from 20 Contracting Parties, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority attended);
- 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, Durres, 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.

II.B.3 SAFEMED Project Activities

A number of the abovementioned activities in the field of prevention of pollution from ships were carried out within the framework of the SAFEMED Project but extended to the Contracting Parties which are not benefiting from the Project. However, within the framework of this project, REMPEC also carried out a number of needs assessment missions, capacity building activities and other activities, which were restricted to the project beneficiaries. This notwithstanding, a number of studies and reports commissioned and prepared within the framework of the SAFEMED Project which were of general interest, were nevertheless disseminated to all Contracting Parties.

II.B.4 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 also carried out an update on the software and the data contained in its incidents database and also disseminated version 2 of the decision support tool MIDSIS TROCS.

II.B.5 Co-operation with other organizations and participation in other fora

During the period under review, the Centre continued to co-operate with a number of specialized national, regional and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations. This cooperation proves very useful particularly when the Centre is requested

to assist in cases of emergency, as was the case in the summer of 2006 when the Centre was co-ordinating the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean.

REMPEC also continued to liaise and co-operate with other regional agreements in order to exchange experiences on the various issues, which are relevant to the mandate of the Centre. This inter-regional cooperation has been also eased by the initiative taken by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to host exchange meetings of the various regional agreements. Moreover, in May 2006, REMPEC actively participated in the IMO/UNEP Forum on Regional Co-operation in Combating Marine Pollution.

The Centre's long-standing close co-operation with the oil industry also continued through *inter alia* its co-operation with the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG). The co-operation with the oil industry enabled the Centre to benefit from the services of a French Junior Programme Officer who was seconded by the French oil company TOTAL SA under the French Government's mechanism known as *Volontariat International Scientifique*. It also resulted in the organization, during the week of REMPEC's 8th Focal Point meeting, of a one-day workshop on cooperation between industry and governments, which was welcomed by all participants.

During the biennium, the Centre participated in a number of important meetings, which are relevant to its objectives and functions. In particular, REMPEC participated in the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and in its OPRC-HNS Technical Group, with a view to preparing itself to disseminate accurate information on the work carried out by the Committee and its Technical Group to the Contracting Parties which are not attending these meetings. The Centre also participated in Meetings of the European Group of Experts on Satellite Monitoring and Assessment of Sea-Based Oil Pollution (EGEMP).

II.B.6 8th REMPEC Focal Points Meeting

The 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points was successfully held in Malta on 7-11 May 2007 (REMPEC/WG.28/13). 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.

II.B.7 Success factors and main challenges

The success factors of REMPEC for the biennium 2006-2007 are closely related to some of the objectives and functions of the Centre namely, strengthening the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean in the fields of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, and assisting the said Mediterranean coastal States, which in cases of emergency so request, in obtaining assistance. With regard to the former, during the period under review, REMPEC has achieved a high implementation rate of the planned activities and has also successfully initiated the implementation of the EU-funded SAFEMED Project. As regards assistance to countries in cases of emergency, the Centre has proved to be a valuable tool in helping the affected countries to deal with the spill, which occurred in the Eastern Mediterranean during the summer of 2006.

The main challenge faced by the Centre regarding its activities remains their sustainability, which can only be achieved through the implementation at the national level of the international rules and regulations aimed at preventing and combating marine pollution from ships. As regards the functioning of the Centre, the SAFEMED Project has demonstrated the benefit of additional human resources dedicated to the implementation of project tasks. However, one challenge of the Centre is the financing of the required permanent staff which needs to be increased to sustain the ever increasing number of activities carried out by REMPEC, as outlined in the Regional Strategy.

II.C Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)

Industry is one of the main driving forces of the economic development of Mediterranean countries, while still a major source of land-based pollution of the region, especially as far as the hazardous nature and persistence of pollutant emissions are concerned. Therefore, the control and progressive reduction of the environmental impacts associated with industrial activities is a primary objective to be achieved in the process towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Aware of that, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean welcomed in 1996 a proposal from the Spanish Government to designate a Regional Activity Centre to work on the promotion and dissemination of Cleaner Production (CP) in the industrial sector of the Mediterranean countries.

Since then, the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) has developed this task within the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), based on the Land-Based Sources Protocol (LBS Protocol) and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol as the framework for its mission. Activities have included the preparation of technical material on CP and other pollution prevention alternatives in the main industrial sectors of Mediterranean countries, the development of plans and guidelines facilitating the application of those alternatives, the organization of training activities and technical support to countries in the creation of CP centres.

CP/RAC has launched a process for reviewing and adapting the Centre's mandate and operational rules, pursuant to the requirements of the principal Mediterranean and International frameworks for Sustainable Development. The process is based on the recognition CP/RAC has received from both Mediterranean institutions and experts during its 10 years of experience. It will conclude by the end of 2007 in time for the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to be held in Almeria (Spain).

II.C.1 *Publication of Sectoral studies on Sustainable Production*

II.C.1.1 Pollution Prevention in the Structural Ceramics Sector

CP/RAC prepared and published during 2006 a study on *Pollution Prevention in the Structural Ceramics Sector* with the aim of improving the environmental behaviour of ceramic companies in the Mediterranean. The study was published in French, English and Spanish (paper form), and also on CD-ROM with a summary brochure. The document provides an overview of the economic situation of the construction industry and the structural ceramics industry in the different countries of the Mediterranean region, describing the different production processes involved in manufacturing structural ceramics and indicating the technologies applied and resulting environmental aspects and impacts.

The study was presented to the Catalonian Structural Ceramics Association's members at the Technical University of Catalonia in the framework of an advanced hazardous waste management workshop also organized by CP/RAC, which will be referred to below.

II.C.1.2 Pollution Prevention in the Meat Processing Industry in the Mediterranean Region

CP/RAC prepared a study on Pollution Prevention in the Meat Processing Industry in the Mediterranean Region during 2006, with the aim of conducting further activities in the sector.

The study was conceived to be of benefit not only to Bosnia and Herzegovina, but all Mediterranean countries. It presents the state of the sector in the Mediterranean countries,

including consumption and production data, legal framework, hygienic and environmental conditions. Furthermore, it describes the production processes taking into account religious specificities (kosher and halal processes). It also presents the environmental impact generated by the meat processing industry and the pollution prevention opportunities available to the sector, while taking into account the characteristics and particularities of the sector in the countries of the Mediterranean basin.

The study was published in English, French and Spanish and also on CD-ROM with a summary brochure, in the same languages.

II.C.1.3 *Review of BATs and BEPs for the Hazardous Waste Treatment Sector in the Mediterranean Region*

In the *Plan for the Reduction by 20% by 2010 of the Generation of Hazardous Wastes from Industrial Installations for the Mediterranean Region* prepared by CP/RAC and adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2003, as part of the implementation of the SAP, the hazardous waste management sector appeared as one of the main industrial sectors generating hazardous waste in the Mediterranean Region. In fact it was among the 5 top generator sectors.

In order to assist the Mediterranean countries in the implementation of the Plan, CP/RAC carried out a review of the existing Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) used in the hazardous waste treatment sector and, taking into consideration specific Mediterranean concerns, the Centre published a manual with BATs and BEPs for the Mediterranean hazardous waste treatment sector. The manual is available in English, French and Spanish.

As support material for the dissemination of the report, a brochure with a CD-ROM has also been published based on the report; it provides specific considerations on the BATs and BEPs related with the different types of hazardous waste management. The brochure is available in English, French and Spanish.

II.C.1.4 *Good Housekeeping Practices in Hotels*

A manual on *Good Housekeeping Practices in Hotels* was developed, published and disseminated among the Mediterranean countries. CP/RAC broadened its field of action by carrying out activities in the services sector, and dealing with the tourism sector for the first time.

The study and the manual were an element in a wider context: the constant desire on the part of the Mediterranean countries to reduce the environmental impact caused by tourism, above all in coastal areas and the idea of promoting sustainable tourism. The guide furthers the goal of working towards the promotion of sustainable tourism of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

The strategy developed in the manual proposes three areas of action related to tourism: reducing the adverse territorial and environmental impacts, promoting the provision of sustainable installations and the increase of added value from tourism received by local communities, and improving legislation for sustainable tourist activities.

The guideline was presented in CD format with an interactive application which allows companies to print personalized posters, stickers and leaflets in order to spread good practices among consumers and staff.

II.C.1.5 Good Housekeeping Practices in Offices

CP/RAC published a manual on *Good Housekeeping Practices in Offices* and subsequently disseminated it in all Mediterranean countries with the aim to assisting them to use eco-efficiency for the minimization of energy use and material consumption in offices.

The manual is divided into three main parts: firstly the strategy to implement Good housekeeping practices in offices is presented, secondly the most important good housekeeping practices for administrative tasks are described, grouped into six categories: efficiency in the use of water, paper and energy, suitable maintenance, waste management and clearing. Finally the indicators to achieve the main goal are established.

To assure the dissemination strategies a printed format, a CD, a leaflet and a brochure were prepared as well.

II.C.2 Support material

II.C.2.1 Best Environmental practices in SMEs

This activity consisted in the preparation of an Interactive CD for the correct and customized application of communication on *Best Environmental Practices in the SMEs*. The realization of this material will assist enterprises in developing suitable leaflets, brochures and stickers to promote the application of good housekeeping practices in their companies.

II.C.2.2 Good Housekeeping Practices in Hotels

The guideline *Good Housekeeping Practices in Hotels* was presented in CD format with an interactive application which allows companies to print personalized posters, stickers and leaflets in order to spread good practices among consumers and staff.

II.C.3 Study on Sustainable Consumption in the Mediterranean

CP/RAC has prepared a background report and will prepare a second report on Sustainable Consumption (SC) in the Mediterranean. The background report was prepared during 2006 and addresses such key issues as: what sustainable consumption actually is, main international initiatives at the institutional level, key actors, the gap characterising the Mediterranean Region and what can be done within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan. This report will be published in English, French and Spanish in 2007.

The second report mentioned above will be developed during the second half of 2007 and will assess the main initiatives under development by local agencies, consumer associations, NGOs and other actors of civil society. Here the objective is to promote change towards sustainable consumption and environmentally-sound lifestyles.

II.C.4 Training activities

II.C.4.1 Regional workshop on hazardous waste

CP/RAC organized a one-week international seminar on industrial hazardous waste management with the Technical University of Catalonia. The seminar was held on 2-6 October 2006 in Barcelona with the participation of 19 representatives from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, the Palestinian Territories, Serbia and Tunisia. The seminar was organized in partnership with both the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) -within the framework of the AZAHAR programme-, and the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD).

The seminar was divided into five thematic sections related to the Mediterranean context: priorities and action framework; key concepts in pollution prevention; main productive processes generating hazardous wastes and the alternatives to deal with them. Moreover, technical visits to different Catalan facilities managing hazardous waste were carried out. One of the most interesting sessions was a roundtable with a number of Catalan enterprises which had experience in waste minimization and management.

II.C.4.2 Tanning industry

This project is based on a Moroccan proposal and aims at disseminating best environmental practices (BEPs) in the tanning sector through a series of seminars. The initiative was launched in 2005 with the preparation and presentation of the manual entitled *Pollution Prevention Opportunities in the Tanning Sector Industry within the Mediterranean Region* compiled by the CP/RAC. The success of the initiative prompted the Centre to adapt it to the situation in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Turkey, Greece and Egypt. As a result, the following seminars on the application of BEPs in the tanning sector were held in 2006:

- Thessalonica, Greece, 31 October;
- Cairo, Egypt (within the framework of the collaboration between CP/RAC and UNESCO-UNEP for the organization of a National Workshop on BATs and BEPs for the textile Industry and municipal waste water management), 10-15 December.

II.C.4.3 Sustainable Tourism Workshop

CP/RAC co-organized for the first time a workshop with Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and local authorities in the field of Tourism. The event took place on 28-30 of November 2006 in Al Bayda, Libya.

The *Sustainable Tourism Workshop* aimed at building a platform upon which all tourism related authorities at local, national, and regional levels could develop sustainable activities in the Libya tourism sector.

CP/RAC presented its guide on good housekeeping practices in hotels as part of the centre's initiative to involve itself in the services sector and share its experience.

II.C.4.4 National workshop on ecological management in hotels

Morocco extended an invitation to CP/RAC to participate in its first national seminar on ecological management in the hotel industry, requesting that it share its experience in the environmental management of hotels. The meeting was held on 10 January 2007 in Marrakech (Morocco) and was organized by the Moroccan Ministry of Tourism, Handicraft and Social Economy, the Ministry of Territorial Development, Water and Environment (MATEE) and the National Federation of the Hotel Industry (FNIH).

At this meeting CP/RAC presented the manual entitled *Good Housekeeping Practices in Hotels* compiled by the Centre in conjunction with the Department of the Environment and Housing of Catalonia and the Catalonian hotel sector. Discussions focused on the background of the project, the process by which relevant players became involved and how a methodology applicable to the sector was obtained once having carried out a pilot test at several hotels in Catalonia.

II.C.4.5 Cleaner Production in the Ceramics Industry

Furthermore, CP/RAC organized in Casablanca, on 4 December 2006, a Moroccan workshop entitled "National Workshop on Cleaner Production in the Ceramics Industry". The

workshop was organized in close collaboration with the leading bodies and organizations in the country. These included Morocco's Ministry of Territorial Development, Water and Environment (MATEE), which is drafting new legislation and studying the question of constructing sustainable buildings; the Centre for Construction Technology and Materials (CETEMCO), the industry's specific technology centre and the Moroccan Centre for Cleaner Production (CMPP), which is in direct contact with companies in the industry. Furthermore, the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME) publicized the event.

The workshop was held in French and was structured in three thematic sections:

- Pollution Prevention Techniques in the Ceramics Sector, during which CP/RAC presented its study Pollution Prevention in the Structural Ceramics Sector.
- Support Tools relating to Questions of Emissions in the Industry, during which industrialists were informed about the available aid for projects to minimize the impact on the environment, and the requirements and procedures for applying for such aid.
- Role of the Ceramics Industry in Eco-construction, during which the Catalan experience was explained and discussions were held on energy efficiency in the construction industry.

This workshop, which had significant media coverage owing to the importance of the sector for Morocco, was attended by approximately 40 representatives of ministries, industrialists and experts in the topic addressed.

II.C.4.6 Arab Regional Workshop on the Sound Management of Used Oils and the Management of Wastes from the Oil/gas Sectors

CP/RAC attended the *Arab Regional Workshop on the Sound Management of Used Oils and the Management of Wastes from the Oil/gas Sectors* that was held on 11-13 December 2006 in Aden, Yemen. The workshop discussed all aspects related to these industrial activities as for instance the problems stemming from the production of used oil.

The Centre presented the manual *Possibilities for the recycling and reuse of used oils* with the purpose of showing the main processes and technologies that enable the use and management of both used mineral oils from industry and vegetable oils from catering companies and restaurants. Out of the 22 countries invited, 9 participated in this regional workshop: Qatar, Egypt, Bahrain, Syria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Yemen, Arab Emirates and Spain.

II.C.5 Publicity

II.C.5.1 CP News bulletin

CP News has always been an effective tool for the dissemination of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and CP/RAC activities carried out in the Mediterranean countries for pollution prevention and Cleaner Production (CP) promotion among the interested parties. In the period covered by this progress report, numbers 23 and 24 of the CP News Bulletin were published.

II.C.5.2 Med Clean

Med Clean are case studies showing real examples of enterprises in the Mediterranean region that have carried out Cleaner Production initiatives, showing their feasibility through balance between economic and environmental aspects. Actions implemented may consist of changes and modifications to processes or specific stages of a process, such as, production, storage, cleaning or transport; changes or elimination of raw materials. Other actions are the

implementation of good housekeeping practices, the use of new technologies, aimed at saving resources, avoiding the generation of waste and emissions, saving costs, etc. and incorporating criteria of eco-efficiency and sustainability and also those that bring about modifications of the product. In the period covered by this report, numbers 85 to 92 were published

II.C.5.3 CP/RAC Annual Technical Publication – Mediterranean Enterprises and Sustainability

The sixth issue of *CP/RAC Annual technical Publication – Mediterranean Enterprises and Sustainability* presents a different format from previous numbers. The new issue presents a more dynamic approach and gives emphasis to new elements. The different format consists in presenting a monograph on an issue of outstanding relevance. This issue is covered from different angles: technical articles, opinion articles and specific case studies. On the 6th issue of the magazine, the topic presented in depth is sound chemicals management, focusing particularly on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The Centre has already worked in both areas and is taking a step further in covering chemicals management in the near future, especially in terms of persistent organic pollutants.

As in previous issues of the publication, contributions from CP/RAC National Focal Points have been of vital importance in order to make this magazine possible. Specifically, for the section dealing with innovation and experiences related to cleaner production, implemented by businesses in the Mediterranean countries which was already covered in previous numbers of the publication, has now been approached differently. It has been structured in five areas: innovation to preserve, sustainable cases in the Mediterranean countries, new policies and legislation, cleaner technologies for the future, and references to relevant books and articles in the field of cleaner production and the topics addressed.

During 2007 a new number of *CP/RAC Annual technical Publication – Mediterranean Enterprises and Sustainability* has been prepared.

II.C.6 Third Euro-Mediterranean sustainable development forum: ECO-MEDA forum 2007

CP/RAC organised the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Development Forum: (ECO-MEDA FORUM 2007) with the collaboration of the Fira de Barcelona (Ecocity Exhibition), the Fundació Fòrum Ambiental, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of Barcelona and the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME). The Forum was held on 27-28 February 2007 in the city of Barcelona (Spain).

The Third Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Development Forum followed in the wake of the two previous fora which brought together international stakeholders, representatives of the public and private sector, international organizations, experts and businessmen of the Euro-Mediterranean region in the field of sustainable development; a total of over 500 businesses and institutions; more than 300 meetings were held.

At ECO-MEDA, with the invaluable presence of Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinator Mr Paul Mifsud and the Director General for Environmental Quality of the Spanish Ministry of the Environment, new and interesting subjects relating to sustainable development were debated such as the 2020 vision to strengthen the alliance between businesses and cities (main actors of the new environmental policies), analysis of alternative energies, climate change, solutions to reduce CO₂ emissions and the new challenges posed by water shortages. Moreover, this forum highlighted the economic advantages and business opportunities for the enterprises adopting sustainable management policies.

II.C.7 6th meeting of CP/RAC National Focal Points

The sixth meeting of the National Focal Points of CP/RAC was held in Barcelona on 27-28 February 2007 within the framework of the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Forum for sustainable development ECO-MEDA 2007. This event marked the commencement of exchanges between the Government representatives of the 21 Mediterranean countries, United Nations and European Union representatives, field professionals and expert mediators from CP/RAC stationed throughout the Mediterranean.

Specific topics addressed were sustainable consumption and production as well as sound chemicals management

Meeting activities included:

1. Review of the activities and projects undertaken by CP/RAC in 2006;
2. Discussion focusing on a list of previously selected issues covering several interesting environmental elements within the framework of the Mediterranean.
3. Presentation of activities envisaged for 2007.
4. Discussion regarding the mission of CP/RAC.
5. Compilation of a draft list of sustainable consumption and sustainable production activities, on the one hand, management of chemical products on the other, to be carried out during 2008-2009.

II.C.8 Sustainable consumption. Concepts and public policies in the Mediterranean

The study conducted by CP/RAC, addressing the key concepts and theories of sustainable consumption, as well as the different initiatives implemented by means of conventions and through international and Mediterranean organizations, was presented to different consumer associations, public institutions, universities, cooperatives and other actors of civil society on 12 of April 2007.

The presentation marked the starting point for the development of future CP/RAC activities having regard to sustainable consumption; it also launched an ongoing dialogue with an overarching objective: to disseminate information more effectively regarding products consumed and to spark the development of thought-provoking mechanisms on the part of public institutions. In this connection, it became apparent that it is fundamental to establish close collaboration with civil society organizations working on the development of sustainable consumption models.

II.C.9 Leaflet addressing consumption and production patterns within the Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development

CP/RAC prepared a leaflet in which the Centre presented its mandate as a component of MAP to promote SCP (Sustainable Consumption and Production) in the Mediterranean and the lines of action of the corresponding Work Programme established by the Centre. The leaflet was first presented to the participants of the 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) and was later distributed to other actors involved in SCP.

II.D Conservation of Biodiversity (SPA/RAC)

II.D.1 *Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)*

The SAP BIO Advisory Committee was re-launched with two meetings, held respectively in April 2006 and March 2007. The second Meeting agreed on i) the preparation of a synopsis to the Parties regarding the status of SAP BIO implementation and planned actions by the committee member organizations and ii) the development of an operational plan to facilitate the implementation of SAP BIO for the future.

A meeting of SAP BIO National Correspondents was organised to inform, discuss and get inputs on the actions being carried out with regard to SAP BIO (Spain, May 2006). This meeting defined and provisionally adopted the Proposed Mandate for the National Correspondents during the implementation phase of SAP BIO.

Several Parties were supported to start implementation of some of their NAPs including:

- a seal and turtle survey in the coastal area of Albania
- a seal survey in the west coast of Algeria;
- a support to Libya aiming at implementing NAPs on birds and turtles, identifying sites of conservation interest and setting up a programme for establishing a representative network of marine protected areas (MPAs).

To facilitate the development of implementation arrangements and partnerships, an assessment of financial sources and networking partners for coastal-marine protected areas in the Mediterranean was made. Another assessment was undertaken on Mediterranean countries' needs for legal, policy and institutional reforms to strengthen the management of existing MPAs.

The preparation through a project PDF-B of a full sized GEF project proposal regarding biodiversity by SPA/RAC, together with its partners, FAO and WWF MedPO, for the "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem" was finalised. The proposal focused on marine protected areas, fisheries resources preservation and legal reforms needed. The final biodiversity document was merged by MAP with the components by other members of the Strategic Partnership and revised (September 2006). The December 2006 GEF Council did consider the Mediterranean Strategic Partnership Proposal. It was postponed for evaluation by June 2007 Council. The final set of documents merging further comments was officially submitted (April 2007) to the GEF Secretariat and accepted in June 2007, but without financial support for the biodiversity part. Action by MAP to secure external funding before May 2007 for this regional SAP BIO project was urgently addressed by SPA/RAC, after consultation with the GEF project manager at the Coordinating Unit.

II.D.2 *Development of Specially Protected Areas*

The list of SPAs, submitted to the SPA/RAC by the focal points, has been updated. According to the data provided, there are now more than 580 SPAs. These represent an important increase compared to the 123 sites notified at the end of 1995 (SPA/RAC, 1997). However, account should be taken of the strong heterogeneity of the structures referred to under "Specially Protected Areas" by the different states, because of the possibility of duplications insofar as the same geographical surface can be quoted more than once in a different way each time. A database is being developed to enable regular easy updating of such information in the future. Nevertheless it is important to stress that the reliability of this database will depend on the cooperation of the national Focal points to check and update the

data. A transversal Workshop on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) jointly organized with FAO-GFCM was held in Tunisia (May 2007). The meeting recognized the lack of Mediterranean habitats in MPAs and underlined the lack of up to date information concerning both MPA management and the effectiveness of the implementation of the management plans already established. The meeting proposed recommendations to the SCME, including :

- To use the IUCN definition of MPAs, as a reference to elaborate GFCM criteria to establish fisheries MPAs.
- To consider the SPA/RAC habitat reference list and amend it to make it more relevant to fisheries in the selection of sites to be declared as MPAs.
- To propose the creation of a common database on MPAs using standard terminology.

In the context of assistance to countries in selecting, establishing and managing Specially Protected Areas, two main activities were carried out:

- Identifying sites of conservation interest along the Libyan coast and preparing, in close collaboration with the Libyan Environmental General Authority, a programme aimed at setting up in the medium term a representative network of MPAs. As a result of a field prospection assignment (June 2006), the process started with two sites being proposed – Farwa Lagoon and Gara Island.
- Defining a national plan for the creation of protected areas along the Syrian coast. As a result of the MedMPA project, the Syrian Government asked SPA/RAC to assist them in organising a national consultative workshop aimed at presenting this project at national level.

The network of managers of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean Sea (MedPAN) was revived in January 2005 (up to late 2007) thanks to Community funding (INTERREG IIIC). SPA/RAC 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 organizing a First Congress of the Network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas, to take place in Porquerolles, France, in October 2007.

The objective of further enhancing the presence of high sea zones in the Network is pursued through collaboration with ACCOBAMS on establishing some protected areas on the high seas. Furthermore, contacts were initiated with DG ENV D2 of the EC, dealing with Water and Marine Environment, to pursue support for MAP for the creation of High Seas Protected Areas, including the identification of priority locations.

In the context of the partnership with ACCOBAMS, SPA/RAC prepared draft guidelines on creating and managing Marine Protected Areas (MPA) for cetaceans. The document was prepared from reflections initiated by ACCOBAMS as part of its work programme on MPA, as presented at the 4th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (Monaco, November 2006). This includes criteria for selecting SPAs, a special form for proposing such areas drawn up by using the annotated form for inclusion on the SPAMI List, and a set of information items on sites containing habitats that are important for cetaceans in the zone of the ACCOBAMS Agreement.

The monitoring and management of important coastal and marine protected areas for birds are indispensable for ensuring the long-term conservation of these bird species. In addition, one of the main actions to achieve the objectives of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol is the elaboration of a set of guidelines for

monitoring the populations of these species and for developing management plans for the coastal areas where they breed. In this regard, SPA/RAC has elaborated the following two sets of guidelines:

- Guidelines for a management plan for coastal and marine areas important to birds (nesting, moulting, breeding, feeding, wintering); and
- Guidelines for monitoring threatened populations of marine and coastal bird species in the Mediterranean.

The SPA/RAC, in collaboration with the University of Alicante and IECOMED, organised a Study and Information Day on Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) (May 2006). The main objectives were the exchange of information and experiences about SPAMIs in the different countries and the possible ways of promoting and enhancing the SPAMI Network.

Participants have:

- underlined the importance of ratifying the Protocol; therefore, it is crucial that the Contracting Parties that still have not ratified the Protocol do so, as soon as possible.
- suggested enhancing the SPAMI Network, specifically in the central and eastern Mediterranean, focusing on the area protected by the GFCM. Representatives from Cyprus and Syria expressed their willingness to designate promptly new national SPAMIs.

To continue the reflection on assessing SPAMIs, started during the previous biennium, SPA/RAC 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 allow the relevance of the selected criteria and the robustness of the assessment to be judged in the light of the results. IUCN made a series of recommendations including: reviewing and clarifying the criteria and obligations relating to the SPAMI sites; harmonising the criteria set out in the form with Annex I to the Protocol and refining them through the inclusion of a series of questions and finally defining and clarifying the main objectives of the exercise.

Based on the recommendations and conclusions of the document prepared by IUCN, a procedure and a format for evaluating SPAMIs have been agreed by the Focal Points and will be submitted to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties.

II.D.3 Implementation of Action Plans for the Conservation of Threatened or Endangered Species

II.D.3.1 Action Plan for managing the Mediterranean monk seal

SPA/RAC's efforts focused on improving knowledge on the status of the species, training national partners, public awareness and identifying of potentially critical habitats in low-density areas.

The potentially critical habitats concerned:

- The Albanian coastline, where an assignment was carried out in November 2005, by MEDASSET in collaboration with the national government. This action fell within the context of the National Action Plan (SAP BIO) for declaring a marine national park in the Karaburuni area;
- The eastern coastline of Libya;

- An assignment was carried out, with EGA and ICRAM in May 2006. The aim, apart from prospecting marine caves in the sector, was to gather information on recent observations (from 2002 onwards) and enhance national skills in order to enable monitoring actions to be set up;
- The Akamas region in Cyprus, with habitat inventorying and population monitoring activities;
- The western coastline of Algeria: an assignment was carried out in summer 2006 in collaboration with national experts (Oran University). During the assignment the presence of monk seals in the area was confirmed, thanks to surveys by fishermen and the hunting of a young seal in distress. A wide awareness campaign was carried out at the same time. A plan was suggested for conserving and managing sites identified as critical for the monk seal in the sector being explored.

Furthermore, SPA/RAC organized an international conference in Turkey (September 2006) on the Conservation of the Monk Seal. This was done in collaboration with the Bonn and Bern Conventions, the Turkish Government, the Principality of Monaco, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and a Turkish NGO (SAD-AFAG). The aim was to promote information on successful examples of monk seal protection and to share experience acquired in monk seal conservation with all the concerned parties and partners. Several dozen participants from the Mediterranean region and elsewhere took part in the Conference.

II.D.3.2 Implementing the Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles

SPA/RAC's activities focused on the following: (i) assistance for a reduction of mortality; (ii) improving scientific knowledge on certain aspects of marine turtle ecology, in particular nesting activities; (iii) circulating information and exchanging experiences by organising training courses and publishing technical documents; (iv) organising scientific meetings.

The rapid assessment survey of important marine turtle habitats in the coastal area of Albania was undertaken by MEDASSET in collaboration with the national authorities (November 2005).

In accordance with the recommendations of the Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, SPA/RAC supported programmes to monitor the nesting of marine turtles in several sites:

- In Libya, by setting up a long-term monitoring programme. Two monitoring campaigns were carried out on the Libyan coastline. The results of these were presented at a national workshop and the 26th International Symposium on Marine Turtles (Crete, Greece, April 2006). They show that the Libyan coast could shelter the biggest nesting population of *Caretta caretta* in the Mediterranean;
- In Lebanon, in the El Mansoury, Abbasieh and Palms Marine Reserve sites, in collaboration with MEDASSET and the Lebanese Ministry of the Environment;
- In Tunisia, in the Kuriat Islands.

SPA/RAC also supported a programme of monitoring the migration of marine turtles by satellite transmitter in collaboration with the Naples Zoological Station (March 2005). Five turtles were released, three of them fitted with satellite tags. Unfortunately, these were dysfunctional and so only a few positions were recorded; the signals stopped in January 2006.

In order to address key points for the conservation of these reptiles, SPA/RAC supported genetics-related research by the University of Barcelona. The final results show that the nesting rookeries in the eastern Mediterranean should be preserved to keep the integrity of the present Mediterranean metapopulation; this is particularly critical for the populations of Crete and Cyprus, which form the link between the Levantine and Ionian rookeries.

SPA/RAC helped organize the 26th Annual Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Marine Turtles and its first meeting in the Mediterranean (Crete, April 2006). 41 Mediterranean participants benefited from this support.

SPA/RAC assessed the Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles, and started updating it. To this end, an *ad hoc* group met (November 2006) in Libya, with the financial and logistical help of the Libyan Government. The draft updated Action Plan has been presented to the Focal Points meeting. Merely protecting nesting sites may not be enough to save these populations, if they suffer excessive exploitation or sizeable mortality outside the nesting sites; moreover, it is necessary to improve knowledge on the distribution of marine turtle populations at sea. Also, to tackle this problem more effectively, a specific provision is presented in the new Action Plan.

II.D.3.3 *Implementing the Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea*

The following actions were carried out in close collaboration with ACCOBAMS:

- A scientific seminar on cetaceans in the countries of the southern Mediterranean (March 2006) in Tunisia, in collaboration with the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies and the Higher Institute of Fishing and Aquaculture. This seminar enabled stock taking of the state of knowledge on cetaceans in the region and the requirements of countries for implementing conservation measures and assessing the interactions of these animals with fishing activities;
- Updating of the directory of organisations and experts dealing with marine mammal species in the ACCOBAMS area;
- Circulating a questionnaire on fishing-cetacean interaction the results of which were presented at a joint ACCOBAMS-CGPM workshop on accidental catch, in Italy (September 2006);
- Publication of an educational kit on cetaceans.

SPA/RAC also contributed to the 4th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (Monaco, November 2006). On this occasion, two reports were presented:

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

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

SPA/RAC kept up its support for the project on the dolphin community in the 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.

II.D.3.4 Implementing the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea

To help countries more effectively to carry out their commitments under the updated programme to implement the Action Plan, SPA/RAC elaborated a Project to develop inventorying, mapping and monitoring the *Posidonia* meadows in four Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Turkey (the Med*Posidonia* Project). This project, 60% co-funded by the Total Enterprise Foundation for Biodiversity and the Sea (the Foundation), was validated by Total's Board of Directors in late December 2005. Intended to run for three years (2006-2008), it aims to:

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

In mid-2006, a sponsorship agreement was prepared and signed (October 2006). Operational planning was designed and a coordinating and validating meeting was held (March 2007) in Marseilles.

The Third Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation was held (March 2007) in Marseilles. This Symposium, organised with the PACA Regional Council and the Seagrass 2000 Association, attracted 120 participants from 17 Mediterranean countries. The Symposium offered an opportunity to the Mediterranean scientific community to evaluate the results obtained as part of the Interreg III B "POSIDONIA" Programme: This programme was realized by IFREMER, in collaboration with ARPAL, the PACA Regional Council, the ENEA and the Universities of Corsica and Barcelona. SPA/RAC was also actively involved in this project as an international partner.

Following up on a request made by the Libyan Government, a Memorandum was signed by SPA/RAC and the EGA to carry out study assignments in two coastal lagoons. This activity rounds off and enhances the efforts made by the EGA to declare marine and coastal protected sites on the Libyan coast. A team of national and international experts was sent to the spot (May 2006). The results of their prospections enabled an ecomorphosis of *Posidonia* macro-atolls to be discovered and described for the first time ever in the Mediterranean, in Ain Al-Ghazala Lagoon.

II.D.3.5 Implementing the Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea

Protocols (standard forms) for: (i) monitoring commercial landings and discards by species and (ii) recording data on rarely observed, endangered and protected species were prepared by SPA/RAC to activate standardization in the region. They were subject to scientific consensus by those who attended the International Workshop organised by SPA/RAC and TUDAV at Istanbul (October 2005). A guideline document on reducing the presence of sensitive species in by-catch and releasing them if caught has been elaborated for that purpose.

SPA/RAC promoted two symposia on Mediterranean chondrichthyan fishes in the region:

- The first ever Mediterranean Workshop on Mediterranean Cartilaginous Fishes was successfully organized in Turkey (October 2005).
- The 9th Annual Meeting of the European Elasmobranch Association (November 2005), whose topic was “Biodiversity, fisheries and conservation of Chondrichthyans”, paid special attention to the Mediterranean elasmobranchs, with SPA/RAC support.

A training mission to Libya with the participation of an expert consultant for developing expertise on cartilaginous research and conservation was implemented. Further to that mission, the SPA/RAC consultant prepared a programme of action for these species in that country.

II.D.3.6 *Implementing the Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol*

In compliance with the recommendation by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, 2005) and the schedule of this Action Plan, SPA/RAC prepared a report on progress made in implementing the actions advocated at national and regional levels. Several initiatives had been successfully undertaken: (i) organisation of the first symposium on the ecology of bird species listed in Annex II to the Protocol in collaboration with SEO/Birdlife and MEDMARAVIS; (ii) establishment of a directory of experts and organizations concerned by bird conservation; (iii) creation of a regional network for population monitoring, establishment of specific guidelines. The proposal of a new implementation timetable was agreed during the Focal Point Meeting.

II.D.3.7 *Implementing the Action Plan on introductions of species and invasive species into the Mediterranean Sea*

A workshop on non-native species in the Mediterranean was held (December 2005) in Italy, in collaboration with ICRAM. The workshop's recommendations were:

- Ensure that funding exists to develop an adequate knowledge base (distribution, biology, invasive characteristics, impacts and control options of alien species).
- Provide assistance for capacity-building related to developing an adequate knowledge base in the region.
- Provide an open-access, transparent database, balancing scientific rigor with practicability, and timelines, easily accessible through a global database (or linked databases) for receiving and disseminating data.

At the workshop, draft “Guidelines for checking vectors of introductions of marine non-native species and invasive species into the Mediterranean” and “Guide for the analysis of risks and assessment of impacts of introductions of non-native species” were presented, discussed and finalized. They are submitted for the opinion of the National Focal Points for SPAs.

REMPEC and SPA/RAC have been invited to join the second phase of the GEF/UNDP/IMO's Global Programme for Managing Ballast Water (GloBallast Partnerships). A five-year project (2007-2011) was elaborated and should start up after its approval by the GEF Council, in June 2007.

In compliance with the recommendation by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, 2005), SPA/RAC prepared a report assessing the implementation of

the Action Plan at national and regional level. A new timetable for implementing the Action Plan is given.

II.D.4 Crosscutting subjects

II.D.4.1 Capacity building and training activities concerning Specially Protected Areas and the conservation of species

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

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

As regards conservation of marine turtles, SPA/RAC funded the participation of 3 trainees from Israel, 2 from Libya, 2 from Tunisia, 2 from Malta, 1 from Morocco and 1 from Syria in the training course at Lara station, Cyprus. This initiative was successfully completed thanks to the cooperation of the Cyprus Wildlife Society (CWS) and the support of the Cyprus' Department of Fishing and Marine Research (DFMR). These 10-day training courses were organised during the summers of 2005 and 2006 and will be revived in 2007.

Two training sessions on techniques for rehabilitating marine turtles were organised in collaboration with the Naples Zoological Station. In this context, SPA/RAC funded the participation:

- of 1 Israeli, 1 Lebanese and 1 Tunisian trainee, in 2005
- of 1 Maltese, 2 Croatian and 1 Turkish trainee, in 2006.

An assignment was carried out in Malta to improve the organisation of a marine turtle care centre.

In the context of promoting taxonomy, a training course on techniques of creating, managing and keeping in good condition reference collections of marine plants was organised in collaboration with the Botanic Department of the University of Catania. This course, which took place on 5 December 2005, enabled six participants to be trained: 1 Algerian, 1 Moroccan, 2 Lebanese and 2 Tunisians.

II.D.4.2 Activities linked to the processing and management of data on biodiversity

As part of its activities concerning the elaboration of technical tools to help Mediterranean countries SPA/RAC :

- Prepared an interpretation handbook on coastal habitats (terrestrial and wetland) to supplement a previously written handbook on marine habitats.
- Supported the Albanian Ministry of the Environment in acquiring ArcView software to set up a Geographical Information System (GIS) on wetland ecosystems as part of a national inventory of habitats of conservation interest.

- Developed a database on the veterinary treatments applied within the framework of the recovery Centres (English, French and Spanish) in collaboration with the University of Murcia.
- Pursued its collaboration with GFCM to promote the creation of a single database to record cartilaginous captures in the Mediterranean.
- Elaborated a directory of concerned specialists and bodies in the context of implementing the Action Plan on introduced species.
- Elaborated reports on the creation and management of coastal and marine protected areas and on the economic principles for managing protected areas.

In the context of setting up a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) on Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity, SPA/RAC put out a tender for restructuring and updating its databases and directories so they can be consulted from a common web portal (<http://medbiodivchm.rac-spa.org>).

SPA/RAC assisted two countries in developing their national CHMs, by supporting the participation of two national heads in a training course (2-20 October 2006, Brussels). This course focused on the use of the programme perfected by the European Environment Agency (European CHM's Portal Kit; AEE).

The Centre published:

- (i) The proceedings of the European Conference on Elasmobranchs through the Journal of the French Ichthyologic Society¹;
- (ii) The proceedings of the Second Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation (September 2006), which was sent to participants attending the Symposium;
- (iii) The proceedings of the workshop, including experts' proposals on the main needs for the cartilaginous fish conservation, in collaboration with the Turkish organisation TUDAV;
- (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).

Other CD Roms 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 enhancing communication, the Centre launched a more regular updating of its site, prepared an information letter (flash news) and published the following awareness documents:

- (i) The Action Plan for invasive species, illustrated and printed in English and French;
- (ii) The Action Plan on cartilaginous fish, illustrated with the most rare and threatened species and including an appendix, kindly authorized by FAO, with an illustrated checklist of all the species met in the Mediterranean;
- (iii) A translation 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 has assisted in its dissemination;
- (iv) A poster on threatened elasmobranchs, their problems and possible solutions, printed in two languages;
- (v) A set of posters presenting the various Action Plans on threatened species.

¹ Cybium, Vol. 30, fasc.4

II.D.5 Other activities

II.D.5.1 Programme of work on protecting the coralligenous and other calcareous bioconcretions in the Mediterranean

A meeting of an ad hoc group of Mediterranean experts was organized in Tabarka (Tunisia, 5-6 May 2006) to take stock of the state of conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bioconcretions in the Mediterranean. A draft work programme was established in consultation with the group of experts. The amended version will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

II.D.5.2 CAMP Cyprus

SPA/RAC 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.

II.D.5.3 Guidelines for amending Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol

Following on the recommendations made by the Contracting Parties at their Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting (Portoroz, 2005), the criteria proposed for amending Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol were revised. A new procedure was submitted for examination by the Focal Points for the subsequent approval of the Contracting Parties.

II.D.5.4 Mediterranean Initiative on Taxonomy

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

The results of the questionnaire 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.

II.D.5.5 Actions for the sustainable use of biodiversity

SPA/RAC participated in meetings of experts aimed at:

- Publishing guidelines for implementing sustainable aquaculture, at the invitation of IUCN
- Working on defining supplementary indicators to monitor the sustainable development of coastal areas, at the request of the Blue Plan
- Developing a process to assess elements of biological qualities, at the invitation of the European Environment Agency.

II.E Integrated Coastal Zone Management (PAP/RAC)

In the 2006-2007 period, PAP/RAC implemented two groups of activities related to sustainable management of coastal zones:

1. Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM); and
2. CAMP projects.

II.E.1 Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM)

In the framework of 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 draft text of the guidelines was presented and submitted for comments to the participants of the Regional Workshop to Discuss and Adopt the Good Practices Guidelines on beach Management in the Mediterranean, organised in Malta July 2-3, 2007. On the basis of the comments provided by the participants at the workshop, the final text will be produced and the guidelines published by the end of 2007. Expected outputs in 2007 include the preparation of the draft Guidelines, their finalisation and translation into French.

The general objective of the Beachmed project is the characterisation and the improvement of technical and administrative instruments for a strategic management of the coastal defence in the context 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 toward setting up a Mediterranean and local integrated management strategy. PAP/RAC participated in the Beachmed meeting in Genoa, Italy (February 8, 2007) where the PAP/RAC involvement in the project was defined. The task of PAP/RAC is to assist in integrating results and to ensure the liaison with MAP and Mediterranean countries, as well as with important outputs like the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and the draft ICZM Protocol.

PAP/RAC organized the expert meeting "Towards Mediterranean Regional Strategy on Coastal Erosion: Benefiting from the EUROSION Project" in order to identify the parts of the EUROSION project that could be applied to the Mediterranean and to prepare an appropriate programme of activities. The meeting was organised in Nicosia, Cyprus, on March 16-17, 2006.

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. PAP/RAC also participates in the preparation of the guidelines to assess the vulnerability to risk in the coastal zones, which is led by IOC/UNESCO.

PAP/RAC is involved in the Conscience project as a partner. The project is implemented under the EU's 6th Framework Programme 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 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.

PAP/RAC initiated the preparation of a short overview of the spatial planning systems in the Mediterranean countries with particular stress on marine spatial planning in the framework of ICZM. On the basis of the inputs from the Mediterranean countries that will submit brief reports on marine spatial planning, a regional overview of the situation in this field will be prepared and presented at the Conference on marine spatial planning in Split, September 20-21, 2007.

PlanCoast is an INTERREG IIB CADSES project aiming to develop 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). PlanCoast has the following objectives: to introduce a completely new spatial planning instrument, Marine Spatial Planning; to link ICZM with the processes of statutory spatial planning in the selected number of pilot projects; to spread the use of modern geographical information systems (GIS) for an effective transnational planning; and to contribute to the implementation of European policies and national strategies on coastal zones and marine areas. PAP/RAC contributes to PlanCoast with its expertise in studying the completely new field of spatial planning of 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, and contribute to raising the awareness 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 other Mediterranean countries will also be invited in order to share experience and disseminate the results within the Mediterranean region.

During 2006 a number of preparatory activities for the project took place, such as the finalisation of project details of the project proposals (description of activities, work plan, etc.). PAP/RAC participated at the kick-off meeting that took place in Ancona, Italy on July 13-15, 2006. The ToR for national reports on current policies, legal bases and procedures of the role of spatial planning within ICZM were prepared, consultants nominated and the contracts signed. Comments on draft national reports were provided and the reports are expected to be finalised before summer 2007. 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 where the inputs for the PlanCoast website (www.plancoast.eu) were presented. PAP/RAC participated in two information meetings for CADSES projects, organised by the contracting authority, i.e. the EC Delegation in Croatia.

The projected activities for the remainder of 2007 are the following:

- By the end of July the Reports on current policy, procedures, legal basis and practice of marine spatial planning in Adriatic countries will be completed.
- A synthesis report will be prepared on the basis of the abovementioned six reports.
- A Report on marine spatial planning to include theoretical insight, state of the art and experiences of marine spatial planning globally and recommendations on how to integrate marine spatial planning in the framework of ICZM.
- Editing, printing, and dissemination of the documents.
- Organization of the Conference on marine spatial planning in Split, September 20-21, 2007.
- Participation in the 4th PlanCoast Conference, Berlin, on November 21-23, 2007 and in the Final Conference, Schwerin, Germany, on April 3-4, 2008.

An expert meeting on landscape management in the Mediterranean was organized by PAP/RAC on January 9-10, 2006 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The Report of the meeting, attended by 17 participants from 8 countries, summarises several concrete proposals for this PAP/RAC activity. In the months that followed two case projects were launched in order to put in practice landscape management methodologies and tools, to serve later as the basis for training and guidelines to be prepared. These are the projects in Tunisia and Croatia, namely, "Characterisation of landscapes in Tunisian coastal areas" and "Revitalising of the agricultural landscape on the Island of Korcula, Croatia". First draft reports were submitted in December 2006 and comments and suggestions for the improvement of the reports were provided. Prior

to the submission of the draft reports a workshop was organised in Korcula by the consultants, as well as a field visit of Tunisian coastal areas (Cap Bon in particular) by the other team of experts. The report "Revitalizing of the agricultural landscape on the Island of Korcula" was edited and prepared for publication and dissemination.

The report "Characterization of landscapes in Tunisian coastal areas" will be edited and prepared for copying and dissemination. Both reports will later serve as the basic inputs for a training course on landscape management methodologies, as well as for the guidelines to be produced at a later stage of this activity.

The objectives of the national reports on ICAM 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 the 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 this report by the end of this year when it will be formatted, published and disseminated to the partners concerned. Due to limited financial resources allocated to this activity, work on two other reports, namely for Albania and Egypt, has not started yet.

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 following outputs were prepared:

- Project Implementation Manual, in English and French;
- Strategic Guidance for Preparation of ICZM Policy Brief, in English and French;
- ICZM Marketing Strategy;
- 2nd co-ordination meeting report;
- A Guide for the Preparation and Implementation of Coastal Awareness Survey, in English and French;
- ICZM Policy Brief folder, in Arabic, English and French;
- ICZM Policy Brief and Background document for Morocco;
- SMAP III leaflet on ICZM for Mediterranean, in English and French
- Project web page at PAP/RAC website;
- Coast Day bilingual website <http://www.coastday.org>;
- Coast Day leaflet, in English and French; and
- Report of the Workshop to present and discuss ICZM policy brief (Rabat, May 8 2007).

By end 2007 the remaining ICZM Policy Briefs will be prepared and presented and related briefings will be carried out for national teams:

- Awareness raising strategy will be elaborated and a regional ICZM Policy Workshop will be organised, tentatively in Jordan in September 2007;
- The Coast Day campaign will be organised with the central celebration during the abovementioned workshop; and

- A TV publicity spot will be prepared and run on national TVs of the countries involved in the project.

The GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems consists of a Regional Component and an Investment Fund. PAP/RAC's role in the PDF B phase of the project was to collect the existing information on development and implementation of ICZM policies, approaches, institutions, laws and tools in GEF eligible countries. This has been reviewed and analysed. On the basis of this information sub-regional policy briefs for relevant Adriatic countries, Maghreb countries, Mashrek countries and Turkey were prepared. A two-day expert meeting was organised in April 2006 to identify the priority actions for ICZM in the eligible Mediterranean countries. An ICZM section of the Full Project Brief was drafted for submission to GEF for financing. Possible sources of co-financing for the activities of the full project were identified. The Terms of Reference were drafted for an expert to assess the countries' needs in the strengthening of planning and management capacities for ICZM at national and local levels. After the approval by the GEF Council, the implementation of the Project is envisaged to start late in 2007.

The Government of Albania is developing, with the assistance of the World Bank, a Programme for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Clean-Up (ICZMCP). The Integrated Coastal Development Study and Plan (ICD Study and Plan) is a strategic arm of ICZMCP. The ICD Study and Plan is based on the evaluation of the socio-economic potential of the Southern Coastal Region and the sensitivity of its coastal, marine and terrestrial ecosystems. It was originally seen as a follow-up to the CAMP Albania project where PAP/RAC accumulated a wealth of experience. The major outputs of ICD Study and Plan are the Inception, Interim and Final reports. However, there has been a substantial delay in implementing the ICD Study and Plan project, primarily due to elections, which occurred in the midst of the project. Due to other difficulties in developing the Plan, the host government and PAP/RAC agreed to amicably terminate the contract.

MedOpen is an Internet-based open training course on ICAM in the Mediterranean (MedOpen; <http://www.medopen.org/>). It consists of the Basic and Advanced courses. It is available in three languages, English, French and Arabic. The first run of the Advanced MedOpen course in French was officially closed on May 3, 2006. In total, 16 candidates participated in the advanced course and six were awarded the MedOpen Certificate. About 50 candidates completed the basic course.

With the assistance of SMAP RMSU and PAP/RAC, the translation of the basic and advanced courses into Arabic was carried out by the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE). Thirty-five candidates followed the first run of the course in Arabic. CEDARE implemented the second run where 198 participants from most of the Arab Mediterranean countries participated. The basic MedOpen course in Arabic has proved to be a very successful initiative. It is the first e-learning course on ICZM in Arabic. The European Commission is financing ArabMedOpen.

PAP/RAC is a partner in the Educom@Med project, founded by the EU under the Tempus Programme. The overall objective of the project is to create and implement a new curriculum for a postgraduate course in Coastal Management for the Mediterranean region. The course is based on five main modules. PAP/RAC, in addition to the contribution of the overall structure of the course and the preparation and implementation of the simulation game, is responsible for the preparation and organization of the field-based component of the programme. The aim of the field-study is to introduce participants to the practical application of coastal area management projects on the ground. The experiences and lessons learned from CAMP Slovenia will be introduced and presented to the students in the Slovenian coastal area in October 2007. Several co-ordination meetings took place during the reporting period. PAP/RAC will be responsible for organizing the field study.

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 CH more attractive, functional and informative. Currently, a web design consultant is working on its redesign and restructuring. 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 in the Mediterranean. "Med alert" will consist of 3 or 4 article abstracts, which, at request, 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, "Med alert" is hoped to raise awareness on ICZM in the Mediterranean.

The PAP/RAC website www.pap-thecoastcentre.org was redesigned and restructured. These improvements made the site more user-friendly and informative. The information on the site has been constantly updated with regular news, meetings, introduction of new activities, updating of existing ones, job opportunities, reports/documents etc.

II.E.2 Coastal Area Management Programme

II.E.2.1 CAMP "Algerian Coastal Zone", Algeria

CAMP Algeria was concluded at the Final Presentation Conference held in Algiers on 30 January 2006. It was attended by some 200 participants representing various stakeholders, namely ministries, regional and local authorities, governmental institutions, NGOs, MAP and its RACs and international environmental organisations working in the CAMP area. The Final Integrated Report of the CAMP was presented to the Council of Ministers for review and approval. Moreover, this CAMP served as a model for starting two similar projects in other parts of the Algerian coast, i.e. Annaba and Oran, where similar strategies will be prepared. All this raises hopes that this successful CAMP, which started to produce effects already during its lifetime, will have a successful and secured follow-up. After the conference, the text of the Final Integrated Report was revised and slightly amended, and the report of the conference prepared and disseminated to all interested persons and institutions. Also, the report was prepared for the MAP Technical Report Series, printed and disseminated.

II.E.2.2 CAMP Slovenia

The CAMP Slovenia project was in the full-scale implementation phase during the reporting period and was concluded in June 2007. All the project activities have been completed. The Final Integrated Report was finalised and was presented at the Final Presentation Conference in Portoroz, 20-21 June 2007. The Final Integrated Report was completed after and the conference Report was prepared.

The activity "Regional Conception of Spatial Development" was one of the most important CAMP activities, closely linked the legal procedures of spatial planning legislation. Regular meetings with the local communities, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and consultants were convened by the National Project Co-ordinator. 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.

The following outputs were produced:

- Regional Programme of Environment and Water Resources Protection – Final Report
- Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy of the South Primorska Region – Final Report

- Detailed Spatial Planning Conception of The Coastal Area – Final Report
- Conception of Spatial Development of South Primorska; and the Programme of Measures of its Implementation – Phase 2 + Analysis of Spatial Vulnerability and Attractiveness – as Annex to Phase 2
- Concept of Spatial Development of South Primorska; and the Programme of Measures of its Implementation – Final Report
- Programme of Public Participation, Training and Promotion in CAMP Slovenia – Final Report
- Regular activity reports of the National Project Co-ordinator
- Website in English and Slovenian
- Final Integrated Report

II.E.2.3 CAMP Cyprus

Currently, the project is in the full implementation phase. The Inception Workshop of the CAMP Cyprus was held in January 2006 with over 60 participants representing RACs, the Coordinating Unit, national government officials, various national experts and other stakeholders. Regular CAMP Steering Committee meetings have been organised to monitor the progress of the CAMP implementation. The procedure for the selection of the national experts engaged in the CAMP has been successfully concluded. In September 2006 contracts were awarded to six national experts.

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 allow the key results of other CAMP activities to be included under 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 make ground for pilot project activities several meetings were organised 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. In May two workshops were organized, one on the CCA for tourism on May 20-23, with the assistance of the international consultant provided by PAP/RAC, and the second on May 15 on Environmental Economics.

On February 16, 2007 a mid-term review meeting on the CAMP Cyprus was co-organized 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.

The expected activities until the end of 2007 are:

- Within the ICZM activity, the Draft Final Activity Document (proposed ICZM strategy) will be finalised and submitted.
- Several consultant missions in order to define the CCA needs, pilot case studies, guidelines and a workshop are envisaged within the CCA activity. The final document with proposals for the incorporation of CCA in the national policy and institutional framework will be produced.
- The Pilot Application Case Study Document on the use of Environmental Economics (EE), showing the scope and limitations of EE in Cyprus, together with the related workshop and the preparation of the Final document "Strategy for Application of EE in Cyprus" with proposals for the incorporation of EE into the national policy and institutional framework are envisaged.
- Within the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) activity, guidelines, a case study, a workshop and the Final Document with proposals for the incorporation of SEA into the national policy and institutional framework will be prepared.

II.E.2.4 CAMP "Levante de Almeria", Spain

In early 2006, after the completion of the Feasibility Study for CAMP "Levante de Almeria", Andalucia, PAP/RAC started to prepare 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 due to some legal aspects the signing of the Agreement was pending. Also, the recommendation of this Office was to convert the Agreement into a MoU and to separate the financial clauses from this document. The MoU and the related financial agreement between the Spanish authorities (national, regional) and MAP were finalised.

II.E.2.5 CAMP Morocco

This CAMP 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 main objectives were to raise the awareness of the relevant local actors on the preparation of the CAMP in the coastal area of Al Hoceima (Central Rif), to introduce the ICAM approaches and present the benefits of formulating and implementing a CAMP in this area. Participants were from different institutions of the Tangiers-Tétouan and Al Hoceima region, from the central ministry and relevant scientific institutions. 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 context. 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 comments and some additional information regarding the national financial contribution reached PAP/RAC by the end of the year. Finalisation 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 finalise the Agreement. The Agreement is expected to be signed by the end of this year. Later, the arrangements for project implementation (nomination of national co-ordinator, consultants, etc.) are envisaged, and should be followed by the preparation of technical specifications for individual CAMP activities and of the Inception Report.

II.E.2.6 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 organized 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 a 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. It is envisaged that the preparation of the relevant ToR and contract and the preparation of the Feasibility Study will take place in late 2007.

II.E.2.7 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) there was a first exchange of ideas for the CAMP Italy with the Italian delegation. Thus, the preliminary talks for this project were initiated and some documents related to the formulation and implementation of CAMP provided. Examples of already completed CAMPs 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.

II.E.3 Support to the Implementation of the MSSD

In the Priority Field of Action 2.7 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) the main objective related to integrated management and development of coastal zones is the adoption of a new legal instrument for ICZM in the Mediterranean, i.e. the ICZM Protocol. PAP/RAC, in relation to this objective, put all its efforts in the continuation of the preparation of the draft Protocol. This included the nomination of the WG and organisation of the WG meetings envisaged in order to present the final text of the Protocol to the Contracting Parties in 2007. PAP/RAC has been active in the implementation of other ICZM related recommendations, particularly with respect to the best use of the EU/SMAP programme. The details of the SMAP III project that is under the responsibility and overall co-ordination of PAP/RAC "Promoting Awareness and Enabling a Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with Focus on Integrated Coastal Management" were specified above.

II.E.4 Tourism Development Harmonized with the Environment

PAP/RAC was successful in getting 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 co-ordinator participated on a meeting in Algiers with the representatives of LIFE-Third countries and MATE. This was an opportunity to discuss various practical aspects of the project implementation. Early in 2007 the public tender for recruitment of consultants was announced. Also, preliminary contacts were made for sustainable tourism development with the Tour Operators' Initiative (TOI) which has shown interest in this project. 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. After that the organization of the three national kick-off meetings started, and a leaflet was prepared. The first kick-off meeting took place in Tunis on May 10-11, 2007. The second kick-off meeting will take place in Algeria on 10-11 July 2007. Tentatively, the kick-off meeting for the Destinations project in Morocco is scheduled for 6-7 November, 2007 in Al Hoceima. The implementation of the activities, according to the project work programme, will follow these initiation meetings.

With the assistance of UNEP/DTIE, PAP/RAC is preparing the Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism Development and ICZM. The guidelines will be prepared by the end of 2007. The document will be published in English and French.

II.E.5 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 implementing the MSSD orientation on improving integrated water resource and demand management. The translation and printing of the Guidelines Volume II in French is envisaged for late 2007. Also, 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 at the PAP/RAC website for download.

PAP/RAC is a partner in the Nostrum-DSS project, funded by the EU under the Sixth Framework Programme. This is a Network on Governance, Science and Technology for Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean. The main objectives of the project are to contribute to the achievement of improved governance and planning in the field of sustainable water management, by establishing a network between the science, policy, and civil society spheres, by fostering active involvement of the relevant stakeholders, and through the development and dissemination of Best Practices Guidelines for the design and implementation of Decision Support System (DSS) tools for IWRM in the Mediterranean Area.

II.E.6 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. These three projects form a sort of a small CAMP for this 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 examined by a PAP/RAC consultant who found them of a very good quality and needing only minor adjustments.

Immediately after the submission of the final documents of the first phase, a contract was signed with the Tunisian team and the PAP/RAC consultant for the second phase, i.e. the formulation of a programme for combating soil erosion and of the technological package needed. 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.

II.F Environment and Development (Blue Plan)

II.F.1 Environmental and economic statistics

The last Blue Plan report that came out at the end of 2005 on Environment and Development outlook in the Mediterranean, backed up with data collected and practices observed by the experts from the Mediterranean countries and the various MAP Regional Activities Centres, highlighted the persistent degradation of the environmental situation in this region. This environmental, economic and social function of the Blue Plan remains essential for the Mediterranean. Indeed, if specific data collection initiatives exist (especially for agriculture and water), some topics are poorly researched such as transport and energy and there is a need for a place to consolidate and update the data regularly, which for the moment are dispersed.

To this end, Blue Plan contributes in different ways to:

- Identifying and being permanently informed about the decision-makers, needs with regard to environmental, economic and social information;
- Collecting recent, homogeneous, good quality environmental, economic and social statistical data from the countries;
- Promoting the processing of these data in a way that makes them accessible, usable and comprehensible by as many people as possible;
- Organizing the classification of the data in order to facilitate interpretation and use.

In the field of statistics, it was in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean association launched in 1995 by the member states of the European Union and twelve countries of the Mediterranean region, that a partnership was initiated via the regional statistical cooperation programme MEDSTAT (MEDA funds).

II.F.1.1 Initial stages of Med-stat

The main objective of MEDSTAT (Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation programme) is to build up the capacities of the twelve countries that are the Mediterranean partners of the European Union to produce and publish statistics and indicators that are complete, reliable, relevant and harmonised with international standards, taking into account users' needs.

In this context and as of 1999, Blue Plan was put in charge of implementing the first phase of the environmental component of the MEDSTAT programme. When the first phase (1999-2003) was prolonged, Blue Plan was chosen to implement the second phase (MED-Env II) for the period 2003-2006.

The latter ended with a final forum that took place in Amman (Jordan) in June 2006. The main results of MED-Env II were presented in the forum and there was consideration of

integrating the environmental statistics in the MEDSTAT process as well as establishing links between the environment and other sectors such as transport, tourism, energy and agriculture.

On this occasion Blue Plan presented the publications of the National Statistics Institutes (NSI) of the Mediterranean countries produced in the framework of this project, as well as the 2005 Regional Compendium of the environmental statistics in the Mediterranean, prepared by Blue Plan for the second time consecutively.

The MEDSTAT-Environment programme was judged efficient and contributed usefully to the creation and continuity of the environmental statistics units within each of the 12 NSIs, to the building of inter institutional relations with a rise in and regularity of relations between partner institutions and, finally, to the dissemination and transparency of the results with the publication of nine national compendiums on environmental statistics and of one regional statistics compendium. It was, however, pointed out that efforts remained to be made in terms of the harmonising of the national definitions and classifications, as well as in terms of taking user needs into account.

At the end of this phase the partner countries reaffirmed the importance of defining national objectives and priorities in terms of topics and variables to be dealt with, of adapting the legal foundations in some countries concerning environmental statistics, of concentrating on public demand, of maintaining relations with NGOs and civil society, and of ensuring better integration of the environment in the social and economic sectors.

II.F.1.2 MEDSTAT II

In January 2006 the European Commission renewed the MEDSTAT II project for a new phase (2006-2009) but with a different profile. The new MEDSTAT II project is divided into three profiles distinguishing between crosscutting activities (information systems, training, distribution and coordination), vertical activities (Agriculture, Energy, the Environment, Foreign Trade, Migration, National Accounts, Social Affairs, Transport and Tourism) and the supply of computing equipment. Blue Plan, in its capacity as a member of the European consortium chosen to implement the activities of the second profile, broadened its commitment in the Euro-Mediterranean statistics cooperation for the environment to two new sectors: transport and energy.

The global objectives of the MEDSTAT II project are to build up the quality of statistical services and data, in order to facilitate the availability of the information necessary for implementing and monitoring association agreements with the Mediterranean partners, to supply users with updated, reliable, relevant statistical data needed for political decision-making and to guarantee good management. Since January 2006 MEDSTAT II has attached importance to the follow-up of the previous work by organising training and workshops and by contributing technical means to the information systems of the national institutes and the other producers of statistics in the Mediterranean countries.

In the transport and energy sectors, the year 2006 was essentially the occasion to analyse the state of the national statistics systems via a series of eight missions carried out by the two experts from the Blue Plan. On the basis of these assignments, two reports were drawn up on these sectors analysing the needs of the countries associated with the project in terms of transport and energy statistics and proposing cooperation to meet these needs. Concerning transport, the main identified needs concern harmonising the flow statistics and the performance indicators with international standards. The priorities for the energy sector include the themes of energy balances, renewable energies, energy efficiency indicators, energy prices and surveys on the final energy consumption per sector of activity.

In the field of the environment, the year 2006 was a year of transition from the MED-Env project that ended in June to the environment component in the new MEDSTAT II project. As the environment component of the MEDSTAT project has been implemented since 1999, great progress has been made in terms of the availability of statistics as well as in terms of the building up of institutional capacities and relationships among the various partners of the national statistics systems. The priorities for the environment sector are improvement in the production of statistics via economy-environment integrated approaches, the consolidation of existing know-how about water, land, waste, air pollution, biodiversity, indicators, and the ensuring of appropriate transfer of knowledge on the new topics (marine environment, expenditure on environmental protection) as well as the development and building up of efficient, coordinated national statistics systems.

Concerning publications, a first statistics bulletin devoted to Euro-Mediterranean statistics was drawn up on the basis of the first set of data collected during the orientation assignments.

II.F.2 Evaluating the progress made in the direction of sustainable development

An assessment of the interaction between the environment and social and economic development helps to distinguish the type of development chosen or adopted by the decision-makers. To measure the progress made in this area, Blue Plan has undertaken to define the methods, tools and indicators relevant to the various levels and to test, use and distribute them.

With this in mind, Blue Plan has:

- Identified the methods and tools to assess the interactions between the environment and social and economic development;
- Participated in the defining of indicators to illustrate and translate these interactions;
- Checked the reliability of these indicators;
- Measured the progress made by the countries and the players involved in taking into account the concerns of sustainable development, by using these elements at regular intervals;

When the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, **34 priority indicators** were selected to monitor it. Apart from these priority indicators at the end of 2005 a number of **complementary indicators** to refine the analyses and the monitoring were also proposed for selection at a later stage.

II.F.2.1 Priority indicators

In 2006, Blue Plan worked on defining the 34 priority indicators in operational terms. In order to do this, methodologies were drawn up in the first quarter with the objective of supplying all the information necessary for the indicator. These methodologies are available on the Blue Plan website and were presented to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in May 2006.

On this basis, seven volunteer countries (Cyprus, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta and Morocco) designated a correspondent to facilitate the collection of the data necessary for the indicator in each country. In the last quarter of 2006 the questionnaires drawn up by Blue Plan were addressed to the national correspondents in order to help them collect basic information and calculate the indicators which were not available. These basic data will be available in 2007 and will be used at first, as a way of testing the indicators and illustrating

their use. Simultaneously, Blue Plan has collected and processed the data available on the international databases.

In the third quarter of 2007, all this information will be used to produce a first report based on the priority indicators in order to present the main trends in sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Corresponding to a "zero state", this report will highlight the progress to be made in the direction of sustainable development by analysing the trends shown by the indicators (with a retrospective over 20 years) in one of the objectives defined in the MSSD.

Since the end of 2006, Blue Plan has also been developing a method for monitoring sustainable development in the Mediterranean by having recourse to rating/benchmarking methods based on multi-criteria analysis. The first results should be available by mid-2007.

Finally, Blue Plan continued in 2006 to follow the work carried out for the sustainable development indicators by the international and European bodies. In this context, Blue Plan participated closely in the work of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and especially in the work of the " indicators " meeting in November 2006.

II.F.2.2. Complementary indicators

In 2006 Blue Plan activities concentrated on Water and Energy, the first two priority areas of fields of action of the MSSD. For these two topics, complementary indicators were selected and defined, then calculated and analysed. Besides this, steps to select a "sea and coastline" indicator corresponding to the sixth field of action of the MSSD were undertaken: See the corresponding topic chapters.

II.F.3 *Thematic issues*

Blue Plan produces analyses to help build up future scenarios and to strengthen the decisions of those whose vocation or mandate it is to make policies. Therefore, Blue Plan highlights the "good " practices for some themes, i.e. those practices that have a visible effect on the quality of the environment taking into account the " sustainable development " dimension in their action and puts them at the disposal of those interested and concerned.

To do this, Blue Plan:

- Produces analyses by sector, theme and territory intended to inform and enlighten decision-makers about Mediterranean prospects ;
- Estimates the long-term effects on the environment and the durability in terms of development of the local, national or regional policies in place for the priority areas or sectors.

The topics dealt with by Blue Plan correspond to those highlighted in the 2005 report on environment and development and those chosen by the MSSD.

II.F.3.1 Water demand management

Concerning the topic of water, Blue Plan has benefited from the support of four volunteer countries -Turkey, France, Tunisia and Morocco - since 2005 and has strengthened relations with the main qualified networks in the Mediterranean: the secretariat of the Mediterranean platform of the Global Water Partnership (GWP-Med) (assessed by the Mediterranean Information Office, Environment, Culture, Sustainable Development and Environment-MIO-ECSDE), the Mediterranean Water Institute that groups together local enterprises and local authorities, the Mediterranean network of the RAMSAR Convention (Medwet) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS). These

partners formed a committee of experts to direct and follow up Blue Plan activities on this topic.

In March 2006 a call for papers was launched (and was widely disseminated during the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in 2006) to document concrete examples of good practices and to measure the progress made in the last few years in terms of water demand management in the major sectors of activity (water for agriculture, drinking water, water for industry), in terms of taking into account the natural needs of the ecosystem, water demand management in water policies and cooperation policies. The papers presented explained this issue by referring to sustainable development, the history of the project, the political instruments implemented, the difficulties met and any causes of failure, as well as the lessons to be learnt for the Mediterranean.

Besides this, Blue Plan invited all the Mediterranean countries to draw up national reports on the topic "Monitoring progress and promotion of water demand management policies" based on terms of reference designed and distributed in April 2006. These reports were intended to show the progress made and the progress still possible in the future in the field of water demand management. They were also meant to identify the hurdles to be overcome and the political tools to be developed to address the following three objectives:

- Presenting information on the water situation in the countries, the changes taking place, and the possible consequences.
- Demonstrating that progress is possible and necessary in terms of efficiency, subject to the implementation of water demand management instruments, insisting also on better awareness-raising of the necessity for and the possible benefits of a water demand management policy. If need be, helping the countries to draw up the "efficiency plans" announced at the Johannesburg Summit as well as the "water" section of their national strategies for sustainable development by assisting them to identify a set of indicators/objectives.
- Contributing to the Mediterranean consideration of the problem and to the regional sharing of experience in the field of water demand management while taking into consideration the specificities of the countries. Helping the Mediterranean countries improve their monitoring and progress assessment systems (monitoring of indicators, drawing up of reports on the environment and sustainable development); further helping them become a point of reference at the international level. Contributing to the evolution and the building up of regional cooperation policies and to development aid.

Eleven countries undertook to draft these national reports: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. From May to December 2006, Blue Plan took part in the monitoring of the work carried out by the national experts appointed by the countries.

Blue Plan also launched three regional studies dealing with:

- "International cooperation and development aid in the water sector in the Mediterranean : to what extent is water demand management taken into account ?" : This study aims at producing an in-depth quantitative analysis of the development aid for water granted to the Mediterranean countries, at analysing the strategies and intervention policies of the main money-lenders in the Mediterranean, especially with regard to water demand management, as well as at highlighting the obstacles met and the tools used to promote water demand management projects;
- "Virtual water in the Mediterranean: an indicator that contributes to the analysis of water management and distribution: The object of this study is to present the issue of virtual water in the Mediterranean, to quantify trade of virtual water - via the importing and

exporting of agricultural products - in the Mediterranean countries and then to analyse the relevance of the concept of virtual water for the agricultural and water policies (more especially related to water demand management) in the Mediterranean context ;

- "The impact of the Common Agricultural Policy reform on water demand for irrigation in the Mediterranean": This refers to identifying the foreseeable impact of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of 2003, by using pre-existing studies by Spain, France, Italy and Greece, on the reallocation of cultivated land (notably the evolution in cultivated land and irrigated land), the total water demand and the water demand per hectare, agricultural income, and so on.

The second meeting of the scientific committee in September 2006, determined the organization of the regional workshop in Zaragoza (19-21 March 2007), assessed the progress of the national reports and the regional studies (presented and discussed during this workshop) and examined the abstracts of the papers proposed. Forty papers were chosen for presentation at the regional workshop. Half of them were presented orally.

II.F.3.2 Energy and climate change

For this topic, Blue Plan is working together with the main competent networks in the Mediterranean : the Mediterranean Energy Observatory (OME Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie) that groups together the main electricity enterprises, ADEME the French agency for environment and energy management (Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie), the national agency for energy management in Tunisia (ANME, Agence Nationale pour la Maîtrise de l'Energie), the association of energy management agencies (MEDENER), the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP), a regional project financed by Italy, the Mediterranean summer university (UMET), which has been organizing meetings on this topic for the last four years), the Mediterranean Institute/Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Institutes (FEMISE), that advises the Euro-Mediterranean association, Helio International (NGO) and the Regional Activity Centre for cleaner production CP/RAC of Barcelona. All of these partners formed a pilot committee to follow up Blue Plan activities on the topic "Energy and climate change".

A workshop was organised in May 2006, in association with UMET, on the Clean Development Mechanism in the southern Mediterranean countries. A summary report of this workshop was drawn up and distributed.

Twelve countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Spain, Israel, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey - also carried out national studies on the basis of the terms of reference proposed by Blue Plan in the spring of 2006. These studies on renewable energies and energy efficiency:

- Gave information about the situation of the countries in this area, the progress made in terms of renewable energy and energy efficiency, the anticipated progress and examples of good practices. This contributes to Mediterranean consideration and the sharing of regional experience.
- Created greater awareness of the necessity of commitment to the ambitious objectives of energy efficiency (EE) and the development of renewable energies (RE), to put in place specific tools and to underscore the importance of the benefits induced. The studies helped the countries develop the "energy" section of their national strategies for sustainable development, select indicators for MSSD follow up and progress with their energy policies.

From May to December 2006, Blue Plan followed the work carried out by the national experts in the twelve countries. The countries that did not carry out national studies were invited to answer a questionnaire addressed to them in the autumn of 2006.

At the same time, Blue Plan launched three regional studies dealing with:

- Energy trends in the region and forecasts for 2020, in association with the OME. This study presents a regional vision of the recent energy trends from statistics compiled for the period 1980-2005 and an analysis of the progress made in renewable energies, energy efficiency and CO₂ emissions from energy related activities;
- Renewable energies and energy efficiency in official development assistance (ODA) to the Mediterranean countries: this study gives an in-depth quantitative analysis of ODA in the Mediterranean countries in the energy sector, especially concerning RE and EE, to analyse the strategies and policies of the main donors active in the Mediterranean, as well as to highlight the obstacles met and the instruments to use to promote RE and EE projects;
- The economic benefits linked to the development of an alternative energy scenario performed by the Mediterranean Institute. This study proposes to estimate the economic benefits expected from this scenario compared to the trend scenario and thus to demonstrate the economic interest of the countries to undertake national strategies in order to reach the regional objectives of the MSSD. It is based on the building of a simulation model that integrates the major macro-economic issues in the region such as trade deficit, the balance of payments and unemployment.

In September 2006, a second meeting of the steering committee worked out the organisation of the regional workshop in Monaco on 29th and 30th March 2007 and assessed the progress made in the national reports and in the regional studies (presented and discussed during this workshop). Throughout the year the steering committee discussed these issues via electronic communications.

II.F.3.3 Transport

In order to analyze the obstacles for the application of the measures to facilitate the transition to sustainable mobility in the Mediterranean countries, Blue Plan organised a workshop in Barcelona in February 2006 bringing together urban planning, transport and environment experts in order to understand why, despite the good intentions of the local authorities, the main transport trends in urban areas favoured the use of individual cars.

Several methods for the control of urban mobility were presented and discussed in Barcelona, in order to debate the ways in which they could be applied. Such methods included city traffic tolls, identification of specific areas, parking policies, public transport rates and others.

II.F.3.4 Tourism

In March 2006 a meeting of experts, organised by Blue Plan, initiated the setting up of a Mediterranean network to assess the contribution of tourism to sustainable development; to define how to analyse these contributions on the basis of national questionnaires and also to analyse the feasibility of annual meetings in the future bringing together public and private operators to deal with these questions.

In order to design an analysis grid to identify the key points, the indicators and the progress made, several main principles were selected, including:

- Working on the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental by examining the various spin-offs of tourism in the countries, by identifying the externalities and by assessing the interaction, which could be considerable, with the other public policies,

- Analysing of the decision-making and implementing structures because the application of national directives at local level could be problematic if the decisions to be put into action run against specific interests. It was therefore suggested that the analysis be carried out at two levels:
 - At the political level (the state) where progress in the direction of the strategic orientations is assessed,
 - At the level of the tourist destination, the operational level, where the contributions of tourism to sustainable development can be appreciated.

II.F.3.5 Wooded ecosystems

Silva Mediterranea, the committee for Mediterranean forestry, the secretariat of which is managed by FAO, pointed out the necessity of integrating the preoccupations of the countries of the region concerning spatial development and sustainable development in the orientations of the Mediterranean forestry sector. To do this, it recommended building up working relationships and alliances with the other institutions working on these problems in the Mediterranean region, notably among FAO, the inter-governmental organisations and the other sectors of civil society.

In order to launch such alliances with the aim of strengthening the contribution of the forestry sector to sustainable development in the region, the *Silva Mediterranea* committee proposed that the activities identified as priority ones for the region should be implemented, together with Blue Plan, in conformity with the association agreement signed in October 2002 and renewed in December 2005.

To launch the "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" project and to support it during the initial stage, France decided to contribute human resources and funds for a period of three years. This first phase ended in the course of 2006. A cooperation and "experience sharing" process was deployed in which more and more countries and bodies participated. They have also expressed the desire to continue the project. In the pilot committee meeting at the beginning of 2006, the members of the committee formulated a series of suggestions for the activities that still have to be implemented to meet the stated objectives.

Four priority objectives were selected to help build the second phase of the project, namely:

- Continue with and build up the exchange and valorisation of experience with regard to sustainable development and the management of the Mediterranean woodlands;
- Facilitate the defining, implementing and monitoring of national forestry strategies and policies that are in line with the challenges and principles of sustainable development in the Mediterranean ;
- Encourage the implementing of integrated sustainable development projects for the Mediterranean agro-pastoral and forestry areas;
- Publicize the project and promote Mediterranean forestry and its stakes at international level.

A proposal for intervention in this connection was prepared and submitted by Blue Plan to its partners at the end of 2006.

II.F.3.6 Coastal areas

"Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zones" is the seventh priority area of intervention of the MSSD. In this context, Blue Plan was asked to work on complementary indicators of the topic "Coastal areas and Sea".

In order to select these complementary indicators, Blue Plan organised a meeting of international and Mediterranean experts in December 2006. This meeting, the first stage in the selection process, gave the opportunity to share international experiences in coastal indicators (the intergovernmental oceanographic commission of UNESCO, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the DEDUCE (Assessment Model for the Sustainable Development of European Coastal Zones) project, MEDWET, etc., as well as MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC), then to design a list of about thirty indicators that will be tested and validated in 2007.

The selection of indicators was made according to the criteria generally applied (relevancy, clarity, availability, etc.) together with the objectives and action chosen by the MSSD but also, and for the first time, according to the new Blue Plan analysis framework defined in November 2006.

Blue Plan also took part in workshops organised by:

- The EEA on the occasion of the publication of its report on the state of the European coasts (Seville, October 2006) ;
- The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA), in the framework of the DEDUCE project (assessment model for the sustainable development of the European coastal areas, Interreg IIC) on the work concerning 28 indicators for sustainable development of the European coastal areas (Malta, October 2006).

Finally, together with the French authorities, Blue Plan gave strong support to the NGOs involved in the clean-up of the Lebanese coasts.

II.F.3.7 Rural areas

In the first half of 2006 a joint activity programme to be carried out in the period 2006-2008 was prepared in collaboration with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM). This work programme was validated by the MCSD in May 2006. Its objectives are:

- To produce information to facilitate the monitoring and the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development in the field of "agriculture and rural development",
- To accelerate the definition of the strategies and the implementation of dedicated policies for sustainable rural development by demonstrating the economic, environmental and social benefits linked with this development,
- To identify the existing or potential obstacles and levers in the national and local policies and in international cooperation, so as to progress in the direction of the MSSD objectives,
- To follow the progress in the region with regard to MSSD objectives and orientations.

Initial work on the monitoring indicators for the chapter "Promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development" in the MSSD was carried out in June and October 2006. A regional study on the territorializing of sustainable development policies was undertaken in October 2006.

In order to launch the activities for the next two years, an experts workshop was organised in December 2006. Its objectives were to:

- Direct future work concerning monitoring indicators for the MSSD, especially for the definition of the complementary indicators;

- Determine the expectations concerning the national reports (the main challenge being an analysis of the evolution of the strategies implemented in the countries and the promotion of sustainable rural development policies) and examine the project for the terms of reference;
- Validate the terms of reference for the study that will be carried out throughout the Mediterranean countries on the territorializing of the approaches in the field of rural development.

II.F.4 Dissemination and communication

Blue Plan attaches great importance to the dissemination of information and knowledge and used by the international organisations, the European Union the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, local administration and the civil society. Blue Plan must, therefore, identify the targeted audience, propose communication aids adapted to this audience, schedule dissemination and assess its impact and relevance.

After the publication of Blue Plan's second prospective report in November 2005 entitled "Méditerranée : les perspectives du Plan Bleu sur l'environnement et le développement" published by Aube, and "A Sustainable Future for the Mediterranean" published by Earthscan, important activities were carried out throughout 2006 to promote and disseminate the report as well as the main conclusions. In order to do this, Blue Plan benefited from specific backing by the Euro-Mediterranean environmental action programme (SMAP III) for the period 2006-2007.

Four types of activities were carried out in this context:

- The drawing up of two documents derived from the report, policy briefs, intended for a wider audience other than environmental specialists;
- An executive summary, in three languages (French, English and Arabic) that gives an overview of the main results and conclusions of the report addressed to the decision-makers of the Mediterranean countries, the directors of Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation entities, local authorities, economic players, NGOs and journalists;
- Summaries on water and energy that were published in the series Blue Plan brief reports (French and English) that present in a concise manner the main unsustainable trends in a given sector and the possible alternatives to alter the trends;
- The preparation of promotion and marketing tools (folders in French, English and Arabic, a bilingual poster) including a press kit in English and French;
- The creation of a website for the Blue Plan report (www.planbleu.org/red) that gives access to all the by-products as well as to the integral text of all the RED chapters. Since September 2006, the total number of visitors to the site went up from an average of 7000/month to 8500 in November 2006;
- The distribution of the report during Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean conferences, and dispatch to key contacts in the countries and agencies involved in international or regional cooperation; a total number of 775 copies of the report in English and 864 copies in French were distributed in 2006.

Conferences and discussions were organized in the Mediterranean countries in cooperation with the national authorities for the environment, in order to present the report and promote a cross-sector debate on Blue Plan scenarios. In July 2006 the *Libyan Environment General Authority* organized a national meeting that brought together 30 national experts to discuss the Blue Plan report and especially the challenges to integrate the environment in development. A second conference was to take place in Beirut in association with the

Lebanese Ministry of the Environment in July 2006, but was cancelled because of conflict affecting the region in the summer of 2006.

The Blue Plan experts participated in more than 60 Euro-Mediterranean fora and meetings during which they presented the conclusions of the Blue Plan report. During the fourth quarter of 2006, preference was given to high level fora in the priority areas for Blue Plan in 2006, notably energy, water and agriculture. The main conclusions of the Blue Plan report were presented during the 6th meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the member states of ICAMAS held in Cairo on 2 December 2006.

II.G Information and Communication (INFO/RAC)

During 2006-2007 INFO/RAC has evolved significantly: originally dealing with Environmental Remote Sensing, it has been designated as the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication of the Barcelona Convention – a MAP Component. This mission adjustment has brought about great changes and created new challenges.

The activities here described were aimed at supporting the Mediterranean Action Plan and at promoting the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), in compliance with the recommendations adopted by the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005) and with the INFO/RAC Project Document for the biennium 2006-2007 approved by the Coordination Unit on 28 February 2006.

The main objectives of INFO/RAC were:

1. Promoting *InfoMAP* - the UNEP/MAP shared environmental information system and implementing ICT related activities including its partnership framework;
2. Designing the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD and implementing the related IC Pilot Project;
3. Supporting the IC activities of the MAP Coordinating Unit and Components by building and/or strengthening Institutional Partnership and Cooperation with the MAP Coordinating Unit and Components at Regional/National level, in particular within the GEF-LME and Horizon 2020.

II.G.1 *InfoMAP*

During 2006, the design and development of *InfoMAP* – the common information sharing infrastructure for MAP and the region, which is also expected to be an important capacity for the MSSD – has made a fundamental step forward in its work plan. Namely, after looking into existing systems, the adaptation of the Eionet platform to known and future (user) requirements in the Mediterranean for a shared environmental information system (SEIS) has been agreed as the only viable and greatly accelerated 'solution' to the progressive setting up of *InfoMAP*.

The collaboration with the EEA on *InfoMAP* development was consolidated and formalized in a specific MAP & EEA Joint Work Plan covering 2006-2008, whereby the EEA confirms its willingness to openly share resources, expertise, technologies to set up *InfoMAP*. This choice, aimed at ensuring that *InfoMAP* (adapted from the Eionet platform) will be rapidly implemented using standards that support interoperability with other systems/networks, has implied that extraordinary efforts had and should continue to be devoted to the establishment of parallel formal working partnerships that will be instrumental in the implementation of the *InfoMAP* system. These partnerships are operative and involve as testers - BC countries

(Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Morocco), other MAP components, international organisations (EC, ITU, CBD, ACCOBAMS, etc) and the private sector.

Important progress has also been achieved in the development of the MED POL Info System as a sub-component of *InfoMAP*. System-wide usability testing and acceptance is perceived as the next important phase after the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, 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 MED POL Info System. The MED POL Info System will then be gradually integrated and made interoperable with *InfoMAP*.

II.G.1.1 Main ICT results

a) InfoMAP Documents prepared: i) Vision; ii) Conceptual Design; iii) Prototype Implementation Plan; iv) MAP Online Contents Review; v) Bulletin n. 1 and n. 2; vi) Table of Contents - *InfoMAP* Strategy.

b) InfoMAP Presentations carried out: i) *InfoMAP* Copenhagen Presentation (EEA Meeting); ii) INFO/RAC in association with the EEA, EUROSTAT and RMSU (SMAP) gave a joint-presentation in Brussels at the EC (Sept 14-15 2006) during the preparatory meetings for the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers meeting scheduled in Cairo (November 2006). The brief presentation outlined progress with *InfoMAP* and highlighted areas of focus and cooperation to ensure *InfoMAP* addresses inter-operability with existing and future systems to support initiatives such as Horizon 2020; iii) INFO/RAC participated at the *International Partnering Event at Cambridge University* (24-26 September, Cambridge-UK); iv) *InfoMAP* Rome Presentation (SMAP Meeting).

c) InfoMAP Network: i) The *InfoMAP* Design and Partnership Workshop was held in Avigliano, Italy (28-29 March 2006) and attended by all UNEP/MAP Components, selected BC Member Countries, the EC and UN representatives; ii) The *InfoMAP* Partnership Agreement was signed by most of UNEP/MAP Components (with a signature still pending: REMPEC) and endorsed/co-signed by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator; iii) *InfoMAP* Programme included in the Horizon 2020 Timetable for the first phase (2007-2013), iv) Inclusion of *InfoMAP* in the GEF LME Replication and Communication Project Component.

d) MED POL INFO SYSTEM: i) An MoU between the Coordinating Unit and INFO/RAC-MAP was signed establishing the exact modalities for the implementation of the *MED POL Info System*; ii) First prototype of the MED POL Info System (<https://medpol.infomap.org>) was produced and followed by adjustments to meet user-needs based on comments received; iii) A first training workshop in Rome, on 1 March 2006, was organized for MED POL staff; iv) A draft document defining the requirements specification for the Report Submission module of MED POL Info System has been submitted. The Report Submission module is the software component of the MED POL Info System that allows authorized users to submit the Report files, containing the data acquired in the framework of the MED POL Phase III Monitoring Activities; v) User Manual 1, User Interface 2 and System design documents were prepared.

e) UNEP/MAP WEBSITE: The Process for the re-design and management was started and the following actions carried out: i) MAP Redesign Website Questionnaire Survey; ii) Report of the Results of the User Survey; iii) Working note on the redesign of the UNEP/MAP website; iv) Working Note on the new MAP website Content Sections; v) Working Note on the new MAP Data-Base.

f) REPORTING SYSTEM: i) An inception meeting held in Rome on 2 March 2006 was part of this initial design phase and enabled INFO/RAC to identify better user requirements and to define the main steps for the development of the new reporting system based on ICTs. ii) A short-term work plan was developed for the reporting system to address the urgent need for the Secretariat to update data and receive integrations from the Countries for the completion of their 2002-2003 National Reports; iii) On 23 June 2006, INFO/RAC participated in the preparatory meeting on the reporting system. The main conclusions and recommendations of

the meeting confirmed that the design process for the reporting system should be a core application of the *InfoMAP* system.

g) INFO/RAC WEBSITE: The INFO/RAC website was improved (www.inforac.org;) and used experimentally to improve the accessibility of the wider user community.

h) MSSD WEBSITE: i) MSSD intranet website was set up, fully dedicated to the MSSD strategy and its IC pilot projects;

i) Cyprus CAMP WEBSITE: INFO/RAC-MAP participated in the Cyprus CAMP inception meeting, held in Nicosia, on 18-20 January 2006.

II.G.2 Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development

INFO/RAC has placed the development of the IC *Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development* at the core of its 2006-2007 programme of work.

In this respect, the preparation of the IC Strategy envisaged:

- The drafting of a *Vision* for the IC Strategy, presented and approved by the 11th MCSD Meeting (24-26 May 2006, Nicosia - Cyprus);
- The launching of *IC pilot initiatives*, approved by the 11th MCSD Meeting, to validate the IC solutions proposed within the *Vision* through a consultation process engaging the different sectors of civil society;
- The presentation of the first draft of the IC Strategy, previously submitted to the Secretariat and other MAP Components, to the 11th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee and to the 12th Meeting of the MCSD.

INFO/RAC has adopted a two-track approach. On the one hand it has proceeded with the further development and finalisation of the *Information and Communication Strategy* of the MSSD; on the other it has designed and implemented a series of IC "pilot" activities aimed at validating the proposed IC strategy for the MSSD, while increasing MSSD and MAP visibility, including options for improvement based on lessons learned.

In this context, following the recommendations ensuing from COP 14, the main activities carried out and results obtained were:

a) IC STRATEGY: i) Development and finalization of the *IC Strategy*; ii) A draft of the MSSD logo; iii) Dedicated advertising space in the main national newspapers in Cyprus, Greece and Italy was acquired; iv) Some of the main international advertising agencies, namely Saatchi and Saatchi, Bates, McCann Erickson and Leo Burnett accepted to join consultations regarding the definition of the IC strategy of the MSSD.

b) ECOMEDIA MAGAZINE: i) a preliminary and experimental magazine on line, aimed at supporting the MCSD, UNEP/MAP Components, governments of Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the civil society with a "one stop shop" to exchange views and comments on the MSSD and ways to set up and improve its information and communication strategy; ii) A special issue of the magazine *Campus EcoMedia*-*"FOTOCult"*- was developed as multi-sectoral collaboration and produced at no cost; iii) 10 editions of EcoMedia Magazine were produced.

c) ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK established.

d) A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION with audiovisuals and photography exhibitions submitted to the 2005 edition of the *Mediterranean Environment Award* was presented in Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Italy and Spain.

e) One promotional edition of the MEDday was launched on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention in Kemer (Turkey) in 2006; a relevant press release in Palermo (Italy) in 2007.

The MEDday programme was included in the Horizon 2020 Timetable for the first phase (2007-2013)

f) The following AUDIOVISUALS were produced:

- i) The filming of the Video of the 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention
- ii) "*The sea deserves our voice*". A video celebrating the 30th Anniversary of UNEP/MAP and promoting the themes of environmental protection within the Mediterranean was completed.
- iii) "*Video on the COP 14*". A 10-minute reportage on the highlights of the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. In the video the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development has a prominent role.
- iv) "*Video Interviews on the MSSD*". A collection of interviews with the leading personalities responsible for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Videos in production:

- i) Video on the *Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development* and its seven main themes: Water, Energy-Climate, Mobility, Tourism, Agriculture, Cities, Coasts and Biodiversity
- ii) Video on the *Mediterranean Environmental Award*. A back-stage report featuring the second edition of the Film and Photo Festival of UNEP/MAP and the "*Environment and Sustainable Development Network*", both devoted to the themes included in the MSSD.

The RED report was disseminated on different occasions.

II.G.3 IC Support to MAP and Regional Cooperation

Main **media events** and actions organized and carried out by INFO/RAC so far were:

- i) Participation in the *Workshop for the Conservation of Cetaceans in Southern Countries* in Bizerte, 9-11 March, 2006 and related press release (available on CD upon request and at www.inforac.org);
- ii) Participation in the *Mediterranean Symposium on Red Coral* (Tabarka, Tunisia on 8-9 May, 2006) and related press release (available on CD upon request and at www.inforac.org);
- iii) Participation in the international meeting Park Life, held in Rome, on 28 March -1 April 2006 (press conference and seminar);
- iv) A beach cleaning campaign, named "*Clean up and Scoop the Med*", was organized in each of the 21 Mediterranean countries to coincide with the 11th Meeting of the MCSD (24-26 May, 2006), while simultaneously using photography as a means of documenting the state of the environment. T-shirts, brochures and posters were produced to advertise the event and distributed among participants.
- v) Participation in the form of an international roundtable organized within the event *Stelle di mare lungo il fiume*, which takes place every summer along the banks of the river Tiber in Rome with the aim of providing greater visibility to marine protected areas;
- vi) Within the framework of a cooperation agreement between INFO/RAC and MedWet, a press conference was organised on the 19 June 2006 in Villa Kazouli in Kifissia, Athens (Greece) to raise awareness on some of the essential themes dealing with the protection of the Mediterranean environment;

- vii) Support to the Italian Government International Press conference on the Lebanese environmental crisis;
- viii) A media Event on the Monk Seal was held in Antalya, Turkey in September 2006 on the MEDday (TURKEY);
- ix) A media event on Industrial Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea was held in Cairo, Egypt, on 20 November 2006;
- x) INFO/RAC co-sponsored and supported the professional training "Euro-Mediterranean Course of Environmental Journalism Laura Conti, Ascea Marina (Salerno, Italy), 2 October to 1 December 2006.

II.G.4 INFO/RAC NFP Meeting

The 7th INFO/RAC NFPs Meeting was held in Palermo, Italy on 5 - 7 June 2007. The meeting was held jointly with BP/RAC and PAP/RAC. SPA/RAC held a separate, but parallel meeting in the same location.

INFO/RAC presented the Progress Report for 2006-2007 as well as the proposed Recommendations and Work Plan for 2008-2009. The meeting provided an additional opportunity for NFPs to put forward further suggestions and advice, taking into account stakeholder requirements and assessment of results achieved.

II.G.5 Participation in the GEF-LME Strategic Partnership

Within the framework of the LME, during the GEF PDF-B Project Partners Meeting held in January 2006 in Athens, INFO/RAC was entrusted with the development of two Components for the Regional part of the project: a) the *Replication Strategy* and b) the overall *Communication and Information Strategy*.

INFO/RAC developed a completely new and innovative conceptual approach to ensure that the project has an effective replication mechanism that takes into account the importance of using modern IC tools. The two components were finalized and submitted together with their budgets, log frames, incremental cost analysis and timetable to the LME Project Coordinator at UNEP/MAP.

INFO/RAC also designed and produced a dedicated brochure and a website for the GEF LME Partnership. The internet site (www.medsp.org), containing at this early stage for the first time an Arabic version, was particularly appreciated by GEF IW and UNEP.

To give adequate visibility to the LME Partnership, INFO/RAC took part in the IGR-2 event organized by UNEP/GPA in Beijing (China) on 16-20 October 2006. For this occasion, a poster, a brochure and an invitation card were designed, produced and distributed during the conference. The brochure outlined the main contents of the GEF PDF-B project. During the Conference, on 17 October 2006, INFO/RAC gave a short presentation on the replication strategy of the Mediterranean LME Strategic Partnership.

A coordination meeting was organised by the World Bank and UNEP in Athens, on 30 November to 3 December 2006, to discuss the integration of the MED LME SP components. As a result of the meeting, the following cross-cutting activities have been identified as common to the two original components of the project:

- Monitoring and evaluation;
- Replication and communication;
- Coordination.

On the same occasion, the budget of the regional component was reduced following indications by GEF. For the purpose of the project, INFO/RAC has raised a co-financing in cash of almost 1:1 requested by GEF, thanks to a contribution from the Sicilian Region. The GEF LME Project was approved by the GEF Council Meeting on 12 of June 2007.

**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 July 2007**

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 and 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	27.11.06
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

* 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 and 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.

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

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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

MEETINGS WITHIN MAP FRAMEWORK DURING THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007

2006	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact
8-10 January	Dubrovnik, Croatia	Expert Meeting to propose activities on Coastal Landscape management in the Mediterranean	PAP/RAC	M. Prem
16-17 January	Skhirat, Morocco	Four Motors for Europe, Wales and Flanders: towards sustainable development and environmentally-sound technologies in the Mediterranean basin	CP/RAC	V. Alzina
19-20 January	Nicosia, Cyprus	CAMP Cyprus Inception Workshop	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
23 January	Athens, Greece	RAC Directors Meeting	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
30-31 January	Algiers, Algeria	CAMP Algeria: Final Presentation Conference	PAP/RAC	Z. Skaricic
3-4 February	Sophia-Antipolis, France	3rd meeting of the steering committee. Silva Mediterranean project.	BP/RAC	L.Dassonville
14 February	Fes, Morocco	Workshop on Formulation and Implementation of CAMP Morocco	PAP/RAC	Z. Skaricic
16-17 February	Barcelona, Spain	Urbanisation and Mobility workshop	BP/RAC	P. Miran
19-20 February	Alexandria, Egypt	National Workshop to review dumping activities	MED POL	F.Abousamra
20 February	Sophia Antipolis, France	Experts Meeting on Energy	BP/RAC	S. Quefelec
27-28 February	Tripoli, Libya	National Workshop to review dumping activities	MED POL	F.Abousamra
6-9 March	Fes and Casablanca, Morocco	Seminar on the application of Best Environmental Practices in the Moroccan tanning sector	CP/RAC	V. Alzina E.Monfa
7-8 March	Loutraki, Greece	First Meeting of the open-ended WG on Liability and Compensation	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
9-11 March	Bizerte, Tunisia	Workshop on Capacity-building for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Southern Countries (in collaboration with ACCOBAMS)	SPA/RAC	A.Gannoun L. Ben Nakhla
14-15 March	Athens, Greece	Preparatory Consultation Meeting on the ICAM Protocol	PAP/RAC	Coordinating Unit - T. Hema
16 March	Athens, Greece	10th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD	PAP/RAC	P. Mifsud P. Alirol
16-17 March	Nicosia, Cyprus	Expert Meeting "Towards Mediterranean Strategy on Coastal Erosion: Benefiting from the EUROSION project"	PAP/RAC	N. Stipica
24-25 March	Sophia-Antipolis, France	Experts meeting on Tourism	BP/RAC	E.Coudert
28-29 March	Avigliano (Rome), Italy	InfoMAPDesign and Partnership Workshop	INFO/RAC	R. Prjyomko
3-4 April	Split, Croatia	Expert Meeting on the SMAP Project	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
6-7 April	Ljubljana, Slovenia	Bureau 64	Coordinating Unit	P. Mifsud T. Hema

2006	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact
6-7 April	Athens, Greece	1st WG on the implementation of the Ecosystem approach	MED POL	F.S. Civili
12-13 April	Beirut, Lebanon	National Review Meeting to ensure the replacability of Coastal Litter Management Project	MED POL	F.Abousamra
18 April	Tunis, Tunisia	Seminar on the application of best environmental practices in the Tunisian tanning sector	CP/RAC	V. Alzina
19 April	Tunis, Tunisia	Advisory Committee SAP BIO	SPA/RAC	Mr Daniel Cebrian-Menhero
25-26 April	Split, Croatia	Meeting on Identification of priority actions for ICM in Maghreb, Mashrek and Adriatic countries	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
27 April	Rabat, Morocco	National Workshop to review dumping activities	MED POL	F.Abousamra
27-29 April	Split, Croatia	First Meeting of the WG on ICAM Protocol	Coordinating Unit and PAP/RAC	T. Hema I. Trumbic
2-3 May	Bari, Italy	Experts meeting on sustainable rural development.	BP/RAC and ICAMAS	L.Dassonville
5 May	Paris, France	Sub-regional Workshop on Carbon Fund	BP/RAC	S. Quefelec
5-6 May	Tabarka, Tunisia	Workshop to Formulate a Programme of Work on Protecting the Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-Concretions in the Mediterranean	SPA/RAC & NGO	A.Gannoun A. Ouerghi
8-9 May	Tabarka, Tunisia	Mediterranean Symposium on Red Coral	SPA/RAC	A.Gannoun A.Ouerghi
11-13 May	Alicante, Spain	SPAMI Promotion and SAP BIO correspondents of beneficiary parties meeting	SPA/RAC	A.Gannoun S.El Asmi D.Cebrian
23 May	Nicosia, Cyprus	Extraordinary Meeting of RAC Directors	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
24-26 May	Nicosia, Cyprus	11th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)	Coordinating Unit - MCSD	P. Mifsud P. Alirol
1-3 June	Dures, Albania	Meeting to review the long term implementation of National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities	MED POL	F.S. Civili F. Abousamra
5-6 June	Portoroz, Slovenia	Workshop on IPPC implementation (in parallel with the International Conference for a Sustainable Strategy for the Adriatic)	CP/RAC	E. Villamore
5-7 June	Malta	Regional Training Course on the Bunker Convention	REMPEC	F. Hebert J. Pace
12&15 June	Amman, Jordan	3rd Task Force of the MEDSTAT-Environment 2 project	BP/RAC	F. Pintus
13-14 June	Amman, Jordan	Final Forum MEDSTAT-Environment 2	BP/RAC	F. Pintus
23 June	Athens, Greece	First Consultation meeting of MAP Components on Reporting System	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
18-19 July	Tripoli, Libya	Mission Support Presentation of the PB Report Meeting Libya/PB on Energy and Water		G. Benoit S. Quefelec M. Blinda
1-10 August	Lara Station, Cyprus	Training Session on marine Turtle conservation technique	SPA/RAC	A.Gannoun A.Ouerghi

2006	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact
6-9 September	Loutraki, Greece	Second Meeting of the WG on ICZM Protocol	Coordinating Unit, PAP/RAC	T. Hema I. Trumbic
15 September	Athens, Greece	Second consultation meeting of MAP Components on MAP Reporting system	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
16-19 September	Antalya, Turkey	Conference on Monk Seal Conservation	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun L. Ben Nakla D. Cebrian
17-18 September	Antalya, Turkey	Workshop: Introduction of eco-management in university curricula	CP/RAC	E. Villamore
21 September	Istanbul, Turkey	Seminar on the application of Best Environmental Practices in the Turkish tanning sector	CP/RAC	V. Alzina
2-6 October	Barcelona, Spain	Advanced seminar on industrial hazardous waste management	CP/RAC	M. Santacana
3-4 October	Athens, Greece	First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation	Coordinating Unit- MCSDD	P. Alirol
25-27 October	Durres, Albania	National Training Course on the MARPOL Convention	REMPEC	J. Pace
30-31 October	Cairo, Egypt	Bureau Meeting	Coordinating Unit	P. Mifsud T. Hema
31 October	Thessaloniki, Greece	Seminar on the application of Best Environmental Practices in the Greek tanning sector	CP/RAC	E. Villamore
7-11 November	Catania, Italy	Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points	Coordinating Unit	P. Mifsud T. Hema
14-15 November	Athens, Greece	Expert Meeting on the application of the Ecosystem Approach	MED POL	F. S. Civili
15-16 November	Misurata, Libya	Ad hoc meeting to update the Action for the Conservation of Mediterranean Turtles	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun A. Ouerghi
21-23 November	Montenegro	National Training Course on Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution (Programme of Activities for Montenegro)	REMPEC	G. Gonzalez L. Khodjet El Khil
28-30 November	Barcelona, Spain	Regional Workshop on the designation of places of refuge for ships in distress	REMPEC	F. Hebert J. Pace J. Zerafa
28-30 November	Al Bayda, Libya	Sustainable Tourism Workshop	CP/RAC	V. Alzina
1-5 December	Larnaka and Chrysochou Bay, Cyprus	CAMP Cyprus, Implementation of Biodiversity actions	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun D. Cebrian
4 December	Casablanca, Morocco	National workshop on cleaner production in the ceramics industry	CP/RAC	M. Santacana
5-6 December	Loutraki, Greece	Third Meeting of the Working Group on Compliance	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
7-8 December	Loutraki, Greece	Sixth Meeting on Reporting	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
10-15 December	Cairo, Egypt	Training course on municipal wastewater management back to back with seminar of best environmental practices in the tanning industry	CP/RAC	V. Alzina
11-13 December	Aden, Yemen	Arab regional workshop on the sound management of used oils and the management of waste from oil/gas sectors	CP/RAC	J. Aguado
13-15 December	Durres, Albania	National Training Course on Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution for Government Administrators	REMPEC	G Gonzalez.
15 December	Sophia Antipolis, France	Expert Workshop on Indicators for the sustainable development follow-up in the Mediterranean coastal areas	BP/RAC	J.P. Giraud

2006	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact
15-16 December	Montpellier, France	Expert workshop on Indicators for the sustainable agricultural and rural development follow-up	BP/RAC	G. Thivet
18-19 December	Split, Croatia	Meeting on the initiation of CAMP activities in Montenegro	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic
20-21 December	Alessandria, Italy	Workshop on the MED POL Biological Effects Programme: Achievements and Future Orientations	MED POL	F. S. Civili
2007	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact
10 January	Marrakech, Morocco	National workshop on ecological management in hotels	CP/RAC	M. Santacana
18-19 January	Athens, Greece	RAC Directors Meeting	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
4-9 February	Larnaca, Cyprus	Camp Cyprus Biodiversity 2 nd Field Work	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun D. Cebrian
5-6 February	Anavissos, Greece	MED POL Workshop on Eutrophication Assessment and Monitoring	MED POL	F. S. Civili
12-15 February	Loutraki, Greece	3 rd Meeting of the Working Group on ICZM Protocol	Coordinating Unit PAP/RAC	T. Hema I. Trumbic
13-15 February	Monaco	2 nd Meeting of Experts on Pleasure Craft Activities in the Mediterranean	REMPEC	F. Hebert L. Khodjet El Khil
16 February	Nicosia, Cyprus	Mid-term review of CAMP Cyprus implementation	PAP/RAC	A. Bjelica
20-21 February	Larnaca, Cyprus	CAMP Cyprus, Sustainable Analysis Activity, 2 nd Workshop	BP/RAC	E. Coudert
20-21 February	Athens, Greece	Government Designated Expert Meeting on the Application of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean Region	MED POL	F. S. Civili
27-28 February	Barcelona, Spain	CP/RAC National Focal Points Meeting	CP/RAC	V. Alzina J. Aguado
1 March	Tunis, Tunisia	Second Meeting of the SAP BIO Advisory Committee	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun D. Cebrian
1-2 March	Barcelona, Spain	WG on the application of the differentiated approach to pollution reduction	MED POL	F.S. Civili F. Abousamra
9 March	Athens, Greece	MCS D Steering Committee	Coordinating Unit – P. Mifsud MCS D	P. Mifsud
10 March	Athens, Greece	MAP Components Integration Workshop	Coordinating Unit	P. Mifsud
15 March	Seville, Spain	Meeting with Spanish donors to discuss external funding to the GEF Project	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun D. Cebrian
19-21 March	Saragossa, Spain	3 rd Regional Workshop on Water and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean	BP/RAC	G. Thivet M. Blinda
20-21 March	Nicosia, Cyprus	CAMP Cyprus, Sustainability Analysis Activity, 3 rd Workshop	BP/RAC	E. Coudert
26 March	Algiers, Algeria	Regional Conference on environment and sustainable development	BP/RAC	F. Pintus S. Laria
26-28 March	Mytilini, Greece	Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL Coordinators	MED POL	F.S. Civili F. Abousamra
26-27 March	Marseilles, France	Closure Meeting of the "Posidonia" Programme	SPA/RAC Ifremer Conseil Regional PACA	C. Pergent S. El Asmi
27-29 March	Marseilles, France	Third Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun S. El Asmi
29-30 March	Monaco	Regional Workshop on Energy and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean	BP/RAC	S. Quefelec
30 March	Belgium	Sub-Regional training on CHM	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun A. Ouerghi

2007	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact
3-4 April	Larnaca, Cyprus	CAMP Cyprus, Sustainable Analysis Activity, 2 nd Workshop	BP/RAC	E. Coudert
15-19 April	Larnaca, Cyprus	CAMP Cyprus biodiversity, 2 nd Field Work	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun D. Cebrian
24-26 April	Athens, Greece	Experts Consultation Meeting on health risks associated with tourist establishments	WHO/ MED POL	G. Kamizoulis
24-26 April	Cairo, Egypt	Anti-Fouling Systems (AFS) Convention Seminar	REMPEC	J. Zerafa
7-11 May	Malta	REMPEC National Focal Points Meeting	REMPEC	F. Hebert J. Pace L. Khodjet El Khil G. Gonzalez
8 May	Rabat, Morocco	Workshop to present and discuss ICZM Policy Brief (SMAP III)	PAP/RAC	D. Povh Skugor
10-11 May	Tunis, Tunisia	Kick-off meeting for the Destinations project	PAP/RAC	Z. Skaricic
10-11 May	Sophia Antipolis	Expert Group on Agriculture and rural development	BP/RAC	F. Pintus
21-22 May	Istanbul, Turkey	7 th Meeting on Reporting under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
23-25 May	Istanbul, Turkey	4 th Meeting of the Working Group on Implementation and Compliance under the Barcelona Convention	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
24-25 May	Athens, Greece	Networking meeting for the coordination on proposals to external donors to the GEF Project	SPA/RAC- Coordinating Unit	D. Cebrian
30-31 May	Istanbul, Turkey	12 th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)	Coordinating Unit - MCSD	P. Mifsud S. Kouvelis
4-7 June	Lattakia, Syria	Training Course on the new MEDSLICK version for Syria	REMPEC/Syria	C. Farchi
5-7 June	Palermo, Italy	Joint Meeting of National Focal Points for Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC	BP/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC	L. Dassonville I. Trumbic S. Illuminato
6-9 June	Palermo, Italy	8 th Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs	SPA/RAC	A. Gannoun, C. Pergent-Martin & staff
11-12 June	Athens, Greece	Bathing waters Consultation Meeting	WHO/MED POL	G. Kamizoulis
11-12 June	Split, Croatia	Expert meeting to discuss draft Manual for sustainable tourism	PAP/RAC	Z. Skaricic
12-14 June	Bar, Montenegro	National Training Course on MARPOL (Programme of Activities for Montenegro)	REMPEC	J. Pace
13-16 June	Split, Croatia	4 th Meeting of the Working Group on ICZM Protocol	Coordinating Unit, PAP/RAC	T. Hema I. Trumbic
14-15 June	Tabarka, Tunisia	Training Course on Marine Biotopes Mapping and the use of GIS for Biodiversity Conservation purposes	SPA/RAC & OKIANOS	S. El-Asmi C. Pergent-Martin
20-21 June	Koper, Slovenia	CAMP Slovenia: Final Presentation Conference	PAP/RAC	M. Prem
25-27 June	Sarajevo and Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Seminar on environmental permitting and use of best available techniques	CP/RAC	E. Villamore
25-28 June	Hammamet, Tunisia	MED POL Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators	MED POL	F.S. Civili
26-28 June	Sarajevo and Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Workshop on best available techniques in the meat industry	CP/RAC	M. Santacana
28-29 June	Athens, Greece	2 nd Meeting of the Working Group on Liability and Compensation	Coordinating Unit	T. Hema
2-3 July	Madrid, Spain	Bureau Meeting	Coordinating Unit	P. Mifsud T. Hema

2007	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact
12 July	Brussels, Belgium	Second Joint meeting to monitor the implementation of Joint Programme of Work EC/MAP		P. Mifsud

ANNEX III

TRUST FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION (ME)
Status of contribution as at 30 June 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 and 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	7,755	0	0	0	0
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	124,634	0	0	0	0
T o t a l	787,338	0	5,557,275	4,229,477	346,611	0	440,727	1,768,525

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	0	788,304
UNEP Env. Fund	0	1/	0	0	0	0	0	0
T o t a l	1,135,641	0	6,595,844	4,828,046	346,611	0	440,727	2,556,828

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

1/ Interfund transfer

ANNEX IV
COORDINATING UNIT
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN PLAN

COORDINATING UNIT

Mr. Paul Mifsud
Coordinator (D-2)

Ms. Tatjana Hema
Programme Officer (P-4)

Mr. Khaled Ben Salah
Fund/Administrative Officer (P-4)

Mr. Spyros Kouvelis
Programme Officer for Sustainable Development (L-4)

Ms. Luisa Colasimone
Information Officer (P.3)

Ms. Haris Pissala-Petrou
Meeting Services Assistant (G-7)

Ms. Joy Moreno
Budget Assistant (G-7)

Ms. Margaret Watts
Library Assistant (G-6)

Ms. Jacqui Attwood
Administrative Assistant (G-6)

Ms. Nicole Mabger
Administrative Assistant (G-6)

Mr. Iordanis Meimarides
Computer Information Systems Assistant (G-6)

Ms. Sylvie Fortin
Administrative Assistant (G-6)

Ms. Irene Cavoura
Programme Assistant (G-5)

Ms. Despina Psillou
Secretary (G-5)

Ms. Anastasia Vergiris
Information Assistant (G-5)

Mr. Dimosthenis Magiras
Administrative Clerk (G-4)

Mr. Apostolos Apostolopoulos
Administrative Clerk (G-4)

Mr. Dimitris Ganassoulis
Field Security Coordination Assistant (G-4)

Ms. Anna Papadopoulou
Secretary (G-4)

MED POL

Mr. Francesco Saverio Civili
MED POL Coordinator (D-1)

Mr. Fouad Abousamra
Programme Officer (P-4)

VACANT (selection process ongoing)
Programme Officer (P-4)

Ms. Elise Giougourtzian
Secretary (G-5)

Ms. Shelley Farrington-Gavalas
Secretary (G-4)

Ms. Nathalie Gomez
Secretary (G-4)

WHO

Mr. George Kamizoulis
Scientist (P-5)

Ms. Vanta Papapanagiotou
Programme Assistant (G-5)

GEF

Ms. Anastasia Vaporides
Administrative Assistant (G-5)