





## REPORT OF THE THIRD MEDPARTNERSHIP COORDINATION GROUP MEETING

### Introduction

1. The Third Coordination Group Meeting for the “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership) was held at the offices of PAP/RAC in Split, Croatia from the 11th to the 13th October 2011.

### Participation

2. The following Coordination Group members were represented: UNEP/MAP, UNEP, World Bank, EC, FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO-IHP, MEDPOL, PAP/RAC, CP/RAC, WWF MedPO, MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med and the UNEP/MAP Project Management Unit.

3. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

### Opening of the meeting, objectives of the meeting,

4. Mr Trumbic welcomed participants to Split and thanked PAP/RAC for hosting the meeting. He informed participants that neither the Coordinator nor Deputy were able to attend, due to recent meetings and obligations, and that unfortunately SPA/RAC colleagues had been unable to secure a visa in time to travel. Ms. Zelka Skaricic, Director of PAP/RAC, welcomed participants to PAP/RAC and wished all a successful meeting.

### Introduction to the MedPartnership’s current status of implementation and PIR

5. Mr Trumbic noted that the document prepared by all partners, “*MedPartnership Lessons Learned 2009 to 2011*” (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 366/4) would be the basis for discussion during the meeting, which captures the status of implementation since 2009, lessons learned, obstacles, risks and recommendations for future communication and replication activities. He also mentioned that because the Project Implementation Review (PIR) was not yet finalized, it would therefore not be discussed.

6. Participants were reminded of the recommendations and conclusions from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 in Damascus, Syria and their status in terms of implementation (summarized in the table below).

Recommendation from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee	Actions undertaken so far
<p>Recommends UNEP/MAP PMU and all executing partners to maintain the quality and accelerate the delivery of results and outputs under the 2011 ambitious work plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing and clear efforts to accelerate activities in 2011 evident.</p>
<p>Underlines the importance for enhanced convergence and synergies between project activities among executing agencies and donors, and urges UNEP/MAP PMU to take action in this respect, in particular towards the World Bank.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Agreement to include WB Task Team leaders and project teams in future Steering Committee meetings and discussion underway to coordinate with the Adriatic Sea Programme.</p>
<p>Recommends that the UNEP/MAP PMU seeks regular and increased coordination and cooperation with other key actors in the region such as the European Union and other donors, creating synergies leading to the improved use of resources.</p>	<p>Ongoing, close coordination with EU and WB.</p>
<p>Underlines the importance to operationalize environmental mainstreaming through in-country inter-ministerial coordination, together with other measures to be identified as opportune, to address the diverse competences and environmental challenges while at the same time serving different initiatives and processes, and urges the countries to take action in this respect, reiterating the key role GEF, MedPartnership and UNEP/MAP focal points should play in encouraging inter-ministerial cooperation.</p>	<p>This has been delayed and slow response from focal points. Measures to accelerate establishment of IMCs to be discussed during 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordination Group meeting.</p>
<p>Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the PMU on the development of the Communication Strategy and related tools (leaflet, website, publications...) and stresses the need for a permanent solution for the implementation of the Communication Strategy.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Communication Strategy underway. Agreement to move forward in addressing permanent solution by the end of 2011.</p>
<p>Recommends consideration to be given to translation of key communication products into other languages of the region, in particular Arabic and to development of common messages, capacity building, educational kits, youth activities, games, among others.</p>	<p>List of document to be translated will be prepared as part of the 2012 work-plan.</p>
<p>Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the UNEP/MAP PMU on the drafting of the new Replication Strategy and approves the overall Portfolio Assessment as its very first output; taking due consideration of the comments – still to be incorporated- provided by the Steering Committee members. During 2011 this work will be closely monitored and the methodology will be refined accordingly.</p>	<p>Draft work-plan and strategy to be discussed in detail in 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordination Group meeting.</p>
<p>Recommends achieving synergies with ongoing initiatives in the region that have similar replication objective and potential. Recommends that UNEP/MAP PMU and all executing partners seek solutions to respond to the proposals of the countries who wish to participate in demonstration projects or activities not originally planned in the framework of the MedPartnership.</p>	<p>Larger scope of replication strategy to be discussed and agreed in 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordination Group meeting.</p>

7. Mr Trumbic concluded that the project implementation is well underway, showing some good progress. He noted that the speed of executing partners is different with some of the demonstrations projects delayed, and that UNIDO and WWF-MedPO are in their almost last year of implementation, and as such are the first focus of replication activities. Overall the following critical gaps and problems should be considered in the discussion to follow:

- The political situation in the south of the region which has significantly affected most components;
- Economic problems within the region which is potentially affecting co-financing;
- The need to finalize the institutional arrangements for the communication and replication sub-components;
- Delayed implementation due to limited capacity/time by certain executing partners;
- Strengthening partnership with the World Bank; and
- The need to move ahead with the Inter-ministerial committees (IMCs) and national level coordination.

### **Lessons learned since 2009**

8. Each partner gave a 10 minutes summary (based on document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 366/4) of its achievements which were followed by 5 minutes of discussion. The presentations focused on the major outputs and advances achieved, lessons learned, critical issues, problems faced, measures planned/implemented to solve problems, eventual assistance needed and an estimate of the rate of activities' implementation.

9. Mr José Luis Martin Bordes of UNESCO-IHP informed participants that most of the activities within ***Sub-Component 1.1: Coastal Aquifer Management and Groundwater*** are underway. The main successes are linked to the demonstrations and the establishment of expert working groups. The Groundwater dependent ecosystems expert meeting (which met in July 2011 in Madrid, Spain) enabled a more accurate assessment of hotspots within the region, and agreement was reached to work closely with RAMSAR and IUCN. The expert group on the legal, institutional and policy aspects of coastal aquifer management (which met in October 2011, Paris, France) will work on the legal and institutional settings that need to be considered at the national level. Together these groups will contribute to the groundwater supplements to the TDA-MED, SAP-MED and SAP-BIO. Of the 8 demonstrations the most advanced are the Nadoor Lagoon and Bou Areg Aquifer in Morocco, the Gabes Oasis in Tunisia and the joint demonstration with IWRM and ICZM in Buna/Bojana (Albania and Montenegro). Within these demonstrations are several activities worth promotion for replication, in particular the vulnerability mapping.

10. Mr Martin Bordes concluded that now the main focus to improve the project will include the need to advance in the administration of contracts including the two case studies in Croatia for the vulnerability maps and Reghaia coastal zone in Algeria demonstration. UNESCO-IHP would like to focus on strengthening relationship with beneficiaries and improve intergovernmental channels with scientific networks, as well as institutions dealing with good governance, such as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). In order to now communicate the results and messages from the MedPartnership to the international forum, UNESCO IHP will prepare a special event for the MedPartnership at the World Water Forum (to be held on 12-17<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 in Marseilles, France). Links are continually established

with other aquifer and groundwater projects within the region such as: DIKTAS, IW-LEARN, FAO/UNESCO/IAH Groundwater Governance, and the new IW-LEARN Community of Practice (CoP) project (with UNESCO to lead the groundwater component).

11. In the discussion that followed it was noted that the interaction and potential role of the UfM in the MedPartnership is still evolving. The EC supports financially the secretariat, and discussions have been held with colleagues from the UfM (Mr Fuad Bateh) on how the UfM can help countries prepare proposals for financing in line with the priorities of the SAPs and NAPs, and liaise with the ministries of finance. The UfM will be invited to future Steering Committee meetings, and their potential role in inter-ministerial coordination and the replication task team will be elaborated. The revision of the TDA, SAPs and NAPs was discussed. Given the evolution of the TDA, SAP and NAP implementation, it was agreed that a presentation would be made by Ms Virginie Hart (UNEP/MAP PMU) during the meeting to summarise the relationship between the SAP revisions, NAPs and the Ecosystem Approach. It was also agreed that communication of the MedPartnership at International and Regional forums needs to be further explored. This should in particular include Rio+20.

12. Ms Daria Povh of PAP/RAC presented the status of ***Sub-Component 1.2: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)*** noting that there have been significant advances with regards to ICZM in the Mediterranean since the beginning of the project. In March 2011 the sixth country ratified the ICZM Protocol and it has now entered into force. As a result, some of the project activities have been revised to provide policy and technical support to the countries for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, which complements seven parallel and inter-related projects that PAP/RAC is executing. The case study on the impact of the ICZM Protocol (in Croatia) is advancing slowly and brings a number of lessons learned that can be applied in other countries, including how to ensure inter-ministerial coordination. ICZM strategies are under preparation in Algeria and Montenegro (replacing Albania which was originally planned), while resources and support will be provided to Albania in the framework of some future projects. The demonstration project in the Buna/Bojana coastal zone, which in coordination with UNESCO-IHP and GWP-Med aims to integrate coastal, water and aquifer management, is progressing well. This methodology has great potential to be replicated in other riverine/coastal areas. The joint demonstration with UNESCO-IHP in the Reghaia coastal zone (Algeria) which was slightly delayed (due to a change in the team leader), will be closely coordinated with the development of the ICZM strategy, and will partner with SPA/RAC and Conservatoire du Littoral (CdL). The latter will bring additional input on biodiversity conservation into the strategy. In terms of actions needed to improve the project, Ms Povh stressed that the inter-ministerial committees once established would benefit the MedPartnership implementation, ICZM, IWRM and aquifer management, and in particular the work on preparation of the National ICZM Strategies, and also noted the need for a clearer mechanism and instructions for the reporting of in-kind co-financing.

13. In the discussion that followed further clarification was given on how the draft guidelines for the preparation of the coastal plans for the Mediterranean, recently developed by PAP/RAC would be tested in a number of demonstrations, including the Buna/Bojana. Based on the feedback the guidelines will be revised accordingly and finalized in 2012, in parallel to the finalization of the ICZM plans for Buna/Bojana and Reghaia. In addition, it was agreed that UNEP/MAP should take a lead in policy discussions with countries regarding any

changes to the execution of activities, whilst ensuring no delays to achieving the projects objectives within the set duration of the project.

14. Mr Vangelis Constantianos from the GWP-Med summarised activities within **Sub-Component 1.2: Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)** which fall under the regional and national level. At the regional level the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM) which is supported by the EU Water Initiative, is still in its draft form with some political delays in finalization. At the national level, activities in Egypt and Lebanon have been implemented, and Tunisia is advancing well, and requesting additional support for stakeholder involvement for its water strategy. In Palestine, activities are delayed but work is ongoing to enhance the engagement of local authorities with national companies towards national IWRM planning. All co-financing originally committed has been met, and it is likely that before the completion of the project the additional co-financing will be mobilized. Mr Constantianos stressed that the Buna/Bojana demonstration has a strong potential within and beyond the MedPartnership, reflecting the global trend to integrate marine, coastal and freshwater management. The Buna/Bojana demonstration falls within the broader Drin River Basin, and within the context of the “Drin Dialogue” high level ministers in the riparian countries are now about to sign an MOU for the joint management of the river basin. The demonstration in the Orontes river basin (Lebanon and Syria) had a joint meeting in February 2011, but since then delays had occurred due to the political situation in Syria. The interest from Lebanon is high for this activity, and so it was suggested not to make alternative arrangements for a few months with the hope that the demonstration may be re-activated. In terms of lessons learned, it was reflected that the current political problems in the region are not favorable for the negotiation of policy revisions (such as the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean), and that GWP-Med was looking forward to contributing to the communication and replication of best practices in IWRM in 2012.

15. The discussion that followed focused on two themes: how to show the downstream impact of the IWRM, linked to the broader issue of monitoring the environmental status of the Mediterranean, and how to address activities delayed due to the political events in southern countries. All discussions related to monitoring are presented in the section: Discussion on how to ensure in 2012 to 2013 the MedPartnership achieves its objectives, promotes best-practices and encourages replication. Regarding the issue of delayed activities, it was agreed that it is not an easy task to re-negotiate participation of countries in activities, which were specifically designed to address country specific requirements, and all partners would as priority need to assess the logistics of alternative arrangements in the coming months for discussion at the next Steering Committee. It was suggested that if certain demonstration projects could not be implemented and no appropriate alternatives agreed, then these resources could be used to promote and facilitate the replication of activities in other areas. In terms of moving demonstrations to the Adriatic, it was noted that care should be taken to avoid an imbalance within the project between regions. It was agreed that the PMU with the support of partners will prepare a list of activities most affected to begin working together on a plan should delays continue in the coming months.

16. Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, MEDPOL summarised the issue related to the implementation of **Sub-Components 2.1 and 2.3 for pollution reduction and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) removal from electrical companies**. The sub-component 2.1 demonstration

projects in Algeria, Turkey, Algeria and Syria have all completed their first phase. The sub-component 2.3 for the PCB removal from electrical companies is delayed, due to a combination of political and capacity reasons, along with the complexity of the process that will result in the disposal of PCBs. Syria, Egypt, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Turkey are participating. Lebanon was originally involved but expressed lack of interest as there is a new World Bank funded project on PCBs<sup>1</sup>. There has been little contact with Libya and Syria in the past few months due to the political situation, although Syria expressed the wish to establish its own disposal center for PCBs. In Egypt, a fact finding mission was recently undertaken and it seems that about 60% of the inventory is no longer on site, and mention was made that the transformers may have been sold and moved to other countries. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey consultations are underway and the results of the fact finding mission are about to be finalized. Following initial consultations with countries, the approach will be to combine PCB removal through an international company, with national contracts, the provision of equipment for measuring PCBs, and training.

17. The discussion focused on possible solutions to advance the PCB activities. UNIDO informed the meeting that technology exists, which, rather than burning PCBs, uses specific chemical treatments. This technology could provide an opportunity for countries to dispose of PCBs within the country rather than exporting them. Also it was noted that in addition to the state owned electrical companies, there are many transformers used by the private sector, and in some countries, such as Morocco, there are schemes providing incentives to these companies to change their transformers. This could be potentially replicated in other countries. It was also stressed that expertise from GEFSEC and DEPI on POPs should be used in any revision of activities, and that at the national level, Stockholm Convention as well as the MEDPOL Focal Points should be kept informed and consulted with.

18. Ms Roberta de Palma, consultant for UNIDO, presented the results of **Sub-component 2.2, the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST-Med)**. Activities are advanced in the participating countries (Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt), in a total of 43 participating industries. Cleaner production (CP) and environmentally sound technology (EST) options have been identified and many under implementation. The tables below show the progress on capacity building and on stress reduction.

Progress on capacity building of TEST-Med

Key Indicator	Target December 2011	Progress September 2011
No. Industry pilots	12	43
No. trained industry personnel	70	105
No. man/days training	500	746
No. of TEST trainees	20	25
No. Workshops/trainings	10	15

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=4108>



Progress on stress reduction

Key Indicator	Target December 2011	Progress September 2011
Water efficiency	40% increase in 50% of demonstration sites	N.A.
EMS implementation	5	8
No. of implemented options (type A and B)	60%	52%
Investment portfolio (Type C)	Identified for ¾ companies	N.A.
Pollution load reduction	30% in 50% of demonstration sites	N.A.

19. Some examples of technologies identified and implemented were presented showing significant reductions in the quantity of water and electricity consumed, reduced discharge of pollutants, and overall with short pay-back for the initial investments made. The level of achievements does however depends on some key factors which include the environmental legislation and enforcement in the country, the incentive schemes and business environment for investment, the supply chain and market requirements (exporting sectors) and the cost of utilities (i.e. water and electricity which varies significantly in each country).

20. In terms of communication and replication activities now to begin implementation, national level events are planned, brochures on best practices for each industry will be printed, national roadmaps for replication plus a regional plan for the Mediterranean will be prepared. In the first quarter of 2012, a regional workshop on best practices will be held (provisionally in Turkey). Ms de Palma, during the ensuing discussion, recalled that the location of all the industries was based on criteria in relation to the hotspots and the NAPs, and for the majority of industries, monitoring data were being collected either directly by the industry or in agreement with institutions to ensure baseline and end of project data will be available.

21. Ms Giovanna Agostinelli presented WWF-MedPO activities within **Sub-Component 3.1 for the improved management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), also called the MedPAN South project**. Activities are well advanced and due for completion within the next year. A mid-term evaluation had recently been conducted by the French Global Environment Facility (FGEF)<sup>2</sup>, and its main results were summarized. The regional capacity building programme was considered unique within the region, with the training of more than 100 people, and the final training was conducted just prior to the meeting in Split. National activities in Turkey<sup>3</sup> and in Croatia<sup>4</sup> were more than 60% completed with management plans drafted, whilst in Algeria<sup>5</sup> and Tunisia<sup>6</sup>, activities are somewhat delayed. She noted that for

<sup>2</sup> Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)

<sup>3</sup> At the Kas-Kekova specially protected area

<sup>4</sup> In Lastovo, Mijet, Telascica, Brijuni and Kornati

<sup>5</sup> Taza National Park

<sup>6</sup> Cap Negro-Cap Serrat Marine Protected Area

the time being actions in Libya have stopped due to the political situation. For the final year of implementation the main focus will be to complete those delayed activities, and to ensure broad communication of results and best practices of the project, along with replication. It was also noted that the next EC “Results Orientated Monitoring” of the MedPan South and MedMPAnet (executed by SPA/RAC, unfortunately not present) will be conducted in November 2011. It was noted that the EU has suspended activities in Syria executed by the ministries, but that does not impact activities being executed by NGO’s or other non governmental institutions.

22. Mr Pedro de Barros, FAO, summarised the current status of FAO’s ***Sub-Component 3.2 to promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources through ecosystem based management***. The main success has been in the participation of fishing communities in the Al-Hoceima MPA in Morocco. Other activities are still delayed due to a combination of capacity and political problems. It was agreed that an analysis will be undertaken over the coming months to assess which activities are most impacted by these problems and propose the possible solutions. Coordination between ministries of environment and fisheries is a critical issue, and more effort should be made to coordinate activities between WWF-MedPO, SPA/RAC and FAO. At the national level, it was agreed to find mechanisms for SPA/RAC and FAO Focal Points to work together on national coordination. Effective fisheries management was stressed to be a key factor in the long term successful management of MPAs.

23. Ms Thomais Vlachogianni from MIO-ECSDE briefly summarized the set of activities that have been undertaken within Sub-Component 4.1 for the management and coordination of the MedPartnership to enhance the role of NGO’s in the implementation of the project’s activities. More concretely, outputs in 2011 included: the support to partners to implement the NGO Involvement Plan; the organization of dissemination, visibility, networking (Tirana, April 2011; Podgorica, July 2011) and capacity building (Podgorica, September 2011) events to strengthen the participation of civil society in the MedPartnership activities, the MedNGO position paper on biodiversity and the role of MedPartnership widely disseminated and presented to the EU commissioner, etc; the online inventory of Mediterranean environmental NGOs, which is fully operational and available at <http://www.mio-ecsde.org/ngos>. She noted that the main constraint for the involvement of NGOs in the MedPartnership activities is the limited resources (financial). However, MIO-ECSDE’s work with the framework of Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme offers an opportunity to overcome some of these constraints by allowing to liaise with NGO’s for the MedPartnership and organize networking meetings back-to-back with relevant trainings leading to greater impact.

### **Replication work plan**

24. The draft Replication Strategy was presented by Mr Andrea Merla, consultant to PMU, and discussion focused on the planning for its implementation and the proposals for replication activities for the remainder of 2011 and beyond.

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p><b>Revision in content and Scope of Replication Strategy</b></p> <p>Agreed that the Replication Strategy would be revised and a small working “Replication Task Group” would be created to discuss how the Strategy can take a broader context of not only of the MedPartnership, to include other initiatives in the region, such as Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM). Revision should include the shorter term vision of replication within the lifespan of the project, but also a longer term vision for the sustainability and coordination of SAP and NAP implementation in the future.</p> <p>Other participating organisations should contribute financially to this longer term coordination on replication, and ideas on how to involve donors will be prepared. As part of this revision a basic methodology with criteria would be developed.</p>	<p>First Replication Task Group meeting (to include UNEP/MAP, GEF, EU, WB, and others to be identified) to be held in Athens in December 2011. Partners to inform if they wish to participate.</p> <p>Following the meeting, the PMU (with support from Mr Merla) to draft methodology for the broader replication strategy.</p> <p>Ministerial meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (mid February 2012) will focus on marine protected areas, and opportunity will be explored how to use this to promote replicable practices.</p>
<p><b>Updated Action Plan</b></p> <p>A detailed (and costed) plan of replication activities for the remainder of the project would be developed, to ensure that the most effective and efficient use of the resources available for the promotion of replicable practices. This should include areas/countries that have indicated their interest in specific activities, and indicate commitment in terms of capacity and financing. In parallel, activities already approved by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee (TEST-Med and MPA management), which are in the process of being finalized in terms of budget and implementation arrangements will be implemented without delay.</p>	<p>Final implementation plan to be received from WWF-MedPO and UNIDO for replication activities for 2011/2012 by mid November 2011.</p> <p>Work-plan of replication activities for 2012-2014 to be developed by February 2012 with inputs from all partners.</p>

### Communication and information activities

25. Mr Trumbic noted that the issue of INFO/RAC’s participation on the MedPartnership would be resolved in the coming months, and Ms Vlachogianni from MIO-ECSDDE presented the main communication outputs developed within 7 months: the Communication & Information Strategy, the web-site, the collaboration portal, a common project identity and corresponding guidelines, an online system to monitor the impact of the communication activities, communication materials (posters, leaflets, press releases, newsletters, etc) including an iPad application, etc. All partners commended the work undertaken, and MEDPOL colleagues suggested that similar tools should be used by UNEP/MAP.

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p>The following communication activities were presented and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Communication Strategy, adopted in Damascus will be updated every year prior to the MedPartnership Steering Committee;</li> <li>- Guidelines, logo and templates for a common project identity have been elaborated and shared with all partners. Discussion focused on how to include all partners logo's</li> <li>- MedPartnership leaflet &amp; posters have been developed and presented at various meetings, along with a press conference/side event organized in Damascus, Syria</li> <li>- Coordination/collaboration web-based tool set up and their guidelines were presented. This was commended as a very useful tool for all partners, and much less complex and labor intensive than the previous "collaboration portal" presented in September 2010 by INFO/RAC.</li> <li>- The website for the MedPartnership, including site enhancements (Apture, Scribd) and social channels (Twitter, Vimeo)-which has been fully operational since February- were presented and discussed. Comments were focused on how to make partners, donors and countries more visible on the main page of the web-site. The MedPartnership quarterly newsletters have been prepared and uploaded (3 so far), as well as all project related documents/events The news section has been constantly been fed with news items developed by the communication team and approved by the PMU.</li> <li>- iPad application was presented and to be launched in IWC6 in Dubrovnik in a side event organized by the MIO-ECSDE communication team. It will be available from itunes for free in the next coming weeks Approval from apple was pending.</li> </ul> <p>Activities under development include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development of the MedPartnership video initiated and expected to be launched at the COP16 in Paris, given that the second mission to film UNIDO/MEDTEST demonstration sites takes place on time.</li> <li>- Project progress monitoring sheets/score cards to be developed</li> </ul>	<p>Combine set of all partners logo's to be available and used on all joint reports (by end Nov 11).</p> <p>All partners agreed to begin using new collaboration portal. All partners to confirm they have access and ensure that new colleagues included, i.e. Giuseppe Di Carlo (by end Nov 11).</p> <p>Web-site cover page to be revised to have donors partners, and countries more visible (by end Nov 11).</p> <p>Request that all partners use environmentally friendly paper and ink. Noted that also CP/RAC and MIO-ECSDE have developed a tool kit for green meetings, and this will be launched in the coming weeks. A launching event will be organized in December in Athens, and UNEP/MAP staff were invited to participate.</p> <p>Agreement that only meetings relevant to MedPartnership should be included on the calendar of meetings (ongoing).</p> <p>Web-site information on Investment Fund projects should be updated, and mention the Task Team Leader (TTL) responsible.</p> <p>All partners agreed to cooperate with the Communication Team and feed in with timely and appropriate information on the developments and progress of their activities.</p>

## Investment Fund and Sustainable Med/Adriatic Sea Environment Programme

26. Mr Sergio Margulis from the World Bank briefly presented the status of the “Sustainable Med” and in particular the Governance and Knowledge project. The presentation by Ms Sanyu Lutalo (World Bank) on the new Adriatic Programme was given earlier as Ms Lutalo had to leave at the end of the first day.

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p><b>Sustainable Med/Knowledge and Governance project</b> The project is to be implemented in five countries (Lebanon, Morocco and Egypt endorsed so far) and the World Bank selected Blue Plan as lead executing agency. The Steering Committee would include the ministries of environment of participating countries. The project is expected to begin implementation in the coming months.</p>	<p>World Bank and Blue Plan to provide contact details for those in charge of Governance and Knowledge project to UNEP/MAP and partners. World Bank Role to provide further information on the composition and mandate of the Steering Committee of the project, including the role of UNEP/MAP.</p>
<p><b>Adriatic Sea Environment Programme</b> The Programme proposed by the World Bank is to provide and/or mobilize technical assistance and, potentially, investment funding to the riparian countries in the Adriatic basin to address top priority trans-boundary pollution challenges in the Adriatic Sea. It is to be composed of regional investments (financed partially or fully through grant funds e.g. GEF and others) and investment priorities to be based on results of the assessment of pollution hotspots and subsequent economic and financial analysis to be conducted as part of preparation.</p> <p>An Adriatic Hot Spot Assessment Update Study was prepared and is now under completion which considered 41 potential pollution hotspots and confirmed the existence of 27 pollution hotspot sites in the Adriatic Sea, of which 6 at the eastern coast were identified as high priority, requiring immediate action.</p> <p>Discussion focused on the overlap of this report with the Elaboration of a Hot Spot inventory for the West Balkans and Turkey as complementary to the MeHSIP (WeBTHSiS) which was completed in 2010 under the auspices of Horizon 2020.</p> <p>It was agreed that this is a great opportunity to achieve what the MedPartnership had originally intended to do, that is a partnership with UNEP leading in implementing policy/legislative reforms and capacity building, complementing investments led by the World Bank. Therefore a joint UNEP/WB Programme was welcomed.</p>	<p>World Bank to send Hot Spot assessment to EC and UNEP/MAP (and all partners) so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- comments from the EC and UNEP/MAP to be made before the report is finalized, and a comparative analysis can be undertaken with the Horizon 2020 WeBTHSiS report, as both should be used as a basis for the Adriatic Programme, along with the MEDPOL hot spot list that were included in the NAPs adopted by the countries.</li> </ul> <p>Lessons learned from the MedPartnership coordination with the World Bank are taken into consideration in the development of the Adriatic Programme, so that the Adriatic Programme can truly be integrated into the current institutional and legal framework within the region.</p>

### Summary of critical issues/Partners facing delays in implementation

27. Following a brief summary by Mr Trumbic, partners discussed the critical issues identified and possible contingency planning for demonstration projects in politically unstable countries, financing and co-financing problems, etc.

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p><b>Revision of activities and log-frame for 2012</b> It was agreed that all partners need to prepare for possible alternative solutions for activities that are not advancing due to political or other reasons. Suggested changes should be presented and discussed with the PMU before the end of the year. Changes in the log-frame will need to be justified, in order to present to the next Steering Committee for approval. It was stressed that particular indicators, such as those mentioning large amounts of substances to be removed or large area (hectares) to be managed, will be difficult to monitor and therefore will have to be revised and improved.</p>	<p>List of activities most affected compiled and possible alternative arrangements proposed (partners and PMU by December 2011).</p> <p>Log-frame (outputs and indicators) to be revised by partners (with some justification for major changes) and sent to the PMU for discussion and finalization before the end of December 2011.</p>

### Inter ministerial committees

28. Ms Virginie Hart recalled that one of the aims of the project is to establish inter-ministerial committees (IMC). Respective Terms of References have been prepared, reviewed, agreed and sent to countries several months ago, but very limited response from ministries in the subsequent period leads to possible re-thinking of the current approach to support inter-ministerial coordination for the implementation of the MedPartnership.

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p><b>Scope of the inter-ministerial committee</b> It was agreed that the establishment of inter-ministerial committees would be of great benefit to the project and the region, but also a great challenge. The following points were raised, based on partners experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The current TOR present a huge task for a Focal Point (FP) in the ministry of environment to mobilize all other ministries, especially as budget relative to project is minor compared to other national programmes/budgets;</li> <li>- The leading actor should be UNEP/MAP which should involve fully the MAP FPs. In some cases the best solution is to contact offices of the prime ministers to coordinate meetings;</li> </ul>	<p>If any relevant inter-ministerial coordination meetings are planned, partners should inform PMU, so that calendar can be kept and opportunities can be used for joint meetings.</p> <p>Seek to arrange at least one inter-ministerial meeting in 2012 to be combined (country/ies to be decided).</p> <p>Partners to provide contact details of all national Focal Points (by end of November 2011).</p>

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p>- Need to give them support and show the potential benefits from involvement in the MedPartnership; - The aim should be for something more than just coordination of the MedPartnership. It could, for example, coordinate SAP/NAP implementation, and include Horizon 2020, support for UNEP/MAP etc.</p>	
<p><b>Assessment of the current status of inter-ministerial coordination</b> It was agreed that the assessment of the current status of inter-ministerial coordination will be a useful baseline to help UNEP/MAP, EU and all partners. It was recommended that rather than to prepare contracts with ministries for the report, contracts with sub-regional (or national) experts should be prepared (for example, Adriatic, East Mediterranean and South Mediterranean) to complete the reports in a harmonized manner. PAP/RAC offered the results of their stock take recently performed in the Mediterranean countries in the framework of the PEGASO project.</p>	<p>Contracts to be prepared with sub-regional (or national) experts to prepare status of inter-ministerial coordination in each of the participating countries. Template for the report to be reviewed by EC and partners prior to contracting.</p>

**Discussion on how to ensure in 2012 to 2013 the MedPartnership achieves its objectives, promotes best-practices and encourages replication**

29. Ms Virginie Hart summarized some of the major issues discussed during the earlier course of the meeting, in order to lead to an overall discussion on how to increase the impact of project activities and ensure sustainability of the MedPartnership.

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p><b>Revision of the TDA, revision and implementation of the SAPs and NAPs</b> The <b>TDA</b> will be updated for aquifers and climate variability in 2012, within the auspices of the MedPartnership. <b>SAP-Med</b> has evolved into several regional plans for pollutants (so far BOD from WWTP, BOD in the food sector, Mercury, and POPs) prepared by MEDPOL, prepared by MEDPOL and adopted or to be adopted by the CPs, and the implementation of NAPs are ongoing through several mechanisms including Horizon 2020. <b>SAP-BIO</b> is still under implementation, was updated in 2011 to include climate change, and will be revised fully during 2012-2013. More recently, the <b>Ecosystem Approach</b> for the Mediterranean has been developed in line with the Marine</p>	<p>Ecosystem Assessment, ecological objectives and indicators to be shared with partners, to be aware of in parallel to the revision of the TDAs, SAPs and NAPs.  The relationship between TDA, SAP, NAPs, Ecosystem approach (plus the EU Marine Strategic Framework, and Water Strategy) needs further consideration especially in light of the updating of the TDA/SAP (aquifers and climate change) and the identification of targets and GES. UNEP/MAP to discuss internally and</p>

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p>Strategy Framework Directive, with an initial in-depth assessment, and now there is agreement on 11 Ecological Objectives (EOs) and 54 indicators. The next steps will be to define specific Good Environmental Standards (GES) and targets for each indicator and the first State of Environment Report is being developed, based broadly on these indicators and taking a Drivers-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses approach (DPSIR) which complements the methodology used in the TDA.</p> <p><b>Monitoring environmental status</b> No provisions had been made for the monitoring of hotspots during the design of the project. MEDPOL has monitoring data for the majority of the hotspots, and a trends assessment for 10,000 sample stations.</p> <p>MEDPOL will see how its database can be used as baseline data for the component 2 demo sites of the project, which could form a possible new activity to be added to sub-component 2.1.</p>	<p>liaise with EC and partners.</p> <p>Design of reporting on environmental status at the hotspots/demo sites to be developed, in line with the ecosystem approach indicators, with additional inputs from all partners. GWP-Med and UNESCO to contribute in ensuring relevant water indicators included.</p>
<p><b>Scientific publications and major meetings for 2012</b> It was suggested that a journal could be dedicated to the MedPartnership if papers could be prepared for 2013, for example in Journal of Coastal Conservation, or Coastal Management Journal. It was recommended and agreed that these publications should be co-written with national experts.</p> <p>This followed a discussion on the major events for end of 2011 and 2012 in which the MedPartnership should participate in, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The World Water Forum on 12-17 March 2012, Marseilles;</li> <li>- World Water Week, in August 2012;</li> <li>- RIO+20 on 20-22 June 2012;</li> <li>- The MEDWET International Symposium (6th to 8th February 2012 in Agadir)</li> </ul>	<p>List of possible publications to be suggested by partners (and their authors) by December 2011.</p> <p>Partners to provide full list of potential regional/global meetings by December 2011 and possible contributions.</p> <p>UNEP/MAP to enquire for press release or presentation for Rio+20.</p>

### Mid-term evaluation

30. The process and timing of the mid-term evaluation (MTE) was presented by Ms Kelly West and discussed.



Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p>The process is led by the UNEP Evaluation and Oversight Office. ToRs are generic but can be adapted to the specificities of the project, for example to include a focus on how to address political problems or revision of indicators etc. ToRs will be finalized by the PMU and DGEF after consultations with partners, and will need to address for example which demonstration sites should be visited. The Evaluation Office has a roster of consultants but partners can suggest possible good consultants. The evaluation will take about 30 to 40 days of a person's time. The draft report, once completed is reviewed by the evaluation office, then the Task Manager, and then the PMU will draft a management response to the evaluation which should be tabled before the Steering Committee before submission.</p> <p>It was noted that FFEM have already just completed a mid-term evaluation for the MPA sub-component of the project and that the EC were just about to begin a monitoring of the MPA sub-component in November 2011. It was agreed that these would form the basis for the MTE.</p>	<p>Given the delay in the start of the project implementation it was agreed that the ToRs be developed and discussed with partners in the first quarter of 2012, and that the consultant should be on board for the 2012 Steering Committee meeting. The draft evaluation should be completed by end of 2012, and response tabled at the Steering Committee in March 2013.</p>

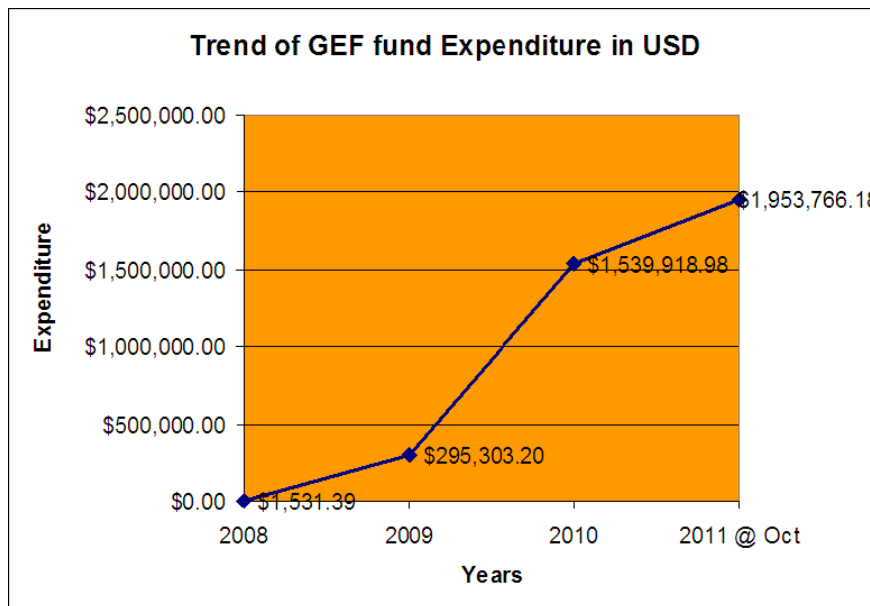
### Budgetary issues

31. Mr Giorgos Petridis presented the current status of financial expenditures and co financing reporting.

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p>Following the presentation which showed that whilst financial expenditures are still behind, the expenditure rate is increasing since 2010, which is logical as most partners spent 2009 making preparatory activities.</p> <p>The discussion focused on the issue of reporting in-kind co-financing, and the discrepancies reported by countries in amounts and methodologies. After some discussion on this issue, it was recommended that the PMU will lead in calculating estimates with support from partners and that these figures and presented at the Steering Committee for approval.</p> <p>Additionally, it was requested that the executing partners will have to submit an audit report to the PMU, (implemented as appropriate and as per respective partners' agreements) capturing the period, from</p>	<p>Brief note explaining the methodology for in-kind co-financing calculations to be prepared by PMU by December 2011.</p> <p>PMU and partners to calculate based on work-plan co-financing estimates from countries and provide estimates and calculations to SC for approval.</p> <p>PMU to provide guidance note for in-kind co-financing (by end of December 2012)</p> <p>Audits to be conducted at executing partners' level and audit reports to be submitted by 30 June 2012.</p>

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p>initiation of activities to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. The reports will need to be submitted within 180 days following that, i.e. on or before 30 June 2012.</p> <p>Finally, it was agreed that the Implementing Partners' Cash Advance Requests would be aligned to the half-yearly expenditure reporting.</p>	<p>Submission of Cash Advance Requests by implementing Partners on a half yearly basis aligned to the expenditure reporting cycle.</p>

Expenditure of GEF Funds up to October 2011.



### The 2011 Annual Report

32. The table of contents and process of the 2011 yearly report were presented by Virginie Hart and discussed.

Key considerations presented/discussed	Agreed actions and timetable
<p>The Annual Report would consist of three documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2011 Annual Report for wide dissemination: printed and online;</li> <li>- Financial performance for SC members; and</li> <li>- 2012 Work-plan, list of meetings and list of planned publications/reports (online, perhaps via collaboration portal).</li> </ul> <p>It was proposed to use the same format as the 2010 Annual Report but also to include a section on outreach, and a bibliography. It was stressed that key results should be captured and presented for the entire project.</p>	<p>Guidance and timetable for contributions to the 2011 Annual Report to be shared for comments by mid November 2011.</p>

### **Climate Variability project**

33. Ms Kelly West and Ivica Trumbic briefly presented the status of finalization of the “Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” which is about to be submitted following review by the UNEP Project Review Committee (PRC). It is estimated that, all going well and as planned, the project will begin in February 2012 and is due to be completed by June 2014. The project is to be executed by UNEP/MAP-Plan Bleu/RAC, UNEP/MAP-PAP/RAC, GWP Med, and UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit (through MedPartnership PMU) in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Morocco, Montenegro, and Tunisia. The Palestinian Authority also participates. Algeria co-financing letter is still pending, while Turkey may still join in. Syria and Libya did not present co-financing letter for obvious reasons, and if the political situation improves they may join the project at a later date. The project will be fully integrated into the MedPartnership, in terms of reporting, communication and replication, and overall coordination by the MedPartnership PMU.

### **Third Steering Committee Meeting: Issues, agenda, time and venue, documents**

34. The next meeting of the Steering Committee is tentatively planned to take place in Turkey in March 2011. Mr Trumbic proposed Izmir as the possible location and WWF-MedPo, who is working in the area, offered help for the logistics. It was noted to avoid the dates of the UNEP Governing Council (20-22 February 2012) and the World Water Forum (12-17 March 2012), with dates to be confirmed by the end of November 2011. The meeting may also serve as the Inception Workshop for the Climate Variability Project. It is also proposed to hold the Steering Committee back to back with the Replication Conference on the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (to be arranged by UNIDO and UNEP/MAP), which will be confirmed also by the end of November 2011. Finally Mr José Luis Martin Bordes kindly offered on behalf of UNESCO-IHP to host the Fourth Coordination Group Meeting in UNESCO premises in Paris in late September or October 2012.

### **6<sup>th</sup> GEF International Waters Conference**

35. It was briefly noted by Mr Trumbic that the next GEF IW conference, including the celebration of 20 years of GEF, will take place in Dubrovnik on 17-20 October 2011. UNEP/MAP is the hosting institution of the Conference and it will be a real opportunity to highlight the results of the MedPartnership. The MedPartnership and UNESCO have individual stands with videos, brochures and documents available, and presentations will be given by Mr Ivica Trumbic and Ms Roberta de Palma. The iPad application will be launched in a side event, and invitations have been sent to all participants.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

36. Mr Ivica Trumbic and Ms Virginie Hart summarized the conclusions of the meeting, captured above, and thanked all participants and in particular PAP/RAC colleagues for their hosting of the meeting.

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