

PROJECT BRIEF**1. IDENTIFIERS****PROJECT NUMBER****PROJECT NAME**

**Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem – Regional Component:
Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas**

DURATION

5 years

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

UNEP

EXECUTING AGENCY

Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP-MEDU) and its associated Regional Activity Centers (RACs): Cleaner Production (CP/RAC); Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC); Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC); and Information (INFO/RAC)

GEF EXECUTIVE AGENCY WITH EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);

CO-EXECUTING AGENCIES

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO/HP); World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med); Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE); Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP), and MEDPOL.

REQUESTING COUNTRIES

Regional Mediterranean (12 countries): Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The Palestinian Authority also participates.

ELIGIBILITY

The countries are eligible for GEF International Waters funding under paragraph 9(b) of the GEF instrument. Albania, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia are eligible for POPs funding since they ratified/acceded to the Stockholm Convention on POPs. They are also all signatories to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution.

GEF FOCAL AREA

International Waters and Persistent Organic Pollutants

GEF PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK

OP 9 and OP 14

2. SUMMARY

The Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem is under increasing threat due to uncontrolled coastal development, population expansion, increasing coastal tourism, unregulated and unsustainable fishing, over-extraction of freshwater (including aquifers and groundwater) and pollution. The population of the Mediterranean region has almost doubled since 1970, with greatest densities in the coastal zone. Tourism also represents an additional stress on resources and a source of pollution, and this is expected to increase in the future. Urban growth rates are high with predictions that for southern and eastern Mediterranean countries the population will shift from predominantly rural to urban. Currently, 42 percent of the coastal zone is under artificial land cover and it is projected that half the coastal zone will be covered by roads, ports, airports and industrial and power facilities by 2025.

Recognizing the need to protect the Mediterranean Sea, all the riparian States and the EU launched an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Mediterranean Basin (MAP) in 1975 as the first Regional Seas Programme of UNEP and signed the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution. As a result of 30 years of work carried out by MAP and its Regional Activity Centers (RACs) (see Boxes 3 and 4), intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the knowledge of the environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea has greatly improved and a large number of activities for the protection of the marine environment have been implemented. However, due to increasing pressures described in the previous paragraph, the state of the environment in the Mediterranean has, unfortunately, not improved substantially and in some cases it has even deteriorated. A more pro-active approach on the regional scale seemed to be the right response to face those challenges, and in response MAP with the financial support of GEF launched two consecutive projects which prepared the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea (TDA-MED) followed by the preparation of two Strategic Action Plans (SAPs).

The TDA-MED was prepared in 1999, was revised and adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2004. The TDA-MED identified the major sources of transboundary pollution and hotspots and provided a foundation for interventions at the national and regional level that would benefit both the individual countries and the basin as a whole. Decline in biodiversity, fisheries, and seawater quality, along with human health risks and the loss of groundwater dependent coastal ecosystems were identified as the major environmental concerns of the basin. The TDA-MED was used as a basis for the preparation of two Strategic Action Programs (SAPs): the Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP-MED) and the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO), which were adopted by the Contracting parties in 1997 and 2003 respectively. The SAP-MED and SAP-BIO outline the specific targets and activities agreed by the member countries to address the Mediterranean Sea environmental degradation and formed the basis for the formulation of the countries National Action Plans (NAPs), which were finalized and endorsed by the Contracting Parties in 2005. The costs of priority pollution remedial actions identified in SAP-MED and SAP-BIO is in the range of hundreds of millions, if not billions of US\$.

The Mediterranean countries fully recognize the need for a coordinated and innovative approach for the implementation of policy reforms, priority interventions and investments that address transboundary pollution and biodiversity conservation priorities identified in the two SAPs and the NAPs. Accordingly, they have agreed on a collective effort for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean - the **Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem** - led by UNEP and the World Bank, co-funded by GEF and involving other relevant international cooperation Agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and bilateral and multilateral donors. This Partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of this damaged large marine ecosystem, its contributing freshwater basins, its habitats and coastal aquifers. It consists of two complementary components, the **Regional Component**: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas (outlined in the present document) and the **Investment Fund** for the Mediterranean Sea Large

Marine Ecosystem Partnership (submitted by the World Bank and already approved by the GEF Council in August 2006.).

The objective of the **Mediterranean Sea LME Strategic Partnership** is to leverage reforms and catalyze investments that address transboundary pollution reduction and marine and coastal biodiversity conservation priorities identified in the SAPs for the Mediterranean basin. The work will involve all stakeholders in the Mediterranean with particular emphasis on enhancing capacity in governments to address environmental problems and to incorporate environmental considerations into national planning. The objective of the proposed **Regional Component** is to promote and induce harmonized policy, legal and institutional reforms and fill the knowledge gap aimed at reversing marine and coastal degradation trends and living resources depletion, in accordance with priorities agreed by the countries in the SAP MED and SAP BIO, and to prepare the ground for the future implementation of the ICZM Protocol. Together, these instruments will assist countries in achieving the MDGs and WSSD targets. The **results of the Regional Component** will include the increased capacity of basin countries to implement policies and strategies that address SAP priorities; increased knowledge of countries and donors on the most effective and/or innovative projects/technologies that address regional priority objectives; a fully developed replication strategy for scaling-up successful investments within and among countries; stress reduction measures monitored at water-body level; increased coordination of donor and government programs addressing SAPs; and the implementation of demonstration/pilot projects in a number of countries.

Accordingly the project is composed of the following 4 components: (1) Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer; (2) Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs; (3) Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs; and (4) Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E. With this structure a clear attempt is made to strengthen an integrated and holistic approach to the implementation of both SAP-MED and SAP-BIO and the NAPs. This is evident in the structure and content of Component 1 and also in Component 4 in which the SP Communication/Information and Replication Strategies are designed and developed in such a way that integration is ensured. Components 2 and 3 adopt a sectoral approach, basically for technical reasons, but linkages between are ensured through the other three components (see also figures 1 and 2 below, in *Program Implementation and Institutional Framework*). Additionally, the Project Management Unit in close collaboration with the Executing Agency UNEP/MAP and its regional Activity Centers, the Steering Committee and the Coordination Group (see Component 4.1) will make the best use of existing mechanisms within the Barcelona Convention structure, to ensure integration.

The regional approach to the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs has a number of important advantages, which include the implementation of a number of regional plans of action to protect the coastal zone from pollution and biodiversity loss, to transfer knowledge and skills between countries, to apply best practice, to promote the adoption of policy reforms throughout the region and to enhance the replication of successful pilot projects to achieve regional objectives. Full stakeholder ownership and participation will strengthen as a consequence of the recognition that each is doing its part to contribute to a wider regional cause. A regional framework also provides a better mechanism for cooperation with diverse partners. An overall strategic approach incorporating a comprehensive suite of actions and investments is a more cost-effective and higher impact vehicle to demonstrate benefits than a series of individual projects. Such a strategic approach will also help to promote action over a specified and shorter period so that more tangible results can be achieved in a shorter timeframe.

3. COSTS AND FINANCING (US\$)

GEF:	- <u>Project</u>	<u>12,891,000</u>
	• International Waters (OP#9)	9,991,000
	• POPs (OP#14)	2,900,000
	- <u>PDF-B Phase International Waters (OP#9)</u>	<u>700,000</u>
	Sub-total GEF	<u>13,591,000</u>
Co-Financing:	- <u>Project</u>	
	• Governments: Participating countries	11,527,500
	Other countries	7,100,000
	• Other co-financing	10,979,700
	- <u>PDF-B Co-financing</u>	<u>1,258,500</u>
	Sub-total Co-financing	<u>30,865,700</u>
Total Project Cost:		<u>44,456,700</u>

4. Associated Financing (US\$)-BASELINE: \$

Baseline = 78,653,000 US\$

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List of Acronyms/Abbreviations

ACCOBAMS Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area.	CP/RAC Cleaner Production / Regional Activity Centre
AfDB African Development Bank	CPUE Catch per Unit Effort
AMCOW Africa Ministers Council on Water	CTA Chief Technical Advisor
ARM Annual Replication Meetings	DDT Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane
ASCI Area of Special Conservation Interest (in Emerald Network)	DFID Department for International Development (DFID)
ASPIM Aires Spécialement Protégées d'Importance Méditerranéenne.	DIM Data and Information Management
ATEN Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels	EAF Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (management)
AWC Arab Water Council	EastMed FAOs Eastern Mediterranean Area
AWF African Water Facility	EC European Commission
AWP Annual Work Plan	ECOMARE EU - DG XII - MAST-III Concerted Action "Ecological Effects of Protection in Mediterranean Marine Reserves"
BAT Best Available Technology	EEA European Environment Agency
BD Biodiversity	EESP Environment, Economic and Social Program.
BIOMEX European Commission (EC) Vth Framework Programme (FP5) Project "Assessment of Biomass Export from Marine Protected Areas and its impact on fisheries in the western Mediterranean Sea"	EIA Environmental Impact Assessment
BOD Biological Oxygen Demand	EIC Euro-Mediterranean Irrigators Communities
CAMP Coastal Area Management Programme	ELV Emission Limit Values
CapNet Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources Management	EMPAFISH EC FP6 Project "European Marine Protected Areas as Tools for Fisheries Management and Conservation"
CEDA Centre for Environment and Development in Africa	EMWIS Euro-Mediterranean Water Information Systems
CEDARE Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe	EQO Environmental Quality Objective
CBD Convention on Biological Diversity	EQS Environmental Quality Standard
CBO Community-based organization	ESI Environmental Status Indicator
CCA Carrying Capacity Assessment	EST Environmentally Sound Technology
CD Compact Disc	EU European Union
CFA Conservation Finance Alliance	EUCC European Union for Coastal Conservation
CI Conservation International	EUWI EU Water Initiative
CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.	FAO Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
CMS Convention on Migratory Species.	FFEM Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial
CNRS Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	GEF Global Environment Facility
COB-IEO Centro Oceanográfico de Baleares – Instituto Español de Oceanografía	GEF SGP GEF Small Grants Programme
CoE Council of Europe	GDP Gross Domestic Product
COED Cost of Environmental Degradation	GFCM General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
COMJEST Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Sustainable Development	GIS Geographic Information System
COMPSUD Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development	GPA Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
COP Conference of the Parties	GTZ Deutsche Gessellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH
COPEMED Cooperación Pesca Mediterráneo (Mediterranean Fish Cooperation; FAO)	GWP Global Water Partnership
	GWP-Med Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

GWPO Global Water Partnership Organization	MCS Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
HAB Harmful Algal Bloom	MDG Millennium Development Goals
HCH Hexachlorocyclohexanes	MEA Mediterranean Environmental Award
IA Implementing Agency	MedCities Mediterranean Network of Local Authorities
IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	MED EUWI Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative
ICAM Integrated Coastal Area Management	MedMPA Regional Project for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region (RAC/SPA)
ICARM Integrated Coastal Area Resource Management	MEDPAN Mediterranean Protected Area Network
IC Information and Communications	MEDPOL Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme
ICCAT International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna	MedWet The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
ICM Integrated Coastal Management	MENBO Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations
ICOM Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management	METAP Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program
ICS-UNIDO International Centre for Science and High Technology – UNIDO	MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development
IMO International Maritime Organization	MNA Middle East and North Africa Region
IMPAC International Marine Protected Areas Congress	MOU Memorandum of Understanding
IOC Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO	MPA Marine Protected Area
ICZM Integrated Coastal Zone Management	MSP Marine Spatial Planning
IFI International Financial Institutions	MSSD Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
INFO/RAC Environmental Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre	NAMCOW North Africa Ministers Council on Water (under the AMCOW)
IPOA-IUU International Plan of Action on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.	NAP National Action Plan
IPOA-SEABIRDS International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Long line Fisheries.	NBB National Baseline Budget
IPOA-SHARKS International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Sharks in Long line Fisheries.	NEAP National Environment Action Plan
IPP Interactive Participatory Programme	NDA National Diagnostic Analysis
IRBM Integrated River Basin Management	NFP National Focal Point
ITWRM Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management	NGO Non-Governmental Organization
IUCN International Union for Nature Conservation	NIP National Implementation Plan
IW International Waters	NMC Northern Mediterranean countries
IW-LEARN International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network	OP Operational Programme
IWRM Integrated Water Resources Management	PAH Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
LBS Land-based Sources	PAP-RAC Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
LME Large Marine Ecosystems	PBAS Partnership Building Accreditation Scheme
LOICZ Land-Oceans Interactions in the Coastal Zone	PCB Polychlorinated biphenyls
M&E Monitoring and Evaluation	PCU Project Coordination Unit
MAP Mediterranean Action Plan	PDF-B Project Development Fund– Block B
MAP/UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan/United Nations Environment Programme	PEEN Pan-European Ecological Network
MCS Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	PIF Partnership Investment Fund
	PIP Priority Investment Portfolio
	PIR Project Implementation Review
	PMU Program Management Unit

POPs Persistent Organic Pollutants	STRP Scientific and Technical Research Panel
PPER Project Performance and Evaluation Review	SWM Solid Waste Management
PRCMA Programme Régional de Conservation de la zone Côtière et Marine	TDA Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
PRP Potential Replication Projects	TBT Tributyltin
PRT Project Replication Team	TOR Terms of Reference
PTS Persistent toxic substances	TRADP Tumen River Area Development Project
QA Quality Assurance	UCC-Water United Nations Environment Programme – Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment
QC Quality Control	UN United Nations
RAC Regional Activity Center	UNCLOS United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
RAED Arab Office for Environment and Development	UNDESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
RC/SP Regional Component of the Strategic Partnership	UNDP United Nations Development Programme
RCU Regional Coordination Unit	UNECA United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
RPA/LBA Regional Programme of Action/Land-Based Activities	UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
SAC Scientific Advisory Committee.	UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
SAP Strategic Action Programme	UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
SAP-BIO Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity	UN ESCWA United Nations economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
SAP-MED Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities for the Mediterranean Sea	UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
SDF Standard Data-entry Form	USD United States Dollars
SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment	WB The World Bank
SEMC Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries	WCPA World Commission of Protected Areas
SES Enterprise Sustainable Strategies	WDPA World Data Base on Protected Areas
SC Steering Committee	WFD Water Framework Directive (of the European Union)
SGD Submarine Groundwater Discharges	WHO World Health Organization
SGP Small Grants Program	WRM Water Resources Management
SGP-MED Small Grants Programme for the SP Mediterranean LME	WSS Water Supply and Sanitation
SLM Sustainable Land Management	WSSD World Summit on Sustainable Development
SMAP Short and Medium - Term Priority Environmental Action Programme	WWW World Wide Web
SP Strategic Partnership	WWF World Wide Fund for Nature
SPA Specially Protected Area	WWF-MedPO World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF European Policy Programme, Rome
SPAMI Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Interest	WWF4 4th World Water Forum
SPA/RAC The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre	
SPSC Strategic Partnership Steering Committee	

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OTHER DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROPOSAL

(to be supplied upon request)

- Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP-MED)
- Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of biological diversity (SAP-BIO)
- Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea
- SAP-MED: NAP Synopsis for each country
- Guidelines for the preparation of national action plans to address marine pollution from land-based activities
- SAP-BIO National Reports
- SAP-BIO National Action Plans

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

CONTEXT: THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM

1. The countries of the Mediterranean Sea basin face a variety of shared environmental problems that are transboundary in nature. As a result of the increased demand for space, water and natural resources, the stress on coastal ecosystems and the infringement of natural and agricultural land is continuously increasing. Key to success in addressing transboundary environmental concerns is the mutual political commitment of all the countries in the basin. To this effect, the GEF Operational Strategy recognizes that a series of international water projects may be needed over time to: a) build the capacity of countries to work together; b) jointly to understand and set priorities based on the environmental status of their water body; c) identify actions and develop political commitment to address the top priority transboundary environmental concerns; and d) implement the agreed policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments needed to address them.

2. With the support of the GEF, UNEP, UNEP/MAP and FFEM, and consistent with the GEF Operational Strategy, the Mediterranean countries have collaborated within the context of the Barcelona Convention to revise the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis¹ prepared in 1997 and have agreed on the following major transboundary environmental concerns in relation to the basin:

- Decline of biodiversity due to over-fishing, conversion and degradation of critical habitats, introduction of alien species, pollution in the form of excess nutrients and toxic wastes, including oil, solid waste and litter, and the use of non-selective fishing gear;
- Decline in fisheries due to over-fishing, use of harmful fishing practices, loss of shallow-water habitats for some life stages of critical fish species, the adverse water quality of rivers and coastal aquifers, sewage discharge, dredging and releases from non-point sources;
- Decline in seawater quality due to inadequate sewage treatment, lack of application of best practice in the agriculture use of fertilizers and pesticides, inadequate controls on atmospheric emissions of heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants from European industrial sources, inadequate source and discharge control for industries bordering the sea, and increased shipping traffic in the Mediterranean causing increased accidental and deliberate releases of harmful contaminants;
- Human health risks due to the consumption of contaminated seafood, direct and indirect contact with seawater that is contaminated with pathogens and/or viral agents; and
- Loss of groundwater-dependent coastal ecosystems due to the contamination, salinization and over-exploitation of coastal aquifers.

3. The Mediterranean countries have worked together to set priorities related to these transboundary environmental concerns and have jointly agreed on the interventions needed to address these priorities in two Strategic Action Programs (SAPs):

- The Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP-MED); and
- The Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO).

4. Following the completion of the two Strategic Action Programs (SAP-MED and SAP-BIO), the Mediterranean countries undertook to formulate National Action Plans (NAPs) using a participatory approach that included national and local authorities, the private sector and NGOs. These NAPs specify the priority actions to be undertaken at national level. The two SAPs and the NAPs are now ready for

¹ The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) is a scientifically based assessment of the environmental conditions of an internationally shared water-body, which identifies major problems, their causes and possible solutions, discriminating between those issues (transboundary issues) requiring international action and those of an exclusively national nature.

implementation. They comprise actions consistent with GEF Operational Program 9 (OP 9) of the International Waters Focal Area and Operational Program 2 (OP 2) of the Biodiversity Focal Area. A third instrument, the ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, is currently under finalization. As a result of the implementation of several Coastal Area Management Projects (CAMPs) in the region, it was evident that the Mediterranean region needed to conclude a binding Protocol to halt the degradation of coastal areas in the northern Mediterranean countries and to offer a model for coastal development in the southern countries. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention therefore decided to ask the Convention Secretariat to initiate the formulation of a Protocol on ICZM and to submit a draft text to the 2005 meeting of Contracting Parties. It was subsequently agreed to use this draft as a basis for a final version of the Protocol on ICZM that would be submitted to the next meeting of Contracting Parties in 2007.

The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem: An integrated and coordinated approach to implementing the SAPs

5. The Mediterranean countries fully recognize the need for a coordinated and innovative approach for the implementation of policy reforms, priority interventions and investments that address transboundary pollution and biodiversity conservation priorities in hotspots identified in the two SAPs. Accordingly, they have agreed on a collective effort for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean - the **Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem** - led by UNEP and the World Bank, co-funded by GEF and involving other relevant international cooperation Agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and bilateral and multilateral donors. This Partnership, which builds upon the model and lessons learnt from the GEF Black Sea/Danube Partnership, constitutes a basis for basin-wide multi-stakeholder collaboration. It will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of this damaged large marine ecosystem, its contributing freshwater basins, its habitats and coastal aquifers.

6. The Partnership will stimulate and further enhance the implementation at the Mediterranean level of Global Conventions and initiatives such as the MDGs, WSSD, CBD and GPA, Regional Conventions and instruments such as the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan as well as the SAPs and NAPs in individual countries.

7. Interventions supported under the Strategic Partnership will be mainstreamed into the programs of the GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies.

8. The Strategic Partnership will comprise two separate components that complement each other to provide assistance to the countries according to each agency's comparative advantage. These components are:

- Regional Component: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas (led by UNEP the object of the present proposal, and
- Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership (led by the World Bank and already approved by the GEF Council in August 2006. ²).

9. This regional approach to the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs has a number of important advantages, which include the implementation of a number of regional plans of action to protect the coastal zone from pollution and biodiversity loss, the transfer of knowledge and skills between countries, the application of best practices, the adoption of policy reforms throughout the region, and the replication of pilot successes to achieve regional objectives. Full stakeholder ownership and participation will strengthen as a consequence of the recognition that each is doing its part to contribute to a wider regional cause. A regional framework also provides a better mechanism for cooperation with diverse partners, for

² A separate concept submission by the World Bank will deal with the Investment Fund under the Strategic Partnership.

example the EU that has a significant role to play as a political driver for action and co-financier for investments. An overall strategic approach incorporating a comprehensive suite of actions and investments is a more cost-effective vehicle to demonstrate benefits than a series of individual projects. Such a strategic approach will also help to promote action over a specified and shorter period so that more tangible results can be achieved in a shorter timeframe.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

10. The Mediterranean Sea is the largest a semi-enclosed European sea, occupying an area of about 2.5 million km². It is surrounded by 21 countries³ having differing levels of economic and social development and is at the conjunction of three continents. Uncontrolled coastal development, population expansion, increasing coastal tourism, unregulated and unsustainable fishing, freshwater damming, over-extraction of freshwater (including from aquifers) and pollution are the greatest threats to the marine and coastal ecosystems. Climate change is also considered an important impending threat to the Mediterranean Sea basin (see below). The revised TDA for the Mediterranean Sea identifies the major transboundary concerns as shown in Box 1.

Box 1. Major transboundary environmental concerns in the Mediterranean

Transboundary degradation of **coastal habitats and the decline of biodiversity** arise from the following factors: marine living resources are often migratory and coastal habitats provide nursery and feeding grounds to migratory species; thus, the degradation of coastal habitats contributes to an overall decline in biodiversity. The sustainability of marine and coastal habitats depends on the integrity and viability of their interlinked, transboundary ecosystems, that provide support to all trophic levels in the food chain.

Transboundary aspects of **fisheries** sustainability and management are of particular importance regarding migratory and shared stocks. This makes it essential to address fisheries management at an international level. This task is complex in the Mediterranean as there are a large number of riparian states in varying stages of development regarding the management of fisheries. Future progress in terms of fisheries management will require the ability to translate from a multilateral dimension into coherent national practices. The number of shared fisheries has increased in several areas of the Mediterranean such as the Alboran Sea, the Gulf of Lyons, the Northern Tyrrhenian Sea, the Adriatic Sea, the Ionian Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Sicily Strait and the Gulf of Gabes. The number of shared fisheries already identified justifies concerted action to be taken for these stocks at the international level.

Transboundary concerns related to **marine water quality** arise from the fact that pollutants often travel great distances through air, sea currents and rivers before their effects are manifest. Persistent toxic substances dispersed by atmospheric circulation, the transboundary transport of contaminants such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and eutrophication and their effects on sea birds and other marine life are the main focus areas of sea water quality. Pollution hot spots can also affect biodiversity on Mediterranean-wide scales in addition to local impacts.

Transboundary elements affecting **human health** include the trade in contaminated seafood that diffuses health concerns beyond the Mediterranean basin and the exposure of tourists. There are also risks of adverse health impacts from contact with contaminated seawater, such as gastroenteritis, ear, skin and eye infections, viral diseases such as hepatitis A and cholera. Superficial or deep mucosae can also arise from contact with contaminated beach sand during visits to Mediterranean beaches. Without adequate water resource management, human health risks will continue to increase. Lack of water and sanitation, inadequate waste and wastewater disposal, waterborne disease, unhealthy seafood and the instances of eutrophication will increase.

Transboundary threats to **coastal aquifers**. The groundwater problems in the Adriatic (eastern coast) basin and in selected section of the Levantine and the Southern Mediterranean coasts are linked to coastal aquifer freshwater-saltwater interfaces. The problems are linked to, and arise from, water imbalances and freshwater discharges, pressure on groundwater supplies, saltwater intrusion, coastal aquifer salinization, nutrient and contaminant transport in the context of the preservation of freshwater, brackish water and coastal water ecosystems. They are ultimately attributable to the lack of policy and sustainable legal and institutional frameworks for coastal aquifer management. The problems vary according to the vulnerability of the aquifer systems, the hydrogeology and importance of land-based water pollution and are related to: (a) sustainable protection and use of shared coastal aquifers; and, ultimately, to (b) the sustainability of the regional basin including marine water balance, water quality and the impacts on marine ecosystems.

³ Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey, are riparian countries.

Population growth, tourism and urbanization

11. The Mediterranean countries occupy an area of 8.8 million km², with an aggregate population of 427 million in 2000. The population of the Mediterranean region has undergone rapid growth in the last 35 years having almost doubled since 1970. Population density is greater in coastal than in non-coastal areas. Defined by its 234 coastal regions,⁴ the coastal zone occupies 1.1 million km², with a population of 143 million. In addition, an estimated 176 million tourists visited the coastal region in 2000. By 2025, the population of the coastal zone is predicted to increase by an additional 31 million, with 130 million more tourists. Currently, 42 percent of the coastal zone is under artificial land cover and it is projected that half the coastal zone will be covered by roads, ports, airports and industrial and power facilities by 2025.

12. The wide variation in political and economic systems as well as historic differences have led to great inequalities in the level of development among Mediterranean countries. These are exhibited by the overall differences between the northern Mediterranean countries (NMC) and the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMC). Population growth is the greatest in the SEMC, at 2.4 percent per year, compared to 0.4 in the NMC. Urban growth rates are generally high for the Mediterranean, and this trend is projected to continue, especially for the SEMC (at 2.08 percent per year on average). If this continues, in 50 years the population will shift from essentially rural to urban. In terms of wealth, there are also strong contrasts, where the EU countries combined have 90 percent of the GDP for the Mediterranean with GDP per capita values twelve time higher than in north African countries.

Loss of biodiversity and the unsustainable use of fisheries

13. The Mediterranean Sea contains 7% of the world's known marine species in an area constituting only 0.8 per cent of the world's oceans. The Mediterranean Sea contains 18% of the world's marine flora making it arguably one of the richest regions of marine biodiversity in the world. Because of this, and the threats posed by urban development, weak infrastructure, pollution and agricultural practices, invasive species, tourism, etc., the Mediterranean Sea remains a global biodiversity hotspot. It is listed in the top 15 marine hotspots by Conservation International (CI) and figures prominently in the WWF Global 200 list. Coastal erosion has increased as a result of human activities, saline intrusion has increased as a result of excessive extraction from coastal aquifers, and invasive species have become new sources of environmental degradation. While policies and interventions to protect nature are being implemented in all countries, they are insufficient to address both current damage and impending threats.

Conservation of biodiversity through the establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas

14. As a result of the pressure to both conserve and use, Mediterranean countries have already established a number of marine protected areas (MPAs). These range from small specific areas for critically important biodiversity, such as the MPAs established for the protection of the Monk Seal in Greece, Turkey and Morocco, the Port Cros Park in southern France, and the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals, to transboundary areas such as that created by France, Monaco and Italy in the Ligurian Sea. The total of protected areas in the Mediterranean, of all IUCN categories, reached 1.15 million ha in 1995, a six-fold increase in 25 years. In 2003, there were 152 Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), including 47 marine areas. Most of these, however, are situated in the northern Mediterranean.

15. The increase in protected areas, however, is minor compared to the larger proportion of protected areas found in other continental regions. There also exists a gap between the legal status of protected areas and the application of measures required for their conservation, with insufficient funds being allocated to management. Many were created purely for species protection without adequate consideration of the opportunities for capturing multiple benefits through the careful consideration of location, size, (multiple-use) zoning/management and the synergistic effects of networks. Furthermore,

⁴ Blue Plan's Environment and Development Outlook, 2005

several national reports have identified common problems affecting the selection, establishment and management of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean (see Box 2).

16. As the SAP-BIO clearly states, there is a critical need to review the existing MPA and coastal PA networks in the light of an expanding literature⁵ on design and monitoring of MPAs to achieve both conservation and sustainable use benefits (fisheries, tourism⁶, etc.), thus bridging the BD-1 and BD-2 strategic priorities for biodiversity. Although mass tourism remains a major threat to Mediterranean biodiversity, there are successful examples of mainstreaming biodiversity; *e.g.*, coastal tourism in Slovenia and southern Albania, green tourism in the Cres-Losinj archipelago in Croatia, integrated management of coastal areas in the Antalya region of the southern coast of Turkey and eco-tourism, including whale-watching, off the Balearic Islands in Spain.

Box 2. Common problems affecting the conservation of marine biodiversity through the use of MPA's in the Mediterranean

A series of problems have been recurrently identified by National Reports, although, obviously, the importance of magnitude of each problem differs among the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea:

- Insufficient legal system, lack of adequate legislation;
- Confusion of competency, or fragmentation of responsibility (leading to problems of implementation of the existing laws);
- Lack of coordination between administrations, competencies overlap;
- Interference with other human activities occurring in the coastal zone, mainly tourism;
- Low or no participation of stakeholders and other agents in the decision-making process;
- Poor effort to improve public awareness on marine conservation issues;
- Lack of effective enforcement measures in some cases;
- Lack of effective scientific monitoring;
- Lack of sufficient economic resources to achieve protection measures, so that a number of MPAs receive only nominal management and protection ("paper MPAs");
- Problems of mismanagement and deterioration caused by the limited experience of the people administrating MPAs;
- Lack of effective conservation measures to protect particular species (monk seal, sea turtles, cetaceans, etc.) and/or communities (*e.g.*, seagrass meadows);
- Need to set up a network of MPAs, and therefore define the goals, mechanisms and management organization for such a network; and
- Need for integrated coastal zone planning and management.

Other identified problems that affect the selection, installation, management and evaluation of Mediterranean MPAs are the following:

- Need to clearly establish the specific goals of each MPA;
- Improved scientific basis for the selection (location, habitats included, depth range, etc.) and design (size, shape, number, proportion of total surface protected, etc.) of MPAs;
- Need for appropriate monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of MPAs based on sound sampling designs (*e.g.*, BACIP, beyond-BACI...);
- Lack of empirical evidence for potentially complex effects of MPAs, *e.g.*, spillover, indirect effect on ecosystems ("cascade" effects), effects on larval replenishment of commercially and/or ecologically important species, genetic effects, socio-economic results, etc.;
- Need to ascertain the relationship between MPAs with other management tools.

Sustainable fisheries and the need for an ecosystem approach to fisheries

17. Fishing in the Mediterranean has increased by about 48 percent since 1970, with heavy exploitation of both bottom living (demersal) and large pelagic stocks (*e.g.*, tuna and swordfish)⁷. The upward catch trends for many species up to about a decade ago suggest that recruitment of young fish survived intensive fishing and a lack of quota controls. However, short-term trends over the last ten years now

⁵ Syms, C. and M. H. Carr (2001) Marine Protected Areas: Evaluating MPA effectiveness in an uncertain world. Scoping paper presented at the Guidelines for Measuring Management Effectiveness in Marine Protected Areas Workshop, Monterey, California, May 1-3, 2001, sponsored by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. http://www.biology.ucsc.edu/people/carr/Syms/syms_download_page.htm

⁶ *e.g.*, Alonissos Marine National Park in the Northern Sporades in Greece combines tourism with conservation of the Monk Seal, one of the 12 most threatened mammals in the world

⁷ EEA report No 4/2006 "Priority issues in the Mediterranean environment"

reflect a general picture of full to over-exploitation for most demersal and shellfish populations. The primary causes of the decline in fisheries identified in the TDA-MED include: (i) excessive fisheries effort in some areas of the Mediterranean; (ii) use of harmful fishing practices, including non-selective catch techniques and bottom trawls that lead to excessive by-catch; (iii) the development of more efficient capture technologies (ships and fish-finding gear) that can lead to over-exploitation if not carefully monitored and controlled. Secondary causes include: (iv) loss of shallow-water habitats for some life stages of critical fisheries; and (v) adverse water quality from rivers and coastal aquifers, sewage discharges, dredging and non-point source releases of contaminants.⁸

18. One of the major impacts of fishing on the marine ecosystem derives from the discard rate, which, at between 40-60% of the initial catch, is greatest in the western Mediterranean and commonly includes vulnerable or endangered species. Physical disturbance of the seabed by mobile gear has also been observed to damage fragile habitats including seagrasses, corals and sponges.

19. As described in SAP-BIO, up to now, there is a general failure of traditional management measures (quotas, size limitation, control of effort, temporal closures, etc.) to prevent over-exploitation of stocks, habitat degradation and wider ecosystem impacts. The primary problems are linked to the management of fishery resources, that have to address the heterogeneous character of Mediterranean fisheries and the frequent, seasonal shifts of gear used by fishing units. In addition, there is the practical difficulty of enforcing existing regulations leading to the frequent occurrence of illegal fishing practices (*e.g.*, trawling over seagrass beds, catching undersized individuals, etc.) and in some cases, the lack of adequate legislation to facilitate fisheries management. There are also technical issues such as low gear selectivity and the difficulty of maintaining adequate statistics on fishing catches due to the occurrence of multiple and frequently uncontrolled landing points. Generally, there is a lack of awareness among fishermen about the importance of conserving marine biodiversity and this is compounded by the fragmented nature of many Mediterranean fishing communities and a complex and sometimes inefficient organization for marketing and distribution.

20. Other problems that were identified include the gradual disappearance of traditional knowledge about the biology of target species and the spatial distribution of key habitats. There are also difficulties faced by scientists in building reliable dynamic biological and economic models caused by: (i) a lack of appropriate basic knowledge; (ii) uncertainties associated with the nature of predictive models themselves; and (iii) the intrinsic uncertainty of marine ecosystem dynamics. Finally, important shortcomings have been noted in the mechanisms for coordinating the different stakeholders within integrated management schemes (considering co-management and also co-responsibility) based on an ecosystem approach.

21. The principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing (CCRF) are accepted by Mediterranean countries, but delivering and enforcing the practical elements of the CCRF requires both real political will combined with a long-term and practical approach. The need for an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) in the Mediterranean has now been recognized. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM's) Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) is mandated to address EAF. In 2005, it established an *Ad Hoc* Working Group on EAF and advised GFCM to prohibit towed dredge and trawl fisheries below 1000 m to protect deep-water fish. However, the SCMEE acknowledges the difficulties of implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries, citing in particular the lack of contributions from members to ensure significant progress in studying the impact of surface and bottom longline fisheries on non-commercial species, birds and turtles⁹. SCMEE also stressed the need to strengthen activities on the impact of large-scale driftnet fisheries on biodiversity and on threatened or endangered species.

Climate Change: Risks to the conservation of biological diversity

22. Climate change, although not addressed directly in the proposal, is becoming an important consideration in the protection of the Mediterranean Sea basin and therefore will be briefly discussed.

⁸ UNEP MAP TDA for the Mediterranean Sea, 2004

⁹ GFCM Report of the Twenty-Ninth Session Rome, 21-25 February 2005

Littoral and pelagic zones often are forgotten in studies of climate change impact. However, important changes have already been observed (e.g., a significant increase in average temperatures of the waters in the western Mediterranean basin over the past 20-30 years)¹⁰. Temperature changes are reflected in substantial changes in the relative abundance of thermophilic species and there have been increased catches of such species, including *Diplodus cervinus*, *Epinephus marginatus*, *Pomadasyus incisus*, *Sphyraena sphyraena*, *Balistes carolinensis*, *Sardinella aurita*, and *Pomatomus saltatrix*.

23. In many areas in the Mediterranean, population, economic activity, and arable land are concentrated in coastal zones. This has led to a decrease the resilience and adaptability to climate variability and change. Some coastal areas, such as the Po River plain in Italy, are already beneath mean sea level and many more areas are vulnerable to flooding from storm surges. Sea-level rise and possible changes in the frequency and/or intensity of extreme events, such as cyclones and storm surges, represent consequences of climate change that are of most concern regarding coastal zones. Except for sea-level rise itself, there is currently little understanding of the potential effects of climate change on the coastal zone. Under the IS92a "business-as-usual" scenario¹¹, global sea level is projected to rise by about 5 mm/yr (with an uncertainty range of 2-9 mm/yr). Without adaptation, a rise in sea level would inundate and displace wetlands and lowlands, erode shorelines, exacerbate coastal storm flooding, increase the salinity of estuaries, threaten freshwater aquifers, and otherwise impact water quality and infrastructure. Areas most at risk would be tidal deltas, low-lying coastal plains, beaches, islands (including barrier islands), coastal wetlands and estuaries. Tidal range also is a key factor. In general, the smaller the tidal range, the greater the response to a given rise in sea level. This pattern suggests that the Mediterranean and Baltic coasts, with their low tidal range, may be more vulnerable to sea-level rise than open sea coasts.

24. Examples of susceptible coasts include the Rhone, Po and Ebro River deltas. These areas are already subsiding because of natural and sometimes human factors and they are also sediment-starved as a result of changes in catchment management. For example, the Ebro delta has lost 97% of its sand supply since the 1950s. Reduction or loss of these areas would impact important agricultural and natural values. Many cities, such as Thessaloniki and Venice, are built on estuaries and lagoons. Such locations are exposed to storm surges and climate change is an important factor to consider for long-term development. Beaches tend to erode following sea-level rise, which destroys a valuable resource and exposes human activities landward of the beach to increased wave and flood action. Intense recreational use of beaches in many coastal areas, particularly around the Mediterranean, makes this erosion a particular problem for the region.

25. In Egypt, for example, results from studies on various aspects of the impacts of, and possible responses to, sea-level rise indicate that a sizable proportion of the northern part of the Nile delta will be lost to a combination of inundation and erosion with consequent losses of agricultural land and urban areas. Agricultural land losses will also occur as a result of soil salinization. It is estimated that for a 1m sea-level rise, about 2,000 km² of land in coastal areas of the lower Nile delta may be lost to inundation. For the Governorate of Alexandria, two main economic areas appear most vulnerable: the Alexandria lowlands and the Alexandria beaches. The Alexandria lowlands, on which the city of Alexandria was originally developed, are vulnerable to inundation, water logging, increased flooding, and salinization under accelerated sea-level rise. The two surviving Alexandria beaches (Gleam and El Chatby) will be lost following a 50 cm rise in sea level. Based on the 0.5 m sea level rise scenario, estimated losses of land, installations, and tourism will exceed US\$32.5 billion. An average business loss is estimated at US\$127 million/yr because most tourist facilities such as hotels, camps, and youth hotels are located within 200-300 m of the shoreline. It has been widely reported that 8 million people would be displaced in Egypt by a 1 meter rise in sea level, assuming no protection and existing population levels (Broadus et al., 1986; Milliman et al., 1989). This estimate is based on the displacement of 4 million people in the Nile delta and the entire population of Alexandria.

¹⁰ IPCC Special Report on The Regional Impacts of Climate Change: An Assessment of Vulnerability

¹¹ The IS92a global energy scenario of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 1994) has been widely used as a framework for trying to understand better the long-term aspects of the climate change challenge. This scenario is often referred to in climate change policy circles as a "business-as-usual" (BAU) scenario representing a plausible course for global energy under a public policy that gives no consideration to climate change concerns.

26. It should be noted however, that although global warming seems to be well established and global sea level rise as well, the response of various regions to that forcing is still a big unknown. It has been shown, for example, that global warming is not a unimodal phenomenon but rather a multimodal one with differing responses in different areas. In this respect it is interesting to note that during the period from 1960 to 1980 while global warming was evident on a global scale, the Mediterranean Sea's temperature at surface was decreasing. The complexity of positive and negative feedback mechanisms within the climate system and the weaknesses of present regional climatic models, should result in a cautious approach of the various prediction scenarios. This need for cautiousness applies of course to the discussion of the previous paragraphs as well. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that climate change will have an impact in the Mediterranean as well and therefore this is an issue to follow closely in the coming years.

Increasing pollution from land-based sources

27. Due to the high population density in the coastal zone and industrial development and agricultural practices, the Mediterranean is increasingly under threat from pollution. Eighty percent of the contaminant load of the Mediterranean Sea originates from land sources and the most common forms of pollution in the Mediterranean are eutrophication and the effects of chemicals, including persistent toxic substances (PTS), organic and pathogenic micro-organisms and hazardous solid waste.

28. Lack of infrastructure for sewage collection, treatment and disposal is still the greatest problem in many Mediterranean countries. Its influence on the marine coastal environment directly or indirectly affects human health, the stability of the marine ecosystem and the economy of the coastal zone. One of the most common and worrying environmental effects of urban wastewater discharge is the gradual destruction of habitat, particularly of meadows of phanerogames, with resulting decreases in biodiversity. Only 69 % of coastal cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants have sewage treatment plants, resulting in the annual discharge of more than 1 billion m³ of untreated sewage to the sea. The distribution of treatment plants is not uniform across the Mediterranean region; the northern Mediterranean coast having a greater part of its urban population served by a waste water treatment plants than the southern coast. Due to the increasing population of cities and failures in treatment plant operation, some waste water treatment plants cannot meet their design specifications in terms of effluent quality.

29. Solid wastes produced in the urban centers along the Mediterranean coastline present a serious threat to both human health and the marine coastal environment. Studies reveal that between 30 and 40 million tonnes of municipal solid waste of coastal origin are generated annually. The random siting of waste dumps promotes the transfer of solid wastes into the marine environment. Also, in many cases, no measures have been taken to control and treat leachates from dumpsites and these are contaminating groundwater and/or the coastal marine environment with organic pollutants and heavy metals. In the Mediterranean, plastic alone accounts for 75 percent of the waste on the sea surface and the seabed. The main sources of waste in the Mediterranean Sea are direct disposal by households, tourist facilities and runoff from dumpsites (wastes from land sources).

30. The stage of industrial development in the Mediterranean countries varies greatly. Of the thirty sectors of activity primarily considered in the Annex I of the LBS Protocol, twenty-one are industrial. On an international scale, priority has been given to a group of 12 substances that are toxic, persistent and bioaccumulate because of the long-term risks they pose to human health, biodiversity and ecosystems. Less attention is paid to other potential pollutants, such as transient and biologically less reactive substances, suspended solids, biodegradable organic matter and nutrients because their effects are much more localized and less persistent. These latter substances are generated in large quantities by industries and their release to the environment can cause damage to human health, ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity. Most countries in the region have an important public industrial sector that comprises large industries. Notwithstanding the diversity of situations in the Mediterranean region, the public industrial sector includes: energy production; oil refining; petrochemical industry; basic iron and steel metallurgy; basic aluminium metallurgy; fertilizer production; pulp and paper production; and cement production. From such industries, an estimated 66 million m³ of untreated industrial wastewater is discharged to the Mediterranean each year.

31. Other contaminants include heavy metals (*e.g.*, cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead and mercury), a wide variety of organohalogen compounds and radioactive substances. Heavy metal inputs to the Mediterranean derive mainly from industrial wastewater and runoff from contaminated sites. Reactive metals tend to precipitate into sediments and contaminate biota and in coastal areas, such as harbors and semi-enclosed bays, increased metal concentrations have been found. Hexachlorocyclohexanes (HCHs) were extensively used in the past against pests in many Mediterranean countries. Although such applications have declined, residues of these compounds are found throughout the Mediterranean coast as a consequence of their environmental persistence. The main residual sources of HCHs (particularly lindane) are stockpiles and contaminated land.

32. Eutrophication resulting from increased nutrient inputs leads to an increase in planktonic biomass and, depending on the physical oceanographic conditions, can result in reduced concentrations of dissolved oxygen in deeper waters. Changes in nutrient influxes are also implicated in the incidence of toxic algal blooms, often referred to as “*red tides*”. Such abnormalities have become a chronic problem in shallow water areas near river deltas (*i.e.*, those of the Rhone, Ebro, Po and Nile) and major urban conurbations. However, the Mediterranean is far from reaching the serious situations evident in the Black Sea and Sea of Marmara. The sources of nutrients are largely untreated urban wastewater and diffuse agricultural discharges and, accordingly, eutrophication incidents could increase with agricultural intensification and urban growth. Agricultural projections indicate that, by 2025, the use of fertilizers could increase by as much as 70 percent in the eastern Mediterranean (mainly in Turkey), 50 percent in the south and 5 percent in the north. In addition to nutrients, agricultural practices can cause significant soil erosion and pesticide contamination of surface and groundwater resources. This results in the mobilization of soils by rivers and the transport of pesticide residues into the marine environment

Persistent organic pollutants

33. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) comprise 12 substances and groups of substances that are covered by the provisions of the Stockholm Convention. POPs are relatively stable compounds that are typically characterized by low water solubility and high fat solubility. Because many POPs are relatively volatile, their remobilization and long-distance redistribution through atmospheric pathways often complicates the identification of specific sources. Accordingly, successive releases over time result in the continued accumulation and ubiquitous presence of POPs in the global environment. For many Mediterranean countries, no detailed information is available on the releases of POPs from point sources. The main source is believed to be stockpiles and inventories associated with previous production and/or import. A contribution is also made by secondary releases from environmental reservoirs (*e.g.*, contaminated soils and sediments) resulting from previous use and accidental spills. Contemporary contributions from industrial production are only important in cases where some restricted use of specific POPs is allowed (*e.g.*, DDT as precursor of dicofol and for malaria vector control) or POPs that are by-products of continued industrial processes.¹²

34. In the framework of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP MED) of the Barcelona Convention, POPs are included in the list of substances that have to be eliminated from effluent flows discharged into the Mediterranean Sea. Problems related to POPs have been identified in the National Diagnostic Analyses (NDAs) of most Mediterranean countries, mainly related to pesticides and PCBs.

35. During recent country-based assessments and action planning in the framework of the Stockholm and the Barcelona Conventions, all Mediterranean countries have identified PCB equipment still in service, stockpiles of PCB-containing electrical equipment, quantities of discarded equipment and quantities of oil that consist of, or are contaminated by, PCBs. In the NIPs, national electric companies are identified as the principal holders of this equipment, stocks and waste and thus represent the initial focus for the elimination of PCBs.

36. The nine pesticides have been widely used in the region in the past, but the production and usage of most of the compounds are now banned in the majority of the countries of the region as a consequence of

¹² EEA report No 4/2006 “Priority issues in the Mediterranean environment”

the application of the PIC protocols, the exception being DDT, which is consented as precursor in the production of Dicofol and also for restricted pest control in some countries of the region. Heptachlor, Chlordane and Toxaphene are also banned or severely restricted and the same applies to HCB when used as a pesticide. Mirex is not affected by the PIC procedure, although many countries have banned its use.

37. In spite of the legislation in force, there are still large amounts of PCBs in use. This is because in many countries there are exemptions for restricted use in devices in use for long periods. In Albania the total number of transformers is 437, of which 95% are from the seventies and the eighties with PCB oils. In Egypt there are 3666 condensers and 26 transformers possibly containing PCBs. In Lebanon there are still two old power plants with PCB equipment. While there is no information for Libya, in Syria there are still 91 transformers containing PCB. More information is given in Annex F.

38. In **Albania**, the National Action Plan (NIP) is under preparation. Nevertheless an inventory of equipment containing PCBs was established very recently. However, already in the country's NAP (2005) the following actions are proposed: (a) Inventory at country level of the amount of oils containing PCBs and the inventory of their storage places (which has been achieved); and (b) Preparation and implementation of the National Plan in the framework of LBS protocol and Stockholm Convention.

39. **Egypt** is addressing the PCBs management in the framework of POPs management programme. Actions described in the NAP relate to legal and institutional strengthening. There is a need to finalize the inventory of PCBs in Egypt with additional work on field assessments. Egypt plans to undertake the necessary legal and institutional measures to ensure the implementation of the LBS and Stockholm convention commitments.

40. **Lebanon** developed a comprehensive programme for the management of PCBs. Several actions were proposed for the management of PCBs, including: (a) introduction of emission and disposal standards and environmental limit values for PCBs; (b) ensuring zero PCB release from in-use transformers, sample and analyze dielectric oil in in-service transformers, and investigating the fate of 13 tonnes of PCB oil imported in 2002; (c) identification of all sources of PCB release ; (d) identification, characterization and addressing unintentional releases of PCBs formed as a by-product of certain industrial processes; (e) reducing PCB releases from PCB-containing transformers in Zouk & Bauchrieh through labeling, storage, detection and containment; (f) identification of PCBs present in unidentified stockpiles and equipment still in use; (g) identifying appropriate measures to manage, handle and destroy stocks and articles in use, remedy contaminated sites and other hot spots of concern to public health and the environment (actions include treatment or disposal of PCBs-bearing oil and irreparable PCB contaminated transformers in an environmentally sound manner, and improving procedures for handling transformers at the EDL warehouse in Bauchrieh); (h) identification of PCBs contaminated sites and remediation in an environmentally sound manner; (j) facilitating or undertaking information exchange and stakeholder involvement; (k) public awareness, information and education; (l) reporting; (m) research, development and monitoring.

41. According to the NAP of **Libya** (UNEP/MAP, 2005), the General Electric Company has taken preventive measures to control PCBs. Most equipment using PCBs bearing oils has been replaced and collected on special sites, pending contracting with specialist companies to safely dispose them. Establishing a local listing of hazardous wastes (including PCBs) is also included in the priorities of the country, since there are no detailed data available on the quantities of PCBs. In the priorities of the NAP of Libya, an action was proposed for the creation of a Regional site for the treatment and disposal of hazardous chemical wastes including PCBs. The estimated cost for this site is 7 million Libyan Dinars and it is planned for 2007.

42. Actions related to PCBs management in **Syria** are proposed in the frame of the NAP, including: (a) substitution of PCBs bearing oil in five transformers (two in the Tartous and two in the Baniyas electric transformers station and one in the old Jableh Weaving Company); (b) phasing out all activities discharging PCB's from industrial sectors. In addition Syria proposed to develop its national legal framework to cope with LBS Protocol and Stockholm Convention commitments and ensure its proper implementation together with a country wide capacity building programme

Over-extraction of freshwater from aquifers, contamination and salinization of groundwater, sustainable land management.

43. The availability and quality of freshwater resources for the population of the Mediterranean is a critical issue. Water demand in the region doubled during the second half of the 20th century and is now an aggregate of 290 km³ per year¹³. The “*water poor*” Mediterranean population, those with less than 1000 m³ per capita per year, was 108 million in 2000 and could reach 165 million by 2025 (in nine southern and eastern Mediterranean countries). Of this latter population, 63 million (compared with 45 million in 2000) would be in shortage, that is having less than 500 m³ per capita per year. The exploitation index of renewable natural resources (defined as the ratio of withdrawals from renewable natural water resources to average renewable water resources) is high in Egypt, Israel. In Libya, withdrawal is now close to, or exceeds, natural resources. This index is increasing in all southern and eastern countries. It should also be noted that in Libya, Israel and the Palestinian Authority, more than 10% of the water supply is taken from unsustainable resources (*i.e.*, underground reservoirs). As well as decreasing supply, the decreased quality of water resources (discussed previously) results in additional stress on water resources to satisfy the demand for drinking water. (for future details see Annex F).

44. Changes in freshwater quality and quantity have also direct impacts of the biodiversity of the basin. Of particular importance are coastal aquifers and groundwater that constitute an important source of freshwater discharge to the Mediterranean. Seepage from coastal aquifers is estimated to be 13 billion m³/yr and accounts for about one quarter of the total freshwater inflow into the Mediterranean. In the southern, eastern and Adriatic sub-basins there are few surface watercourses and coastal aquifers which dominate the aggregate discharge of freshwater. Coastal aquifers support coastal freshwater and brackish water ecosystems and contain habitats with rich biodiversity. Such habitats include wetlands which are spawning grounds for fisheries and important resting sites for migrating birds. The threats to wetlands from aquifer mismanagement are twofold. First, overuse of aquifers can result in the drying up of the wetlands dependent upon them. Second, wetlands are degraded by saline intrusion, which occurs when coastal aquifers are over-exploited, and pollutants introduced into the aquifers. Karstic aquifers are particularly vulnerable to saline intrusion and surface contamination, especially in the open karst systems exposed to anthropogenic contaminants. Freshwater seepage from karstic coastal aquifers that dominate large sections of the southern Mediterranean and the eastern Adriatic coasts are media for the transport of agriculture-derived nutrients, chemicals and other substances into the sea, thereby degrading critical wetland habitats. These underground karstic aquifer systems constitute habitats for unique types of biodiversity. Thus, degradation of these habitats is a threat to biodiversity.

45. Coastal land uses are closely linked to groundwater and related to coastal aquifer recharge, soil salinization, management of rapidly increasing sediment nutrient and LBS pollution flows into the sea. Sustainable land management, including upper watershed management with erosion control and nutrient recycling in agriculture and irrigation use forms part of the integrated strategy to support coastal water resources and to control non-point source coastal LBS pollution.

BACKGROUND: HISTORY OF COLLABORATION AMONG MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, AGREEMENTS REACHED AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

MAP and the Barcelona Convention

46. Recognizing the need to protect the Mediterranean Sea, all the riparian States and the EU launched an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Mediterranean Basin (MAP) in 1975 as the first Regional Seas Programme of UNEP and signed the **Barcelona Convention** for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution.¹⁴ The Barcelona Convention constitutes the legal framework of

¹³ A Sustainable Future for the Mediterranean: Blue Plan’s Environment & Development Outlook, 2005

¹⁴ The Barcelona Convention adopted in 1976, entered into force in 1978, and was amended in 1995 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries. The LBS Protocol adopted in 1980, entered into force in 1983, and amended in 1996 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries. The Mediterranean Action Plan was adopted in 1975 and revised in 1995 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

MAP (Box's 3 and 4). The Convention was amended in 1995 to bring it in line with the Rio Declaration, the Law of the Sea Treaty and the concept of sustainable development. This resulted in the changed focus for the Convention from emphasis on assessment to a primary emphasis on actions to protect the Mediterranean Sea.

BOX 3. Barcelona Convention

The Barcelona Convention on the "*Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution*", which entered into force on 12 February 1978, is a notable example of regional cooperation. Since 1994, several components of the Barcelona Convention system have undergone significant modifications. In June 1995, the Convention was revised to bring it into line with the principles of the Rio Declaration, the Law of the Sea Treaty and the progress achieved in international environmental law as a basis for making it an instrument for sustainable development. The convention was amended to "*The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean*", hereinafter referred to as "*the Convention*". These amendments to the Convention entered into force on 9 July 2004.

The Barcelona Convention includes the following Protocols:

- a) The Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea (amended 1995, not yet in force);
- b) The Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (2002, entered into force on 17 March 2004);
- c) The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) (amended 1996, not yet in force);
- d) The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (1995, entered into force on 12 December 1999);
- e) The Protocol Concerning Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf, the Seabed and its Subsoil (1994, not yet in force); and
- f) The Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1996, not yet in force).

47. The main objective of MAP was to improve the quality of the environmental information available to governments as the basis for policy formulation and strengthening their ability to make environmentally sustainable choices regarding the allocation of resources. The focus of MAP shifted over time from a sectoral approach to marine pollution to integrated coastal zone planning and management as a way to ensure linkages between environmental protection and social and economic development. As a result of 30 years of work carried out by MAP and its Regional Activity Centers (RACs), knowledge of the environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea among member states of the Contracting Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations has been greatly improved.

48. Recognizing that land-based activities have the greatest impact on the marine environment, the countries signed a Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (the LBS Protocol) in 1980 that entered into force in 1983 and was revised in 1996. A year later, in 1997, the countries adopted a Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP-MED) that identifies priority measures and targets to address pollution from land-based activities in all countries and lays the ground for the preparation and implementation of National Action Plans. In November 2003, the Mediterranean countries adopted the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO) that identifies priority actions and targets to protect fragile ecosystems and reduce damage to natural habitats.

49. UNEP/MAP and its marine pollution assessment and control programme, MEDPOL, carried out extensive preparative work in support of SAP-MED, including a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea (TDA-MED) prepared in 1997 and revised in 2004. This TDA-MED identifies the major sources of transboundary pollution and hotspots and provides a foundation for interventions at national and regional level that would benefit both the individual countries and the basin as a whole. In addition, UNEP/MAP, through its Regional Activity Center for Special Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), carried out activities on the preparation of SAP BIO, which was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in November 2003.

BOX 4. The structure of MAP: Guaranteeing Country Ownership

- Meetings of the Contracting Parties (COPs). The COP is the body for adopting legally binding decisions. It meets every two years.
- Bureau of the Contracting Parties. A subordinate body comprising representatives of six contracting parties. The Bureau meets approximately twice a year and deals with various matters in the intersessional periods between COPs.
- The Coordinating Unit located in Athens, Greece, which is the official Host Country of MAP. The Coordinating Unit is responsible for supervising all activities related to MAP under the Barcelona Convention. It has approximately 25 staff members, including a UNEP/Map Coordinator, six Programme Officers and a number of administrative and financial assistants, secretaries, etc.
- Six thematic Regional Activity Centers (RACs) and one programme, as listed below.
 - Specially Protected Areas Center (SPA/RAC) in Tunisia, which deals with issues of biodiversity and Specially Protected Areas.
 - Cleaner Production Center (CP/RAC) located in Barcelona, Spain.
 - Priority Action Program Center (PAP/RAC) in Split, Croatia, for Coastal Zone Management.
 - Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Center (REMPEC) in Malta for the prevention and control of oil spills by ships.
 - Blue Plan (BP/RAC), in Sophia-Antipolis in France, which deals with Sustainable Development issues, environmental and economic statistics and produces analyses and future scenarios on various issues.
 - INFO/RAC in Rome, responsible for the Information and Communication strategies of MAP.
 - MEDPOL Programme that is the oldest program established within the Barcelona Convention and MAP. For many years, MEDPOL was probably the most important activity within MAP focusing on establishing a series of coordinated pollution monitoring programs in Mediterranean countries. At present, MEDPOL although still maintaining its monitoring activities, has basically switched to the implementation of the LBS Protocol.
- The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSDD) established in 1995 as an advisory 'think tank' for MAP on issues relating to SD. Members of the MCSDD are all Contracting Parties plus 15 representatives from socio-economic sectors, local authorities and NGOs. In 2005, the MCSDD finalized the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), a document that was approved by the COP in the same year and forms a guide to future activities in the domain of SD. SAP-MED and SAP-BIO are integral parts of the priority field of action for 'promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zone'.

50. SAP-MED and SAP-BIO outlines the specific targets and activities agreed by the member countries to address the Mediterranean Sea environmental degradation. Key targets that address transboundary environmental issues, in line with the conclusions of the WSSD, include:

- Dispose of municipal wastewater in conformity with the LBS Protocol in cities exceeding 100,000 inhabitants by 2005 and in other cities by 2025;
- By the year 2025, dispose of all industrial wastewaters, which are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids, in conformity with the provisions of the LBS Protocol and reduce the inputs of such substances by 50% by the year 2010. All countries have constructed a National Baseline Budget of Pollutant inputs as of 2003 that is considered as the reference point for these reductions. The baseline budget is calculated for each pollutant and for each source and as a country total. The Contracting Parties have decided that the expected national reductions (e.g., 50 per cent or 25 per cent as agreed in the SAP) will be the aggregate result of the individual reductions effected on each source the amounts of which will be decided by the country for each source;
- By 2012, increase by 50% the coverage of marine protected areas, in relation to 2003. The total number of MPAs in 2003 was 52;
- By 2012, protect 20% of the coast as marine fishery reserves;
- Maintain or restore fishery stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and, where possible, not later than 2015;

- Achieve effective protection of endangered species by 2012; and
- Reduce by 50% inputs of the priority 12 POPs by 2005.¹⁵

51. In order to achieve SAP-MED targets in pollution reduction through the implementation of the NAPs, the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention prepared a National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA), followed by a National Baseline Budget (NBB) for the emission of SAP designated pollutants, and finally a National Action Plan (NAP) to reduce emission of pollutants from LBS.

52. In the NDAs, all Mediterranean countries analyzed the environmental characteristics of their coastal areas and highlighted the major pollution threats which could affect the quality of the marine ecosystem. The legal and institutional framework of each country was also assessed, along with the identification of existing gaps. The NDAs were prepared with active participation of public and private stakeholders, to enhance public participation in the prioritization of environmental issues in each country. The final NDA Reports represent therefore, not only the countries' perception for the environmental priorities in the coastal area, but also an initial assessment of capacity building needs and priorities.

53. In the NBBs, a quantitative evaluation was made of measured or estimated pollutants' emissions from LBS in all Mediterranean countries. These reports gave for the first time a comparative regional estimation on the loads of pollutants that are discharged into the Mediterranean Sea. This is critical information, especially when planning pollutant's emissions reduction on a regional base, as it is possible to assess the relative importance of emitted pollution on regional, national or sectoral (industrial sector) levels.

54. Based on the NDAs and NBBs, the countries presented in the NAPs specific actions to reduce pollution from designated sources, until the years 2010 and 2025 together with a list of priority actions. Actions included "hard" actions (example: construction of treatment plants) as well as "soft" actions (example: improvement of legislation and institutional framework). However, many countries acknowledged gaps and shortcomings on legal, institutional, financial and technical means to successfully implement the NAPs.

55. The process of the preparation of NDAs, NBBs and NAPs was based on three pillars under the guidance of the Inter ministerial Committee (IMC) set up for the purpose at ministerial level:

- Bottom up participatory approach starting from the local to the national levels. This approach enabled the national authority to prepare comprehensive NAPs based on information and issues identified firstly at local levels by the local stakeholders. Therefore NAPs could be considered as effectively reflecting the environmental issues related to marine environment in coastal areas.
- Integration of the NAPs in the national sectoral development plans which are under preparation or in implementation for each Mediterranean country. The aim was not to prepare an additional NAP but to collect and cluster the SAP related activities which are described in national development sectoral plans to facilitate its implementation at later stage.
- Comprehensive and transparent monitoring process of NAPs implementation. This is currently under development. It consists of an interactive on line web based information system which described in real time the level of progress in the implementation of the NAPs activities. The system is accessible to all stakeholders and national authority which would be able to monitor the progress of implementation in different countries in real time. NBBs data base would be fully integrated in the monitoring system to provide a quantitative figures about the levels of reduction of each of the SAP pollutants.

56. This process facilitated the adoption of the NAPs by the relevant national authority and created a breakthrough in several countries in the process of decision making. The NAPs were finalized and

¹⁵ It should be noted that, every two years, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention review and, if necessary, revise the target dates of the proposed targets in the SAPs

endorsed by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2005. The costs of priority pollution remedial actions identified in SAP-MED over a 10 year period has been estimated at almost US\$ 10 billion. SAP-BIO identified 226 actions at national level and 30 actions at regional level for biodiversity protection with estimated costs of US\$ 100 million and US \$40 million respectively. These costs can be compared to the estimated costs of environmental damage in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MNA) that range from 2.1 to 4.8 percent of national GDP¹⁶ (the lower value applies to Tunisia and the higher figure to Egypt). For Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia this sums to over US\$ 8 billion for 1999.

The Status of Integrated Management of the Mediterranean Coastal Zone and Water Resources

57. The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) introduced integrated coastal zone management in the mid 1980s as a response to the growing development pressure evident in coastal areas. A series of policy documents, recommendations, programs and projects such as Coastal Area Management Programs, (CAMPs), tools and instruments have been developed and implemented. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)¹⁷ calls for action to move the region towards sustainable development so as to strengthen peace, stability and prosperity, taking into account the regions weaknesses and the threats it faces but also its strengths and opportunities. One of seven essential issues on which the MSSD attempts to achieve progress is "*Promoting sustainable management of the sea and the littoral and urgently stopping the degradation of coastal zones*". Progress on this issue calls for the launching of several pilot actions including "*Promoting more integrated development and management of coastal areas and prevention of risks.*" As a result of the implementation of several CAMPs in the region, it became evident that the Mediterranean region needed to have a binding ICZM Protocol. The ICZM Protocol would help strengthen regional and national policies, strategies and actions aimed at the protection of, and prevention of the degradation of, coastal areas in the northern Mediterranean countries and offer a model for coastal development to the southern Mediterranean countries.

58. To date, only five Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Spain, France, Lebanon and Greece) have a framework law for coastal zones. Morocco and Israel are preparing a framework law for the protection of the coastal environment. France, Tunisia and Algeria have created coastal agencies. One of the main problems remains the inadequacy of institutional coordination. Specialized consultative committees on coastal zones are still rare, with the exceptions of Egypt, Turkey, Greece and Slovenia. Despite the lack of specific laws, half the Mediterranean countries have at least made provisions to regulate construction in the coastal zone. The width of coastal zone to which controls apply varies among countries, 6 meters from the shore in Morocco, 30 m in Greece, 50 m in Turkey, 200 m in Egypt and a preference for 100 m in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tunisia, Libya and Israel. Absolute bans exist only in Croatia, Greece, Malta and Slovenia. The areas least covered by legislation (or its application) are coastal urban planning, extraction of sand, coastal industrial activities, waste and sanitation, marinas, monitoring and access to beaches. Major obstacles to the implementation of new legislation include the lack of surveillance staff, insufficient financial resources, deficiencies in information and public awareness. In general, the current legal tools do not contribute significantly to coastal zone management.

59. Integrated coastal area management (ICAM) is a process that brings together public and private sectors for the sustainable use of coastal resources. ICAM activities are underway in many countries and include several coastal area management programs (CAMP) created through the UNEP-MAP Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC). In addition, a dozen ICZM projects have been undertaken in the Mediterranean through the EU. These have resulted in several improvements, including the strengthening of institutional capacity, implementation of national information systems, and improved integration of environmental issues in the management of coastal areas. Further information is provided in ICZM policy briefs for the eastern, southern and northern Mediterranean countries and strategic overviews for each country are available in Annex I. Box 5 summarizes some of the ICZM related projects in the Mediterranean that are described in greater detail in Annex F.

¹⁶ World Bank estimates 2004 and METAP Country COED Reports

¹⁷ Finalized and adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2005

BOX 5. Active GEF-funded and other ICZM projects in the Mediterranean

- SMAP III Integrated Coastal Management plans of action (regional).
- Promoting Awareness and Enabling a Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with focus on Integrated coastal zone management (regional). EC, UNEP/MAP, PAP/RAC, BP/RAC, METAP.
- Spatial Planning in Coastal Zones - PlanCoast (regional). EC, PAP/RAC.
- MAP Coastal Area Management Programme (regional). UNEP, MAP, BP/RAC, SPA/RAC, Info/RAC, PAP/RAC.
- Regional Solid Waste Management Project in METAP Mashreq and Maghreb Countries (regional). METAP, WB.
- Capacity building for an early assessment system of drought in three countries of the south shore of the Mediterranean Sea: Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia (regional). EC, LIFE05 TCY/TN/000150.
- Lake Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management (Albania and Montenegro). GEF, IBRD, WB.
- Integrated Water and Ecosystems Management Project (Albania). GEF, IBRD, WB.
- Integrated Ecosystem Management of the Neretva and Trebisnjica River Basin (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia). GEF, IBRD, WB.
- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Dalmatian Coast through Greening Coastal Development (Croatia). GEF, UNDP.
- Plan of Action for an Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the area of Port Said (Egypt). EC, NRD (Nucleo di Ricerca sulla Desertificazione dell'Università degli Studi di Sassari, Italy).
- Integrated Management of Cedar Forests in Lebanon in Co-operation with other Mediterranean Countries (Lebanon). GEF, UNEP.
- Reducing conflicts of coastal natural resources use in the Nador area of Morocco (Morocco). EU, EUCC.
- The Fara'a and Jerash Integrated Watershed Management Project (Palestine and Jordan). EC, SMAP.
- Integrated Sustainable Land Management in the Eastern Region (Syria). GEF, UNDP.
- Gulf of Gabes Marine and Coastal Resources Protection Project (Tunisia). GEF, IBRD, WB.
- Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management Project (Turkey). GEF.
- The Adricosm Project on land and coastal management, initiated by the Italian government; the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative supported by the governments of the Adriatic region.

60. Countries are also working on the development of plans for Integrated Water Resource Management that specifically address biodiversity and pollution concerns. In the north of the Mediterranean (in EU Member States, EU Accession Countries and other Balkan countries), the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides the main policy framework for water management. In the southern and eastern Mediterranean, other countries are taking steps towards IWRM. Up to 2005, only a very few countries have completed national IWRM plans or are gradually moving into the implementation phase. Many countries are still in the process of developing national IWRM plans while a smaller group of countries are still in the initial phase of preparation (see Annex F). Current IWRM related projects and initiatives include:

- The African Water Facility (AWF). AWF is an Initiative of the Africa Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) and a major outcome of the effort to implement the African Water Vision and Framework for Action. The initiative supports water interventions in Africa and is designed to mobilize investment for the water sector. It is hosted by the African Development Bank Group on behalf of AMCOW.
- The Petersburg Process Phase II / Athens Declaration Process on Transboundary Water Resources Management led by Germany, Greece, GEF IW:LEARN and the World Bank.
- The Mediterranean Technical and Assistance Programme (METAP) and its work on water quality.
- The on-going work and support of UNEP for achieving the 'IWRM 2005 Target' in North African countries, coordinated by UCC-Water.
- The Arab Water Council and its work on IWRM planning and implementation.
- Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources Management (CapNet) and its network on capacity building for IWRM planning.

- Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) and its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
- United Nations economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UNDP and UNESCO programs on water resources management.

Other Activities relevant to the protection of the Mediterranean Sea

61. Several activities and initiatives have been undertaken in the Mediterranean by governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The most relevant and important ones are described in the following paragraphs.

62. In November 2005, at the summit to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean process, the partners committed to “endorse a feasible timetable to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea by 2020, while providing appropriate financial resources and technical support to implement it, using the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and exploring possible areas for co-operation in this regard with UNEP”. This initiative has been given the name Horizon 2020 (see Box 6).

BOX 6. The Horizon 2020 initiative

(launched in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean process of the European Commission)

The aim of the initiative is to reduce the level of pollution of the Mediterranean region by identifying and tackling the most significant pollution sources by the year 2020. The de-pollution initiative will operate within existing processes and institutions. It will support and enhance previously agreed actions and give new impetus to efforts to reduce pollution of the Mediterranean region.

In addition there are a number of secondary aims that will contribute to the achievement of the overall goal such as increase co-operation between the various parties involved in protecting the Mediterranean and keep political attention focused on the environmental objective of reducing pollution of the Mediterranean.

The Horizon 2020 will be based on existing and developing policy instruments, the most significant being a) the EU environmental policies and measures, namely in the field of water quality and management, b) the Barcelona Convention and MAP, c) the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which has been developed and adopted by the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention and d) the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative which is the EU contribution to the achievements of the water-related Millenium Development Goals.

In the first five year work programme the initiative will concentrate on a limited number of sectors, namely industrial emissions, municipal waste, particularly urban waste water. It will develop a pipeline of projects in conjunction with the World Bank and the EIB that will address significant pollution threats to the region

63. Reference should also be made to the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative as well as to efforts to improve the management of the many transboundary basins and aquifers of SE Europe by introducing IWRM practices (the Athens Declaration Process). A number of these waters flow into the Mediterranean and have a significant impact on coastal ecosystems and water quality. Boxes 7 and 8 below summarize these processes.

BOX 7. The Athens Declaration Process

(Jointly coordinated by the Government of Greece and the World Bank)

The Athens Declaration Process was launched during the major International Conference on Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Share Waters, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge, 6-7 May 2003, Athens, Greece. The process aims to assist countries of the region, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to draft IWRM and water use efficiency plans for major river basins, including a range of complementary interventions in individual river and lake basins, with a coordination mechanism to allow for the exchange of information and experience among activities. The entire program is a building block of the Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative.

The Athens Declaration of May 2003 has four Recommendations for Action: (1) Diplomacy for Environment and Sustainable Development; (2) Southeastern Europe Transboundary River Basin and Lake Basin Management Programme; (3) Mediterranean Shared Aquifers Management Programme; and (4) Assessment of Regional and National Frameworks to Implement Integrated Water Resources Management.

Recommendations 2, 3 and 4 build on the implementation process of the European Union Water Framework Directive and complement, and draw lessons from, the ongoing GEF Danube River Basin Programme and the Lake Ohrid Conservation Project, among others.

BOX 8. The Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI)

(led by the Government of Greece)

MED EUWI is an integral part of the overall EU Water Initiative coordinated by the European Commission. It aims to:

- assist in the design of better, demand driven and output oriented water related programmes;
- facilitate improved coordination of water programmes and projects, targeting more effective use of existing funds and the mobilization of new financial resources; and
- enhanced cooperation for proper project implementation.

MED EUWI, announced during WSSD in Johannesburg, gives particular emphasis to Mediterranean and SE European priorities. Integrated water resources management, with an emphasis on the management of transboundary water bodies, is a defined priority theme of MED EUWI. The current project will constitute a pilot for enhancing the MED EUWI objectives in the SE European region.

Political commitment for the development of MED EUWI has been expressed in various forums, *inter alia* the EU Informal Council of Environment Ministers (May 2003, Athens and December 2003, Brussels), the 5th Pan-European Ministerial Conference of the "Environment for Europe" process (May 2003, Kiev); the Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (May 2003, Crete and June 2004, Dublin) and three meetings of the North African Ministers Council on Water (February and October 2003, April 2004, Cairo).

The process is facilitated by a MED EUWI Secretariat within Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean.

64. At their Eleventh Ordinary Meeting, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols recommended giving high priority to **promoting the management of marine protected areas** and marine sites containing sensitive, threatened or rare habitats with a view to strengthening the network of marine protected areas in the region. This Med-MPA Project (Box 9) that receives funding from the European community through the SMAP Programme and is coordinated by RAC/SPA, is aimed at assisting the Mediterranean countries to strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of coastal biological diversity. Other MPA-related initiatives include the following.

- EC Natura 2000.
- Emerald Network: a *de facto* extension of Natura 2000 to non-Community eastern Mediterranean counties that designates 'areas of special conservation interest' (ASCIs) was launched by the Council of Europe as part of its work under the Bern Convention;
- EuroParc is the umbrella organization for Europe's protected areas. It unites national parks, regional parks, nature parks and biosphere reserves in 38 countries with the common aim of protecting Europe's unique variety of wildlife, habitats and landscapes.
- Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) essentially links core Natura 2000 and Emerald Network areas physically through the restoration or preservation of corridors.

- The Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MEDPAN) is an EU Programme (2005–2007) coordinated by WWF-France. It brings together 23 partners from 11 countries around the shores of the Mediterranean, of which 14 are European (France, Italy, Greece, Malta, Slovenia and Spain) and 9 are from non-European countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Croatia, and Turkey), to manage more than 20 marine protected areas and to work towards the creation of several new sites. The basic aim of the network is to facilitate exchanges among Mediterranean marine protected areas to improve MPA management efficiency.

BOX 9. Med-MPA Project

The Med-MPA project is being implemented in the following countries: **Algeria, Cyprus, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia** and has the goal of strengthening the effectiveness of MPA networks

The project aims to foster concrete action, within the context of the priorities that identified at national and regional scales and thus help countries to discharge certain of their obligations under the Barcelona Convention's Protocol on Protected Areas and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Furthermore, the project is permitting management plans to be devised for sites chosen from among the most precious in the Mediterranean. All these chosen sites appear on the Directory of Mediterranean protected areas instituted by the SPA Protocol. Some of these sites are also listed by UNESCO within the framework of the Biosphere Programme.

65. Within the Mediterranean, various fisheries management projects have been implemented with FAO technical support. These include the Mediterranean Fish Cooperation: COPEMED (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia), EastMed (Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Israel), AdriaMed (Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia) and MedSudMed (Libyan and Tunisia). Activities being carried out through these organizations are typically aimed at improving fisheries statistics (regarding catch, effort and landings), the conduct of some biological investigations and capacity-building efforts at national and sub-regional levels.

66. Several international agencies are very active in the Mediterranean basin, such as UNEP, UNEP-GPA, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, WWF, UNIDO, METAP, GWP, the EC and the World Bank. However, many of these interventions are fragmented with the focus being more on diagnostic and planning activities than on physical investments. The scope of many such initiatives is limited to a sector or sub-sector and investments are constrained by the lack of adequate financing from both public and private sectors.

Initial GEF IW Project (UNEP/WB) Objectives and Achievements

67. In order to support the efforts of the Mediterranean countries in implementing the SAP-MED, in 1998 the GEF Council approved a US\$ 6.3 million grant in support of the project "*Determination of priority actions for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea*" to be implemented by UNEP together with other agencies (see Box 10).

68. At a regional level, this project mainly supported actions leading to the preparation, adoption and implementation of regional guidelines and plans; the development of a strategic action programme for biodiversity that identifies targets and estimates costs (SAP-BIO), the enhancement of public participation and institutional capacity in the region, development and implementation of economic instruments for the sustainable implementation of the SAP MED, and the preparation of a revised TDA-MED. At the country level, the project supported the preparation of pre-investment studies in selected hot spots and the development, adoption and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of SAP-MED.

BOX 10. Initial GEF IW Project in the Mediterranean

The main aim of the UNEP-GEF project entitled “*Determination of priority actions for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea*” was to create solid ground for the implementation of SAP-MED and to prepare the SAP-BIO as a basic instrument for the protection of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean. The activities of the Project are numerous and comprised the following components:

- Revision of TDA;
- Capacity building;
- Development of regional guidelines and plans;
- Adaptation of existing and development of new economic instruments for sustainable implementation of the SAP-MED;
- Public participation;
- Preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution of the Mediterranean from land based sources and activities; and
- Preparation of pre-investment studies for selected pollution hot spots.

A revised TDA was prepared and released.

Within the capacity building component, a series of regional and national training courses were organized. More than 500 national experts have been trained on various issues. The majority were taught in their mother tongue using training material translated into their national languages.

A set of regional guidelines and plans were prepared to guide national experts that are preparing NAPs. These guidelines were endorsed by the meeting of MEDPOL National Coordinators and then approved by the meeting of the MAP Focal Points. In addition, two regional plans were adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. All documents were prepared in English and French and were widely distributed throughout the region.

One of the major goals of this project is the preparation of NAPs. The first phase of this very complex and delicate process has been accomplished by preparing national Baseline Budgets (BBs) of releases and emissions and a National Diagnostic Analysis. The second phase, the preparation of Sectoral Plans and Integrated NAPs, is under implementation.

The adaptation of existing economic instruments and the development of new ones for sustainable implementation of NAPs is now under way and will soon be concluded (2005). Testing through pilot projects is being conducted at a national level in numerous countries and the results will be implemented in the NAPs.

Uniform methodology for public participation in the process of preparing, adopting and implementing has been prepared and distributed to the countries of the region. The countries are also receiving financial support for public participation.

The preparation of pre-investment studies for selected pollution hot spots is now under way in 11 Mediterranean countries. The activities in four countries are directly supported by FFEM. The study supported by ICS-UNIDO was successfully completed.

Finally, SAP-BIO is one of the main outputs of the project. The SAP-BIO document was based on national reports and plans on the state of biodiversity as well as numerous reports concerning various regional issues. The document, was adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2003 and presents the main issues, analyses their causes, and proposes priority activities. It also contains, Investment Portfolios at regional and national levels.

The two SAPs and the proposed ICZM Protocol will help countries meet the Millennium Development Goals and the WSSD targets.

COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

Country Eligibility

69. All twelve proponent countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) and the Palestinian Authority are eligible for GEF support for International Waters (IW) projects under paragraph 9(b) of the GEF Instrument. With regards to Persistent Organic Pollutants, eligible countries are those which have ratified the Stockholm

Convention, that is, Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia¹⁸ The ratification status of the Stockholm and other conventions is presented in Table 1 of the Project Brief

Country Drivenness

70. As mentioned previously, the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) was established in 1975 as the first Regional Seas Programme of UNEP. The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (the Barcelona Convention), which was adopted in 1976, and its related protocols are legal instruments for the implementation of MAP. All Mediterranean Countries participating in this project have ratified the Barcelona Convention and the structure of MAP (Box 3) ensures country ownership of the proposed project. The Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP-MED), prepared under a GEF PDF-B Grant, was adopted by Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties in 1997. The SAP-MED is related to the LBS Protocol. A Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP-BIO) was developed under a GEF Project and was adopted in 2003. It is related to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. Both the SAP-MED and SAP-BIO are ready for implementation and are consistent with GEF Operational Program 9 (OP) in the International Waters Focal Area and Operational Program 2 (OP 2) in the Biodiversity Focal Area.

71. A Stocktaking Meeting for the development of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem was held in Trieste, Italy, on 11-12 October 2004, with the support of the Italian Government. The representatives of the Mediterranean countries expressed their full support for this GEF initiative. They stressed the need for assistance for the full implementation of their NAPs to fulfill the goals of the two SAPs. The representatives suggested tailoring the project activities according to the specific needs of each of the countries. During the meeting, the countries adopted the following recommendations:

- *“The representatives of Mediterranean countries approved the proposed Strategic Partnership as a whole. They also considered that the effective initiation of the SAP-MED activities and the recent adoption of the SAP BIO provided an excellent opportunity to apply the integrated approach involving pollution reduction and biological diversity proposed in the Strategic Partnership.*
- *In addition, the representatives of countries emphasized that, at present, the implementation of the SAP BIO called for additional resources under the “biodiversity” component of the GEF in order to enable practical implementation of the activities at the national and regional levels. Consequently, several representatives considered that the GEF funds for biological diversity should be increased in order to provide a substantial contribution to the launching of the SAP BIO in the region.”*

72. In the framework of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP MED) of the Barcelona Convention, POPs are included in the list of substances that have to be eliminated from effluent flows discharged into the Mediterranean Sea. PCBs management is an issue of concern for most Mediterranean countries and relative actions have been included in their respective SAP/ NAPs and National Implementation Plans (NIPs). The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have stressed the importance of implementing actions identified in the NIPs to achieve a harmonized initiative on PCBs that meets the obligations of the Stockholm and Barcelona Conventions.

PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

Fit To GEF Focal Area Strategic Objectives And Operational Program

73. The Regional Component (RC) of the Strategic Partnership *“Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas”* was prepared to conform to the specifications of GEF International Waters Operational Programme OP 9. Sub-

¹⁸ Note that the project activities related to POPs are implemented in Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya and Syria only. The other countries have already regional projects addressing POPs

Component 2.3 of the proposed project is also designed for consistency with GEF Persistent Organic Pollutants Operational Programme OP 14.

74. The project is in line with the GEF 4 **IW Strategic Objective 1: To catalyze implementation of agreed reforms and on-the-ground stress reduction investments to address transboundary water concerns**. The project results will include the adoption of regional and national reforms in all participating countries, and the implementation of approximately 31 innovative pilot demonstration approaches on stress reduction of transboundary waters identified as priorities in the TDA-MED, SAPs and NAPs. The project will also complement the Investment Fund (IF) component of the Strategic Partnership (implemented by the World Bank), by ensuring overall coordination and, regional replication of the innovative approaches demonstrated by the IF sub-projects. Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer; is particularly in line with OP9¹⁹ on Integrated Water and Land Management which states: “*these projects focus on integrated approaches to the use of better land and water resource management practices on an area-wide basis*”. The goal (as stated in paragraph 9.2) is to help groups of countries utilize the full range of technical, economic, financial, regulatory, and institutional measures needed to develop and apply sustainable development strategies for international waters and their drainage basins.

75. The Strategic Partnership will directly address the three major transboundary water concerns under the IW focal area, that is: land-based coastal pollution from nutrient over-enrichment; depletion of marine fish stocks; and conflicting uses of surface and groundwater. Related to land-based pollution, Component 2 of the project aims to reduce land-based pollution through the implementation of national policy, legal, institutional reforms consistent with agreed transboundary action programs (SAP-MED and the NAPs) and the implementation of innovative demonstration projects, through the RC and IF components of the SP. Regarding depletion of marine fish stocks, sub-Component 3.2 focuses on policy, legal, and institutional reforms for meeting WSSD targets for sustainable fisheries, ecosystem approaches to habitat restoration and conservation (including marine protected areas) and also includes a number of demonstration projects. Finally Sub-component 1.1 focus’s on the management of coastal aquifers and groundwater, in particular the over-extraction, salination (and resulting damage to habitats) and pollution of aquifers and groundwater.

76. Component 2. Pollution from land-based activities, including persistent organic pollutants: implementation of SAP-MED and related NAPS, includes the sub-component 2.3 Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries, which falls under the **Persistent Organic Pollutant (POPs) focal area, specifically Strategic Objective 1: Strengthening Capacity for NIP Implementation and Strategic Objective 2. Partnering in Investments for NIP Implementation**. In the NIPs, national electric companies are identified as the principal holders of this equipment, stocks and waste and so represent the initial focus for work to eliminate PCBs. Activities aim to provide strengthened institutional and legal frameworks for implementation of ESM of PCBs, improve the management programme of PCBs and facilitate the implementation of NIPs through demonstration projects, provide technical capacity building and increase awareness for ESM of PCBs equipment and for the national PCB phase-out and disposal programs. In particular demonstrations in five countries will result in reduced POPs use and releases through phase-out and destruction in an environmentally sound manner, and the application of best available techniques/best environmental practices.

77. All the above mentioned GEF OPs are directly or indirectly related to a number of Global Conventions, namely

- the Convention on Biological Diversity,
- the Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,
- the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

¹⁹ GEF Operational Program Descriptions

- the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

78. The status of signatures and ratifications of those Conventions by the GEF eligible countries of the Strategic Partnership is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Global Conventions related to the Strategic Partnership: Ratification Status

Country	CBD	Basel Convention	UNCCD	Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm Convention
Albania	05/01/1994 acs	29/06/1999 acs	27/04/2000 acs		04/10/2004 rtf
Algeria	14/08/1995 rtf	15/09/1998 acs	22/05/1996 rtf		22/09/2006 rtf
Bosnia & Herzegovina	26/08/2002 acs	16/03/2001 acs	26/08/2002 acs	19/03/2007 acs	23/05/2001 sig
Croatia	07/10/1996 rtf	09/05/1994 acs	06/10/2000 acs		30/01/2007 rtf
Egypt	02/06/1994 rtf	08/01/1993 acs	07/07/1995 rtf		02/05/2003 rtf
Lebanon	15/12/1994 rtf	21/12/1994 rtf	16/05/1996 rtf	13/11/2006 rtf	03/01/2003 rtf
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	12/07/2001 rtf	12/07/2001 acs	22/07/1996 rtf	09/07/2002 acs	14/06/2005 acs
Morocco	21/08/1995 rtf	28/12/1995 acs	07/11/1996 rtf		15/06/2004 rtf
Montenegro	03/06/2006 d	22/11/2006 d			23/10/2006 d
Syrian Arab Republic	04/01/1996 rtf	22/01/1992 rtf	10/06/1997 rtf	24/09/2003 rtf	05/08/2005 rtf
Tunisia	15/07/1993 rtf	11/10/1995 acs	11/10/1995 rtf	11/09/1998 sig	17/06/2004 rtf
Turkey	14/02/1997 rtf	22/06/1994 rtf	31/03/1998 rtf	11/09/1998 sig	23/05/2001 sig

acs = Accession

rtf = Ratification

sig= Signature

d = Succession to signature

RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

79. The Strategic Partnership activities and outputs require coordination and collaboration with relevant organizations, agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), the private sector, governments and other stakeholder groups at national and regional levels.

80. The Stocktaking Meeting for the development of the GEF Strategic Partnership for Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems was held in Trieste, Italy, October 2004. The representatives of the Mediterranean countries expressed their full support for the GEF initiative and considered that the effective initiation of SAP-MED activities and the recent adoption of the SAP-BIO provided an excellent opportunity to apply an integrated approach involving addressing both pollution reduction and the protection of biological diversity. At the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in November 2005, it was recommended that countries endorse, support and mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of the SAP-MED NAPs and ensure their integration into existing national strategies and pollution control plans. It was also recommended that SAP-BIO be considered as an essential tool for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity and for the implementation of the SPA Protocol.

81. In the absence of this proposed GEF intervention, the implementation of priority actions identified in the NAPs will most likely be delayed in the majority of participating countries due to deficiencies in funding. Governments would be likely to pay only marginal attention to the implementation of the SAPs within their financially constrained development programs. Such delays have been noted among the *lessons learned* in previous international waters projects. Without a coordinated regional approach to the implementation of NAPs, there will be limited exchange of information, sharing of resources, technical and financial knowledge and reduced potential for the beneficial replication of demonstration activities. In addition, the integration of NAPs in the national development plans and the availability of fund from the project would support the national environmental authority efforts to keep the environmental project in front of the list of national development priorities.

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

83. The objective of the Mediterranean Sea LME Strategic Partnership is to leverage reforms and catalyze investments that address transboundary pollution reduction and marine and coastal biodiversity conservation priorities identified in the SAPs for the Mediterranean basin.

84. The objective of the **Investment Fund** is to accelerate the implementation of transboundary pollution reduction and biodiversity conservation measures in priority hotspots and sensitive areas of selected countries of the Mediterranean basin that would help achieve the SAP MED and SAP BIO targets, and is further detailed in the Investment Fund project documentation.²⁰

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

86. It should be noted that the Regional Component is also responsible for the overall **Co-ordination, Communication and Replication of the Strategic Partnership** (both IF and RC components) with the following objectives: i) ensuring systematic linkages between both components, and overall monitoring and evaluation of the SP; ii) the design and application of a replication and a communication strategy resulting in concrete replicable projects both identified and financed; iii) providing a mechanism for the long-term sustainable financing of the SAPs and NAPs; and iv) ensure ownership at the level of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and MAP and ensuring the sustainability of the SP beyond the life-span of the project.

87. The logical frameworks for the Strategic Partnership Regional Component are detailed in Annexes B-1 and B-2 respectively. Full details of project objectives and activities are presented in Annex F and Annex G presents details the participating countries in project activities and demonstrations locations.

²⁰ Approved by the GEF Council in August 2006

SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS AT A REGIONAL/GLOBAL LEVEL

88. In order to ensure a coordinated approach to the implementation of SAP-MED, SAP-BIO and the NAPs, numerous actions are required in terms of appropriate **legal, policy and institutional reforms**, on a national and regional level. These reforms will address the reduction of pollution from land-based sources (SAP-MED), the conservation of biological diversity (SAP-BIO) and the integrated coastal zone management of the Mediterranean (ICZM, IWRM and the management of coastal aquifers and groundwater), and provide support to the countries for the adoption and ratification of the ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention. These reforms provide the foundation for successful implementation and long-term sustainability of the activities and demonstration projects to be undertaken through the Partnership by both the Regional project, and the Investment Fund. Inter-ministerial committees will be established in all countries and will monitor and support all activities within the project. A minimum of 20 national/sub-regional policy documents will be drafted in total (for pollution reduction, MPA management and creation, EAF, ICZM, IWRM and management of aquifers and groundwater) based on identified policy gaps. Regional legislation will be drafted and presented for adoption to the CoP, to include: a Regional Action Plan on Coastal Aquifers; Regional plan for eco-hydrogeological management, land degradation mitigation and protection of priority coastal wetlands; and a Regional Action Plan for IWRM. National institutions in particular will be strengthened in all countries, and will apply numerous new tools, techniques and guidelines that will assist in the implementation of project activities and future NAP implementation. Related to integrated management of the coastal zone these will include COED, SEA, the ICARM approach and eco-hydrogeology applications for management and protection of coastal wetlands. Regarding pollution from land-based sources tools and guidelines will include ELV (and EQS), application of EST, guidelines for pollution reduction (PCBs, phosphogypsum wastes, tannery effluents, the recycling of lubricating oil and lead batteries) and plans of action for permitting, compliance and inspection systems. Outcomes related to biodiversity include the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit for MPA management and a MPA monitoring framework, to include the implementation of tools/guidelines for the management of MPA's. Regarding fisheries, plans will be developed and implemented to integrate EAF and biodiversity conservation in the Fisheries Research Institutes and management organizations and implementation of a methodology for by-catch reduction.

89. In addition to the projects activities, **31 demonstration/pilot projects** will be implemented during the projects life-span, resulting in overall **decrease in stress reduction to the Mediterranean LME**. It must be noted that the aim of the present project is not to implement all the actions that would be necessary to reduce the stress to the Mediterranean environment, whose costs have been estimated in many hundreds of millions, but to act as a catalyst, by demonstrating new replicable approaches to address identified priority transboundary concerns. SAP-MED identifies 101 hotspots of which 75 are located in the participating countries. A minimum of 15% of these hotspots will be directly improved as a result of the demonstration projects, with indirect benefits (replication of demonstrations, policy/institutional/legal reforms and improved integrated management) to over 50% of all hotspots. In terms of pollution reduction (Cd, Hg, Pb, Cr, BOD, and total nitrogen) overall stress reduction achieved is small compared to the total from the Mediterranean (about 1% or less), due to the small number of demonstrations. However it should be noted that the major sources of these elements will be **reduced by 50-100%** at the demonstration sites, and using Lebanon as an example this will result in a 50% reduction in the total source of Cd for the country (2.06 tons/yr)²¹. Regarding MPAs in the Mediterranean the aim of project activities is to **increase the total surface area of MPAs by 10%** (from 9,732,600 to 10,705,860 hectares) which will include habitats of species of global significance. Demonstrations for the reduction of by catch of iconic and vulnerable species will be reduced by 75% in the two demonstration areas (covering an area of 2,000 ha), which is recorded to be as high as 50% for trawlers. Unsustainable fishing practices (i.e. dynamite and poison fishing, Saint Andrew Cross), which have been identified in many national reports as the most important threat to biodiversity in their national waters, will be reduced by 90% at priority sites in 7 countries (covering an area of 30,000 ha). Demonstrations related to the management of aquifers and groundwater will result in 20,000 hectares of land (0.4% of the total area of coastal aquifers) directly impacted by intervention for 6 countries (coastal urban, coastal plains/agriculture, and upper watersheds) addressing LBS, coastal salinization, through coastal

²¹ In addition significant stress reduction will be achieved through the Investment Fund sub-projects

sedimentation and siltation, flooding, wetland sedimentation. This will result in 10,000,000 m³ of water saved through waste water treatment and re-use, and 100,000 direct beneficiaries (land users) and 20,000 of indirect beneficiaries (administration, marine resources, tourism). Also demonstrations related to ICZM and IWRM will result in 45,000 ha coastal zone managed through application of ICZM and IWRM.

It should be stressed that the project addresses **stakeholder participation**. In addition to the involvement of countries (through the CoP, Steering Committee and inter-ministerial Committees) a NGO Involvement Plan will ensure that all NGO's and CBO's participate effectively in all project activities. This, in partnership with the activities related to the Information and Communication Strategy is expected to be a key element in achieving greater awareness of the processes and results of the project; greater acceptance and ownership of the processes and their products; increased quality of the outputs (policy documents, project results, products and outcomes); strengthened stakeholder participation and partnership building in the implementation of the project; and increased potential for the replication of the partnership and targeted activities.

90. The project proposes an innovative and coordinated approach to replication, through the development of a tailored replication strategy, which will ensure wide replication of project demonstrations within the Strategic Partnership (both the Regional Component the Investment Fund components). It is estimated that 10% of the demonstration/pilot projects will be replicated during the life-span of the project, with resulting further stress reduction in the Mediterranean LME.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES/COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

91. The project comprises the following four components:

- Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer;
- Component 2. Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs;
- Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs; and
- Component 4. Project Coordination, Replication and Communication strategies, Management and M&E.

92. The GEF Executing agencies of the project are UNEP, FAO and UNIDO. UNEP is responsible for Component 1, Component 2 (sub-components 2.1 and 2.3), Component 3 (sub-component 3.1.) and Component 4. UNIDO is responsible for Sub-component 2.2, and FAO for sub-component 3.2 and part of Component 3.1.

93. The detailed activities within each of these components are outlined below and are fully described in Annex F. Annex G summarized the participating countries for each activity and demonstration. In order to ensure an integrated approach rather than a sectoral one in the project implementation Component 1 will ensure that both biodiversity and pollution reduction elements of the project, relating to SAP-MED and SAP-BIO, are brought together for the over-arching management of the Mediterranean Sea ecosystem.

COMPONENT 1. INTEGRATED APPROACHES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAPS AND NAPS: ICZM, IWRM AND MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AQUIFERS

(GEF 3,220,000 \$, CO-FINANCING 5,964,700 \$)

94. Component 1 aims at promoting integrated approaches throughout the Mediterranean for the reduction of pollution and the preservation of biodiversity. This will be achieved through appropriate management of the coastal and marine environments, including aquifers, that will embody the application of ICZM and IWRM and the full participation of NGOs. All activities regarding ICZM, IWRM and coastal aquifers will be carried out in collaboratively and will include joint demonstration projects at selected sites (see Annex F for further details on the activities and Annex G for the demonstration sites).

95. Integrated coastal zone management is an overarching policy framework for all activities of the Component 1. A co-ordination mechanism has been set up for effective interaction between the sub-components - Coastal Aquifer, ICZM and IWRM. Demo projects proposed under each sub-component include, interchangeably, activities of the other two sub-components.

96. Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention explicitly consider that "the planning and management of coastal zones with a view to their preservation and sustainable development requires a specific integrated approach at the level of the Mediterranean basin as a whole and its coastal states". To that end an ICZM Protocol is being prepared in order to establish a common framework for the integrated management of the Mediterranean coastal zone. Exploiting the momentum, Component 1 of LME project is focused on national and regional policy, legislation and institutional reforms taking fully into account the forthcoming adoption/ratification of the Protocol. Furthermore, there is a specific activity under ICZM sub-component dedicated to harmonization of national institutional arrangements and legislation with ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean.

1.1. Management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater

(GEF 1,770,000 \$, Co-financing 3,800,000 \$)

97. In the Mediterranean coastal zone, coastal aquifers represent generally available and secure water supplies that are being increasingly threatened by depletion by over-extraction and quality degradation caused by contamination. The aim of the Management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater sub-component is to reverse the trends in over-extraction and degradation in the quality of coastal aquifers through policy interactions for providing appropriate capacity and technology for groundwater management. Activities will focus on assessing the risks to coastal aquifers and associated uncertainties, the preparation of a regional action plan, demonstrations in collaboration with ICZM, IWRM and MPAs and the drafting of legislative, policy and institutional reforms.

98. **1.1.1. Assessment of the Risks and Uncertainties** relating to Mediterranean coastal aquifers. Three activities are proposed as follows.

- Assessment of the risks and uncertainties relating to coastal aquifers, involving an updated inventory assessment of coastal aquifer resources and the identification of major risks and uncertainties at specific coastal aquifer systems.
- Vulnerability mapping of aquifers at selected sites with the aim of transferring technology and knowledge to responsible institutions. This will include a field assessment of coastal aquifers and LBS contamination risks, the development of local awareness of seawater intrusion, the preparation of computerized maps of contamination sources in selected areas, and the establishment of a computerized information system for the management of aquifers in the coastal zone that includes GIS.
- A coastal aquifer supplement to TDA-MED will be drafted and adopted at a regional workshop based on the outcome of the risk and uncertainty assessment and vulnerability mapping.

99. **1.1.2. Regional Actions for Coastal Aquifer Management.** The aim of these activities is the development of a plan of action for regional and national actions relating to coastal groundwater. The plan will identify the priority issues and the steps required to identify, manage and protect Mediterranean

coastal aquifers in the context of geographic, hydrogeological and environmental conditions, socio-economic settings and policy positions and strategies relating to groundwater. Actions will be defined to control groundwater salinization and contamination. Modern technology will be demonstrated in coastal groundwater demonstrations, where options and opportunities will be reviewed and selected for their effectiveness and replicability. The actions identified under the regional action plan will be used to augment the provisions of SAP-MED, SAP-BIO and the NAPs. The following are expected achievements within this activity.

- Development of a Regional Action Plan on Coastal Aquifers and sub-regional action plans for the southern and central basins, the Levantine and Aegean Sea basins and the eastern side of the Adriatic Sea basin. The process of plan development will include the preparation of draft sub-basin action plans and their reconciliation into a common regional action plan at a regional workshop.
- Integration of groundwater management into ICZM and IWRM through the implementation of two joint management demonstrations in a selected river basin and the coastal zone.
- Identification and planning of coastal groundwater demonstrations for two sub-regions addressing common threats relating to coastal aquifers.
- The assessment of land degradation in the context of ICZM; identification and definition of options for action and the formulation of a regional guideline on coastal zone land management in the context of the priorities identified in the TDA-MED. Legislative, policy and institutional development for providing the capacity for coastal land management and conduct of three integrated coastal land management demonstrations that include coastal aquifer demonstrations (as an optional activity based on the mobilization of co-financing for a supplementary sub-project) ;
- Implementation of eco-hydrogeology applications for the management and protection of coastal wetlands in two countries that will introduce and implement modern technology for hydrogeological management and the protection of listed and other coastal wetlands of the Mediterranean.
- Addenda to SAP-MED, SAP-BIO and NAPs to address coastal aquifer management based on the consolidated results of the above activities.

100. **1.1.3. Legislative, policy and institutional reforms for Coastal Aquifer Management.** The requirements for legislative, policy and institutional reforms for coastal aquifer management will be identified, assessed and considered for inclusion under regional protocols, and/or an additional independent instrument on coastal groundwaters. The work will include:

- A regional assessment of coastal aquifer management that includes an assessment of existing water resources and environmental policy regarding coastal aquifer and groundwater management and contemporary information and policy deficiencies relating to risks and uncertainties.
- The formulation of legislative and policy reforms and institutional development for coastal aquifer management that incorporates regional and sub-regional consultation and coordinating mechanisms for harmonized action on coastal aquifer management.

1.2. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

(GEF 950,000 \$, Co-financing 1,164,700 \$)

101. This project sub-component will ensure sustainable management of Mediterranean coastal zones, with particular reference to international waters and biodiversity. The objective will be met by providing assistance to national governments of the Mediterranean countries to manage their coastal resources in an integrated manner and in accordance with priority needs identified by ICZM Protocol now in preparation.

102. **1.2.1. Support activities in preparation of National ICZM Strategies and National Action Plans.** The aim of this activity is to address the specific needs identified in project countries related to lack of national ICZM strategies and their implementation, at regional, national and local level. The countries will be supported in preparation of ICZM Strategies and National Action Plans (NAPs). This

project activity will promote comprehensive stakeholder participation through organization of workshops and extensive consultation process. This support will be provided as follows:

- Strengthening the role of ICZM as a policy framework for water resources management and biodiversity protection at the regional level. An outline for the preparation of ICZM strategies and NAPs will be finalized in cooperation with the national authorities of all eligible countries. A regional workshop will be organized to discuss the outline and to screen possible country candidates for the preparation of ICZM NAPs. The experience and results achieved will be disseminated to all other participating countries.
- Support to the preparation of ICZM NAPs through the drafting of a minimum of ICZM NAPs that will be subsequently presented to national authorities and other relevant stakeholders for adoption. National conferences on the draft NAPs will secure the broad involvement of stakeholders in building a consensus. The activity will build upon previous activities, most notably implemented CAMPs, and the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean. The experience gained will be distributed to other participating countries for information and replication.
- Harmonizing national institutional arrangements and legislation with ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean. This will include a case study to be prepared to show implications of ratification of ICZM Protocol which will be presented at a workshop with the aim of exchanging relevant experience among coastal zone managers as well as juridical practitioners. In addition 15 juridical practitioners trained on implications of national ratification of the Protocol
- Developing and strengthening coastal management legislation in the Mediterranean (notably national coastal legislation) through the exchange of experience and best practice among Mediterranean countries. The assistance to countries will build upon World Bank and UNEP experience in promoting integrated coastal zone management as an essential framework for all policies and interventions affecting sea coasts. Special emphasis will be given to addressing water and biodiversity-related issues in national ICZM legislation.
- Promoting consideration of the “*Cost of Environmental Degradation*” (COED) approach as an ICZM tool partly through the execution of a pilot COED assessment in selected coastal areas. The activity will build upon the experience of METAP in assessing sectoral COED in Mediterranean countries and those in other regions.

103. **1.2.2. Application of ICZM approach, tools and techniques in demonstration areas.** The objective of these activities is the implementation of demonstration projects for effective management of coastal areas and the identification and management of sensitive areas and marine protected areas (MPAs). The ICZM approach, tools and techniques will be demonstrated in selected countries in the preparation of ICZM plans. This activity will include the following.

- Plans to demonstrate the ICZM approach, tools and techniques in combination with the drafting and finalization of ICZM Plans for two selected areas (in collaboration with IWRM and Aquifers). One of the selected areas will be transboundary and the other will include coastal lakes, wetlands and the identification of a marine protected area. The organization of joint meetings will ensure consensus building and broad stakeholder involvement in ICZM Plan preparation and demonstration. Final workshops will focus on the presentation of draft ICZM plans and the identification of priority investment requirements for the protection and rehabilitation of valuable coastal areas.
- Capacity building for effective implementation and sustainable financing of pilot ICZM projects. This will contribute to capacity building of national officials to identify, select, implement and seek sustainable funding of pilot ICZM projects. Information on potential national funding sources, including national and international donors, development banks, etc. in the region will be presented. Also, examples of promotional activities for demo projects, the most effective means of gaining political support to the projects, good practices in yielding public support for ICZM interventions and successful cases will be discussed.
- Co-ordination and harmonization of ICZM component with other components' activities in demo projects. An international expert will be engaged by PAP/RAC to co-ordinate implementation of activities in ICZM demo areas with other implementing institutions' activities, notably with

activities on IWRM and coastal aquifers. Participation of the expert at three harmonization meetings is envisaged.

1.3 Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)

(GEF 500,000 \$, Co-financing 1,000,000 \$)

104. This project sub-component involves the promotion of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) planning at transboundary, national and regional levels as a means to reduce pollution from land based activities. It aims to support countries in the progressive adoption of IWRM policies, the implementation of IWRM practices in pilot areas and associated capacity building. It will closely cooperate with major related processes in the region, including the Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative and the Petersburg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process. It will include the following work:

- The preparation of an action plan for integrated water resources management in the Mediterranean that embodies: IWRM policy development and planning; institutional strengthening and law enforcement; management measures; investments; capacity building and training; education; etc. The action plan will make reference to ongoing and planned regional and sub-regional initiatives undertaken by international organizations as well as countries. The action plan will be discussed and agreed at a Regional Conference of high-level country representatives.
- Catalyzing action and building capacity for national IWRM planning in two (2) countries. This activity will provide technical support through focused policy workshops and training courses for the preparation of IWRM roadmaps and the elaboration of strategic parts of full-scale IWRM plans and will address financing needs for meeting the water-related MDGs and WSSD targets.
- The development of IRBM in globally important river basins and adjacent coastal areas, to be carried out in conjunction with the ICZM activity described above. IRBM plans will be prepared in two (2) selected areas of importance in the context of biodiversity protection. One related national workshop and a number of local consultation meetings will be organized for each area. The activity will provide an opportunity to test real situations for application of an integrated approach to ICZM that includes IWRM principles.
- The preparation of a list of transboundary bodies and water issues suitable for the implementation of pilot projects. Building on previous work in the region conducted by the GEF, the World Bank and other organizations, an assessment will be used to prepare a short list of shared water bodies in the region where concrete interventions and strategic investment can be undertaken by international donors in response to priority local needs. Emphasis will be on the effectiveness, tractability and replicability of interventions. The assessment will cover approximately 15 transboundary water bodies.

Component 1: Expected Results

105. The expected results will include the following:

- Legal, institutional and policy reforms related to the inclusion of biodiversity and pollution concerns into ICZM, IWRM and aquifer management drafted and in the process of adoption;
- Coastal aquifer regional risk assessment adopted and vulnerability maps prepared;
- Coastal aquifer regional plan adopted;
- Groundwater management parameters developed and demonstrated in joint ICZM and IWRM demonstrations in a selected river basin and a coastal zone;
- Hydro-geological management plans and guidelines developed and implemented in 2 pilot wetlands;
- Draft ICZM NAPs prepared in minimum of two countries;
- ICZM/IWRM institutions established/strengthened in at least two countries;

- A case study on adapting national legislation to the provisions of the ICZM Protocol; 15 juridical practitioners trained on implications of national ratification of the Protocol
- COED assessment prepared for two countries and the results disseminated;
- ICZM plans drafted, finalized and disseminated in two areas to address the protection of biodiversity and the prevention of marine pollution;
- Methodology for selection, implementation and sustainable financing of pilot ICZM projects will be drafted and distributed
- Regional action plan for IWRM drafted and adopted;
- National IWRM planning advanced in 2 countries
- Local IWRM planning developed in 2 pilot rivers
- IWRM priority interventions` and investment opportunities identified in approximately 15 shared water bodies and international workshops convened for six shared water-bodies;

106. **Responsible institutions:** Activities related to the management of coastal aquifers will be carried out by UNESCO/HP, those related to ICZM by PAP/RAC and METAP, and IWRM activities by GWP-MED. All four partners will work in close collaboration with each other and with a number of other relevant institutions and agencies (as described in Annex F). All activities will be carried out with the cooperation of agencies of the national governments.

COMPONENT 2. POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS: IMPLEMENTATION OF SAP-MED AND RELATED NAPS

(GEF 4,400,000 \$, Co-Financing 4,996,000)

107. The objective of Component 2 is to develop, draft and issue national and regional legal, policy and institutional reforms that address SAP-MED and the NAP priorities, to implement targeted actions for reducing pollution in the Mediterranean and to facilitate the financial sustainability of future NAP implementation activities. It is divided in four sub-components as follows:

- 2.1. Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control;
- 2.2. Sustainable financing mechanisms for pollution control activities;
- 2.3. Transfer of environmentally sound technology (TEST-MED); and
- 2.4. Support to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention regarding the disposal of PCB stockpiles in Mediterranean countries.

2.1. Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control

(GEF 950,000 \$, Co-financing 1,046,000 \$)

108. The objective of this sub-component is to develop and improve the legislative and institution framework in the region and to implement NAP priority actions that will protect and reduce the inputs of contaminants to the Mediterranean marine environment from land based activities. These activities will be combined with the implementation of five replicable pilot projects in a number of countries dealing with problems associated with phosphogypsum dumping from the fertilizer industry, the major sources of mercury, cadmium, lead, chromium, BOD and nutrient discharge from tanneries, recycling of lubricating oil and lead batteries, the setting of emission limit values for industrial effluents and the establishment of environmental quality standards and the reduction of inputs of PCBs through actions of ESM of PCBs stocks in electricity companies.

109. **2.1.1. The reduction of metal inputs through improved management of phosphogypsum wastes** produced by the phosphate fertilizer production process has been assigned a high priority in the region. Phosphogypsum is a by-product of the phosphate fertilizer industry that is dumped into the sea or/and deposited in slagpiles on coastal lands. When such wastes enter the marine environment, the phosphogypsum deposits alter the sediment structure in the vicinity leading to serious degradation of the

benthic ecosystem. Because phosphogypsum can contain high concentrations of the toxic metals cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg) and lead (Pb) the material may have an impact on marine biota. The issue is considered a priority in Lebanon and Tunisia and relevant actions are included in their respective NAPs. Dumping of phosphogypsum in the coastal zone is responsible for the input of more than 1,300 tonnes/year of mercury, cadmium and lead. A pilot project for the management of phosphogypsum slurry will be implemented. Actions will include the drafting and issuing of institutional, legislative reforms and an environmentally sound management scheme for the disposal of phosphogypsum slurry in Lebanon in collaboration with phosphate fertilizer companies and relevant national authorities in Lebanon, Tunisia and Syria.

110. **2.1.2. Chromium, BOD and nutrient control in tanneries.** Leather tanning is a widespread industrial activity in the Mediterranean region that is frequently practiced by small industrial units. Tannery effluents have high organic matter content and are considered a major source of chromium (Cr), BOD and nutrients. Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey have already included actions on tanneries in their respective NAPs but similar problems exist in other countries of the region. Therefore, there is a need to develop and implement legal, institutional and technical management mechanisms to control the effluent quality from tanneries. The release of Cr, BOD and nutrients from tanneries was also identified as a NAP priority. Actions will include the drafting and issuing of legislative and institutional reforms for the control of Cr, BOD and nutrients and the implementation of management measures at approximately 65 tanneries in the region of Buyuk Menderes in Turkey and the preparation and implementation of guidelines to control similar releases from tanneries in Albania, Algeria, Lebanon and Turkey.

111. **2.1.3. Recycling and regeneration of used lubricating oils.** Used lubricating oil is reaching the Mediterranean Sea through urban sewers and contains a variety of persistent toxic substances such as PAHs, plasticizers and additives. Few of the participating countries have effective systems for used lubricating oil management and recycling compared with the EU in which 80% of such used oil is collected and 44% of it recycled. Action will be undertaken to draft and issue legislative and institutional reforms and prepare and implement systems for collecting and recycling used lubricating oils in Algeria. In addition, through capacity-building workshops, the transfer of knowledge and expertise from Tunisia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, which are more advanced in terms of lubricating oil recycling, to Algeria and several other countries (Albania, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro and Syria).

112. **2.1.4. Recycling of lead batteries.** One of the major sources of lead in the Mediterranean is the inappropriate disposal of lead automotive batteries. Lead from battery smelters reaches the Mediterranean Sea through liquid releases and atmospheric transport and deposition. The smelter industry in most of the GEF eligible countries is still practiced at the artisanal level leading to high emissions of lead. Actions will be implemented to draft legislation and institutional reforms and to prepare and implement a project for recycling lead batteries in Syria. The activity will also include capacity building and knowledge exchange through a number of workshops in which Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, - Montenegro, Tunisia and Turkey will participate.

113. **2.1.5. Assessment of the magnitude of riverine inputs of nutrients into the Mediterranean Sea.** Eutrophication is a direct consequence of nutrient (*i.e.*, nitrogen and phosphorus) enrichment in marine waters. Nutrients are also implicated in the development of harmful algal blooms. These nutrients derive predominantly from land-based sources with the nutrients being discharged from local sources at the border of the sea or through river discharge. Eutrophication occurs at the mouths of the Rhone, Po and Nile Rivers and other rivers in the Aegean Sea and southern Mediterranean. MEDPOL has comprehensive estimates of nutrient inputs from point sources but is lacking a clear picture regarding the magnitude of riverine inputs. Therefore, actions will focus on the estimation of the magnitudes of the nutrient input from rivers through the development of a database. The creation of the database has already been started in the framework of MEDPOL and will be further enlarged and combined with the development of sophisticated models for the prediction of riverine nutrient fluxes on the basis of demographics, industrial activities and land use practices.

114. **2.1.6. Setting Emission Limit Values (ELV) for industrial effluents and the Establishment of Environmental Quality Standards (EQS).** An important tool for implementing the precautionary

approach is the development and implementation of emission limit values (ELV) for industrial effluents. ELVs vary from country to country and are dependent on the characteristics of the receiving waters, the level of technological development and the socio-economic conditions prevailing in individual countries. Many of the participating countries lack appropriate ELV for their industrial effluents. Furthermore, the development and use of environmental quality standards (EQS) for receiving waters has not yet progressed far. Harmonizing the development of ELV in the region could enhance the regional cooperation among Mediterranean countries. Therefore this activity will include the drafting and introduction of ELV and EQS into the legislation of all participating countries for substances identified as SAP targets²².

115. **2.1.7. Updating Inspection Systems.** The preparation of the NAPs has shown a number of deficiencies in environmental management in the Mediterranean. One of these deficiencies involves poor compliance assurance and the enforcement of control measures and, more precisely, the activities of inspectorates. A review was carried out, based on existing data and information, of the status of permit, inspection and compliance systems in all Mediterranean countries including the identification of gaps in policy and legislation. The review identified the basic topics for which capacity building is a priority.

116. The implementation of the LBS Protocol priority actions and, in particular, of the SAP-MED, include, *inter alia*, the introduction of new environmental tools including appropriate implementation of regulatory, economic and voluntary instruments but its primary focus is the reduction of certain pollutants from industries and other sources. Accordingly, there is a need to implement capacity building activities so as to enhance inspection systems and this activity has been incorporated into the project.

117. Activities will be undertaken in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria and Turkey to enhance and update the inspectorates. This work will include the formulation of plans of action for permitting, compliance and inspection, the training of national inspectorates through workshops, and the drafting of amended national legislation in relation to inspection systems.

2.2. Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST-MED)

Executing Agency: UNIDO

(GEF 1,000,000 \$, Co-financing 1,400,000 \$)

118. The TEST-MED sub-component has been designed to address pollution from land-based activities of priority industrial pollution hot spots identified in the Strategic Action Plan (SAP). It will primarily address industrial hot spots associated with persistent toxic substances (PTS) that have severe transboundary effects on the marine environment and will serve to demonstrate the introduction of an integrated approach (TEST approach) including the adoption of best available techniques (BAT), cleaner production technology and appropriate environmental management practices. This sub-component aims to build national capacity to apply the UNIDO-TEST integrated approach to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technology (EST) that will improve the environmental performance and the productivity of priority industrial installations in the southern Mediterranean region. The effectiveness of the TEST integrated approach will be demonstrated at a number of pilot enterprises that will be identified during the first stage of the project from the selected priority actions relating to hotspots in four Mediterranean countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and Egypt). The enhanced institutional capacity will then be made available through the dissemination of project results to assist other enterprises in other southern Mediterranean countries. Activities will be undertaken in three stages as described in the following sub-sections.

119. **Start-up of the project and capacity building** includes the following activities: the creation of national focal points, the introduction of the TEST integrated approach, the establishment of the information management system, the identification and selection of demonstration enterprises and the preparation of initial reviews at demonstration enterprises, including market and financial viability and initial environmental review.

²² SAP-MED targeted substances include POPs, heavy metals, organohalogen compounds, radioactive substances, nutrients, suspended solids and hazardous wastes

120. **Introduction of the TEST integrated approach** at the demonstration enterprises including the implementation of a Cleaner Production Assessment; the development of energy efficiency audits, feasible energy efficiency measures; the introduction of EMS principles and design of EMS; the introduction of environmental management accounting practices and design; investment promotion of EST projects and the introduction of basic principles for the preparation of enterprise sustainable strategies (SES).

121. **Dissemination of the results of the project** will collaborate with the project sub-component on Information and Communication Strategy to ensure the dissemination of the results of the project. Actions will include the preparation of National Publication on the application of the TEST approach; the organization of national seminars in each country; the organization of a Regional Workshop to present the results and the initiation of networking activities between the TEST counterparts and other institutions/national experts from the Mediterranean Region.

2.3. Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries
(GEF 2,450,000 \$, Co-financing 2,550,000 \$)

122. The proposal seeks to build on priorities established in the NAPs, the Stockholm Convention NIPs, and on existing initiatives in some Mediterranean states, to provide a first, harmonized initiative on PCBs that meets the obligations of the Stockholm and Barcelona Conventions and is compatible with the requirements under the Basel Convention to which all the Mediterranean states are Party. During recent country-based assessments and action planning, all Mediterranean countries have identified PCB equipment that continues in service; stockpiles of PCBs-containing electrical equipment; and quantities of discarded equipment and quantities of oil that consist of, or are contaminated by PCBs. In the NIPs, national electric companies are identified as the principal holders of this equipment, stocks and wastes and so represent the initial focus for work to eliminate PCBs. Details are given in Annex F.

123. The aim of these activities is to introduce environmentally sound management (ESM) to all stages of the 'life-cycle' of electrical equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs. The project consists of the following five activities to be implemented in Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya and Syria (those Mediterranean countries which have ratified the Stockholm Convention):

- Review and reforming institutional and legal frameworks for implementation of ESM of PCBs ,
- The implementation of demonstration projects to appropriately management and disposal of PCBs and facilitate the implementation of NIPs and SAP-MED;
- Technical capacity for ESM of PCBs equipment,
- Awareness of importance of ESM of PCBs equipment and
- National capacity to implement PCBs phase-out and disposal programs.

124. **Legislative and institutional framework** for implementation of ESM of PCBs will review existing institutional, legal, regulatory and administrative frameworks and technical norms and standards, and will recommend, as necessary, revisions that meet with national, regional and international requirements. Wherever possible, these arrangements will be harmonized on a regional basis to strengthen cooperation and joint working. The component will build close coordination between public regulatory authorities and entities holding or handling equipment containing or contaminated with PCBs in order to secure PCBs and prevent their environmental release. Actions will include: the review and of existing legal, regulatory and administrative instruments and the drafting of reforms where necessary; establishing country agreements on technical standards for reporting and on the ESM norms and standards for the assessment and environmentally sound remediation of contaminated sites; and the development (or reforming) of reporting and registration schemes and national databases.

125. **Demonstration projects for the appropriate management and disposal of PCBs and to facilitate the implementation of NIPs and SAP-MED** will be implemented through the following three

activities: a) to improve the maintenance, servicing and storage operations, through the review of existing facilities available in participating states, followed by the planning and implementation of pilot projects; b) the phase-out plans for equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs which will work with national electrical company officials to review or develop phase-out plans for equipment containing or contaminated with PCBs and ensure that they meet target dates set in the Stockholm Convention or more stringent national or regional agreements. The activity will use criteria set out in the Stockholm Convention as well as available risk management approaches, to undertake risk-based assessments of in-service equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs. This work will also define likely costs associated with PCB phase out and identify incremental costs over and above normal capital replacement costs; and c) the disposal of obsolete equipment, which will provide detailed inventories of obsolete equipment already off-line and awaiting disposal in order to provide specifications for environmentally sound disposal operations. The component will use existing guidance, such as that prepared by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, to examine cost-effective disposal alternatives and contract, via open tender procedures, appropriate measures at selected demonstration sites. Cost-effectiveness evaluation will consider, in particular, opportunities to undertake all or part of operations on a national or sub-regional basis in order to build sustainable capacity and retain value from potentially recyclable metal components, minimizing international disposal costs. In order to ensure that environmental safeguards are met, Stockholm Convention guidelines will be followed during the disposal operations.

126. Demonstration projects will be implemented by national electrical companies in cooperation with national environmental authorities. It should be noted that the targeted countries are at different stages in the preparation and implementation of their NIPs in the framework of the Stockholm Convention. Therefore activities will be implemented in different phase for each country. Egypt, Lebanon and Albania have already completed their NIPs, and activities listed above may be implemented from the beginning of the project, whereas in Libya initial focus will be on finalizing an inventory of PCB's.

The management and disposal of PCBs in demonstration sites will comprise 5 steps: 1. pre implementation review of the status of the sites vis-a-vis the characteristics and quantity of contaminated oils and equipments; 2. confinement of the targeted quantities; 3. preparation of the necessary authorizations and shipments and contacts with disposal companies; 4. shipment of containers; and 5. disposal outside the targeted countries (in EU countries).

127. **Awareness of importance of ESM of PCBs equipment** will be raised in the public and private sector through the development of communications strategies and materials and the promotion of awareness and involvement in phase-out and disposal of PCBs equipment amongst key target groups. Target audiences will be public and private sector actors likely to be engaged in policy and capital investment decision making – particularly in sectors outside of the electrical utility, where electrical equipment is not 'core business'; the waste and recycling sector; as well as civil society, particularly those likely to be vulnerable to PCB risks.

128. Actions will also focus on providing **technical training and capacity building in the environmentally sound management of PCBs** for those directly engaged in the management of electrical equipment that might contain or be contaminated with PCBs. Specifically this will include training on best-practices for environmentally sound maintenance and servicing, risk assessment and precautionary planning for the phase-out of in-service equipment containing or contaminated with PCBs, and the management of disposal operations. To ensure that quantities of PCBs held by them can also be properly managed, guidance for this component has already been developed by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

129. Finally **National capacity to implement PCBs phase-out and disposal programs** will be established, and will be responsible for the execution of the project, for its supervision, and its monitoring and evaluation. This includes the establishing of a project management group, to undertake administrative, financial and technical management of the project and to report progress to the implementing agency.

130. It should be noted that Tunisia and Morocco have ratified the Stockholm Convention and have already GEF funding to address the issue of POPs. They are therefore not included in this proposal.

131. It is expected that the cost of disposal of 1 ton of PCBs (oil, condensers and metals) would cost approximately 2500\$ including cost of confinement, disposal, shipping to Europe, authorization and labor. Accordingly 1187 tons could be disposed through the implementation of this activity as follows: Albania 280 tons, Syria, 280 tons, Lebanon, 42 tons (total quantity), Libya, 280 tons, and Egypt, 280 tons.

Component 2: Expected Results

- Policy, legislative and institutional reforms drafted and issued and in the process of adoption relating to the management/reduction of phosphogypsum waste dumping and releases of Cr, BOD and nutrients from tanneries, the recycling of used lubricating oils and lead batteries, the introduction of emission limit values (ELV) for industrial effluents and environmental quality standards (EQS) for the coastal marine environment, the creation of enhanced inspection systems, and improved management of PCBs;
- Countries have the knowledge and skills to implement NAP priorities gained through national and regional training workshops and the exchange of information and technology;
- Management plans and guidelines prepared, adopted and implemented for phosphogypsum dumping, releases of waste from tanneries, recycling of used lubricating oils and lead batteries;
- Environmentally sound technology implemented in demonstrations within the industrial sector that result in higher productivity and reduced contaminant loads;
- Increased recycling (50%) of used lubricating oils and lead batteries at pilot sites;
- Reduction in pollution at demonstration sites for Cd, Hg, Pb, Cr, BOD and total nitrogen
- Demonstration projects implemented in five countries, with 1162 tons of PCB's removed and disposed, 100% reduction at the selected demonstration sites;
- Improved maintenance, servicing and storage operations of PCBs;
- Phase-out plans for equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs;
- Disposal of obsolete equipment in demonstration project according to Stockholm convention guidelines;
- Technical capacity for ESM of PCBs equipment;
- Awareness of importance of ESM of PCBs equipment; and
- National capacity to implement PCBs phase-out and disposal programs.

132. **Responsible institutions:** UNEP/MAP's MEDPOL will be responsible for sub-components 2.1, 2.2 supported by WHO MED for the activities related to inspection systems. UNIDO will implement sub-component 2.3 and MEDPOL supported by CP/RAC will undertake the activities under sub-component 2.4. All activities will be carried out in cooperation with agencies of the national governments and all other stakeholders.

COMPONENT 3. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: IMPLEMENTATION OF SAP-BIO AND RELATED NAPS

(GEF 800,000 \$, CO-FINANCING 6,600,000\$)

133. Despite the successful preparation of SAP-BIO, including the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) in 12 countries²³, little has been subsequently implemented at either national or regional level. This, together with the experience of the SAP preparation and other related interventions, provides important lessons learned for this project that is designed to assist the country partners to implement the

²³ In alphabetical order: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The Palestinian Authority will also participate..

prioritized elements of the SAP-BIO through the provision of a series of enabling activities at national, sub-regional and regional levels. The main lessons learned include:

- Ecosystem-based management of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use requires a transboundary approach that frequently ranks lower than immediate national priorities. This reduces the political will and funding commitment to long-term and more widespread interventions, irrespective of the global and lasting benefits that they may bring.
- A Mediterranean-wide regional approach can only be achieved through focusing on homogenous sub-regional areas with similar natural and cultural values. Inequalities in capacity are not as important to area selection because they offer opportunities for capacity-building from *within* regional sub-units rather than imposing it from *outside*;
- To be effective, project demonstration activities need to be targeted at definable recipient communities within, or adjacent to, MPA boundaries and buffer zones where there exists a higher chance of success and potential replicability.
- The SAP-BIO '*provisions for follow-up*' identify the importance of establishing national focal points for key implementation themes (*e.g.*, critical area conservation and sustainable use) together with the definition of clear responsibilities for both project level and thematic monitoring and evaluation. The preparation of '*National Investment Portfolios*' is recognized as a clear precursor to effective country-level support to the project and this is being facilitated by RAC/SPA during the period 2006/2007.

134. Without GEF support, it is doubtful that the long-term consequences of fragmented and, sector-based management will be addressed. Without a concerted ecosystem-based regional approach to environmental management, it is unlikely that the present rates of habitat degradation and living marine resources depletion will be slowed. The likely consequence of such a scenario is the loss of globally significant biological diversity during the next century, combined with the further collapse of fish stocks and reduced food security in the region.

135. The overall development objective of this component is to 'maintain the long-term function of the Mediterranean LME through the use of an ecologically-coherent network of protected areas combined with the sustainable use of renewable marine resources' (see Logical Framework Analysis in Annex B). This will effectively expand the current MEDPAN MPA management network to include the rest of the Mediterranean. This expansion will provide a spatial management tool to prioritize biodiversity conservation and ensure the maintenance and enhancement of environmental goods and services that are essential objectives of integrated coastal and ocean management (ICOM)²⁴.

136. Priority action will depend upon a number of short-term measures that will be developed and disseminated through replicable demonstration activities in representative areas of the Mediterranean. Longer-term sustainability will be ensured through a series of targeted capacity-building and enabling activities that will focus on both national and sub-regional levels to improve capacity for policy development and its subsequent transfer into management. It will also ensure the financial and legislative support to underpin the implementation of interventions.

137. To satisfy the overall development objective, the component is organized into two sub-components that are designed to complement the twin thrust of the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area OP2 Program objectives:

Sub-Component 3.1: Conservation of coastal and marine diversity through the development of a Mediterranean MPA Network; and

Sub-Component 3.2: Promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean through the development and application of ecosystem-based management approaches.

²⁴ Planning of individual MPAs should be participatory and integrated within broader spatial management and economic and social development frameworks to ensure their sustainability and to promote the creation of functionally-connected networks of MPAs. IUCN Principle 6 (Ehler *et al*, 2004).

3.1: Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through the Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network

(GEF 42,500 \$ from International Waters, Co-financing 5,842,500 \$)

3.1.1. Establishment of coordination mechanism for regional MPA management

138. A project management capability will be established at the beginning of the project to ensure that the two biodiversity sub-components are managed in a cost-effective manner and that common management issues are addressed together. The Biodiversity Component Coordinator (BCC) will establish project management and coordination, monitoring and evaluation systems that will be used throughout the project. The assistance and mechanisms provided by this Coordination Unit will be disseminated by a combination of workshops and reports, including inception, mid-term and pre-final conferences. During project lifetime, these functions will be embedded into a small permanent unit that will be capable of extending the coordination and facilitation of MPA (biodiversity and fisheries) beyond the end of the project, thereby ensuring sustainability.

3.1.2. Identification and planning of new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological comprehensiveness

139. This activity will see the existing MEDPAN protected area network extended throughout the Mediterranean in a process that will prioritize protection to regionally important vulnerable areas in coastal and offshore areas. The process will commence with the development of an implementation plan that will be developed in consultation with the eight beneficiary countries. Stakeholder groups and partnerships will then be identified in candidate areas, followed by a series of ecological and socio-economic investigations to characterize these sites. Once final sites have been selected, demonstration projects will be established at six sites to carry out a detailed evaluation of their status and management needs and to identify appropriate stakeholder-driven management mechanisms. At least three of these sites will be high seas fisheries protected areas, for which the goal is to achieve full SPAMI status by the end of the project.

3.1.3. Improved management of marine protected areas

140. This activity builds upon the existing MEDPAN MPA network and aims to develop a set of common management approaches that can be applied throughout the Mediterranean. It will be initiated by a series of thematic workshops for developing both stakeholder management approaches and investigating opportunities for public-private partnerships. These workshops will be followed by a number of exchange workshops that will maximize the exchange of diverse European experience. This will result in the dissemination of knowledge and techniques from MEDPAN to both new and emerging MPAs in the rest of the Mediterranean. This process will be followed by a series of formal and 'on-the-job' training sessions for both managers and stakeholder groups on the planning and management of MPAs. A key output of this process will be a number of practical toolkits for wider distribution and use. Two demonstration projects (in Turkey and Algeria) will be used to develop and demonstrate these.

3.1.4. Establishment of a regional MPA network monitoring capacity

141. The basic aim of building a coherent pan-European network of marine protected areas needs to be supported by the development of a common monitoring and evaluation framework that can provide information on how the network is performing in terms of ecological status, management effectiveness and the associated socio-economic benefits. The first step will be identifying a suitable organization to act as an 'observatory'. When this has been agreed and long-term funding modalities have been identified, a monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed, including a web-enabled database system. Once the basic system is up and running during year 2 of the project, MPA managers will be trained in its use. By the end of year 2, a seminar will be held to evaluate the effectiveness of MPA management in which the monitoring and evaluation system will be used as the basis for current and future monitoring. The detailed application of the system will also be tested in a demonstration project in

Croatia with the results being used to update the both the functions of the observatory and working methodologies.

3.1.5. Ensure the financial sustainability of regional and national MPA networks

142. The most quoted reason for MPA failure or ineffectiveness is the lack of financial sustainability. This activity aims to improve the capacity to ensure the availability and cost-effective use of financial resources through the training MPA managers and key practitioner groups. It will also investigate the financial needs for maintaining the wider Mediterranean MPA network (*e.g.*, the coordination facility under Activity 1.1 and the observatory under Activity 1.4) and identify and develop options such as environmental trust funds, public/private partnerships and other financial mechanisms. These activities will be conducted through a series of studies, formal training workshops/seminars and a demonstration project in Tunisia.

3.1.6. Improve the legal governance frameworks for marine protected areas

143. This activity will see the development of a common legal governance framework for the whole of the Mediterranean. This will require an assessment of existing legislative support to MPA creation and operation at national and sub-regional levels and the development of a common legislative platform that will ensure consistency throughout the Mediterranean. This will be developed initially through detailed institutional analyses at national level to identify commonalities as well as both generic and specific weaknesses or gaps. This national analysis will be conducted by stakeholders and practitioners with guidance from the projects. Once this has been completed, a users guide for managers will be produced that will help practitioners develop relevant legislation and enforce existing legislation within their own jurisdictions.

3.2. Promote the Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in the Mediterranean through the Development and Application of Ecosystem-based Management Approaches
Executing Agency: FAO

(GEF 757,500 \$, Co-financing 757,500 \$)

3.2.1. Establishment of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management at regional and sub-regional levels

144. This activity will aim to mainstream the ecosystem approach into recurrent fisheries management activities. It will commence with the convention of national diagnostic workshops to outline the basics of ecosystems-based management approaches and examine the level to which these are already applied at national level. Following this workshop, the countries will work - under mentoring from the project - to develop national plans for integrating the ecosystem approach. These national plans will then be implemented over the next three years of the project, again under supervision and with guidance from the project. A parallel activity will be a review of the legislative support afforded to this new approach at national and sub-regional levels. Where this support can be improved, assistance will be given to provide practical and targeted improvements. This approach will be applied at sub-regional levels to ensure it applies to high seas areas as well as to transboundary straddling stocks.

3.2.2. Reduction of by-catch of regionally important species at a fleet level

145. This activity will include the identification of unsustainable practices at fleet level, with a particular focus on the by-catch of endangered and/or vulnerable species. The activity will initially focus on Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Croatia and Algeria and will investigate the main procedures and/or fleets that impact these species. Once these have been identified, surveys will be conducted to determine the nature of the interactions that occur and the main drivers, *e.g.*, technical issues, costs and socio-economic factors. Practical solutions will then be developed with the main fishery participants and then tested through a series of demonstration trials and activities in Morocco, Algeria and Turkey. Wider-scale demonstration toolkits will then be developed and tested in a variety of fisheries in the Mediterranean.

3.2.3. Identification and addressing unsustainable fishing practices at regionally- representative MPA sites

146. While the previous activity is not restricted to any one site, this activity is aimed at addressing unsustainable fishing practices used in areas of high biodiversity and/or vulnerability. Initially, it is intended to evaluate fisheries activities in a variety of different MPAs in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey and Algeria to determine the typical interactions between fisheries and the conservation objectives of these MPAs to assess common issues and problems. In each case, the temporal and spatial patterns of irresponsible fishing will be evaluated and stakeholders consulted to determine the drivers behind these interactions.

147. It is important to note that common replication, communication and dissemination methodologies will be developed for the entire biodiversity component through Component 4: (Project Coordination, Replication and Communication strategies, Management and M&E).

Component 3: Expected Results

148. The major expected results expected from the implementation of these two sub-components include:

- The strengthening of the effective conservation of regionally-important coastal and marine biodiversity through the creation of an ecologically coherent MPA network for the Mediterranean region; and

- Increasing the ability of coastal nations to utilize coastal and high seas resources through the adoption of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the application of targeted interventions to reduce by-catch and other unsustainable fishing practices.

149. In achieving these results, it is expected that the project will also result in:

- Implementation of the actions prioritized by the SAPBIO project;
- Existing and proposed MPAs will coalesce to form part of an coherent network at both institutional and ecological levels;
- Greater representation of the Mediterranean's vulnerable and critical coastal and marine habitats brought under statutory protection;
- Surface area covered by MPA's will be increased by 10% (from 9,732,600 to 10,705,860 hectares);
- Tools and capacity for the management of recognized Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity sites will be improved;
- Mainstreaming of the ecosystem approach into national and sub-regional fisheries management policies and activities;
- By-catch of iconic and vulnerable species reduced by 75% through improved fishing practices and improved awareness;
- Unsustainable fishing practices reduced by 90% in regionally-prioritized sites;
- Permanent coordination, monitoring, evaluation and support mechanisms for regional marine biodiversity conservation;
- Innovative approaches to the funding of regionally-important existing and future marine biodiversity conservation initiatives; and
- A robust and practical legislative governance structure that supports the ecosystem approach to conservation and sustainable use in the Mediterranean.

150. **Responsible institutions:** FAO, FAO/GFCM, WWF-MEDPO and SPA/RAC will be responsible for the activities of Component 3, and will liaise with all partners to ensure synergy in activities, in particular MIO-ESCDE regarding the participation of NGO's and INFO/RAC regarding replicability of demonstrations and dissemination of all activity results. All activities will be carried out in cooperation with agencies of the national governments and all other stakeholders.

COMPONENT 4: PROJECT COORDINATION, REPLICATION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES, AND MANAGEMENT AND M&E,

(GEF 4,390,000 \$, CO-FINANCING 3,146,500 \$)

151. This component addresses the overall management, coordination, replication and communication of the Strategic Partnership as well as the Regional Component. Given the great importance attributed within this project to information dissemination and communications and to replication, project activities in these latter topics are segregated into separate sub-components (see below) with, of course, strong linkages between them and project management and coordination.

4.1: Project Coordination, Management, and M&E

(GEF 2,851,000 \$, Co-financing 1,754,000 \$)

152. This sub-component includes activities related to the SP project coordination and management, M&E activities and the involvement of stakeholders in project activities and demonstrations. It will establish effective project implementation and coordination at both regional and national levels to ensure that the projected outputs are delivered and the overall objectives achieved. It will also include mechanisms and activities designed to:

- facilitate and foster synergies between the two components of the project and ensure that the Strategic Partnership as a whole is implemented in parallel;
- ensure country ownership of partnership processes;
- ensure policy reforms in participating countries, through the use of existing and well established Barcelona Convention and MAP structures and mechanisms;
- ensure that a resource mobilization strategy/financing mechanism is developed;
- ensure effective monitoring and evaluation throughout the lifespan of the project; and
- make use of Information/Communication and Replication Strategies as well as Knowledge Management products to influence policy changes in participating countries.

153. Three basic management and coordination structures will be created for the duration of the project: a Project Management Unit (PMU), a Strategic Partnership Project Steering Committee (SPSC), and a Coordination Group (SPCG). All three structures have specific responsibilities and tasks within the project with important linkages between them. A brief, but more specific, description of the activities in this sub-component is provided in the following sub-sections.

4.1.1: Program Management Unit (PMU)

154. A Program Management Unit (PMU) will be established and personnel will be recruited by UNEP/MAP as defined in the **Implementation Arrangements** (see below). The PMU will comprise a Project Manager, an Assistant to the Project Manager and one financial assistant.

155. Activities of the PMU will include the following:

- to closely follow the implementation of project activities, handle day-to-day project issues and requirements, coordinate them and ensure a high degree of transnational and inter-institutional collaboration (international and regional organizations and donors).
- to organize of SPSC, SPCG and interagency meetings, and any other ad-hoc meetings that may be required,
- to finalize project and meeting reports i.e. annual project reports, half-yearly progress reports and expense reports. It will also assist the GEF Independent Office of Evaluation in preparing the mid-term and final evaluations of the project. The PMU will report to the other three management and co-ordination structures set up within the project, namely the SPSC, and the CG;
- to ensure that through the numerous M&E related activities (see Annex E for full details) an adaptive management approach is adopted to the implementation of the project.
- the development of environmental status indicators, in collaboration with all executing and co-executing agencies, reflecting SAP targets and agreements, which will be identified at the beginning of the project along with specific arrangements for their long-term monitoring during and beyond the lifespan of the project (with the support of MAP).

156. The lifetime of the PMU will extend for a period of six months beyond project life to enable finalization and closure of all outstanding issues, including financial matters under the various MOUs.

4.1.2: Strategic Partnership Project Steering Committee (SPSC)

157. The Strategic Partnership Project Steering Committee (SPSC) will act as the main policy body overseeing project execution and will meet annually. The SPSC will comprise SP national focal points from all GEF-eligible countries, representatives of the implementing agencies (UNEP and the WB), representatives of the executing agency (UNEP/MAP), the GEF Secretariat, FAO and UNIDO, the co-executing agencies (FAO/GFCM, UNESCO, MEDPOL, METAP, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC, CP-RAC, WWF, MIO-ECSDE) and the EU, the Project Manager, the President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, major donors (France, Italy, Spain) and one NGO

representing a network of NGOs in the Mediterranean. The SPSC will be co-chaired by the President of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention and the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.

158. The presence of SP Focal Points from the participating countries will ensure continuous ownership and national level support. The SP Focal Points will be identified by the respective governments and will bring to the SPSC the perspectives of each country and views of the GEF and MAP Focal Points respectively.²⁵

159. The participation of the EU in the SC is important because it will represent the non GEF-eligible Mediterranean countries while ensuring links and coordination with existing EU initiatives such as the “2020 Initiative for de-polluting the Mediterranean” adopted in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

160. The presence in the SPSC of the President of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties and the UNEP/MAP Coordinator will ensure that both the Barcelona Convention and MAP are at the heart of the Strategic Partnership. It will also ensure that Contracting Parties are the beneficiaries of all the activities in the same way that these Contracting Parties have benefited from previous GEF initiatives in the area.

161. Specific functions of the Project Steering Committee will include:

- Review of the recommendations of the Investment Fund Advancement Report, including project ideas identified by the World Bank and the Coordination Group (see below) and the review of the status of Investment Fund Demonstration Projects that will include results indicators and the status of replication activities at national level.
- Annual reviews of status reports submitted by each partner to the regional project and the summary status report of the regional project prepared by the PMU. The latter will focus specifically on progress in achieving: replication at the regional level; the use of targets and indicators; satisfactory overall coordination of activities in the Mediterranean region; and measures adopted in response to previous recommendations of the SPSC.

162. The SPSC will be responsible for the periodic review of the partnership project’s performance, assisted by an independent evaluator (TOR to be defined) who will carry out an annual assessment of progress in the Strategic Partnership and report to the SPSC. The SPSC is responsible for endorsing any changes to the work plan or budget that are deemed necessary and is also responsible for ensuring that the Strategic Partnership remains on target with respect to projected outputs.

163. While UNEP and the WB will be fully accountable to the GEF for all project activities and related matters, the Strategic Partnership will require a strong coordination mechanism. This will be engendered through the SPSC.

4.1.3: Strategic Partnership Coordination Group (SPCG)

164. The Coordination Group will be responsible for the overall coordination of the Strategic Partnership, in particular ensuring effective exchanges and synergy between the regional component and the investment fund. Its membership will comprise:

- The MAP Coordinator (chair);
- Representatives of the GEF Secretariat (IW and POPs);
- The Project Manager of the regional project of the SP;
- Representatives from the FAO and UNIDO

²⁵ During the present PDF-B Phase of the project, letters have been sent to all GEF Operational Focal Points asking them to appoint national Focal Points for the SP. A complete list of SP focal points for all participating countries is now available.

- A representative of INFO/RAC responsible for the Replication and Communication Strategy
- A representative of the UNEP/GEF Coordination Office;
- World Bank-GEF Regional Coordinators (ECA and MENA); and
- World Bank Task Managers.

165. In addition to the World Bank Task Managers responsible for Fund projects, project personnel and representatives of participating countries, external experts and co-executing agency representatives will be invited to attend meetings depending on the matters under consideration.

166. The Coordination Group will monitor the linkages between the two components, so that potential synergies can be exploited. It will also ensure that consistency with agreed rules, targets, and indicators is achieved. It will oversee the design and implementation of replication strategies and provide advice on the IF pipeline.

167. One of the main tasks of the CG will be the review of ideas and opportunities for projects under the IF. Exchanges on project ideas will occur informally among agencies, particularly the World Bank and UNEP MAP. The results of these exchanges will then be consolidated and the recommendations presented annually to the CG by the World Bank, including priorities based on replication potential and the eligibility criteria established for the IF. The CG will discuss, and make its recommendations regarding IF pre-pipeline and project concepts. Such recommendations, as well as the minutes of exchanges at partnership level, will be attached as a mandatory annex to the proposal (concept) submitted to the GEF for approval together with the WB response.

168. Another key role of the CG will be the review of the regional replication strategies of IF projects and the monitoring of the basin-wide replication activities. In this context, the CG will be particularly supported by INFO-RAC²⁶, the partner responsible for the design and organization of regional replication activities. INFO-RAC will prepare, in consultation with the World Bank, reports on replication to be presented to CG meetings. The CG will be expected to provide relevant feedback and guidance.

169. In addition, the CG will review, and approve for submission to the SC, the following advancement reports:

- Advancement Reports of the Investment Fund and the status report of demonstration projects under implementation;
- Status reports submitted by each partner in the regional project; and
- Annual Project (APR) and Half-yearly progress reports (HPR) of the regional project.

170. The CG will meet at least once a year at the MAP office in Athens, preferably in conjunction with regular MAP meetings of the parties but in advance of annual SPSC meetings. The CG will maintain regular communication via teleconference, and meet on an ad-hoc basis wherever required.

171. Strong co-ordination between the two components of the Strategic Partnership is essential to the success of the Partnership, and has been noted to be inadequate in previous partnerships. Therefore to ensure the WB involvement in the partnership, a budget is allocated to the WB for personnel and expenses for their participation in SPSC, SPCG and M&E activities and in particular their contribution to the Replication and Communication Strategy of the SP²⁷

²⁶ INFO-RAC will be responsible, among others, for the design and implementation of the Partnership website, in collaboration with IW LEARN's tools and web based resources relating to IW Strategic Partnerships (Black Sea, African Fisheries, East Asian Seas Pollution , and the Mediterranean, see also below Sub-component 4.2)

²⁷ See the budget for further details

4.1.4: Sustainable financing mechanism for the long term implementation of NAPs

172. A central issue in the successful implementation of the NAPs is mobilization of finance, including removal of institutional and legislative barriers that constrict the flow of the required finance for the actions envisaged in the NAPs. In order to define financial needs, detailed investment planning is needed based on the particular nature, duration and operational characteristics of the environmental asset, infrastructure or intervention required to reduce pollution and meet other SAP objectives over the next 20 years or so. Different types and sources of financing may be appropriate, depending on the type, size and risks of environmental investment being considered and the administrative, legal and social context within which the investment will be utilized. The specific characteristics of each potential financing source need to be taken into consideration when developing financial packages for project implementation (see Annex N for further analysis regarding financing for environmental infrastructure).

173. This project activity will aim to bring strategic financial planning and management into the NAP project cycle and overcome the present difficulties of implementation. Actions will include:

- Establishment of a sustainable financing resource capacity/platform in the region. (MAP)
- Collection and diffusion of information and policy briefs on contemporary and available financial practices; (MAP and World Bank)
- Preparation of guidelines for public sector investment and private sector participation in environmental financing and of “Tool Kits” and guidelines for establishing and implementing financial strategies; (MAP and World Bank)
- Highlight NAP priorities in ongoing country dialogue with Ministries of Finance, encourage inclusion of selected NAP actions in national development plans and Country Assistance Strategies (CASes) or Poverty Reduction Strategy Programs (PRSPs); (World Bank)
- Prioritization of the interventions listed in three NAPs of countries of advanced, medium and high capacity not covered by other international financing mechanisms to assist them to secure financing for implementation of the top-ranked interventions; (MAP, EIB and World Bank)
- Organization of national and regional training workshops to evaluate lessons learned and increase capacities to prepare financial strategies; (MAP, METAP and World Bank)

4.1.5: Long term Sustainability of Activities Beyond the Lifetime of the SP.

174. It is important that the activities initiated and undertaken by the SP will live on after the end of the 5 year period of the GEF intervention. The institutional framework for such a target, is obviously the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention. It is proposed that the Steering Committee and the Co-ordination Group of the SP, in close co-operation with MAP and the Barcelona Convention system, will set up the basis of a framework that will ensure the continuation and sustainability of the SP activities in the years to come. To that end, MAP will bring together all partners/donors/countries working in the Mediterranean, and ensure that there is a common vision and direction of efforts in present and future projects.

175. Note: This activity has no budget allocation since it will be executed within activities 4.1.2, 4.1.3. and 4.1.4.

4.1.6 Inter-agency meetings

176. The project involves a large number of co-executing agencies and in order to effectively co-ordinate their activities and demonstrations there is a need to communicate on a regular basis. In addition to regular emails and conference calls, all the co-executing agencies (UNESCO, GWP-MED, METAP, MIO-ECSDE, WWF, GFCM, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC and CP/RAC) and representatives from GEF and UNEP/DGEF, FAO, UNIDO, MAP and the Project manager will meet annually, most likely in conjunction with the Steering Committee meeting to discuss all technical issues related to project activities and demonstrations, linkages with the IF, replication and communication and M&E. The purpose of these technical meetings is to maximize interagency collaboration and to prepare

consolidated information regarding the RC to assist the work of the Co-ordination Group and present to the Steering Committee.

4.1.7: Mid-Term Stocktaking Meeting

177. A mid-term stocktaking meeting will take place in the second or third year of implementation. It will be convened a few months prior to a Barcelona Convention COP. Participants will include: all Steering Committee members; representatives of the Executing Agencies, co-financing agencies and appropriate GEF focal areas; and the managers of all Investment Fund projects both ongoing and in preparation. The GEF Independent Office of Evaluation will also participate and present the independent mid-term evaluation of the project. The Regional Project and the Investment Fund will prepare and submit a consolidated progress report, describing the results achieved in the context of established indicators, and containing recommendations for any mid term project revisions. This meeting will provide an opportunity to bring project progress to the attention of the Barcelona Convention COP.

4.1.8: Monitoring, Evaluation, Auditing and Reporting

178. As described earlier the Strategic Partnership consists of the Regional Component and the Investment Fund. Both components will be monitored and evaluated throughout project implementation. The M&E Plan for the RC is described in the current document under 'Monitoring Evaluation and dissemination' and details of all indicators, reports and budgets are given in Annex E. Environmental status indicators will be identified at the beginning of the project which reflect SAP targets and agreements. The targets related to these indicators will most likely be achieved beyond the life-span of the project and therefore will require specific arrangements for their long-term monitoring. MAP will be responsible for the long-term monitoring of these indicators which will be developed by the PMU with the executing/co-executing agencies and will be presented and reviewed by the Steering Committee during the Inception Meeting. The M&E plan for the IF is described in a separate Project Brief submitted by the WB. The Project Management will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the overall outcomes/outputs for the combined IF and RC, the Strategic Partnership. The outcomes/outputs and indicators for the SP are presented in the Log-frame Matrix (Annex B1) details of the monitoring of indicators and reporting are given in Annex E.

4.1.9: Country Support Programme (SPCSP)

179. Full country participation and ownership is crucial to the success of the SP. The participation of country representatives in the SPSC is essential but not, in itself, sufficient.

180. To further increase support to participating countries and enhance country ownership, the PMU will develop a **Country Support Programme** (SPCSP) along the lines of the GEF Country Support Program to Focal Points (CSP). Limited funds will be available to strengthen the capacity of the SP focal points to carry out their mandates for the support of SP activities effectively in their respective countries. One of the major and most important tasks of the country representatives (SP Focal Points) will be the establishment and functioning of inter-ministerial committees.

181. An amount of up to US\$ 4,000 will be provided annually to each country for the purposes of the SPCSP for the total duration of the Strategic Partnership (*i.e.*, up to US\$ 20,000 in total).

182. Memoranda of agreement between UNEP/MAP and each country will be prepared and signed to facilitate the transfer of funds to an appropriate national agency.

183. SP Focal Points will submit to the SPSC for approval an annual workplan outlining activities to be undertaken. At the end of each year, the SP Focal Points will submit an annual expenditure report and an annual progress report together with the workplan for the following year.

4.1.10 NGOs involvement in the region

184. The activities foreseen are expected to contribute significantly to the overall transparency of SAP implementation and enhancing the levels of commitment by civil society and other stakeholders while promoting effective public access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making in the Mediterranean region. The participation of civil society organizations (with a focus on NGO networks) is expected to be a key element in achieving greater awareness of the processes and results of the project; greater acceptance and ownership of the processes and their products; increased quality of the outputs (policy documents, project results, products and outcomes); strengthened stakeholder participation and partnership building in the implementation of the project; and increased potential for the replication of the partnership and targeted activities. Within the scope of contributing to the achievement of the targets established by SAP-MED and SAP-BIO, this activity is directed towards the effective involvement of civil society in the Strategic Partnership through the provision of enhanced NGO and CBO roles in the region by way of stakeholder participation, joint decision making and project implementation.

185. **Facilitating NGO and CBO participation in all project activities.** This will be achieved by awareness building among NGO networks and CBOs based on information sharing, joint decision-making and participation in monitoring and evaluation. The draft NGO Involvement Plan (see Annex H) prepared during the PDF-B phase of the project will be further elaborated to ensure NGO involvement in all components of the project. Activities will include:

- The development of NGO and public involvement plans for each component;
- The establishment of links with existing networks for the exchange of information and experiences;.
- The participation of NGOs and CBOs in stakeholder consultation meetings for each project component;
- The participation of NGOs in advisory bodies for project components;
- NGOs representation is included in the managing/decision-making bodies of the project;
- NGO and CBO involvement in monitoring and evaluation activities of the project; and
- The creation of a Mediterranean-wide network, with exchanges of information occurring with other networks.

186. **Enhanced role of NGOs and CBOs in the region through participation in the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs,** will be achieved through information dissemination and capacity building. In particular, links will be established with the GEF Small Grants programme (SGP) to ensure that projects in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Albania will address the environmental concerns of SAP-MED and SAP-BIO, and the progress of these projects in achieving SAP priorities will be following and integrated into a wider Mediterranean network of NGO's. Specifically, financial assistance will be provided (through co-financing sources) to SGP executing NGOs for the demonstration sites in the regional network meetings of the SP project and SP Focal Points will participate in SGP Committee meetings.

187. **NGO and CBO involvement in the region strengthened** through capacity development, lessons learned and best practice knowledge products. In collaboration with the replication strategy, thematic lessons learned and best practice publications will be produced in printed and electronic format and widely distributed by the end of the project.

4.2: Information and Communication Strategies

(GEF 530,000 \$, Co-financing 431,000 \$)

188. There is an obvious need for the exchange of information within the various components of the partnership on activities and managerial issues. Pressure exerted by the public opinion on governments and institutional stakeholders, as well as on the business/private sector, represents considerable added

value to achieving full implementation of international and national legislation and developing new and more sustainable rules for economic development. Therefore, in order to make the Mediterranean Strategic Partnership and its products more widely appreciated, particular attention will be devoted to the use and adaptation of modern information and communication approaches in line with the recent recommendations of the *World Summit on Information Society*.

189. The information and communication (IC) activities of the Regional Component of the Strategic Partnership will include:

- Establishment of an IC mechanism *within* the Partnership itself to ensure comprehensive and continuously-updated information exchange among partners regarding project activities; and
- Setting up an IC mechanism to the *outside world* to publicize the partnership and disseminate information on project progress and results.

190. Considering the complex nature of the Mediterranean Sea, the actions foreseen within this strategy will have to be executed at the regional, national and local levels as appropriate. The following activities are proposed for implementation, noting that some of them are designed on an initial '*pilot basis*' as a vehicle for fully assessing their efficacy and impact.

4.2.1. Production of an Intranet/Internet site and on-line magazine to create a shared vision and disseminate the partnership's progress and lessons learned. An internet site has been developed during the PDF-B phase of the project (see <http://www.medsp.org>), and is in English, French, Italian and Arabic. Formal consultations have already taken place with IW-LEARN to ensure that the further development of the internet/intranet site will be according to IW LEARN criteria. Within this activity, further collaboration and exchanges of experience will be established with the GEF IW-LEARN team so that compatibility with IW-LEARN practice is achieved and that benefit is taken of IW-LEARN events (such as the IW Biannual Conference).

4.2.2: Design, production of *ad hoc* IC material (leaflets, brochures, etc.) for selected audiences.

4.2.3: Participation to selected national and international environmental events (such as the Environment Day, the EU Green Week, etc.) to present project information to governments, institutions and the media on national and international scales

4.2.4: Planning of an *ad hoc* audiovisual campaign for wide media dissemination..

191. Besides being a 'stand-alone' activity within the project, the information and communication strategy sub-component will serve as a tool for the replication strategy sub-component (see next paragraph).

4.3: Replication Strategy

(GEF 1,090,000 \$, Co-financing 961,500 \$)

192. Although a large number of activities, demonstrations and pilot projects will be implemented within the lifetime of the project, it is evident that not all of them can be implemented in each and every eligible country. A choice of countries and sites has had to be made for each activity. There is, therefore, a strong need for a replication strategy that will maximize the chances of '*regional transfer*' of demonstration and pilot projects. The Mediterranean region currently represents substantial under-performance and a negative track record in respect to replication initiatives. This is not only due to technical problems *per se* but to inadequate project management and monitoring capacities relating to the constraints imposed by local conditions, resources and capacities. This suggests the need for adoption of a more innovative approach, specifically tailored to the characteristics of the region and directed towards enhancing the potential for the replication of successful demonstrations. In contrast to previous projects, in which replicability has been addressed as a separate element, the objective of this component is to develop, as an integral part of the project, a carefully-designed replication strategy that is at the heart of the project.

193. Given the complexity and the wide spectrum of component activities in this project, a number of different phases and activities have been designed to enhance the potential for replication of project successes. These phases are described below and the specific activities are itemized in the log-frame matrix.

4.3.1: Creation of Project Replication Team (PRT)

194. A Project Replication Team (PRT) will be created. Its main functions will be to: ensure that every demonstration and pilot project has a valid replication component (or strategy) incorporated into the activity from the initial stage of concept design, and contribute to, facilitate, coordinate and guide the replication process in all stages, including specific measures of progress, risk assessment and expected benefits and impacts, thereby applying feedback and ensuring that project adjustments are made as and when required.

195. The PRT must be multidisciplinary and able to maximize the benefits of the wider Strategic Partnership. A pool of experts from all relevant disciplines will be identified and drawn upon according need. For operational reasons, the PRT will comprise:

- One PRT coordinator (INFO/RAC);
- One expert on pollution reduction issues and monitoring (MEDPOL);
- One expert on marine biodiversity conservation (SPA/RAC, WWF MedPO);
- One expert in project development and socio-economic aspects (WB-METAP); and
- One expert in multi-sector partnership building and integrated information and communication management (INFO/RAC).

196. The role and modus operandi of the PRT will be specified in the terms of reference that will be compiled at project commencement. The PRT will fine tune, agree, coordinate and evaluate the potential for replication of project activities and contribute, when required, to the support of the design and implementation phases of project activities. The PRT will mostly work via internet. The PRT will participate to the project Replication Meeting (ARM) as and if opportune.

4.3.2: Developing an ICT Platform

197. Following the principles and guidelines outlined by IW-LEARN, a practical baseline methodology will be developed by the PRT to effectively collate, record and manage information on a common web based platform (web portal). The ICT platform will cover information related to activities carried out under the regional component of the project. The type and level of information collected will be extremely varied and range from spatial-GIS datasets relating to the context of each demonstration, to legal and policy reform promotional strategies, financing modalities, training and dissemination programs and techniques, etc. For replication purposes, other elements of the project will be considered, including, but not limited to: project operational and financial management; project nature, type, geographical area and size; overall design and structure; financing and support mechanisms; sustainability strategy; actors/stakeholders and sectors involved; management approach; and governance structure.

198. Particular attention will be dedicated to acquiring information on successful partnership modalities as there is growing evidence and practical experience that development initiatives/projects are far more likely to succeed over the longer term if they are complemented and supported by sustainable working partnerships among sectors such as the public sector, civil society (including NGOs) and the business sector.

199. The ICT platform for managing all relevant information/data will be properly organized and have different search modalities (by sector, country, technology. etc.). It will be linked to project and sub-project websites and managed in a shared Intranet Website/Web Portal environment to ensure easy access to members of the partnership as well as external users. In this respect, different types of access can be

envisaged and will be agreed. This platform will facilitate the constant exchange and flow of information among the various partners, will serve as permanent forum for sharing opinions and ideas, and will strengthen the project monitoring and evaluation process by giving it ‘near real-time’ as opposed to ‘snap-shot’ or periodic information.

4.3.3: Information Analysis and Dissemination

200. The information collected will be extracted from its originally local context and placed in a macro-scale Mediterranean context or “arena” to identify potentially matching replication sites. Further advice on more remote and/or less documented matching areas can be obtained from national level experts having more detailed insight. Desktop analysis of existing data on biodiversity and pollution assessments on a Mediterranean-wide scale is readily available from agencies such as SPA/RAC, WWF MedPO and MEDPOL and could be used by the PRT in addition to assessments as necessary. Typically, but not exhaustively, the main issue to be considered is:

- Technical identification of Potentially Matching Areas (PMAs), including physical, geographical, environmental and socio-economical characteristics.

201. The following information will be required for each PMA:

- Identification and evaluation of political (decision making), governance and socio-economic circumstances;
- Evaluation/assessment of existing/potential funding sources, the possibilities of fundraising and financial sustainability with special focus on the private sector and the availability of resources;
- Identification of local and national stakeholders with special focus on local and national government authorities and NGOs having proven, action-oriented track records;
- Assessment of information management, communication capacities and public awareness;
- Final evaluation and selection of PMAs; and
- Identification and outline of *Potential Replication Projects (PRPs)*.

4.3.4: Organization of two Replication Meetings

202. Two Replication Meetings (RMs) will be held tentatively on the second and fourth year of the project execution. The meetings are planned in conjunction with the Project Steering Committee meetings and will involve all the NPCs, members of the PRT and relevant partners as opportune.

203. To ensure maximum involvement and active participation, both national and project representatives will be expected to attend each Replication Meeting and provide a comprehensive presentation on:

- The main challenges in each project;
- The steps and methods adopted and approaches used to meet these challenges; and
- The results/impacts of the actions and lessons learned.

204. The meeting will provide a vehicle for group discussions and assist in focussing attention on issues of common interest to several countries and projects. In time, it will permit progressive identification of lessons learned and results achieved. A questionnaire may be used by the PRT to address specific topics and collect specific information on topics and issues that might otherwise be neglected. Each workshop will close with an agreed set of issues/lessons/results.

4.3.5: Design and Implementation of Dissemination Mechanisms and Partnership Building

205. The achievement of open access to, and sharing of, essential information, as well as presentation/dissemination of key data in the form of multilingual and multimedia communication

campaigns dealing with priority policy issues and adapted to particular target audiences, will require the following tasks to be undertaken:

- Enhancement of the dialogue and cooperation among the key actors through the creation of a permanent reference Mediterranean network that includes representatives of national ministries of the environment and institutes and associations involved in information dissemination and environmental communication in Mediterranean countries; and
- The setting of priorities and customization of the key content of the most important project activities to make them more appealing, interesting and understandable to selected audiences;
- Provision of user-friendly access of the public to all unrestricted documentation, data and products prepared within the framework of the project;
- Identification and assessment of existing and successful media/public information campaigns and strategies having an environmental focus and operating at a local or regional level with the purpose of determining the potential to introduce key SP project messages into these campaigns.

4.3.6: Organization of a Regional Conference

206. A regional conferences will be convened during the life of the project. The conference will focus on partnership as an indispensable requisite for successful project implementation. Establishing sustainable partnerships and effective communication/awareness-building across sectors are inter-related tasks and essential components for replication project success, especially in the complex cultural, political and social conditions found in the Mediterranean region.

207. INFO/RAC will serve as main broker for partnership promotion. The Partnership Building Accreditation Scheme (PBAS) will be used as a tool for adding value to the Strategic Partnership. PBAS was developed by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) in the UK in close cooperation with partners such as UNDP, DFID (UK), the UN Staff College and the World Bank Group. It is an internationally-recognized programme designed to bring professionalism and integrity to the building and brokering of multi-sector partnerships for sustainable development.

208. Effective methods (including reference indicators consistent with those in the log-frame matrix and monitoring and evaluation plan) for measuring the influence on public opinion and awareness of IC initiatives will be designed and applied.

4.3.7: Design and Implementation of a Replication Scoring System

209. A Replication Scoring System provides an innovative approach that could be used both by project partners and national or international donors/investors interested in replicating projects in other areas. Following an analysis of data/outputs collected from project activities, a specific methodology will be developed by the PRT to objectively evaluate and score potential replicability. The scoring system (using actual or weighted values for key indicators) will provide an overall evaluation of the likelihood of successful replication in an alternative site and context. With experience and numerous field applications, the scoring system will be fine-tuned to facilitate comparative studies and provide an objective value to the weakest and strongest aspects of potential replication projects. A complete list of scored PRPs will be compiled by the PRT and compared against actual replication successes or otherwise.

210. Scoring systems (*e.g.*, a beach quality index) can also be adapted to simplify and communicate complex environmental information to the general public. The value of public outreach and awareness building should not be underestimated if it can be carefully and thoughtfully communicated through the mass media. This is one of many communication tools that can assist in creating a favourable climate for effective implementation of PRPs with broader public support and awareness.

4.3.8: Initial Facilitation of on-site project development

211. Considering the knowledge, previous-experience and data acquired regarding PRPs, the initial actions for on-site replication will be:

- Promoting the establishment of Local/National Project Replication Groups (LPRGs) to act as interfaces and reference points by supporting the elaboration of the specific ToRs;
- Promoting the exchange of experience on successful RPs through the use and consultation of the database and other channels as opportune;
- Promote the use of PBSA scheme for setting up working partnerships and cooperation among key stakeholders and interested at project level; and
- Support projects with the elaboration of procedures for promoting public information and participation

Component 4: Expected Results

- Strong overall coordination of the two main elements of the Strategic Partnership project;
- Joint review of ideas and opportunities for projects under the IF and recommendations on IF pre-pipeline and project concepts;
- Creation of functioning inter-ministerial committees in each participating country;
- Increased country participation;
- Increased country ownership;
- Application of effective project monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- Designed and implemented information and communications strategy;
- Information collected, analyzed, shared and disseminated through the Internet/intranet;
- Printed material on project activities disseminated to the general public;
- Participation to a number of public events;
- Completion of an IC advertising campaign and preparation of information material;
- Project replication strategy designed and implemented
- Replication potential assessments for demonstration and pilot projects completed with scoring to indicate their potential for replication; and
- Potential replication projects (PRPs) identified by 2008.
- Stakeholder participation assured on various scales from local and regional and from public to private sectors.
- NGO/CBO participation in: project activities; stakeholder consultation meetings, advisory bodies, management and decision-making bodies of the project; and monitoring and evaluation activities;
- GEF Small Grants projects address SAP and NAP priorities;
- NGO involvement plan published and each project component is provided with guidance early in project implementation; and
- Knowledge products based on thematic lessons learned and best practice have been produced and widely distributed by the end of the project.
- Policy briefs and guidelines for the sustainable financing of NAPs drafted, contacts between countries, donors and financial institutions established accompanied by the training of finance officers and other experts and a sustainable financing mechanism established for the region;

RISKS, SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICABILITY

RISKS

212. The logframe matrix presented in Annex B details the project-related assumptions and risks. The regional component of the Strategic Partnership represents an opportunity to implement a coordinated approach to the implementation of the two SAPs and country NAPs that will assist in the implementation of priority actions and remove the institutional, financial and technical barriers to investments. The major risks of the project can be summarized as the following:

Political willingness to adopt the necessary institutional, policy and legislative reforms and to sustain project programs and initiatives beyond the life of the GEF intervention.

213. During the life-span of the GEF Project it is essential that participating countries collaborate together, with partners and commit themselves to project activities, in particular the adoption and incorporation of necessary policy and legislative reforms into their framework for the SAP and NAP implementation. The successful implementation of activities and demonstrations is dependant on this. Fortunately the countries of the Mediterranean have a long history of collaboration, through the Barcelona Convention and the activities of MAP and its RACs. The TDA for the Mediterranean, SAP-MED, SAP-BIO and NAPs were all undertaken in collaboration with countries and have been officially adopted by the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention. Endorsement letters have been received from countries for the PDF-B phase of the project and all proponent countries expressed their full support for this GEF initiative during the 2004 Stocktaking Meeting on the development of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem. In order to ensure political willingness several measures have been undertaken. The project activities have been developed in consultation with countries, and in addition the NAP priorities are on existing national sectoral development plans, which have been agreed upon by the national authorities (including timeframes for implementation) using a participatory approach with the involvement of all stakeholders. Therefore the NAPs are part of each national authorities agreed development plan, and assuming that these are not changed than the priority actions of the NAPs will be implemented beyond the life-span of the GEF project. Also active participation of countries is ensured throughout the projects execution through the following mechanism: the Steering Committee meetings, the involvement of SP Focal Points, Inter-ministerial Committees and their meetings, the Country Support Programme, and overall involvement through MAP Focal points and meetings. Therefore the level of risk can be regarded as low.

Effective participation and active involvement of all stakeholders in project execution.

214. In order to ensure effective participation of all stakeholders in project execution a number of measures have been taken during the project development. Stakeholder participation has been designed an integral part of each component, with provisional lists of stakeholders already identified, and a Stakeholder Involvement Plan drafted. In addition a separate component specifically focus's on NGO (including CBOs) participation in the project which will contribute significantly to the overall transparency of SAP implementation and enhancing the levels of commitment by civil society and other stakeholders while promoting effective public access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making in the Mediterranean region. The participation of civil society organizations (with a focus on NGO networks) is expected to be a key element in achieving greater awareness of the processes and results of the project; greater acceptance and ownership of the processes and their products; increased quality of the outputs (policy documents, project results, products and outcomes); strengthened stakeholder participation and partnership building in the implementation of the project; and increased potential for the replication of the partnership and targeted activities. Therefore the level of risk can be regarded as low.

Effective Project Co-ordination

215. The geographic extent of the Mediterranean Sea basin (3,800 km wide and with a coastal length of 46,000 km) and the diversity of activities in this project poses risks to the effective participation and active involvement of all stakeholders in project execution. This will present a challenge to effective

project coordination. Measures, however have been taken to ensure strong linkages with civil society, professional bodies, and relevant government bodies established in all project components through MAP and the Barcelona Convention will suffice to minimize this risk.

216. The level of risk to project execution is therefore low with the possible exceptions of potential territorial disputes and/or economic crises. If this occurs during the project, activities and demonstrations sites in affected areas will be changed. Alternative options for sites have already been discussed for demonstrations in consultation with countries in order to minimize this risk.

SUSTAINABILITY

217. As previously mentioned sustainability is essential for the future implementation of the SAPs and NAPs. The previous 25 years of collaboration among Mediterranean countries, including the completion of the TDA and the preparation of the SAPs and NAPs, provides a sound basis for confidence in the sustainability of entities created in this project. It is clear that the baseline activities address only a fraction of the necessary actions required to protect the Mediterranean Basin. The focus of the proposed GEF project is to create an **enabling framework for countries to implement their SAPs and NAPs** in an accelerated manner and provide a basis for the further development of integrated coastal and water management. It also includes a number of demonstration/pilot projects that can be subsequently replicated to advantage in the region thereby, again, offering inducements to sustainability.

218. In order to strengthen the ability of governments to implement NAPs within and beyond the life of the proposed project, **legislative, policy and institutional reforms** will be identified and formulated for adoption by governments. These reforms will also constitute an incentive to sustainability in the region because they will define the path of future interventions for environmental protection. The capacities of governments and institutions in the region will be enhanced through training workshops and the exchange of knowledge and skills providing a cadre of knowledge and expertise to promote further initiatives in favor of reducing pollution from land based sources and protecting biological diversity beyond the life of the project.

219. To ensure that the issue of sustainable financing for the future implementation of remedial measures is addressed, specific activities (see Component 4.1) under **Sustainable financing mechanism for the long term implementation of NAPs** will aim to bring strategic financial planning and management into the NAP project cycle and overcome the present difficulties of implementation. Component 3 on the conservation of biological diversity comprises a number of activities that specifically focus on ensuring the financial sustainability of regional and national MPA networks.

220. Active participation of **civil organizations in project activities** is a key element for gaining social sustainability. The Public Participation Strategy of this component focuses on building a firm foundation for effective intervention in the region.

221. In addition, approximately **31 demonstration projects** will be undertaken within the project. These address pollution control from land based sources, management and disposal of PCB's from electrical companies, the use of environmentally sound technology in industrial enterprises, developing management plans to promote the financial sustainability of Marine Protected Areas, and the preparation of action plans for coastal zone management that encompass water resources and coastal aquifers. An integral aspect in the selection of demonstration sites will be their regional significance, the willingness of governments to maintain structures beyond the life of the project and their potential for replication. The replicability of project interventions and demonstrations has been addressed through the adoption of an innovative approach by which a strategy for replication is specifically included as a significant element of the project. This will maximize the chances of regional transfer of successful demonstrations and pilot projects.

222. To ensure that the project activities live on after the end of the 5 year period of the GEF intervention, it is proposed that within MAP and the Barcelona Convention, there will be developed a **Strategic Framework** (see Component 4.1) that will bring together all partners/donors/countries working in the Mediterranean, and ensure that there is a common vision and direction of effort in present

and future projects. For this purpose MAP will co-ordinate with all countries, IA's and NGO's in the region to develop a Strategic Framework that will work towards attaining MDG and WSSD Environmental targets.

REPLICABILITY

223. It has been observed that in many previous international projects, the replication of project activities and demonstrations has not been dealt with in a systematic manner, with a resulting poor track record of replication successes. Therefore it was agreed that the SP for the Mediterranean LME would address the issue of replication in an innovative manner, through the development of a Replication Strategy, as outlined in Component 4.3 of the project activities and further detailed in Annex F. This will ensure the replication of the demonstrations and projects of both the Regional Component and Investment Fund, the lessons learnt and results achieved within the project and the Strategic Partnership itself. This strategy will require a high level of flexibility and adaptation to the different LME project components, in particular with respect to the replication mechanisms to be adequately refined and contextualised when used for other initiatives, other countries, other areas/sites.

224. As a result ongoing information during the project as well as the final project results will be disseminated through government institutions, universities and all other relevant stakeholders within the Mediterranean and through IW-LEARN will be disseminated within and outside the region²⁸.

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

225. The Stakeholder Involvement Plan and detailed NGO Involvement Plan are complementary and are presented in Annexes K and H respectively. Stakeholder participation is an inherent part of the structure of MAP and the Barcelona Convention (see Box's 3 and 4), where all countries (represented by the MAP focal point) form the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention. Within each country MAP and its RACs have designated focal points that are responsible for the co-ordination of specific actions. In addition about 100 NGO's and IGO's, termed "partners" are participants to the meetings of the Barcelona Convention. It should also be stressed that prior to the PDF-B phase of the project, stakeholders participated in the formulation of the TDA-MED, SAP-MED, SAP-BIO and countries NAPs, on which the present project activities are based. The activities of the project have therefore been developed based on priorities of all participating countries, including stakeholders, and these activities have been designed to involve all key stakeholders on a number of levels, from implementation, knowledge transfer, dissemination and replication.

226. In summary the primary stakeholders in this Project on a national level include:

- Public Sector: ministries responsible for water resources; environment; planning; transport, fisheries; industry; community development; education; and local government authorities
- Private Sector: national and regional organizations representing: farmers; fisher folk; manufacturers/industrialists;
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs): national trusts; conservation associations; women's organizations; community-based organizations (CBOs);
- Scientific community: researchers; sociologists; environmental managers; engineers (water, civil, environmental); biologists; teachers; curriculum specialists; media practitioners; and
- General public such as the entire coastal population of the Mediterranean Basin (in particular those living in identified hotspots and sensitive areas) and the 176 million tourists visiting the Mediterranean annually.

227. At a regional and global level the stakeholders will be the various signatories to the environmentally-related Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (e.g. Barcelona Convention, CBD, Basel Convention, UNCCD, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention) and all individuals and

²⁸ A specific web-site for the Strategic Partnership has been developed as of 2005: <http://www.medsp.org/>

organizations associated with sustainable management, biodiversity and pollution from land-based sources.

228. The purpose of the project is to start the process of NAP implementation in a coordinated manner, and the involvement of key stakeholders is essential for the future successful completion of NAP implementation and replication of project demonstrations. Stakeholders will participate in the project implementation through the following mechanisms (detailed in Annex K):

- Involvement of the public sector through the SP focal points and Steering Committee and the SP Country Support Programme
- Co-ordination of public sector through the involvement of relevant focal points including MAP, MEDPOL (for pollution control), SPA/RAC (biodiversity), CP/RAC (cleaner production) and PAP/RAC (priority actions and coastal zone management).
- Involvement of civil society through activities of Component 4.1 which include. NGO mobilization
- Information disseminated to all key stakeholders (through the web, workshops, events, publications etc) through the activities of Sub-Component 4.3. Communication Strategy
- Active participation of relevant stakeholders in the implementation of project activities and demonstration projects

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

229. The Implementing agency of the Project is UNEP while the Executing Agency is the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (MEDU-MAP) and its associated Regional Activity Centers (RACs): Cleaner Production (CP RAC); Specially Protected Areas (SPA RAC); Priority Actions Programme (PAP RAC); and Information (INFO RAC). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are GEF Executive Agencies with Expanded Opportunities, and will therefore receive funding for their corresponding activities directly from GEFSEC. The structure of the Strategic Partnership and the Regional Component are presented in figures 1 and 2 and table 2 presents the responsible co-executing agencies for the projects sub-components.

230. The Co-executing Agencies to the Project are:

- the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM);
- the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO/HP);
- the World Wide Fund for Nature, Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF/MedPO);
- the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med);
- the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE);
- the WB Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP)

231. The Project's objectives and activities, fully comply with the Strategic Objective proposed by UNEP for its GEF Programme of Work (paragraph 15(c) of the "Action Plan on Complementarity Between the Activities Undertaken by UNEP under the GEF and its Programme of Work) which stipulates "Promoting regional and multi-country cooperation to achieve global environmental benefits". This will be achieved within the project by establishing international/regional cooperation mechanisms and the sharing of knowledge of good practices and lessons learned between the countries. The existing infrastructure of the Barcelona Convention, of the Mediterranean Action Plan and its Regional Activity Centers, will greatly serve this purpose. The other co-executing agencies, some of which have an international or global status and others a regional one, will also contribute to this effect. Finally, within

the project itself, attention has been given to the development of comprehensive Information, Communication and Replication Strategies that will greatly enhance the degree of communication, sharing, cooperation and replication on the regional and multi-country level for the benefit of the Mediterranean LME region.

232. The arrangements for the project execution are based on the following structures and activities (for more details please refer to the description of Component 4):

Table 2. Responsible Co-executing agencies

Component/ Sub-Component	Responsible Co-executing agencies
Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM, and management of coastal aquifer	
Sub-Component 1.1 Management of Coastal Aquifer and Groundwater	UNESCO/HP (with support from GWP-MED and PAP/RAC)
Sub-Component 1.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management	PAP/RAC and METAP (with support from GWP-MED and UNESCO/HP)
Sub-Component 1.3 Integrated Water Resource Management	GWP-MED (with support from PAP/RAC and UNESCO/HP)
Component 2. Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs	
Sub-Component 2.1 Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control	UNEP-MAP's MEDPOL programme
Sub-Component 2.2 Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST)	UNIDO
Sub-Component 2.3 Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries	UNEP-MAP's MEDPOL programme and CP/RAC
Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs	
Sub-Component 3.1 Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network	SPA/RAC, FAO/GFCM and WWF-MedPO
Sub-Component 3.1 Promotion of the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean through ecosystem-based Management Approaches	FAO/GFCM
Component 4. Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication and Strategies, Management and M&E	
Sub-Component 4.1 Project , Co-ordination, Management and M&E	MEDU-MAP, WB, METAP, MEDPOL and MIO-ECSDE
Sub-Component 4.2 Information and Communication strategies	INFO/RAC and MEDU-MAP
Sub-Component 4.3 Replication strategy	INFO/RAC and MEDU-MAP

233. The **Program Management Unit (PMU)** will be established and personnel will be recruited by UNEP/MAP according to *standard UN staff rules and regulations*. The PMU will comprise a Project Manager, an Assistant to the Project Manager and a financial assistant.

234. The PMU will closely follow the implementation of project activities, handle day-to-day project issues and requirements, coordinate them and ensure a high degree of transnational and inter-institutional collaboration (international and regional organizations and donors). It will be responsible for the production of six-month advance reports and six-month and annual expense reports. It will also assist the

GEF Independent Office of Evaluation in preparing the mid-term and final evaluations of the project. The PMU will report to the other three management and co-ordination structures set up within the project, namely the SPSC, and the CG.

235. The **Strategic Partnership Project Steering Committee (SPSC)** will oversee the project execution and will act as the main policy body of the Strategic Partnership. Members of the SPSC will be SP national focal points from all GEF-eligible countries, representatives of the implementing agencies, representatives of the executing agency (UNEP/MAP), FAO, UNIDO, the GEF Secretariat, the co-executing agencies, the EU, the Project Manager, the President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, major donors (France, Italy, Spain) and one or two NGO representing a network of NGOs in the Mediterranean.

236. The SPSC will meet annually and will:

- Review the Annual Status reports submitted by each partner and the summary status report of the regional project prepared by the PMU. It will also review the reports prepared under the M&E activity (see also Annex E). Based on all this information the SPSC will make recommendations for the conduction of the business of the Project and if necessary take appropriate decisions for changes of the workplan, timetable and budget allocations.
- Review the recommendations of the Investment Fund Advancement Report, including project ideas identified by the World Bank and the Coordination Group (see below) and the review of the status of Investment Fund Demonstration Projects that will include results indicators and the status of replication activities at national level.
- Review the annual expenditure and progress report submitted by the SP Focal Points under the Country Support Programme.

237. The **Strategic Partnership Coordination Group (SPCG)** will be responsible for the overall coordination of the Strategic Partnership. The CG's basic function is to ensure effective exchanges and synergy between the Regional Component and the Investment Fund of the SP. It will monitor the linkages between the two components, so that potential synergies can be exploited. It will oversee the design and implementation of replication strategies and provide advice on the IF pipeline. The CG will discuss, and make its recommendations regarding IF pre-pipeline and project concepts. Such recommendations, as well as the minutes of exchanges at partnership level, will be attached as a mandatory annex to the proposal (concept) submitted to the GEF for approval together with the WB response. Its membership will comprise of the MAP Coordinator (chair); representatives of the GEF Secretariat (IW, POPs); the Project Manager of the regional project; a representative of the UNEP/GEF Coordination Office; representatives of FAO and UNIDO, World Bank-GEF Regional Coordinators (ECA and MENA); and World Bank Task Managers.

238. In addition, the CG will review, and approve for submission to the SC, the following advancement reports:

- Advancement Reports of the Investment Fund and the status report of demonstration projects under implementation;
- Status reports submitted by each partner in the regional project; and
- Summary status reports of the regional project.

239. The CG will meet annually at the UNEP/MAP office in Athens, preferably in conjunction with regular MAP meetings of the parties but in advance of annual SPSC meetings.

240. To further increase support to participating countries and enhance country ownership, the PMU will develop a **Country Support Programme (SPCSP)** along the lines of the GEF Country Support Program to Focal Points (CSP). Limited funds will be available to strengthen the capacity of the SP focal points to carry out their mandates for the support of SP activities effectively in their respective countries.

One of the major and most important tasks of the country representatives (SP Focal Points) will be the establishment and functioning of inter-ministerial committees.

241. An amount of up to US\$ 4,000 will be provided annually to each country for the purposes of the SPCSP for the total duration of the Strategic Partnership (*i.e.*, up to US\$ 20,000 in total).

242. Memoranda of agreement between UNEP/MAP and each country will be prepared and signed to facilitate the transfer of funds to an appropriate national agency.

243. SP Focal Points will submit to the SPSC for approval an annual workplan outlining activities to be undertaken. At the end of each year, the SP Focal Points will submit an annual expenditure report and an annual progress report together with the workplan for the following year.

Figure 1. The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean LME

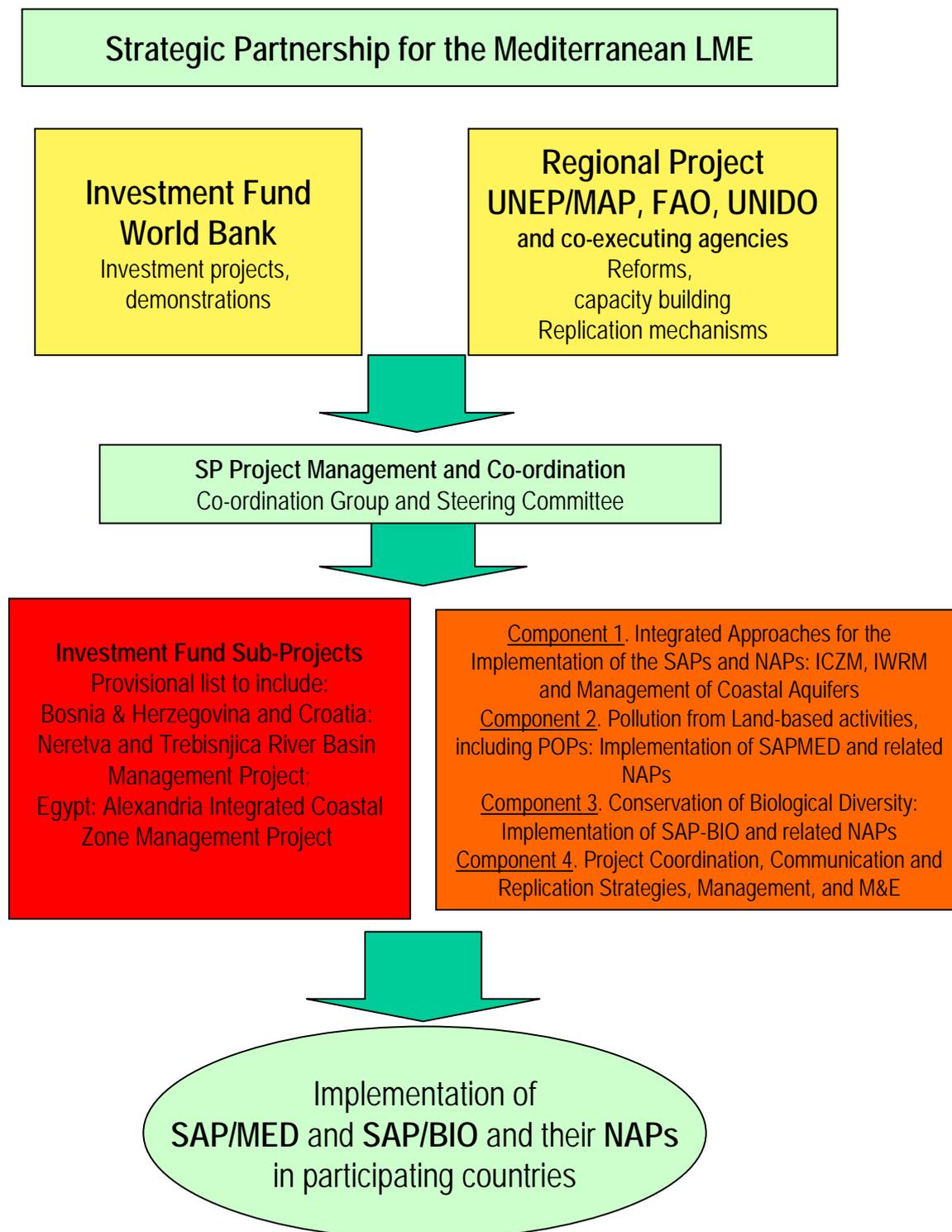
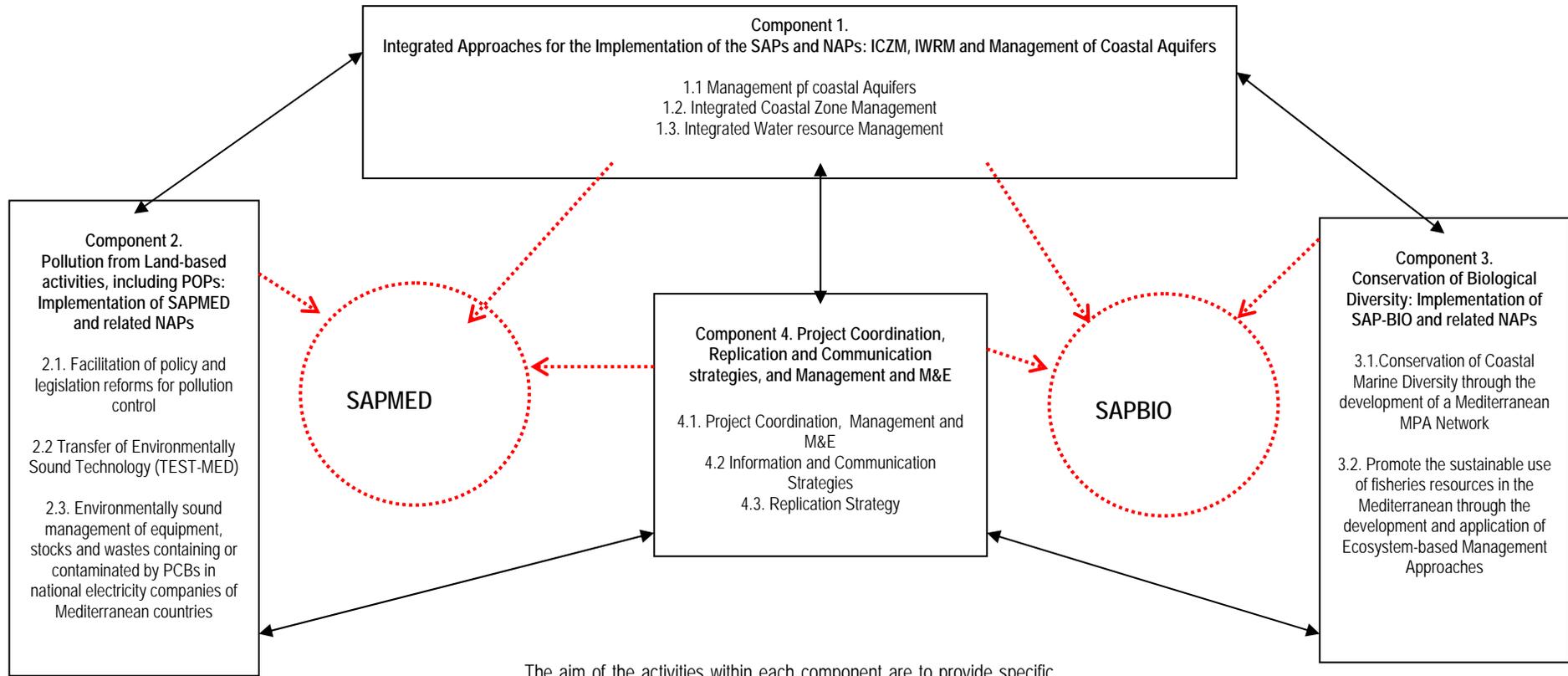


Figure 2. SP – Regional Component: Overall structure of project components and their relationship to the implementation of SAPMED and SAPBIO



The aim of the activities within each component are to provide specific measures to support countries in the implementation of their NAPs, and the above diagram gives a broad overview of how the various project components will support SAP/MED and SAP/BIO

INCREMENTAL COSTS AND PROJECT FINANCING

244. Table 3 presents a summary of baseline and incremental costs. A more detailed analysis of incremental costs and discussion of domestic and incremental benefits is contained in Annex A. As noted in Annex A, benefits under this project will accrue at the global, regional and national levels. Major environmental benefits are anticipated to arise through enhancement of the capacity of participating governments to manage their environment in a regionally harmonised manner and address identified priority issues in an accelerated manner through the rapid implementation of SAP-MED and SAP-BIO.

245. Adopting a regional approach to concerted action carries with it transaction costs associated with networking national institutions, organizations and governments. Not all of such costs are strictly incremental because national benefits derive from the sharing of regional experiences. Nevertheless, it is certainly the case that, without a GEF intervention, such costs would not be met because they result in little direct national benefit. The countries of the region are clearly committed to a regional approach as evidenced by their previous commitment to regional activities and agreements. The costs of actions that result in direct national benefit are those associated with the demonstration activities where the countries concerned will undoubtedly derive national benefit from the interventions. A discussion of domestic and incremental benefits for each project component and sub-component is contained in Annex A.

246. Table 4 presents the project budget and component financing. The total cost of the project (including the PDF-B phase) is **44,456,700** USD. Significant co-financing is assured from a number of sources, subject to the approval of core funding by the GEF. Participating country co-financing amounts at present to 11,527,500 USD (of which 8,300,000 USD is secured) but this number will increase between the submission date of the PDF-B and the beginning of the Full Scale Project.

Table 3. Baseline and Incremental Costs

Item/Component/Sub-Component/Activity	Baseline \$	Alternate \$	Increment \$
Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM, and management of coastal aquifer	10,210,000	19,394,700	9,184,700
Sub-Component 1.1: Management of Coastal Aquifers and groundwater	1,110,000	6,680,000	4,670,000
Sub-Component 1.2: Integrated Coastal Zone Management	8,850,000	10,964,700	2,114,700
Sub-Component 1.3: Integrated Water Resource Management	250,000	1,750,000	1,500,000
Component 2. Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs	37,300,000	46,696,000	9,396,000
Sub-Component 2.1: Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control	7,755,000	9,751,000	1,996,000
Sub-Component 2.2: Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST)	27,345,000	29,745,000	2,400,000
Sub-Component 2.3 Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries	2,200,000	7,200,000	5,000,000
Component 3: Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAPBIO and related NAPs	3,450,000	9,200,000	5,750,000
Sub-Component 3.1: Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network	1,650,000	5,885,000	4,235,000
Sub-Component 3.2: Promotion of the Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in the Mediterranean through Ecosystem-based Management Approaches	1,800,000	3,315,000	1,515,000
Component 4: Project Coordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E	29,343,000	36,879,500	7,536,500
Sub-Component 4.1 Project Coordination, Management and M&E: Activities 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.1.8, 4.1.9	-	3,675,000	3,675,000
Activity 4.1.4 Financial Resource Mobilization	27,043,000	27,673,000	630,000
Activity 4.1.10 NGO involvement in the region	-	300,000	300,000
Sub-Component 4.2: Information and Communications Strategies	-	961,000	961,000
Sub-Component 4.3: Replication Strategy	2,300,000	4,351,500	2,051,500
TOTAL	80,303,000	112,251,200	31,948,200

Table 4. Project Budget Summary and Component Financing in US \$

Component, Sub-Component	GEF Financing (Net)	Co-financing				Project Total
		Bi-lateral Governments	Participating Countries	Other	Total	
PDF-B Phase summary	700,000	292,500		966,000	1,258,000	1,958,500
Full Scale Project						
Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM, and management of coastal aquifer	3,220,000	1,500,000	1,287,500	3,177,200	5,964,700	9,184,700
<i>Sub-Component 1.1 Management of Coastal Aquifer and Groundwater</i>	1,770,000	1,500,000	300,000	2,000,000	3,800,000	5,570,000
<i>Sub-Component 1.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management</i>	950,000	0	937,500	227,200	1,164,700	2,114,700
<i>Sub-Component 1.3 Integrated Water Resource Management</i>	500,000	0	50,000	950,000	1,000,000	1,500,000
Component 2. Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs	4,400,000	600,000	640,000	3,756,000	4,996,000	9,396,000
<i>Sub-Component 2.1 Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control</i>	950,000	0	40,000	1,006,000	1,046,000	1,996,000
<i>Sub-Component 2.2 Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST)</i>	1,000,000	600,000	50,000	750,000	1,400,000	2,400,000
<i>Sub-Component 2.3 Support to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on disposal of PCB stockpiles in Mediterranean countries</i>	2,450,000	0	550,000	2,000,000	2,550,000	5,000,000
Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs	800,000 from IW	4,400,000	800,000	800,000	6,000,000	6,800,000
<i>Sub-Component 3.1 Conservation of Coastal and Marine Diversity through Development of a Mediterranean MPA Network</i>	42,500			42,500	42,500	85,000
<i>Sub-Component 3.2 Promotion of the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean through ecosystem-based Management Approaches</i>	757,500	0	0	757,500	757,500	1,515,000
<i>Financing for the Biodiversity Component</i>	0	4,400,000	800,000	600,000	5,800,000	5,800,000
Component 4. Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E	4,471,000	0	500,000	2,746,500	3,246,500	7,717,500
<i>Sub-Component 4.1 Project Co-ordination, Management and M&E</i>	2,851,000	0	500,000	1,254,000	1,754,000	4,605,000
<i>Sub-Component 4.2 Information and Communication strategies</i>	530,000	0	0	431,000	431,000	961,000
<i>Sub-Component 4.3 Replication strategy</i>	1,090,000	0	0	961,500	961,500	2,051,500
<i>Financing for the overall Regional Component</i>		0	8,300,000	600,000	8,900,000	8,900,000
Total (excluding PDF-B phase)	12,891,000	7,100,000	11,527,500	10,979,700	29,607,200	42,498,200

247. GEF Contribution for the full scale project is 12,891,000 USD, divided among following GEF Focal Areas:

- International Waters (OP#9): 9,991,000 USD
- POPs (OP #14): 2,900,000 USD²⁹

²⁹ Please note that of this 2.9 M USD, 200,000 USD have been taken for Replication Strategy (Sub-Component 4.3) and 250,000 USD for Project Management (Sub-Component 4.1)

Table 5. Project Activities and budget

Component/Sub-Component/Activity	Co-financing USD	GEF USD	Total USD	Co-executing Agencies
PDF –B Phase	1,118,500	700,000	1,818,500	All
FULL SCALE PROJECT				
Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM, and management of coastal aquifer				UNESCO, PAPA/RAC, METAP, GWP-Med
Sub-Component 1.1 Management of Coastal Aquifer and Groundwater				UNESCO, PAPA/RAC, GWP-Med
<i>1.1.1 Assessment of coastal aquifer risk and uncertainty and mapping of their vulnerability</i>	1,100,000	625,000	1,725,000	
1.1.1.1 Assessment of risk and uncertainty related to the Mediterranean coastal aquifer	400,000	125,000	525,000	UNESCO
1.1.1.2 Coastal aquifer vulnerability mapping: Pilot Project in one selected country	600,000	400,000	1,000,000	UNESCO
1.1.1.3 Coastal aquifer supplement to TDA-MED: Development of a coastal TDA supplement	100,000	100,000	200,000	UNESCO
<i>1.1.2 Regional actions for Coastal Aquifer Management</i>	2,000,000	775,000	2,775,000	
1.1.2.1 Development of a regional Action Plan on Coastal Aquifers	100,000	100,000	200,000	UNESCO
1.1.2.2 Integration of groundwater management in ICZM and IWRM planning systems	300,000	100,000	400,000	UNESCO, PAP/RAC and GWP-Med
1.1.2.3 Identification and planning of coastal groundwater demonstrations	300,000	200,000	500,000	UNESCO
1.1.2.4 Sustainable Coastal Land Management	900,000	0	900,000	UNESCO
1.1.2.5 Eco-hydrogeology applications for management and protection of coastal wetlands	300,000	200,000	500,000	UNESCO
1.1.2.6 Coastal aquifer supplement to SAP MED, SAP BIO and NAPs	100,000	175,000	275,000	UNESCO
<i>1.1.3 Legal, Institutional and policy reform for Coastal Aquifer Management</i>	700,000	370,000	1,070,000	
1.1.3.1 Policy/legal/institutional regional assessment for coastal aquifer management	350,000	170,000	520,000	UNESCO
1.1.3.2 Policy/legal/institutional reform, institutional development and mechanism for coastal aquifer management	350,000	200,000	550,000	UNESCO
Sub Total Sub-Component 1.1	3,800,000	1,770,000	4,670,000	
Sub-Component 1.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management				PAP/RAC, METAP
<i>1.2.1 Support activities in preparation of National ICZM Strategies and NAPs</i>	670,200	565,000	1,235,200	
1.2.1.1 Strengthening the role of ICZM as a policy framework for WRM and biodiversity protection on the regional level	105,000	107,400	212,400	PAP/RAC
1.2.1.2 Support to the preparation	252,000	193,000	445,000	PAP/RAC

Component/Sub-Component/Activity	Co-financing USD	GEF USD	Total USD	Co-executing Agencies
of ICZM NAPs				
1.2.1.3 Harmonizing national institutional arrangements and legislation with ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean	32,000	51,000	83,000	PAP/RAC
1.2.1.4 Developing/strengthening of coastal legislation in the Mediterranean (notably national Coastal Laws)	156,600	86,500	243,100	METAP
1.2.1.5 Use of Cost of Environmental Degradation (COED) as an ICZM tool	124,600	127,100	251,700	METAP
<i>1.2.2 Application of ICZM approach, tools, and techniques in demonstration areas</i>	<i>494,500</i>	<i>385,000</i>	<i>879,500</i>	PAP/RAC, UNESCO and GWP-Med
1.2.2.1 ICZM Plans to demonstrate ICZM approach, tools and techniques in selected areas	407,500	345,000	752,500	PAP/RAC
1.2.2.2 Capacity building for effective implementation and sustainable financing of pilot ICZM projects	65,000	27,000	92,000	PAP/RAC
1.2.2.3 Coordination and harmonization of ICZM component with other components' activities in demo projects	22,000	13,000	35,000	PAP/RAC, UNESCO and GWP-Med
Sub Total Sub-Component 1.2	1,164,700	950,000	2,114,700	
Sub-Component 1.3 Integrated Water Resource Management				GWP-Med
1.3.1 Develop Action Plan for IWRM in the Mediterranean	150,000	80,000	230,000	GWP-Med
1.3.2 Catalyze Action and Build capacity on National IWRM Planning in 2 target countries	600,000	200,000	800,000	GWP-Med
1.3.3 Develop an IRBM in globally important river basin(s) and adjacent coastal area	230,000	200,000	430,000	GWP-Med
1.3.4 Preparation of Short list of Transboundary Basins and Water issues	20,000	20,000	40,000	GWP-Med
Sub Total Sub-Component 1.3	1,000,000	500,000	1,500,000	
Sub Total Component 1	5,964,700	3,220,000	9,184,700	
Component 2. Pollution from land based activities: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs				MEDPOL
<i>Sub-Component 2.1(a) Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control - Industrial pollution pilot projects</i>				MEDPOL
2.1.1 Phosphogypsum slurry management in Lebanon, Tunisia and Syria	140,000	120,000	260,000	MEDPOL
2.1.2 Chromium and BOD control in tanneries	190,000	170,000	360,000	MEDPOL
2.1.3 Lubricating oil recycling and regeneration in the majority of the countries	160,000	150,000	310,000	MEDPOL
2.1.4 Lead batteries recycling in the majority of the countries	140,000	124,000	264,000	MEDPOL
2.1.5 Assessment of riverine inputs of nutrients	130,000	90,000	220,000	MEDPOL
2.1.6 Setting Emission Limit Value (ELV) in industrial effluents and	150,000	120,000	270,000	MEDPOL

Component/Sub-Component/Activity	Co-financing USD	GEF USD	Total USD	Co-executing Agencies
Environmental Quality Standards (EQS)				
Sub Total Sub-Component 2.1(a) - Industrial pollution	910,000	774,000	1,684,000	MEDPOL
<i>Sub-Component 2.1(b) Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control - Permit, Inspections and Compliance Systems</i>				MEDPOL
2.1.7 Meetings among agencies responsible for permitting, inspections and enforcement	28,000	28,000	56,000	MEDPOL
2.1.8 Training workshops to provide practical guidance and uniformity on inspecting	80,000	120,000	200,000	MEDPOL
2.1.9 National final meeting for the assessment and feedback for the formulation of amendments	28,000	28,000	56,000	MEDPOL
Sub Total Sub-Component 2.1 - Permit, Inspection and Compliance System	136,000	176,000	312,000	
Sub Total Sub-Component 2.1	1,046,000	950,000	1,996,000	
Sub-Component 2.2 Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST)				UNIDO
2.2.1 Set up national focal points	65,000	0	65,000	UNIDO
2.2.2 Introduction of the TEST integrated approach	144,000	0	144,000	UNIDO
2.2.3 Set-up of the information management system	115,000	0	115,000	UNIDO
2.2.4 Identification and selection of demonstration enterprises	107,000	0	107,000	UNIDO
2.2.5 Preparation of initial review at demonstration enterprises including market and financial viability and initial environmental review	209,000	0	209,000	UNIDO
2.2.6 Implementation of a Cleaner Production Assessment (CPA)	30,000	269,000	299,000	UNIDO
2.2.7 Introduction of EMS principles and design of EMS at demonstration enterprises	48,000	277,000	325,000	UNIDO
2.2.8 Introduction of Environmental Management Accounting practices and design	15,000	237,000	252,000	UNIDO
2.2.9 Preparation and promotion of EST projects	215,000	217,000	432,000	UNIDO
2.2.10 Introduction of basic principles for the preparation of enterprise sustainable strategies (SES)	166,000	0	166,000	UNIDO
2.2.11 Preparation of National Publication on the application of the TEST approach	70,000	0	70,000	UNIDO
2.2.12 Organization of national seminars	59,000	0	59,000	UNIDO
2.2.13 Organization of introductory seminars on TEST approach at other enterprises in each country	55,000	0	55,000	UNIDO
2.2.14 Organization of a regional workshop to present the results of TEST-Med projects	69,000	0	69,000	UNIDO
2.2.15 Starting of networking activities	33,000	0	33,000	UNIDO
Sub Total Sub-Component 2.2	1,400,000	1,000,000	2,400,000	

Component/Sub-Component/Activity	Co-financing USD	GEF USD	Total USD	Co-executing Agencies
Sub-Component 2.3 Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries				MEDPOL and CP/RAC
2.3.1 Legislative and institutional framework for implementation of ESM of PCBs	450,000	500,000	950,000	MEDPOL
2.3.2 Demonstration projects to improve the management programme of PCBs and facilitate the implementation of NIPs and MED-SAP	750,000	1,350,000	2,100,000	MEDPOL
2.3.3 Awareness of importance of ESM of PCBs equipment	150,000	150,000	300,000	CP/RAC
2.3.4 Technical capacity for ESM of PCBs equipment	700,000	250,000	950,000	CP/RAC
2.3.5 National capacity to implement PCBs phase-out and disposal programs	500,000	200,000	700,000	MEDPOL
Sub Total Sub-Component 2.3	2,550,000	2,450,000	5,000,000	
Total Component 2	4,996,000	4,400,000	9,396,000	
3. Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs				UNEP/MAP, RAC/SPA, FAO/GFCM, WWF-MedPo
3.1.1 Establishment of coordination mechanism for regional MPA management				UNEP/MAP, RAC/SPA
3.1.2 Identification and planning new MPAs Network	42,500	42,500 (from IW)	85,000	RAC/SPA, FAO/GFCM
3.1.3 Improved MPA management				RAC/SPA, WWF
3.1.4 Regional MPA Monitoring System				WWF-MedP
3.1.5 Ensuring Financial Suitability				RAC/SPA, WWF-Med
3.1.6 Support to the Legal Governance				RAC/SPA
Sub-Total Sub-Component 3.1	42,500	42,500	85,000	
Sub-Component 3.2 Promotion of the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean through ecosystem-based Management Approaches				FAO/GFCM
<i>3.2.1 Regional ecosystem approach to fisheries management</i>	<i>200,000</i>	<i>200,000</i>	<i>400,000</i>	FAO/GFCM
3.2.1.1 Identify regional EAF priorities	25,000	25,000	5,000	FAO/GFCM
3.2.1.2 Apply EAF to fisheries management	75,000	75,000	150,000	FAO/GFCM
3.2.1.3 Legal reform for EAF implementation	100,000	100,000	200,000	FAO/GFCM
<i>3.2.2 Bycatch reduction at fleet level</i>				FAO/GFCM
3.2.2.1 Bycatch reduction at fleet level	62,500	132,500	195,000	FAO/GFCM
3.2.2.2 Demonstrate bycatch mitigation solutions	340,000	385,000	725,000	FAO/GFCM
<i>3.2.3 Address unsustainable fisheries practices in MPAs</i>	<i>155,000</i>	<i>40,000</i>	<i>195,000</i>	FAO/GFCM
3.2.3.1 Identify areas with significant impacts	155,000	40,000	195,000	FAO/GFCM

Component/Sub-Component/Activity	Co-financing USD	GEF USD	Total USD	Co-executing Agencies
Financing for the overall BD component	5,800,000	0	5,800,000	
Sub-Total Sub-Component 3.2	757,500	757,500	1,515,000	
Total Component 3	6,600,000	800,000	7,400,000	
Component 4. Project Management, Co-ordination, Communication and Replication Strategies				UNEP/MAP, WB, MEDPOL, MIO-ECSDE
4.1.1 Project Management Unit	610,000	1,281,000	1,891,000	UNEP/MAP
4.1.2 Strategic Partnership Steering Committee (SPSC)	35,000	275,000	310,000	UNEP/MAP, WB
4.1.3 Strategic Partnership Coordination Group (SPCG) + WB personnel	160,000	210,000	370,000	UNEP/MAP, WB
4.1.4 Sustainable Financial Mechanism	230,000	400,000	630,000	WB, MEDPOL, METAP
4.1.5 Long term Sustainability ³⁰	0	0	0	UNEP/MAP
4.1.6 Inter agencies meetings	35,000	0	35,000	UNEP/MAP
4.1.7 Mid Term Stocktaking Meeting	71,000	0	71,000	UNEP/MAP, WB
4.1.8 Auditing, Evaluation and Reporting	73,000	275,000	348,000	UNEP/MAP, WB
4.1.9 Country Support Program. (SPCSP)	390,000	260,000	650,000	UNEP/MAP
4.1.10 NGO mobilization	150,000	150,000	300,000	MIO-ECSDE
Sub Total Sub-Component 4.1	1,754,000	2,851,000	4,605,000	
Sub-Component 4.2 Information and Communication strategies				INFO/RAC
4.2.1 Design and preparation of IC campaigns, information materials (brochures, leaflets, etc.)	81,000	120,000	201,000	INFO/RAC
4.2.2 Design, production and updating of on line LMA magazine	75,000	110,000	185,000	INFO/RAC
4.2.3 Participation to selected national/international events	120,000	130,000	250,000	INFO/RAC
4.2.4 Planning of "ad hoc" audiovisual campaigns for wide media dissemination	155,000	170,000	325,000	INFO/RAC
Sub Total Sub-Component 4.2	431,000	530,000	961,000	
Sub-Component 4.3 Replication strategy				INFO/RAC
4.3.1 <i>Guiding the replication process</i>	55,500	80,000	135,500	INFO/RAC
4.3.1.1 Creation of a Med-LME Project Replication Team	55,500	80,000	135,500	INFO/RAC
4.3.2 <i>Collecting information</i>	500,000	450,000	950,000	INFO/RAC
4.3.2.1 Developing an ICT Platform, data collection, database, monitoring and updating	500,000	450,000	950,000	INFO/RAC
4.3.3 <i>Information analysis, sharing and dissemination</i>	235,000	335,000	570,000	INFO/RAC
4.3.3.1 Information analysis, selection of PMAs and dissemination	75,000	135,000	210,000	INFO/RAC
4.3.3.2 Organization of 2 Replication meetings	40,000	60,000	100,000	INFO/RAC
4.3.3.3 Design and implementation of dissemination mechanism and partnership building	80,000	80,000	160,000	INFO/RAC
4.3.3.4 Organization of a regional conference	40,000	60,000	100,000	INFO/RAC

³⁰ This activity has no budget allocation since it will be executed within activities 4.1.2, 4.1.3, and 4.1.4

Component/Sub-Component/Activity	Co-financing USD	GEF USD	Total USD	Co-executing Agencies
4.3.4 <i>Replication potential assessment</i>	141,000	150,000	291,000	INFO/RAC
4.3.4.1 Design and implementation of a Replication Scoring System	141,000	150,000	291,000	INFO/RAC
4.3.5 <i>Catalyzing implementation</i>	30,000	75,000	105,000	INFO/RAC
4.3.5.1 Initial facilitation of on-site project development	30,000	75,000	105,000	INFO/RAC
Sub Total Sub-Component 4.3	961,500	1,090,000	2,051,500	
Sub Total Component 4	3,146,500	4,471,000	7,617,500	
Financing for the overall Regional Component	8,900,000	0	8,900,000	
Total Component 1+2+3+4+ PDF B Phase	30,865,700	13,591,000	44,456,700	
Total Component 1+2+3+4 (excluding PDF-B phase)	29,607,200	12,891,000	42,498,200	

Table 6. Programme Co-financing Detail

Co-financing Sources				
Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Status
Government of Tunisia/ Sub-Component 1.1	Government	In kind	100,000	Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007
Government of Montenegro/ Sub-Component 1.1	Government	In kind	100,000	Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007
Government of Croatia/ Sub-Component 1.1	Government	In kind	100,000	Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007
Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea/ Sub-Component 1.1	Government	Cash	600,000	Letter of Commitment 08/03/07
UNESCO/ Sub-Component 1.1	UN Organization	Cash	800,000	Letter of Commitment 20/03/07
Government of Sweden/ Sub-Component 1.1	Government	Cash	200,000	Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007
FFEM – France/ Sub-Component 1.1	Government	Cash	500,000	Letter of Commitment 21/03/07
Ministry of Environment, Spain/ Sub-Component 1.1	Government	Cash	200,000	Under Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007
FAO-TCP/ Sub-Component 1.1	United Nations Organization	In kind	300,000	Letter of Commitment 21/03/07
African Development Bank-African Water Facility/ Sub-Component 1.1	Regional Development Bank	Cash	400,000	Under Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007
European Space Agency/ Sub-Component 1.1	International organization	Cash and in kind	500,000	Under Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007
PAP-RAC/ Sub-Component 1.2	UN Regional Center/ Co-executing Agency	Cash/In kind	152,000	Letter of Commitment 07/03/07
METAP/ Sub-Component 1.2	Intergovernmental Organization	Cash and In Kind (mostly)	75,200	Final confirmation still pending
Participating Countries/ Sub-Component 1.2	Governments	In kind	937,500 (210,000 Montenegro)	Montenegro: confirmed Tunisia: under

Co-financing Sources				
Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Status
			+...)	negotiation Lebanon: still pending
UNEP UCC Water, EC and GWP-MED/Sub-Component 1.3IWRM	United Nations Organization and Intergovernmental Organization	Cash and In Kind	600,000	Letter of Commitment 05/03/07
GWP-Med/Sub-Component 1.3IWRM	NGOs	In Kind	20,000	Letter of Commitment 05/03/07
Participating Countries/Sub-Component 1.3IWRM	Governments/ National Institutions	In kind	50,000	Letter of Commitment 05/03/07
Med EUWI Programme/Sub-Component 1.3IWRM	European Commission	Cash	230,000	Letter of Commitment 05/03/07
Med EUWI/Sub-Component 1.3 IWRM	European Commission	Cash	100,000	Letter of Commitment 05/03/07
Participating Countries/Sub-Components 2.1 Policy	Governments/ National Institutions	In Kind	40,000	Final confirmation still pending
Mediterranean Trust Fund/Sub-Components 2.1 Policy	Multilateral Agency	Cash (82%) and in kind	1,006,000	Letter of Commitment 20/03/07
Mediterranean Trust Fund /Sub-Components 2.3 POPs	Multilateral Agency	Cash (82%) and in kind	2,000,000	Letter of Commitment 20/03/07
Participating Countries/Sub-Component 2.3 POPs	Governments/ National Institutions	In kind	550,000	Confirmed
Participating Countries/ Sub-Components 2.2 TEST	Governments/ National Institutions	In kind	50,000	Final confirmation still pending
Italian Government/ Sub-Components 2.2 TEST	Government	Cash	600,000	Final confirmation still pending
Demonstration enterprises/ Sub-Components 2.2 TEST	Private sectors	In kind	127,000	Final confirmation still pending
UNIDO and Italian Government/ Sub-Components 2.2TEST	UN Agency / Co-executing Agency and Government	Cash and in kind	623,000	Final confirmation still pending
Syria - Ministry of Local Administration and Environment/BD-Component 3	Government	In kind	250,000	Letter of commitment 12/3/07
Albania - Ministry Environment, Forests and Waters Administration/Component 3	Government	In kind	100,000	Letter of commitment 03/3/07
Libya - Environmental General Committee/Component3	Government	In kind	200,000	Letter of commitment 20/3/07
Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations	Government	In kind	250,000	Letter of commitment 19/3/07
France – Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development/Component 3	Government	Cash	1,400,000	Letter of commitment 20/3/07
Government of Spain/ Spanish Agency for International Cooperation. Component 3	Government	Cash	3,000,000	Letter of commitment 20/03/07
SPA/RAC - Component 3	UN Agency / Co-executing Agency	Cash and in kind	600,000	Letter of commitment 22/03/07
FAO/GFCM/ Sub-Component 3.1 and 3.2	United Nations Organization/ Co-	In kind	800,000	Final confirmation still pending

Co-financing Sources				
Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Status
	executing Agency			
UNEP-MAP/Sub-Component 4.1/Activity 4.1.1	United Nations Organization	In Kind	250,000	Letter of Commitment 21/03/07
UNEP-MAP/Sub-Component 4.1/ Activities 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.7	United Nations Organization	Cash	750,000	Letter of Commitment 21/03/07
Participating Countries/ Sub-Component 4.1/ Activity 4.1.8	Governments/ National Institutions	In kind	390,000	Final confirmation still pending
Mediterranean Trust Fund / Sub-Component 4.1/ Activity 4.1.4 Sustainable Financial Mechanism	United Nations Organization	Cash (82%) and in-kind	120,000	Letter of Commitment 20/03/07
Participating Countries/ Sub-Component 4.1/ Activity 4.1.4 Sustainable Financial Mechanism	Governments/ National Institutions	In Kind	110,000	Final confirmation still pending
INFO RAC/Sub-Components 4.2 and 4.3	UN Regional Agency/Co-executing Agency	In kind	343,200	Letter of commitment 14/03/2007
Regional Government of Sicily Region, Italy/Sub-Components 4.2 and 4.3	National Institution	Cash and in kind	1,049,300 (Euro 800,000)	Letter of commitment 14/03/2007
MIO-ECSDE/Component 4.1/ Activity 4.1.9	NGO	Cash	150,000	Letter of Commitment 02/03/07
France – Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development/Regional Component	Government	Cash	600,000	Letter of commitment 20/3/07
Algeria - Ministry for Territory and Environment/Regional Component	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 10/3/07
Syria - Ministry of Local Administration and Environment/ Regional Component	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 11/3/07
Morocco - Ministry for Territory, Water and Environment/ Regional Component	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 07/3/07
Tunisia - Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development/ Regional Component	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 15/3/07
Libya – Environment general Authority/Regional Component	Government	In kind	800,000	Letter of commitment 20/3/07
Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations	Government	In kind	1,000,000	Letter of commitment 22/3/07
Croatia – ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction//Regional Component	Government	In kind	2,500,000	Letter of commitment 22/3/07
Total co-financing			29,607,200	

Please note that the amount of secured co-financing for the project, as of the 22nd March 2007, is 23,720,500 US\$

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION

248. Standard Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established UNEP, UNIDO, FAO and GEF procedures. M&E will be provided by the project team and the responsible UNEP, UNIDO and FAO Task Manager, or by Independent Evaluators in the case of the Mid-Term and Terminal Evaluations. The Logical Framework Matrix in Annex B provides process and stress reduction indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification and assumptions and risks. The M&E Plan is presented in Annex E, with more detailed process and stress reduction indicators for project activities along with their targets, means of verification and location of action. Environmental status indicators will be developed under a separate activity under Component 4.1. Project Co-ordination and Management. These indicators will be monitored on a regular basis as part of ongoing monitoring programs for pollution parameters (undertaken by MEDPOL) and biological diversity (undertaken by SPA/RAC) which will be adapted for the purpose of the projects monitoring.

249. During the inception period of the project, the M&E plan and indicators will be reviewed and finalized along with baseline data for process and stress reduction indicators. In the monitoring process, half-yearly activity and demonstration reports will be submitted to UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, UNEP-MAP and the PMU by the responsible partners, and will include the status of activities and results from the monitoring of M&E indicators. These results will be compiled by the PMU and a yearly report will be sent to the SPSC approximately one month prior to the SPSC meeting. One of the aims of the SPSC is to review the following inputs for the Annual Implementation Review (PIR):

- An analysis of project performance over the reporting period, including outputs produced and, where possible, information on the status of the outcome
- The constraints experienced in the progress towards results and the reasons for these
- The three (at most) major constraints to achievement of results
- Annual Work Plans and related expenditure reports
- Lessons learned
- Clear recommendations for future orientation in addressing key problems in lack of progress

250. The Annex E outlines the principle components of Monitoring and Evaluation. The project's Monitoring and Evaluation approach will be discussed during the Project's Inception Report so as to provide a means of verification, and an explanation and full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.