



United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.297/3
5 July 2006

ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points

Catania (Italy), 7-11 November 2006

EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)

**A Secretariat submission with proposals for implementing the recommendations of the
External Evaluation**

Explanatory Note

This document features the recommendations made by the Consultant and the comments and proposals by the Secretariat on the recommendations. The submissions by the Secretariat were prepared following a consultation exercise within MEDU involving all RAC Directors and Programme Officers who were invited to submit comments in writing which were then discussed during a one day meeting with the Consultant.

All the recommendations made by the Consultant have been listed under one column and grouped under different headings with the comments and proposals by the Secretariat listed under another column.

The recommendations have been grouped under the following headings:

1. A New start
2. Legal Institutional and Policy Issues
3. Mandate of the RACs and the MEDPOL
4. Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)
5. The system of the Focal Points and capacity building
6. Relations with the European Union/European Commission
7. Synergies

It should be noted that the recommendations were reproduced from the full report of the External Evaluation of MAP (UNEP(DEC)/MED 270/Inf.9) dated 18 July 2005. This explains why the recommendations are numbered 27-153 in order to keep the same reference, as in the original report.

I. A new start

Recommendations of the Evaluation Report	Comments and Proposals by the Secretariat
<p>27. The Convention and its Protocols should be re-valued as the central international law instruments that are at the basis of the process. In real terms, this has never ceased to be the case, but a general perception has been generated, maybe inadvertently, that there is a nebulous "Mediterranean Action Plan" being implemented, when what actually exists is no more – but no less – than a mechanism to implement an intergovernmental treaty. The treaty as such should be reinstalled at the centre of the process and the misnomer of a 'Mediterranean Action Plan', or MAP should no longer be employed.</p>	<p>While it is agreed that the Convention and the Protocols should be at the centre and the point of reference of all the activities carried out by the Secretariat and its components, MAP should continue to be employed because it addresses also socio-economic issues, especially under the MCSD, which are not covered by the legal instruments.</p> <p>Moreover, MAP is mentioned in the Preamble as well as in Article 4 para. 2 of the Convention. In conformity with this article, CPs pledge themselves to implement the Mediterranean Action Plan.</p>
<p>28. The 30th Anniversary of the Convention should be used as a good opportunity to strengthen and launch a true new phase of the Convention, a new face with a new meaning and a new resolve.</p>	<p>It is proposed that the Ministerial Segment at the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties should include the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Environment in order to: a) reaffirm the commitment of the Parties to the amended Convention now in force; and b) establish a real link with the Euro Mediterranean Partnership (EMP). This will require a special effort, especially by the host country (Spain), to secure a well-attended Ministerial Segment.</p>
<p>29. To indicate this new start and to avoid the confusion of names between the 'Barcelona Convention' and the 'Barcelona Process' the COP should pass a resolution concerning the presentational and graphic identity of the Convention¹. For presentational and promotional purposes, the resolution should establish that the <i>Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols</i>, as well as all the other processes and components related to the Convention that so far have been referred to as the 'Mediterranean Action Plan – MAP' and/or the 'Barcelona Convention', will hence forth be referred to as, for example, the Mediterranean Environment Convention, with its appropriate translation in other languages, and with the acronym MedEC used in all languages.</p>	<p>While the graphic identity of the MAP and the Barcelona Convention should be changed to give more importance and visibility to the term "Barcelona Convention" giving it the same exposure as UNEP, it is not recommended to use the term "Mediterranean Environment Convention (MedEC)."</p> <p>Otherwise, the Barcelona Convention and MAP will lose their unique identity, which has been created over the last 30 years.</p>

¹ In the same manner that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has adopted the presentational name 'World Bank'.

<p>30. A new logo and graphic identity should be adopted, in which the words 'MedEC' and 'The Mediterranean Environment Convention' (or any other new presentational name) should be prominent, with the full official name of the Convention in smaller print. The indication that the Secretariat of the Convention is provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) should also appear in small print. In other words, in the letterhead and other graphic presentations the prominence of the UNEP name and logo should be removed, highlighting instead the prominence of the Convention. After all, UNEP is providing the Secretariat to the Convention but is not the main actor and/or component.</p>	<p>It is recommended that a new logo and graphic identity be adopted, highlighting the prominence of the Barcelona Convention and MAP, but retaining the UNEP name and logo and the prominence they enjoy at present.</p> <p>Being under the UN umbrella gives more clout to the Barcelona Convention and MAP on the international stage.</p>
<p>31. In order to back the new image with real new substance, the Convention should develop a Vision and Strategic Statement that would encompass the whole process and current structure. This document should set the road map for coordinated and concerted efforts of the COP and Bureau; the RACs and Programmes, the MCSD, the system of focal points, and the Secretariat. The Statement should aim to ensure that all these components work in <u>synergy</u> and achieve tangible and quantifiable results. The terms of reference, roles and responsibilities of each component, in particular of each RAC and programme and the MCSD, should be clearly defined.</p>	<p>See the draft for a Vision and Strategic Statement (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.297/4)</p> <p>In addition, the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 should adopt specific decisions dealing with, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the composition and <i>modus operandi</i> of the MCSD; and b) the roles and responsibilities of RACs.
<p>32. In order to fulfil the expectations and aspirations of the Contracting Parties, this document should attempt to be practical, problem-solving and action-oriented.</p>	<p>See the draft for a Vision and Strategic Statement (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.297/4)</p>
<p>33. The Vision and Strategic Statement should be based on the understanding that the main contribution that the Convention system can make to the quest for sustainable development is the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. This should be the highest priority and the system should develop the capacity to provide assistance to Parties in this direction.</p> <p>This approach should also take into account the fact that some Protocols require substantial resources for effective implementation: e.g. MEDPOL officers have indicated that 9 billion euros might be needed to control land-based pollution in the next 10 years.</p>	<p>See the draft for a Vision and Strategic Statement (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.297/4)</p>
<p>34. If the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development is endorsed by COP-14, the Vision and Strategic Statement</p>	<p>See the draft for a Vision and Strategic Statement (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.297/4)</p>

<p>should make use of section 2.7 of the Strategy (draft dated June 2005) entitled: 'Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of the coastal zones'. The concept of 'ecosystem services', coined by the report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment launched in March 2005, could also serve as the basis for the elaboration of the Vision and Strategic Statement.</p>	
<p>35. There is a general and strong demand of more on-the-ground action, going beyond the adoption of resolutions and the preparation of guidelines and technical and policy analysis. The implementation of the Vision and Strategic Statement should contemplate, in the first instance, a limited number of regional programmes that would encourage the participation of the 22 Parties. It is very important that the Convention continues to be, or becomes, relevant to <u>all Parties</u>, both developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition. MEDPOL is widely recognized as the most successful undertaking of the Convention and could serve as a model for other region-wide programmes.</p>	<p>Regional programmes contemplating more action on the ground should be developed in order for the Convention and MAP to continue to be relevant to the CPs. Emerging issues of relevance to the region should be identified and addressed through concrete action especially if the concept of ecosystem approach is to be effectively applied. The Report on Environment and Development identifies several issues of extreme interest to the Mediterranean that could be the basis of concrete action at the regional or sub-regional level.</p>
<p>36. In addition to these regional programmes, a series of sub-regional initiatives should be considered in order to cater to the specific needs of groups of Parties, provided that there is a guarantee of full participation of all those interested. This sub-regional approach could benefit from being associated with the methodology of EU regional policy instruments.</p>	<p>As stated earlier, initiatives at the sub-regional level taking into account developing countries or countries with economies in transition are very important and should be encouraged.</p>
<p>37. 'Type II' initiatives similar to those launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) should be envisaged at the regional and sub-regional levels.</p>	<p>Parties and partners shall be invited to propose "Type II" initiatives.</p>
<p>38. A 'Resource Mobilization Plan' that contemplates all the components of the Convention process and in particular the RACs and programmes, should also be included within the Vision and Strategic Statement.</p>	<p>MAP needs a strong financing framework or a Resource Mobilization Plan for its future activities especially in helping the countries to face the challenges that need to be addressed in the long-term implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at the national level. Such a mechanism would give more value to MAP.</p>
<p>39. To improve the Convention's political visibility, a 'Davos-like approach' should be envisioned, involving political leaders, relevant corporations, other actors in the business sector, economic circles and other public figures.</p>	<p>A "Davos-like approach" could be tested in one of the meetings of the MCSD.</p>

II. Legal, Institutional and Policy issues

Ratifications

Recommendations of the Evaluation Report	Comments and Proposals by the Secretariat
<p>40. Pending ratifications and some inconsistencies in the ratifications by some Parties are key questions because they are at the base of the credibility of the whole process. The COP should seriously look into this matter and the Coordinator, with the active support of the Bureau and the Depositary, should take a much more proactive role in working with the Parties on this matter. To this end:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) it will be important that the COP considers electing to the Bureau Parties that are in good standing with regards to the ratifications, so that they can assist in this matter from a position of moral authority; and b) the Secretariat should improve its working relations with the officials in Spain dealing with the Depositary function with a view to: i) enlist their support in promoting ratifications through the appropriate use of diplomatic channels; ii) remain constantly up-to-date concerning the status of ratifications; and iii) maintain files in the Secretariat with copies of all the relevant documents of ratification. 	<p>A MoU should be developed between the Secretariat and Spain concerning the <i>modus operandi</i> of the Depositary country.</p> <p>Lack of ratifications by some countries is a key issue. The Secretariat, together with the Depositary country, should take an active part in this matter. However, no distinction should be made, as proposed in para (a) between those CPs that have ratified the legal instruments and those that have not because such an approach could penalize countries who are active within MAP but have not ratified the legal instruments because of internal constraints extraneous to MAP.</p>
<p>41. It appears that the 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, Madrid, 1994) is unlikely to enter into force. It may therefore be appropriate to consider rescinding the agreement, so as to avoid dragging an instrument of international law that has little value in practice, in particular since its provisions are already covered by a global instrument.</p>	<p>The recommendation to rescind the Offshore Protocol is not supported. Efforts should continue to be made to have it ratified.</p>

Reporting and Compliance

<p>42. The establishment of a compliance mechanism should constitute a high priority. COP-14 in Slovenia should provide clear instructions for the preparation of an efficient mechanism, including the tools that could</p>	<p>The absence of a compliance mechanism, even though it is provided for in the Convention is undermining its effectiveness and credibility of MAP. A compliance mechanism should be finalized and ready for</p>
--	--

<p>serve to accelerate and monitor compliance, such as guidelines, information tools, performance indicators, etc.</p>	<p>approval by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.</p>
<p>43. The reporting system being established for the Convention should be such that it does not become yet another burden for overworked Focal Points, but rather an instrument that can be used as a national planning tool for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. This tool should also be designed as an on-going, on-line reporting system, so that data can be entered at all times, avoiding the rush of producing a national report when the deadline approaches. The effort made by the Secretariat in comparing the reporting requirements and practices of other Conventions should be put to practical use in order to assist Parties to converge towards the very the important, yet elusive, 'joint reporting system'.</p>	<p>A comprehensive reporting system is currently being developed taking into account other reporting requirements by the Contracting Parties in order to avoid duplication of work.</p>
<p>44. The Secretariat should be instructed to analyse the possibility of coupling the reporting system with other on-going exercises, such as the preparation of the Human Development Report undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and/or the reports on environmental performance carried out by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).</p>	<p>This issue will be considered during the preparation of the final reporting system to be submitted for adoption by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.</p>

Possible new instruments

<p>45. It would seem advisable to discontinue the discussions and negotiations of any new Protocol and/or Annex to the Convention until such a time when there is guarantee that the new instrument(s) would obtain the required number of ratifications for entering into force in a reasonable period of time. Otherwise, it would not be healthy for the Convention process to have yet other instruments that have not entered into force after more than 10 years after being signed.</p>	<p>The recommendation has been superseded by the decision adopted by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005 to develop a draft of a new ICZM Protocol.</p>
--	--

Political clout

<p>46. As in all intergovernmental treaties, the main entry point of the Convention in each Party should be the Ministry of Foreign</p>	<p>The Secretariat agrees with these recommendations.</p>
---	---

<p>Affairs, with other appropriate line ministries being involved in the technical aspects of the development and application of the treaty. To this end:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the COP should adopt a decision requesting the Parties to designate their Ambassadors in Athens, or in the nearest capital, as the Permanent Representatives to the Secretariat of the Convention; b) the Secretariat should establish and maintain active contacts with the Permanent Representatives, keeping them informed of all developments and informing them of all Convention meetings; c) the Secretariat should organize briefing sessions for the Permanent Representatives at regular intervals during the year and at any other time there is an identified need; and d) all formal communications to the Parties should be transmitted under cover of a diplomatic note (<i>note verbale</i>) addressed to the Permanent Representatives, with copy to the Convention Focal Points. 	
<p>47. In order to increase the visibility of the Convention – and thus its political clout – and also as a capacity building tool, the Secretariat should organize regular official visits to each Party, preferably by the Coordinator. Eleven Parties should receive an official visit each year – using, if appropriate, the opportunities provided by regional or international meetings – in such a way that each Party would receive an official visit every two years.</p>	<p>The Secretariat will consider implementing this recommendation in 2007, in consultation with the Bureau and interested Parties. To increase even more MAP's visibility and ensure contacts at the highest possible level of governments, some of these visits could be led by the Minister of the Environment of the Contracting Party holding the Presidency of the Bureau. Impacts of such visits could be enhanced through various public relations initiatives during the visit including press conferences, public lectures and visits to projects being carried out with the support of MAP.</p>
<p>48. These visits should last for approximately three days and should encompass, as a minimum: i) meetings with the line Minister(s); ii) a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; iii) a working session with the Focal Points, iv) an encounter with representatives of civil society groups; and v) a press conference and interviews with the press. A lecture on the Convention and its process at a public and prestigious venue should also be envisaged. In each case, consideration should be given to organizing a media event (an inauguration, opening of an exhibition, launching of a major study, etc.).</p>	<p>See the previous paragraph.</p>

The Conference of the Parties (COP)

<p>49. In spite of the general satisfaction expressed by the Parties with having ordinary meetings of the COP every two years, this interval could be too short for a Convention which is dealing more with processes than with managing issues that change from year to year. Thus, it would seem reasonable to consider holding the ordinary meetings of the COP every three years. This would have the following advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) would allow more time for the implementation of the key decisions taken by the COP; b) would make the reporting process less cumbersome and eventually more meaningful; c) would allow for better preparation of strategic proposals that normally should involve complex and time consuming consultation processes; d) would help to reduce the 'COPs-related fatigue' that Parties in general are suffering from; and e) would reduce meeting costs. 	<p>Legal advice has been sought on this matter since the provision to hold the Meeting of the Contracting Parties every two years is included in the Convention. If this recommendation is accepted, a formal letter from each Party expressing agreement with holding the Meeting of the Contracting Parties every three years would suffice, in spite of Article 18 of the Convention. However, in the opinion of the Secretariat, the meeting of the Contracting Parties should continue to be held on a biennial basis as is the practice at present.</p>
<p>50. Regrettably, Article 18 of the Convention establishes that "the Contracting Parties shall hold ordinary meetings every two years..." (an issue that could have been left to the Rules of Procedure to establish). Legal advice should be sought regarding the possibility of holding the COP every three years, in spite of the letter of Article 18.</p>	<p>See the previous paragraph.</p>
<p>51. Each COP should define the key issues that should be in the agenda of the next meeting, in particular those issues of a strategic nature, so that the work for preparing well thought-out proposals could start immediately after the COP.</p>	<p>If the proposal is accepted, the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 should already identify the key issues to be included in the agenda of the 16th Meeting in 2009.</p>
<p>52. Preparations of the key decisions of the COP should be done with much more lead time, allowing for more consultation with the Parties and the involvement of the Convention partners and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>The process envisioned for the implementation of these recommendations is in fact an application of this <i>modus operandi</i>, which will be used for decisions on all major issues concerning the Convention.</p>
<p>53. The ministerial segment of the COP should be planned well in advance (one year) in terms of issues to be discussed and outcomes. Professional facilitators should be used. The aim should be to: a) use the presence of Ministers in a meaningful way; and b) ensure that Ministers go back home with the feeling that their attendance has been worthwhile, which in turn would be</p>	<p>The Secretariat is not in favour of the use of facilitators during the ministerial segment of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.</p>

<p>translated in more political support for the Convention.</p>	
<p>54. The COP should avoid, at all cost, the adoption of sweeping resolutions without clear plans and identified resources for implementation. Repeating this practice will undermine the credibility of the Convention and its processes.</p>	<p>Decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties should be limited in number, address policy issues and be supported by financial allocations to ensure their implementation.</p>
<p>55. There should be a modification of the manner in which the decisions of the COP are worded and numbered. Until now they are registered in a very confusing manner in terms of content, language and numbering, resulting in many cases in a lack of clarity as to whom they are addressed to and as to the real intent of the decision. All decisions are registered as 'Recommendations', even if some of them are giving instructions to the Secretariat, and thus, have the value of 'resolutions', not 'recommendations'.</p>	<p>The practice followed in other Conventions should be adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties. A sample of the proposed wording of the decisions of the Contracting Parties is in Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.297/Inf.5.</p>
<p>56. It is recommended that all decisions of the COP be registered as 'Decisions' using the numbering system in place in most Conventions: a roman number to indicate the COP number, followed of the Arabic numbers in chronological order (e.g. Decision XIV.1, XIV.2, etc.). Each Decision should have a preambular section providing the background and justification for the Decision followed by the operative paragraphs. There would be no need to differentiate between 'resolutions' and 'recommendations' since the intent of the Decision would be evident in the operative paragraphs.</p>	<p>See previous paragraph.</p>
<p>57. The Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties should be amended to bring them up-to-date with the present situation of the Convention. The acceptance of some of the recommendations put forward in this report would also require amendments to the Rules of Procedure. In an advanced briefing note for the Bureau on the results of the External Evaluation prepared for its meeting in June 2005, a detailed proposal for amending the Rules of Procedure was submitted as part of the briefing note.</p>	<p>The proposal with the amendments to the Rules of procedure is in Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.297/Inf.6.</p>

The Bureau

<p>58. The COP may consider incorporating as an additional Bureau member the Party that will host the next Conference of the Parties. In this case, this Party would not be a candidate in the election of Bureau members since its seat would be already</p>	<p>No amendment to the Convention is necessary in order to implement this recommendation. However, there is a need to amend the Terms of Reference of the Bureau.</p>
---	---

secured.	
<p>59. Parties, and not individuals, should be elected to the Bureau. The COP should pass a decision to the effect that the representation of Parties in the Bureau should be at the level of Ministers or their representatives. (See also paragraph 40 (a) above also related to the Bureau.)</p>	<p>This is already the <i>de facto</i> situation but it should be stated in the Rules of procedure to avoid any ambiguities, keeping in mind that according to the Rules of procedure in force “<i>At the commencement of the first sitting of each ordinary meeting or conference, a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur are to be elected from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties</i>” (Rule 20).</p>

The role of the Secretariat

<p>60. The COP should pass a resolution by which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the MAP Coordinating Unit (MEDU) should be renamed ‘Secretariat of the Convention’; b) the head of the Secretariat should have the title of ‘Executive Secretary of the Convention’ (as is the case of all the other Conventions administered by UNEP); and c) the Coordinator [Executive Secretary] should act on UNEP’s behalf in dealing with all issues related to the Convention, including the issuing of invitations to the COP and other Convention meetings, preparing the agendas, reporting on administrative and financial matters, etc., as it is the common practice in all other UNEP-administered Conventions. The Rules of Procedure should be amended accordingly. 	<p>These issues are included in the proposed changes to the Rules of procedure, (Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.297/Inf.6) but it may be advisable to adopt them through a decision of the Contracting Parties.</p> <p>If this recommendation is approved, especially with respect to para (b) the role of the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention would be brought in line with that of other Conventions.</p> <p>It may also be advisable to keep both designations – Executive Secretary of the Convention and Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan.</p>
<p>61. The Coordinator [Executive Secretary] should pay much more attention than is currently allotted to the diplomatic and political dimension of his/her function by establishing and maintaining contacts at higher political levels that has been the case so far. He/she should also concentrate more on strategic issues and on the synergy with other key conventions, institutions and processes, leaving a Deputy Executive Secretary in charge of the administrative and day-to-day operational issues of the Secretariat.</p>	<p>The substance of this recommendation is already part of the Job Description/Terms of Reference of the post. Whether there should be a Deputy Executive Secretary (or Deputy Coordinator) is under discussion and should be clarified as a result of the evaluation exercise. At the same time, the Secretariat is too small to allow such a differentiation in roles and functions.</p> <p>Following the decision of the CPs in Portoroz, Slovenia, the post of Deputy Coordinator was frozen for the 2006-2007 biennium to be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Parties on the basis of the recommendations of the Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points.</p> <p>On the basis of past experience it is recommended to reinstate the post of Deputy</p>

	<p>Coordinator.</p> <p>With a Deputy Coordinator or Deputy Executive Secretary, the Coordinator or Executive Secretary will be able to give much more attention to the diplomatic and political dimension of his role.</p>
<p>62. Another key function of the Coordinator [Executive Secretary] should be the coordination and supervision of the work of all the RACs. (See also paragraphs 74-78).</p>	<p>This is already a function of the Coordinator but should be exercised in a more effective manner.</p>
<p>63. The Secretariat should reinforce its capacity to efficiently serve the key Convention processes, such as the preparation and running of the COP and the meetings of the Bureau and the Convention FPs, the proposed briefings to the Permanent Representatives, issues of compliance, the national reporting process and questions related to ratifications and legal interpretations of the Convention and its Protocols. To this end, the Secretariat should review the level and capacity of the post assigned to these functions.</p>	<p>This function is currently being carried out by a Professional Officer at P4 level. Current duties already justify the re-classification of the post to P5 level. However, the level of the functions of the post do not justify the recruitment of additional personnel. The Secretariat does however make use of the services of consultants to help it with specific issues especially of a legal nature.</p>
<p>64. The Secretariat should take all necessary steps to ensure that at no time it 'looses contact' with any of the Parties, in spite of the frequent changes of organization charts, personnel and attribution of responsibilities that are common in the public administration of all countries. When the contacts appear to have been lost and all attempts to re-establish connections by regular means of communication have failed, an official from the Secretariat should be dispatched to the country in question to find out who is now in charge of the Convention and to make all necessary efforts to bring the Party back on board. With only 22 Parties to deal with, the Secretariat can and should maintain fluid and effective contacts with <u>all</u> Parties at <u>all</u> times.</p>	<p>The Coordinator should keep under constant review the situation in relation to the effective contact with all Parties and take the necessary action when warranted.</p> <p>This could be done during the biannual visits to the countries by the Coordinator as proposed in Recommendation 47.</p>
<p>65. The Secretariat has the obligation to ensure the quality of all documents that carry the imprimatur of the Convention (e.g. those produced by the RACs), including working documents of asll Convention-related meetings. This includes the need to ensure the quality of language in all language versions. To this end, the Secretariat should use the service of a language editor to supervise the text in the original language and then use professional translators for the other language(s).</p>	<p>The Coordinator should supervise the preparation of documents of all Convention-related meetings to ensure that they are of the proper standard. Official documents should first be vetted by the Secretariat for technical content and policy relevance, and then go for language editing.</p> <p>There is a great need for a language editor to review all the meeting documents before publication/circulation but not on a full time basis.</p>
<p>66. It would be advisable to undertake an</p>	<p>An audit exercise has already been carried</p>

<p>external audit by a professional firm of the internal organization, administrative system, financial management and general <i>modus operandi</i> of the Secretariat in order to identify ways and means to render it more efficient.</p>	<p>out by an Audit Office of UNEP and an administrative review is on the cards. This will be carried out by the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).</p>
<p>67. The Bureau of the Convention should negotiate an agreement with UNEP HQ in Nairobi to expedite the recruitment procedures in order to reduce the long months that it currently takes to have new staff members on board in the Convention Secretariat.</p>	<p>There is a great need to expedite recruitment procedures. It is proposed that the Coordinator should take up this issue with UNON in Nairobi.</p>

Resource mobilization

<p>68. In relation to resource mobilization it is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) all fundraising efforts be fully co-ordinated by the Secretariat; b) efforts should be made to diversify funding sources, including the private sector in these efforts; c) a clear mechanism must be set up in order to assist Parties in project development and fundraising, so that they can implement the Convention and its Protocols and the recommendations of the MCSD. This mechanism should be established in the Secretariat but should also build the capacity of the RACs in project development and fundraising; d) an overall financial reporting system must be devised. It should be simple, clear and easy to understand, covering all activities and organs of the Convention; and e) donors must be encouraged to participate as observers in the Convention meetings, so that they are kept informed of developments and can express their views, especially on planning issues. 	<p>With respect to paras. a), b) and c) the fundraising capacity of the Secretariat should be enhanced but this may require creating a new post or upgrading an existing one. This has financial implications, but there is no doubt that for doing more, additional resources will be required.</p> <p>As stated earlier, MAP should devote more effort towards action on the ground. To do this a strong financing framework should be established to mobilize financial resources. As the next phase of MAP progresses, in particular the implementation of SAP/MED, SAP/BIO and the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem, there is a need for sustainable funding which can only be achieved through the involvement of the Contracting Parties in close cooperation with international partners and donors. To organize such sustainable funding there is the need for a mechanism to develop fund raising to support the national implementation of MAP programmes.</p>
<p>69. The Convention and its components, in particular the RACs, need to establish efficient communication with funding agencies and to follow-up developments in the region in relation to the funding facilities under several regional and bilateral programmes and organizations. When relevant, RACs should also consider involving the private sector in public-private partnerships. Mobilization of financial resources from corporations, as a part of their corporate social responsibility, should be actively pursued. These resources could</p>	<p>There are a number of international financing options available for environmental investments to support domestic sources of funding for programme implementation together with public private partnerships arrangements. The important thing is the identification and establishment of multi-sector partnerships for joint funding and execution of activities. This should be done under the direction of the Secretariat. For this to happen, however, the human resource capacity of the Secretariat has to be strengthened.</p>

<p>be used as seed money for major resource mobilization activities. It is proposed that CP/RAC be entrusted with an important role in setting up links with the private sector.</p>	
--	--

III. The Mandate of the RACs and the MED POL

The Regional Activity Centres (RACs)

<p>70. The RACs and Programmes should identify tools and/or mechanisms to assist countries in making use of their outputs and services at the national level. This could be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) by identifying and devising tools and/or mechanisms that would help the FPs establish and maintain links with other ministries and authorities, in order to encourage them to make use of the general outputs and products of the RACs; and b) by including in their products, to the extent feasible, alternative tools and mechanisms for mobilizing local and national resources in order to support countries to move more towards practical on-the-ground implementation without having to always rely on external support. 	<p>The key issue here is the role of the Focal Points. Their function should be defined in clear terms for them to be effective. Criteria for their designation should be developed to help the countries identify the proper officials to act as Focal Points.</p>
<p>71. There is a pressing need for all the RACs to raise their profiles (together with that of the Convention in general) and to more strongly advertise their results through a wider and more diversified dissemination of their products, public relations activities and contacts with the media.</p>	<p>Raising the visibility requires constant efforts during a considerable period of time. Apart from being attentive to all the opportunities that may arise towards this end, a plan of action should be developed with specific actions to be undertaken with the purpose of raising visibility.</p> <p>This weakness should be addressed both with respect to MAP as well as with regard to the RACs with the support of INFO/RAC.</p>
<p>72. Higher technical and political profiles would create an enabling environment that would be conducive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) getting the attention of decision-makers in the different sectors to look into the products of the RACs and consider them for use at national level; b) mobilizing international, regional and national resources; c) reaching the media and pressure groups, so as to encourage governments and line ministries to better assume their environmental responsibilities towards the Mediterranean and the Convention. 	<p>RACs should promote their activities and success stories much better than they are doing at present. Success breeds success and the higher their profile is, the bigger is the chance of attracting attention and achieving recognition, thus increasing their chances of attracting financial and technical support for their activities. The publicity generated recently about MAP and the BP following the publication of the Report on Environment and Development proves this point.</p>
<p>73. The time has come to update, amend or revisit the mandates, functions and responsibilities of the various RACs and programmes so that they can act in complete synergy, each in their specific areas of competence and all 'pushing' towards the</p>	<p>The implementation of this recommendation should start in 2007, following the approval of the Contracting Parties in order to submit to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2009 a proposal concerning a revised (or confirmed) mandate of the RACs, including a</p>

<p>common objective according to the Vision and Strategic Statement proposed above.</p>	<p>clear road map to move towards effective synergies among them. The names of the RACs should also be reconsidered to ensure that the name reflects the true mandate of each RAC.</p> <p>Although evaluations have been carried out in respect of all the RACs, there is a need to re-visit the application of the recommendations made and their relevance in view of the new vision and strategic direction.</p>
<p>74. Overall, the RACs system should be re-shaped as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Secretariat should be the umbrella body that coordinates, monitors and follows-up on the activities of the Centres within the framework of the operations of the Convention and its Protocols; b) the Blue Plan should be the technical arm of the MCSD. It should be the only Centre specializing in sustainable development issues, including those of a socio-economic nature, while all the other Centres should incorporate sustainability parameters in their respective fields of action. The components of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted by the COP for guidance and/or implementation should guide the work programme of BP/RAC. This basically applies to the themes and issues in the MSSD that are cross-cutting and of socio-economic (not strictly environmental) nature. The role of the BP/RAC as a Mediterranean Environment and Sustainable Development Observatory should be re-emphasized; c) the ERS/RAC, should be transformed into a centre specialized in information and communication technology (ICT), as already reflected in the recent MOU signed between the Convention Secretariat and the Centre. This would entail that the Centre be responsible for the communication, information and visibility functions for the whole Convention system; d) the CP/RAC should extend its 	<p>The role of the Secretariat as umbrella for the RACs should be strengthened. RACs should work in much closer cooperation and coordination with the Secretariat. It is important that whatever is produced by the RACs should be identified with MAP and not solely with the RAC producing it.</p> <p>The Blue Plan is already recognized as the technical arm of the MCSD, with the Secretariat being responsible for administration and coordination. The recent experience in the preparation of the MSSD has proved that this approach works very well and should be sustained.</p> <p>The new mandate and mission of INFO/RAC follows the recommendation at para (c) with areas of focus identified under the broad information and communication domains. INFO/RAC is already carrying out this function.</p> <p>In order for CP/RAC to extend its activities beyond industry it needs additional resources.</p> <p>PAP/RAC is entirely focused on integrated coastal areas management.</p>

<p>activities beyond industry, to additional economic sectors present in the Mediterranean. A new responsibility of establishing links with the multinational corporations, economic circles and the private sector in general should be added to the Centre. The objective would be the mobilization of financial resources from the private sector for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols; and</p> <p>e) the PAP/RAC should focus on integrated coastal areas management (ICAM).</p>	
<p>75. The Coordinator should play an active, recognized and clearly accepted function of:</p> <p>a) supervising the work of each of the RAC Directors in relation to their Convention-related regional functions, undertaking an annual evaluation of their performance on the basis of an agreed upon job description, annual work plan and performance evaluation system;</p> <p>b) ensuring that the strategies, work programme and annual plans of each of the RACs are mutually supportive, responding as a whole to the needs of the Convention and the expectations of the Parties;</p> <p>c) ensuring that there is effective and transparent financial reporting in general and in particular in relation to the contributions made to the RACs from the Mediterranean Trust Fund; and</p> <p>d) supervising and coordinating the fundraising efforts of the different RACs to ensure that there are no duplications and/or contradictions when approaching donors and that funding opportunities are used efficiently and to the maximum extent possible.</p>	<p>The recommendation at para (a) should be formalized. This function should be included in the terms of engagement of the RAC Directors. With the exception of REMPEC, the Secretariat has practically no say in the selection of RAC Directors.</p> <p>Transparent financial reporting is already carried out under the watchful eye of the Secretariat.</p> <p>All members of the Secretariat that are UN employees have their performance assessed by UNON on the basis of an evaluation criteria. These assessments are taken into account when the individual's appointment comes up for renewal. The same approach can be used with respect to the evaluation of the RAC Directors' performance.</p>
<p>76. To this end, the Secretariat should sign a Memorandum of Understanding with each host country of a RAC (when there is none in place or revise existing ones) to clearly define the operations of and funding arrangement for the Centre. In particular, the role of the Coordinator in monitoring and coordinating the activities of the Centre within the general framework of the operations of the Convention and its Protocols, including his/her <u>meaningful</u> participation in the search</p>	<p>. A model MoU should be drafted by the Secretariat and then discussed with all the interested Parties. The MoUs should, in substance be basically the same with all the concerned parties.</p> <p>Existing MoUs should be revised and new ones introduced where they do not exist. The Coordinator should be involved in the selection of all RAC Directors. At present this is only happening with regard to the</p>

for and selection of the RAC Director, should be specified.	recruitment of the Director for REMPEC.
77. The Secretariat should be consulted by the RACs concerning the preparation and proceedings of their meetings in relation to the agenda, the expected outputs and the working documents that would be prepared for each meeting. In cases when the Secretariat is not fully confident that the RAC in question has the capacity to efficiently prepare and run the meeting, the Secretariat should become involved and ensure that the meeting is organized and run according to accepted standards.	The Secretariat participates in all meetings of RAC Focal Points. Preparations for these meetings are also discussed during the RAC Directors' meetings with MEDU. RAC Focal Points meetings are generally well organized.
78. The quality and pertinence of the proposals presented at all RAC meetings, especially when these proposals are meant to go to the Parties, should be reviewed by the Secretariat. The quality of the document(s) presenting the proposal should also be reviewed.	This is already being done.

Additional RAC-specific recommendations

The Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC)

79. In its role as a Mediterranean Environment and Sustainable Development Observatory, the BP/RAC should continue to undertake research and to provide support in the area of statistics and indicators for sustainable development. In this context, it should produce a visible and politically 'attractive' periodic report (along the lines of the UNDP Human Development Report) that would reflect and compare the status of sustainable development in the different Parties.	This is already being done. The recently published Report on Environment and Development is a good example of the high quality of work produced by BP/RAC. However, this recommendation will be addressed as part of the exercise to update the mandates of the RACs.
80. The BP/RAC should sharpen its focus and reduce its range of activities so that it can conduct its analytical work with more depth and at a level of detail that would make its products more useable at the national level. These products should help decision-makers (and in some cases even pressure them) to understand what must be done, to find solutions and to take action. For products that are intended to address national issues and provide assistance to decision-makers, these should, as a pre-requisite, receive political backing and be deemed useful by the countries.	This recommendation will be considered together with the previous one.
81. For a better dissemination and utilization, the products of the BP/RAC should be always published in French and English as a minimum, and also in Arabic	This is already being done.

whenever possible.	
82. The BP/RAC's activities and products should be targeted to an audience much wider than that of environmental institutions and/or those directly concerned with the Mediterranean Sea.	This does not apply only to BP/RAC but also to all other RACs.
83. If the BP/RAC comes to play the role recommended here in relation to the MCSD and in the follow-up to the MSSD, if endorsed (see paragraph 74 b) above), the Parties' representatives in the MCSD should act as the FPs for the BP/RAC.	To be considered when preparing the submissions to the 16 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the RACs' mandates. The Contracting Parties' representatives on the MCSD should be chosen on the basis of the contribution they could make to the debate on sustainable development and especially to the implementation of the MCSD programme of work. Preferably they should not hold any other position within the MAP system.

Special Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)

84. The SPA/RAC needs to develop, as soon as possible, a vision and strategy that is action-oriented, in line with the overall Convention vision and strategy, and coordinated with the efforts of the other RACs and programmes.	To be considered when preparing the submissions to the 16 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the RACs' mandates, taking into account also the recommendations made in a recent evaluation exercise.
85. SPA/RAC should, based on its strategy, mobilize resources to implement actions and activities (at least those identified in the SAP/BIO). These resources are very much needed to expand its human resources and capabilities to cover 21 countries.	A resource mobilization plan should be an integral part of any strategy or work plan that is designed.
86. The Centre should move to a more adequate office space.	This is a matter for the Tunisian authorities to decide.
87. Given the institutional changes that have taken place in Tunisia concerning the institutions dealing with environmental management, the agreement with the host country and the terms of reference of the Centre should be re-visited as soon as possible, in particular with regards to the mechanism to select the top management of the Centre.	This should be part of the process to prepare/revise the MoUs with the countries hosting the RACs.
88. More attention should be given to transforming the scientific documents produced by the Centre into guidelines and toolkits, to help practical implementation of their recommendations.	To be addressed by the Director of SPA/RAC.
89. Awareness of the existence and knowledge of the activities of RAC/SPA is far too limited throughout the Mediterranean. There is a need to make the Centre better-known/more visible and to open it to more active collaboration with other organisations in the Mediterranean dealing with	The lack or limited visibility of the RACs applies to all the Centres and should be addressed.

biodiversity, including research centres, universities, and competent NGOs.	
---	--

Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)

90. The recommendation contained in paragraph 76 above concerning MOUs is particularly applicable to this Centre, since there is no formal document signed between the Government of Spain and the Convention concerning this RAC. In doing so, it would be important to harmonise the relationship between the CP/RAC and the other RACs.	The Secretariat's comments with respect to recommendation No.76 apply also in this case.
91. The CP/RAC should better take into consideration the real pressing needs of the Parties. As a component of the Convention's institutional set-up, the CP/RAC should also review its strategic areas of action so as to respond to the needs, gaps and weakness in the current structure.	To be considered when preparing the submissions to the 16 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the RACs' mandates
92. The CP/RAC should extend its activities to cover other representative economic sectors in the Mediterranean, such as tourism, agriculture and services.	To be considered when preparing the submissions to the 16 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the RACs' mandates.
93. The CP/RAC presence and penetration in the Mediterranean countries needs to be improved. To this end, a number of measures that have been recommended in the recent evaluation should be seriously considered.	To be considered when preparing the submissions to the 16 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the RACs' mandates.

Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

94. While the focus on integrated coastal area management (ICAM) should continue, more emphasis should be placed on the fact that the success in this area depends to a large extent on the commitment of and ownership by each country. The PAP/RAC should make every effort to secure ownership through the participation of key institutional stakeholders in the countries. This should include the relevant central as well as local institutional stakeholders.	Will be taken into account by PAP/RAC in the implementation of its programme of work.
95. Having focused to a large extent on the development of, and training in the application of ICAM-related tools, the PAP/RAC should now focus on facilitating the utilization/implementation of these tools.	More emphasis should be placed on the monitoring of the implementation of CAMPs by the countries.
96. Given the fact that the PAP/RAC is preparing a Protocol on ICAM for the consideration of the Parties, the doubts expressed by a number of stakeholders concerning the value and/or practicality of such a Protocol should be further analysed	This recommendation is overtaken by events. The CPs have already given a mandate to the Secretariat to develop a draft text of an ICZM Protocol for submission to the 15 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for consideration and possible approval.

and seriously taken into account.	
-----------------------------------	--

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

<p>97. A number of recommended actions included in the report of the 2003 evaluation should be re-emphasized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) REMPEC should provide more information on the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) (which provides advice in the event of an emergency of an oil or chemical spill or incident), including the procedures for obtaining assistance;b) REMPEC should make efforts to get the countries more involved in the Centre's activities and, as a consequence, in implementation at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. In particular, REMPEC should initiate a dialogue on how best to involve the national maritime organizations which are the most direct partners of REMPEC; andc) REMPEC's focus should now move towards implementation, using the tools that the Centre has generated. One clear example would be the implementation of the National Contingency Plans.	<p>REMPEC is a successful Centre and its activities are supported by the countries. Its Focal Points are very active and effective at the national level. There is a need, however, to address the issue of the designation of the Focal Points, in particular whether they should be from the Ministry for the Environment or from the Ministry of Transport.</p> <p>All proposed activities are being carried out by REMPEC or are being developed.</p>
---	---

Secretariat for the Protection of Coastal Historic Sites

<p>98. The Convention should remain involved in questions related to cultural values for a number of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) as sustainability is now a widely accepted aim, its social pillar cannot be conceived of without a clear cultural component, as culture itself expresses the beliefs and activities of each society; b) especially in the Mediterranean, a place of strong interaction between humans and nature for millennia, it is not possible to dissociate the environment from cultural heritage; c) associating culture to environment is now generally accepted as a need in all major conventions dealing with nature and the environment; and d) the World Heritage Convention has a different focus, as its concern is with cultural heritage of exceptional global value. On the other hand, the Barcelona Convention should be interested in the conservation of all the cultural heritage related to the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone, and promote its wise use within efforts for sustainable development. Thus, UNESCO's approach may be complementary, but in no way can it supplant the involvement of this Convention in cultural issues. 	<p>The Convention should address cultural issues as part of the social pillar of sustainable development. At present, however, the programme for the Protection of Coastal Historic Sites is more oriented towards the conservation and restoration aspects of historic sites rather than the integration of culture in environmental policies.</p> <p>These recommendations should be taken into account once the report being prepared regarding the future orientation of the programme for the Protection of Coastal Historic Sites is finalized.</p>
<p>99. The Programme should be maintained within the broader system of the Convention, but it should be refocused and restructured, taking into account the general points stated in section B of the full report (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.9).</p>	<p>See previous remarks. Moreover, this should be considered when preparing the submissions to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the RACs' mandates.</p>
<p>100. Cultural aspects and values should be integrated in all of the activities of the Barcelona Convention. Specific activities would be carried out by existing organs of the Convention.</p>	<p>See previous remarks.</p>
<p>101. In order to foster the integration of cultural aspects, it does not appear advisable to establish a standalone 'unit on cultural heritage' within the Convention structure. Instead, every effort should be made to decentralise activities within the system. In view of the importance of cultural aspects, a high-level official should be added to the Secretariat. Her/his function would be to facilitate the operation of the Culture Expert Group, to liaise with the MCSD and with the RACs on cultural issues, and to report on overall progress to the Parties.</p>	<p>While reiterating the importance of the cultural heritage within the framework of the Convention, it is not justified to appoint a high level official within the Secretariat to deal with such matters unless a Contracting Party is willing to assign an official on secondment without any cost to the Secretariat.</p>
<p>102. Decentralised activities would be</p>	<p>See previous comments .</p>

<p>included in the budgets of the responsible organs. However, a special budget line should be provided for the MEDU officer on culture and for the operation of the Culture Expert Group.</p>	
<p>103. The MCSD should take into account cultural values in finalising the MSSD; so that the new programme on 'Mediterranean cultural heritage and sustainable development' would be fully integrated in the Strategy. In addition, the MCSD should take the lead in this field and ensure the implementation of the guidance of the MSSD in this sector, including the provision of guidance on the contribution that the cultural heritage can make to sustainable development.</p>	<p>Cultural heritage is addressed in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. However, more emphasis should be made on cultural heritage and sustainable development in the MCSD programme of work.</p>
<p>104. Membership of MCSD should be opened to representatives of the cultural sectors.</p>	<p>Will be considered when discussing the proposed amendments to the TOR of the MCSD.</p>
<p>105. Systematic collaboration on the integration of the cultural heritage with environmental concerns should be initiated with all major conventions and other multilateral organisations. As a priority these would include the Convention on Biological Diversity; the World Heritage Convention; the Convention on Wetlands and its MedWet Culture Working Group; the European Commission; the European Landscape Convention; the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures (established in the framework of the EMP); ICOMOS; and IUCN. As such collaborations require constant attention and considerable investment of time and funds, each case should be carefully analysed, the exact areas of collaboration should be agreed upon, specific joint actions identified and the results recorded in official memoranda or joint work plans.</p>	<p>The Secretariat for the Protection of Coastal Historic Sites should explore the possible areas of cooperation with those institutions listed in this recommendation.</p> <p>This should also be considered in the report being prepared regarding the future orientation of the programme.</p>
<p>106. A very careful analysis should be made of the recent proposal to launch a 'MEDPATRIMOINE' initiative before any further steps are taken since there are strong doubts both concerning its feasibility and its appropriate place in the Convention.</p>	<p>This should be considered in the report being prepared regarding the future orientation of the programme.</p>

Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region (MEDPOL)²

² The recent evaluation conducted for MEDPOL presents a relatively large number of recommendations and suggestions for assisting MEDPOL in improving its performance and effectiveness. Only recommendations that are of strategic nature are presented here.

<p>107. The MEDPOL Phase IV should be based on an action-oriented approach aimed at achieving a tangible reduction of pollution. This effort would build on and utilize the results achieved so far, such as the National Diagnostic Analyses (NDA), the National Baseline Budgets of Pollutants (NBB), the National Action Plans, and the results of the monitoring activities (monitoring data base). This action-oriented approach should be supported by a strong and visible compliance monitoring and reporting system.</p>	<p>This is being done already.</p>
<p>108. MEDPOL should assign specific tasks and responsibilities to its programme officers in order to actively pursue the implementation of the Dumping Protocol.</p>	<p>This has been done.</p>
<p>109. MEDPOL should analyse the underlying reasons as to why Parties are not ratifying the Hazardous Waste Protocol, and to recommend that amendments be incorporated if necessary.</p>	<p>It is intended to do this in the 2006-2007 programme of activities.</p>

IV. The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

<p>110. The MCSD should clarify its role in the sense of being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an advisory body on policy issues; and/or b) an advisory body on technical issues; and/or c) a mechanism for assessment, monitoring and evaluation; and/or d) a mechanism to support the implementation of sustainable development strategies/programmes/plans/projects at national and regional levels; or e) a combination of these options. 	<p>The role of the MCSD should include a combination of the recommendations. The MCSD should go back to its original purpose and functions, giving due importance also to economic, ecological and social issues set out in the Millenium Development Goals (MDG) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).</p>
<p>111. After clarifying its role, and as a matter of high priority, the Commission should also establish criteria for the designation/selection of its members, including the role of the Convention Focal Points in relation to its work.</p>	<p>This is of utmost importance. In several cases the MAP Focal Points and the MCSD members are the same persons. MCSD members do not necessarily have to be Ministry officials but should enjoy the trust of the Contracting Party concerned. In any case, preferably, they should not hold any other position within the MAP system.</p>
<p>112. The present system of individual representatives from the socio-economic sector and local authorities, selected by the MFPs and rotating every two years, could be replaced with long-term partnerships with key actors, both governmental and non-governmental, from these two sectors. With the approval of the Parties, these partnerships should be established by the Secretariat on the basis of specific MOUs for a period of at least five years. A systematic survey should be carried out to identify such organisations, assess them on the basis of agreed upon criteria and select the ones appropriate for the MCSD and willing to contribute to its mission.</p>	<p>This is one option among other possibilities which should be considered when identifying the criteria for the designation of the members to sit on the Commission. This is a crucial issue if the MCSD is to become a useful forum for discussion of policy matters and emerging issues.</p>
<p>113. As long as the MCSD remains a mechanism established under the Barcelona Convention, it should limit its remit to the sustainable development components of the issues that are dealt with by the Convention and its Protocols. In this sense, the Commission should also consider changing its name to 'Commission on the Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean Sea and its Coastal Zone' (or any variation of this concept). To really act as a 'Mediterranean Commission', dealing with all aspects of sustainable development in the entire region, the Commission should gain the acceptance and formal recognition of the governmental sectors dealing with issues that are beyond the remit of the Barcelona Convention, and of the other key intergovernmental processes</p>	<p>The Convention should not limit itself to sustainable development in the marine and coastal zone sectors.</p> <p>Moreover, there is no need for the Commission to change its name. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development which has been developed, addresses not only marine and coastal zones issues but also the integration of environmental concerns into key economic development sectors, taking into consideration also the social and cultural dimensions.</p>

<p>active in the Mediterranean region.</p>	
<p>114. The Commission should clarify its role vis-à-vis the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, both in terms of substantive work and of process, and establish a true synergy with the UNCSD. Parties should insist that the Commission has the right, and the need, to deal directly with the UNCSD, without being intermediated by UNEP.</p>	<p>This issue has already been raised with UNEP but it should be clarified further.</p>
<p>115. An effective secretarial support for the Commission should be established in one place, either in the Convention Secretariat, in one of the RACs or in a new unit established to this effect in one of the Parties, with adequate human and financial resources to effectively play this function.</p>	<p>The Secretariat of the MCSDD should remain in Athens. The Secretariat should be responsible for the coordination and organizational aspect of the MCSDD with the technical aspect continuing to be dealt with by BP/RAC, with the support of the other MAP components.</p>
<p>116. Concerning the MSSD, it is recommended that the Strategy should be endorsed (not adopted) by the COP, with an indication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the specific components of the Strategy that could be taken up by the Convention mechanisms for implementation; b) the resources that would be needed to do this and where they should come from; c) the synergies that should be established by the Convention in order to achieve its objectives vis-à-vis the Strategy; and d) the monitoring system that should be established within the Convention, including the role and activities of the MCSDD in relation to the process of the implementation of the Strategy. 	<p>The MSSD was adopted by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz. All four issues raised here are being addressed by the Secretariat together with BP/RAC which has developed a set of indicators to monitor the MSSD together with a number of activities involving the Contracting Parties.</p>
<p>117. In addition, in the preambular section of the decision endorsing the Strategy, the COP should address and respond in an appropriate manner to two key questions raised in relation to the MSSD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the legitimacy of the process used to prepare the draft, and thus the legitimacy of the document in itself; and b) the implications of endorsing a Strategy with very significant components which are beyond the remit of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. 	<p>This recommendation has been overtaken by events.</p>
<p>118. It is encouraging that the Conclusions of the VIIth Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Luxemburg, 30-31 May 2005) “supported the successful conclusion of the drafting of the Mediterranean Strategy for sustainable development...”. Now it is imperative that the</p>	<p>The MSSD has been endorsed by the Euro-Mediterranean High Level Summit in November 2005. Moreover, the Secretariat took an active part in the High Level technical meeting organized by the EC to launch the Horizon 2020 initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean and which will take into</p>

<p>Convention be invited to participate in and address the Extraordinary High Level Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to be held in Barcelona on 27-28 November 2005. Arrangements should be made in advance through the Senior Officials to ensure that this meeting in turn endorses the Strategy, if it would have been endorsed by COP-14 in Slovenia on 8-11 November 2005.</p>	<p>account the objectives and targets of the MSSD.</p>
--	--

V. The System of Focal Points and Capacity Building

<p>119. A pro-active and dynamic Focal Point system is of prime importance. This applies to the Convention Focal Points as well as to the RACs Focal Points. One key question that the COP should consider in the terms of reference of the Convention Focal Points is the level of seniority that these should have in the national administration of each Party.</p>	<p>The 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties should adopt a decision adopting the Terms of Reference for the Convention Focal Points, including a recommendation to the Parties concerning the criteria for their designation. The Terms of Reference should also make reference to the appropriate ministries/agencies that the Focal Points should be attached to, which do not necessarily have to be always the ministries of environment.</p> <p>The success of the implementation of MAP activities depends on the Focal Points who should be persons enjoying thrust and with direct access to Government Ministers.</p>
<p>120. The whole FP system should be revisited as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) prepare terms of reference for each group of FPs, clarifying their roles, responsibilities, <i>modus operandi</i> and linkages with each other; b) establish that a RAC FP should have the rank of a 'government-designated expert'; c) identify tools and mechanisms that would support the FPs in their national tasks, including, but not limited to, intersectoral coordination and improving the Convention's and RACs' visibility; and d) in each RAC evaluate whether the FPs' structure and composition need to be changed. In some cases it might prove feasible and more effective to have one FP system serving more than one RAC. 	<p>These proposals have been taken into consideration in the development of Terms of Reference for the designation of Focal Points which will be submitted to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for approval.</p>
<p>121. This whole exercise regarding the FPs system should be contracted out and performed in the most straightforward, independent and simple manner. The results reflecting the full picture should be presented to the Parties for discussion and approval.</p>	<p>Draft Terms of Reference for MAP and RACs Focal Points have been prepared.</p>
<p>122. Capacity building for performing the Focal Point functions should constitute one of the highest priorities in the new phase, with an emphasis on institutional capacity, more than on technical capacity which to a large extent is already there. This applies to both developed and developing countries that are Parties to the Convention.</p>	<p>Following the designation of Focal Points, a seminar should be held in order to train the identified individuals to perform their role in a proper manner.</p>
<p>123. To this end, the Secretariat should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop a clear understanding of the capacity situation in each of the 21 	<p>The Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, will consider the implementation of this recommendation as a matter of priority.</p>

<p>member states and of the arrangements in place to implement the Convention, in particular in relation to the system of Focal Points;</p> <p>b) on the basis of this understanding, and in consultation with all interested parties:</p> <p><i>i.) develop guidelines on how to establish and effectively operate a focal points system at the country level, making use, to the extent possible, of the lessons learned by different Parties; and</i></p> <p><i>ii.) prepare a capacity building programme, with an appropriate and realistic budget, for submission to COP-15. Such a programme should, inter alia, include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in-country seminars/workshops to create a better awareness and understanding of the Convention and its Protocols and the tools and means for their implementation; • technical seminars at regional and/or sub-regional levels on the implementation of the different Protocols; • sub-regional dialogues aimed at helping environment ministries increase their implementation capacity, including improving their ability to work with other parts of their national administration to promote environmental integration; • technical assistance on administrative matters regarding the running of an effective focal points system; and • technical and financial assistance, when needed, to develop, use and maintain an effective electronic communications system in the institution hosting the Focal Point in each Party. To this end the Secretariat should try to connect with the work on ICT being supported by the EC within the framework of the EMP. 	
<p>124. Capacity building should not be</p>	<p>To be addressed with the previous</p>

<p>viewed as a one-time activity but rather as an ongoing process. Thus, constant interaction with the focal points – including training of new officers designated to perform this function – and a close follow-up of all the issues addressed to or requested from the Parties are essential components of capacity building.</p>	<p>recommendation.</p>
<p>125. The official visits to the Parties recommended in paragraphs 47 and 48 above should be seen as part of the capacity building programme and should be used to raise, with political authorities, the question of the chronic under-staffing for the implementation of the Convention, in developing and developed countries alike.</p>	<p>To be taken into account in the implementation of the recommendations regarding visits to the countries.</p>

VI. Relations with the European Union/European Commission

<p>126. The joint work plan being developed by the Convention and the EC at present does not have the required overriding political character, but is focused instead on rather detailed technical aspects. If an agreement can be reached on its content, this might improve the situation, but it would not resolve the need of a stronger partnership.</p>	<p>The Joint Work Programme which was signed in Portoroz, Slovenia in 2005, is a first step in establishing a closer working relationship with the EC. Efforts should continue to establish this relationship on a stronger footing and at a higher political level.</p>
<p>127. The EC's interest in the Mediterranean is increasing and moving beyond free trade. This fact, coupled with the celebration in 2005 of the 10th Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP or 'Barcelona Process'), could make this a key moment to redefine the relationship between the EC and the Barcelona Convention.</p>	<p>The launching by the EC of the Horizon 2020 Initiative presents both MAP and the EC with the opportunity to establish a more fruitful cooperation especially with the acknowledgement by the High Level meeting of the EuroMed Partnership that the MAP is the appropriate mechanism for its implementation.</p>
<p>128. There is a need for substantial improvement of the collaboration between the Convention and the EU. This improvement would entail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) an agreement recognizing an official role of the Convention as a full partner in EU Mediterranean initiatives in the areas of interest of the Convention; b) use of the Convention's capacity, and especially its RACs, in supporting the EU initiatives in the Mediterranean; c) appreciation of the potential contribution of the MCSDD to EU objectives and policies in the region; d) taking into account all the other relevant processes that the EU is involved with in the Mediterranean when developing a new phase of the Convention; e) coverage by the EC of the costs of the services to be provided by the Convention; and f) contribution of the EC to the implementation of the MSSD, especially if it is endorsed by the EMP. 	<p>The relationship between the EC and MAP, including the RACs, should be at a higher level than between the EC and other organizations. The Convention should be a full partner with the EC.</p> <p>This new relationship should be built on the basis of the strong statement made at the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Summit in November 2005 in which the Partners agreed to promote the MSSD and to use the MSSD to implement the EC's initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean by 2020. They have also agreed to develop a road-map for de-polluting the Mediterranean sea using the MSSD and UNEP/MAP while providing adequate financial and technical assistance to this end.</p>
<p>129. In view of the current <i>modus operandi</i> of and sensitivity concerning financial management within the EC, such a relationship would only be possible through a top-level formal agreement between the EC and UNEP – the latter acting as the legal persona of the Convention – specifically focused on the Mediterranean. This would probably entail a formal decision of the EU</p>	<p>If approved, this recommendation will be taken up with the Executive Director of UNEP, for him to raise it at the appropriate level within the European Commission.</p>

<p>Council based on a proposal from the Commission promoted by the Executive Director of UNEP.</p>	
<p>130. The seven Parties to the Convention that are EU members should champion the establishment of a 'new deal' between the EC and the Barcelona Convention, with interventions at the highest political level. Greece, as the host country to the Convention Secretariat could – and maybe should – take the lead.</p>	<p>To be addressed together with the previous recommendation.</p>
<p>131. Without this high-level political initiative it may be very difficult to overcome the 'good reasons' that may exist to continue with business as usual in the Convention-EC working relations. The Convention Coordinator, with the active support of the Executive Director of UNEP and of the Head of Regional Seas (both European citizens at present), should undertake to catalyse this process as a matter of the highest priority.</p>	<p>To be addressed together with the previous recommendation.</p>
<p>132. This move could be justified on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the EC and UNEP on 20 September 2004, which includes as areas of cooperation between the two parties "supporting MEA [multilateral environmental agreements] implementation, with an initial focus on biodiversity and Regional Seas"; and "enabling developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve environment-related targets and meet their international commitments, including implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, global initiatives and regional initiatives...".</p>	<p>To be addressed together with the previous recommendation.</p>
<p>133. This 'new deal' could take the form of a 'Strategic Partnership between the EC and the Barcelona Convention for Joint Actions in Areas of Common Concern'. The Strategic Partnership could be implemented through a Five-year Joint Work Programme (JWP) executed through a Joint Programme Office (JOP) located, preferably, in the Convention Secretariat or otherwise in one of the RACs or in a Party that would be willing to contribute all the facilities and the required support staff. In the later case, the Director of the JOP and the rest of the professional staff should have international status and report directly to the Coordinator of the Convention.</p>	<p>While the Secretariat is in favour of a stronger relationship between MAP and the EC which could be in the form of a Strategic Partnership, it does not agree with the proposal for a Joint Programme Office. The present structures are more than sufficient to implement a strategic partnership.</p>
<p>134. If the proposal to launch an initiative within the EMP framework for the de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020 is formalized, the role of the Convention in this initiative should become an important component of the proposed JWP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat is already working in this direction, having had discussions with the EC on MAP's participation in the initiative</p>

<p>135. The series of major regional and sub-regional programmes recommended in paragraph 35 above should also be part of the JWP.</p>	<p>This proposal should be taken into consideration if the proposed high-level agreement with the EC moves forward.</p>
<p>136. Funding for the implementation of the JWP should come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the different mechanisms that now exist in the EC for external cooperation, including the proposed European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument; b) other funds that the EC could allocate out of its budget for activities in the Mediterranean EU members; c) voluntary contributions from Parties and other governments; and d) project funds from sources such as the GEF, UNDP, the World Bank, UN agencies, foundations, NGOs and corporations. 	<p>This proposal should be taken into consideration if the proposed high-level agreement with the EC moves forward.</p>
<p>137. The establishment of an Endowment Fund could also be considered.</p>	<p>Professional advice should be sought on the establishment and operation of an Endowment Fund with a view to submit a recommendation on this matter to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.</p>
<p>138. The capacities of the RACs, MEDPOL and other partners, including NGOs, should be enlisted and assigned clear roles in the implementation of the JWP.</p>	<p>This recommendation should be considered if the proposed agreement for a Joint Work Plan moves forward.</p>
<p>139. In the meantime, the joint work plan being developed by the two sides at present could go ahead and later serve as the basis for the preparation of the proposed JWP, which could be ready for consideration and adoption by COP-15.</p>	<p>A first Joint Work Programme was signed during the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz in November, 2005, and is being implemented.</p>
<p>140. The Convention Secretariat should also seek to participate in the Ministerial Conference at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held every 18 months in the framework of the EMP, as well as in the EuroMed Committee.</p>	<p>This matter should be discussed during the high level meeting between the EC and MAP envisaged in the Joint Work Programme signed in Portoroz, Slovenia.</p>

VII. Synergies

<p>141. The Convention should serve as a platform for the regional implementation of international instruments and programmes, such as those of the International Oceanographic Commission, the International Maritime Organization and the Jakarta Mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant CBD</p>	<p>MOUs have already been signed with some of these organizations to carry out joint activities. However, this kind of cooperation should be developed further.</p>
--	---

<p>work programmes. Memoranda of Cooperation or Agreements with clear and specific aims should be signed or renewed with these institutions.</p>	
<p>142. It is imperative that the Convention also sign or renew effective working arrangements with, at a minimum, the following additional treaties and institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN Convention on the Law of the Sea - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area - UN Commission on Sustainable Development 	<p>MOUs have already been signed with some of these Conventions. Other MOUs will be developed with other Conventions. Joint activities should now be identified and implemented.</p>
<p>143. A serious attempt should be made to bring on board other regional institutions and processes beyond the EC/EU, which has thus far been the focus of almost all the attention. These include the Arab League, the Islamic Bank and the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD). As stated by one of the partners of the Convention, it is about time that the Convention learns “to write from right to left”!</p>	<p>This initiative should only be embarked upon following the agreement of the Contracting Parties.</p>
<p>144. The possibility of inviting the Arab League and the African Union to become Contracting Parties, as per Article 30 of the Convention, should be considered by the COP.</p>	<p>This initiative should only be embarked upon following the agreement of the Contracting Parties.</p>

Relations with other partners

<p>145. On the basis of the observations contained in section B of this Report, it is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a detailed inventory of all key actors in the Mediterranean that could contribute to the work of the Convention be prepared. This should include an understanding of their policies and priorities, the identification of areas of mutual interest, and a cost-benefit assessment of efforts to be invested in and results to be expected from a possible partnership; b) relations with the organisations/processes selected for 	<p>The Secretariat is in favour of this recommendation.</p>
---	---

<p>substantial co-operation should be maintained at the level of Secretariat and should not be delegated to other components of the Convention process. Where the RACs need to be involved, the overall co-ordination should remain with the Secretariat, including the monitoring of the development of such co-operation efforts;</p> <p>c) at regular intervals (3-4 years), each co-operation arrangement should be reviewed and readjusted as appropriate; and</p> <p>d) for the implementation of the relevant sections of the MSSD in particular, strong partnerships must be built with key actors in the economic and social sectors, including the private sector.</p>	
<p>146. Clear criteria and a strategic view should be developed for the partnerships with national, regional and international NGOs active in the areas of concern to the Convention, including for the funding provided for NGO projects.</p>	<p>This exercise is essential because at present there are no clear cut criteria for NGOs to become MAP partners.</p>

Outreach strategy and activities

<p>147. The Convention web site should continue to be developed as the main communication tool. All the RACs' web sites should be linked to the main web site and should develop a common graphic/corporate identity.</p>	<p>This matter will be addressed as part of the development of a new website including the implementation of a Portal Internet Architecture by INFO/RAC.</p>
<p>148. In addition, the Convention web site should become an interactive site, where Focal Points and partners could exchange information and documents.</p>	<p>To be consider by INFO/RAC.</p>
<p>149. The Convention should greatly increase its use of the Arabic language, including posting an Arabic version of the Convention web site.</p>	<p>Adequate resources should be specifically allocated in the central budget and in all project/programme budgets for this purpose. It should be noted though, that InfoMAP will have multi-lingual support.</p>
<p>150. The Secretariat should also consider establishing an unmediated electronic mailing list maintained as a service to the public for exchange of information among all those interested in the Convention issues.</p>	<p>To be considered by the Secretariat with the assistance of INFO/RAC.</p> <p>An electronic mailing list already exists but needs to be updated.</p>
<p>151. The effective use of ICTs should constitute an important component of capacity building in all Parties and in the RACs where this capacity is still weak.</p>	<p>This is part of the mandate of INFO/RAC and InfoMAP will be the backbone and network to strengthen capacity across users, sectors, key institutions and the region.</p>
<p>152. ERS/RAC should be approached to consider implementing a communication strategy for the Convention under the close</p>	<p>INFO/RAC is already developing an Information and Communications Strategy for MAP using internal expertise as well as</p>

<p>supervision of the Secretariat. If this is feasible, a professional firm should be engaged to prepare such a strategy in consultation with the Secretariat and ERS/RAC.</p>	<p>external support.</p>
<p>153. The RACs should also evaluate their outreach capacities and develop plans to improve them by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) obtaining the services of communication and/or marketing experts;b) widening and diversifying the circulation of reports and publications; andc) increasing their capacity to use the media.	<p>INFO/RAC will assist all other RACs in these important areas. Again InfoMAP will be the essential platform and infrastructure for outreach communications, information sharing and exchanges.</p>

