



A New Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem



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INTRODUCTION

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 from aquifers) 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 on sources 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 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), 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 and a large number of activities for the protection of the marine environment have been implemented. As a result of the 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 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 and 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 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 Programmes (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), finalized and endorsed by the Contracting Parties 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.

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. Following that, a collective effort for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean - the **Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem** - is proposed to GEF for funding by UNEP and the World Bank. The strategic partnership is addressed to all the countries of the Mediterranean and to all international cooperation Agencies and donors. The 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 complementation 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).

The **long-term objective to which the Strategic Partnership** contributes is to create a partnership at the regional level for collaboration with the aim to reducing pollution from land-based sources and preserving the biodiversity and ecosystems of the Mediterranean from



degradation. The work will involve all stakeholders in the Mediterranean with special emphasis on enhancing capacity in governments to address environmental problems and to incorporate environmental considerations into national planning. The **objective of the Regional Component** is to support legal, policy and institutional reforms at the country and regional levels and assist countries in the implementation of the two Strategic Action Plans, SAP-MED and SAP-BIO, and related NAP priorities identified on the basis of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis. 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 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 programmes addressing SAPs; and the implementation of demonstration/pilot projects in a number of countries.

The project is composed of the following 5 components: (1) Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICM, 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; (4) Project Management and coordination, including replication and communication strategies; and (5) NGO and CBO mobilization and Small Grant Programme.

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 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

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 countries¹ 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.

Population growth, tourism and urbanization


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 non-coastal areas. Defined by its 234 coastal regions², 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.

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

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

2 Blue Plan's Environment and Development Outlook, 2005





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 with the EU countries having 90 percent of the GDP for the Mediterranean with GDP per capita values twelve times higher than in north African countries.

Loss of biodiversity and the unsustainable use of fisheries

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 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.

Major findings of the TDA

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.





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

MAP and the Barcelona Convention

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 Pollution³. The Barcelona Convention constitutes the legal framework of MAP. 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.

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.

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.

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.

The SAP-MED and SAP-BIO outline 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;

³ 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.





- > Base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, separate collection, recycling, composting and environmentally sound disposal in all cities and urban agglomerations exceeding 100,000 inhabitants and areas of concern by 2005 and for all urban areas by 2025.
- > 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;
- > Reduce by 50% inputs of the priority 12 POPs by 2005.⁴

In order to achieve SAP-MED targets in pollution reduction through the implementation of the NAPs, the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention prepared firstly 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 endorsed by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2005. The costs of priority

⁴ 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





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 GDP⁵ (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.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES/COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The project comprises the following five components:

- > Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICM, 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
- > Component 4. Project Management and coordination, including replication and communication strategies;
- > Component 5. NGO and CBO mobilization and Small Grant Programme.

Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICM, IWRM and management of Coastal Aquifers

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 ICM and IWRM and the full participation of NGOs. All activities regarding ICM, IWRM and coastal aquifers will be carried out in collaboratively and will include joint demonstration projects at selected sites. It is divided as follows:

- 1.1. Management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater**
- 1.2. Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)**
- 1.3. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)**

Expected Results

The expected results will include the following:

- > Legal, institutional and policy reforms related to the inclusion of biodiversity and pollution concerns into ICM, 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 ICM and IWRM demonstrations in a selected river basin and a coastal zone;

5 World Bank estimates 2004 and METAP Country COED Reports



- > Hydro-geological management plans and guidelines developed and implemented in 2 pilot wetlands;
- > ICM NAPs prepared in at least two countries;
- > ICM institutions established/strengthened in at least two countries;
- > COED assessment prepared for two countries and the results disseminated;
- > ICM plans drafted, finalized and disseminated in two areas to address the protection of biodiversity and the prevention of marine pollution;
- > ICARM plan and demonstration project implemented in one area (in collaboration with IWRM and Coastal Aquifers) and the results, including priority investments and pre-feasibility outlines, disseminated;
- > Regional action plan for IWRM drafted and adopted;
- > IWRM priority interventions and investment opportunities identified in approximately 20 shared water bodies and international workshops convened for six shared water-bodies;
- > IWRM financial strategies and assessments completed for ten countries;
- > Country dialogues on meeting MDG and WSSD targets completed in four countries.

Component 2.

Pollution from Land-based Activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: implementation of SAP-MED and related naps

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 five 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. Reduction of marine litter;**
- 2.4. Transfer of environmentally sound technology (TEST-MED);**
- 2.5. Support to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention regarding the disposal of PCB stockpiles in Mediterranean countries.**

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 marine litter and 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;
- > Policy briefs and guidelines for the sustainable financing of SAP-MED and 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;
- > Management plans and guidelines prepared, adopted and implemented for phosphogypsum dumping, releases of waste from tanneries, recycling of used lubricating oils and lead batteries and for reducing the entry of marine litter to the coastal zone;
- > Environmentally sound technology implemented in demonstrations within the industrial sector that result in higher productivity and reduced contaminant loads;
- > Significant reductions in the entry of solid wastes to the marine environment;
- > Increased recycling of used lubricating oils and lead batteries at pilot sites;
- > Reduction of releases of PCBs from electrical companies.

Component 3.

Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP-BIO and related NAPs

This components has been designed to facilitate the implementation of the SAP-BIO, including the National Action Plans (NAPs) in 12 countries⁶. The main goal is to assist the country partners to implement the prioritized elements of the SAP-BIO through the provision of a series of enabling activities at national, sub-regional and regional levels. It is divided in the following sub-components:

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

⁶ In alphabetical order: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Serbia & Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The Palestinian Authority will also participate.



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

Expected Results

The major expected results 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;
- > 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.

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;
- > Tools and capacity for the management of recognized Mediterranean coastal and marine bio-diversity 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;
- > A robust and practical legislative governance structure that supports the ecosystem approach to conservation and sustainable use in the Mediterranean.

Replication Strategy Outline

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.

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 are the planned phases:

- > Creation of Project Replication Team (PRT)
- > Developing an ICT Platform
- > Information Analysis and Dissemination
- > Organization of Annual Replication Meetings
- > Design and Implementation of Dissemination Mechanisms and Partnership Building
- > Organization of Regional Conferences
- > Design and Implementation of a Replication Scoring System
- > On-Site Facilitation and Capacity Development for Replication Purposes





Component 4: Project Management, Coordination, Communication and Replication

This component addresses the overall management and coordination of the project and the communication and replication activities of the Regional Component of the Strategic Partnership (RC/SP). 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 Management and Coordination**
- 4.2. Information and Communication Strategies**
- 4.3. Replication Strategy (see box for more details)**

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 campaigns for the provision of information to the general public (including civil society interest groups);
- > Project replication strategy designed and implemented
- > Replication potential assessments for demonstration and pilot projects completed with scoring to indicate their potential for replication;
- > Potential replication projects (PRPs) identified by 2008.

Component 5. NGO and CBO mobilization and Small Grants Programs

This component comprises a specific activity related to NGO mobilization and Small Grants Program. However, stakeholder participation in the Strategic Partnership is not limited to this specific activity.

The entire MAP system that lies at the heart of this project will ensure through its various structures substantial stakeholder participation. In-country activities under the Strategic Partnership Country Support Programme (SPCSP) will involve various public and private sector stakeholders drawn from local and national levels. Almost all activities in sub-components 4.2 and 4.3 dealing with information and communications and replication strategies will have a direct or indirect positive effect and will enhance stakeholder participation on various scales extending from local to national and regional and from public to private sectors. The activities foreseen within this project sub-component 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.

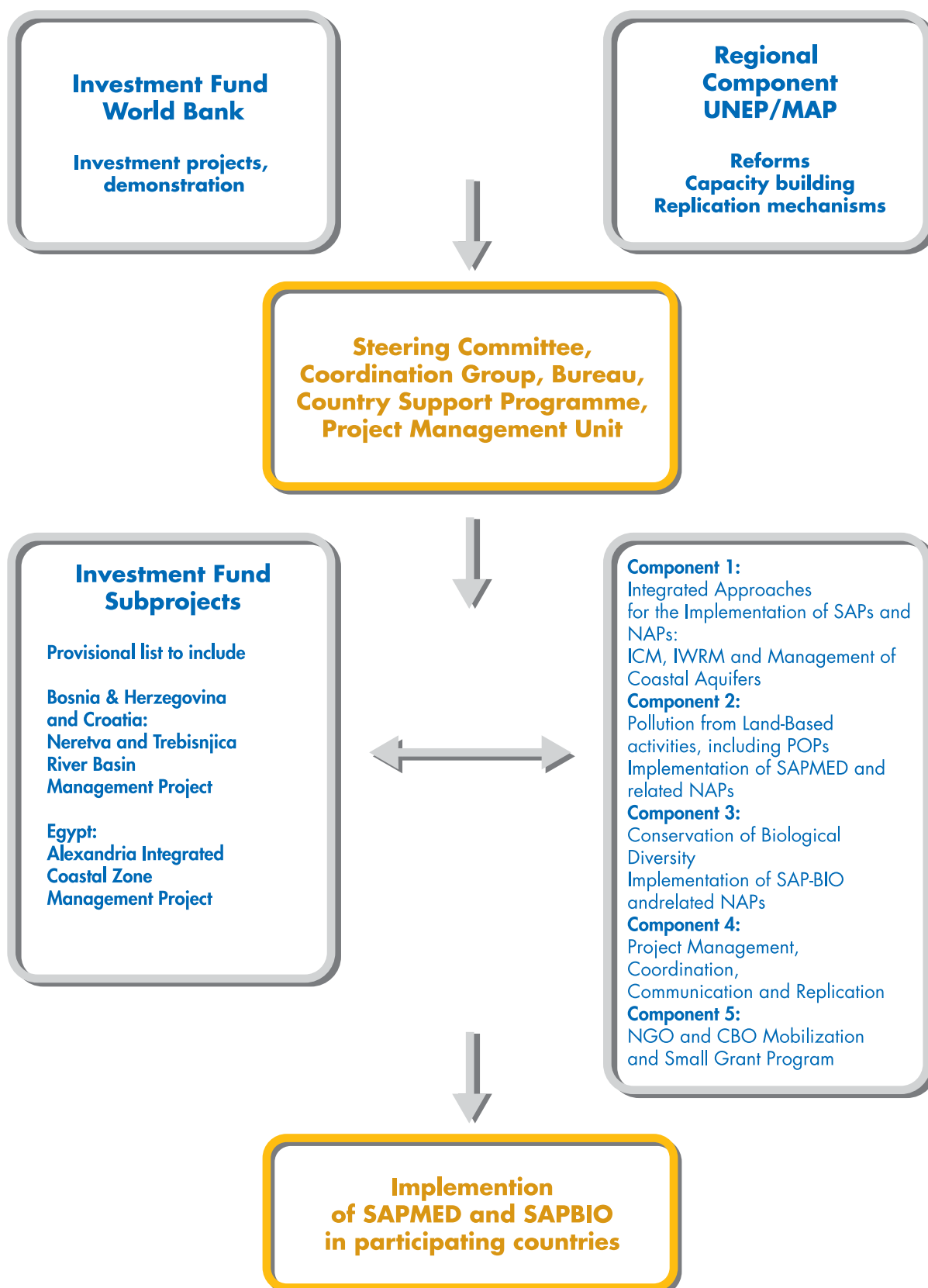
Expected Results

- > 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;
- > SGPMED small grants projects carried out with grantees being part of a wider Mediterranean network;
- > NGO involvement plan published and each project component is provided with guidance early in project implementation;
- > Knowledge products based on thematic lessons learned and best practice have been produced and widely distributed by the end of the project.

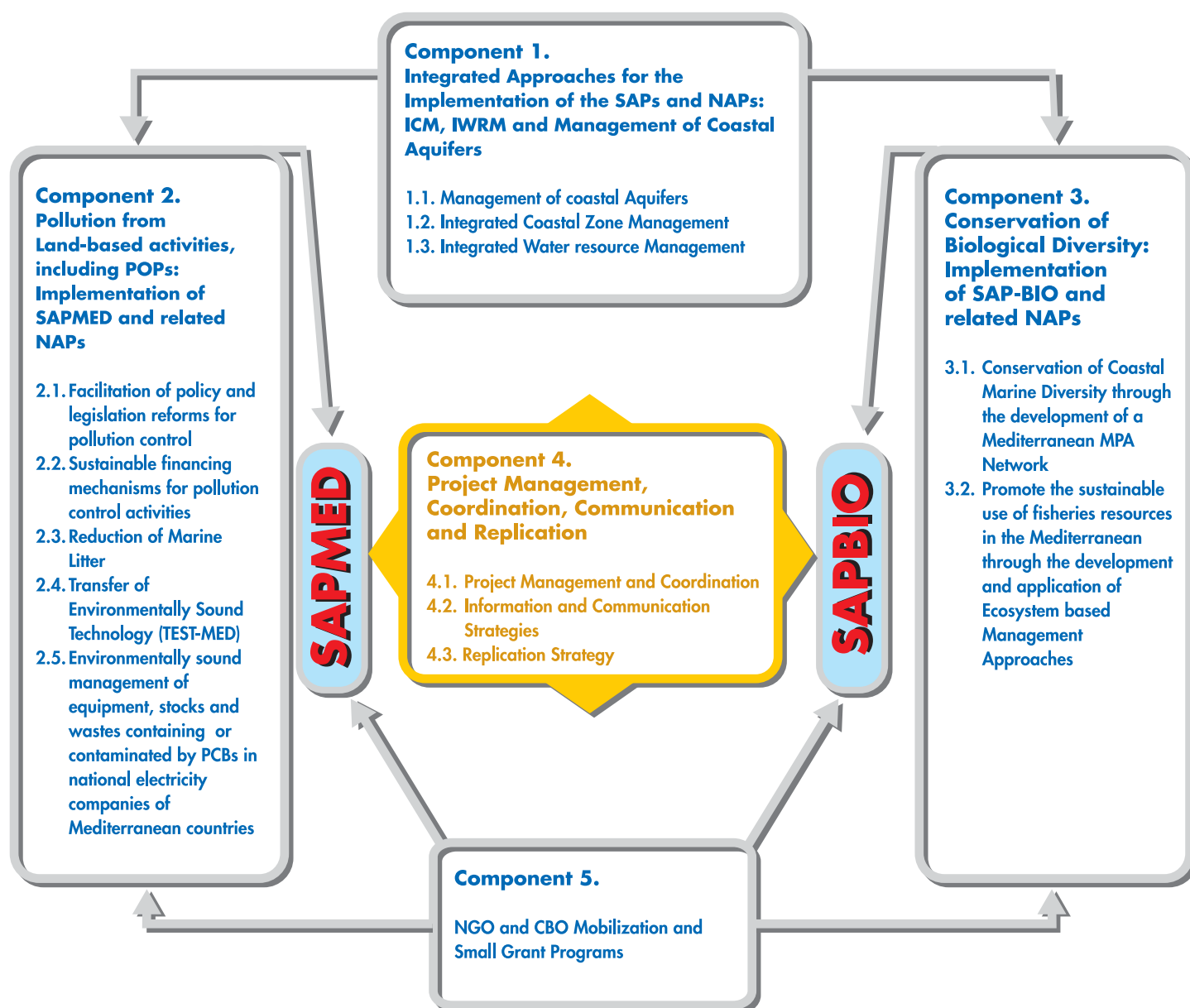




The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean LME



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 counties 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





PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

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, a financial assistant, and a secretarial assistant.

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, the CG and the SPB.

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), 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) and one or two NGO representing a network of NGOs in the Mediterranean.

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. 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 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.

The **Strategic Partnership Coordination Group (SPCG)**. Members of the SPCG are almost identical to that of the SPSC (with the exception of country FPs who are not represented here) but the function of this body is quite distinct from that of the SPSC, which as mentioned above, is the main policy body of the SP and the one responsible for the proper execution of the project.

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.

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;
- > Summary status reports of the regional project.

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.

The **Bureau for the Strategic Partnership (SPB)** is a small and flexible body that will provide guidance to the Project in-between the annual meetings of the SC and CG. The justification for such a body stems out from the very large number of activities (120) and on-site demonstration/pilot project (52) of the Regional Component, and the large volume of information that will be accumulated between two successive annual meetings of the SC and the CG. Members to the SPB will be limited to the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, the Project Manager of the RC, and one representative from UNEP, GEF and the WB respectively. It will function along the lines of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and will



assess the evolution of the project and propose adjustments based on developments and new information.

The SPB will meet once in the intersessional periods between annual meetings of the SPSC and SPCG. If necessary, a second meeting can be convened during the same intersessional period. Telephone and video conferences between the members of the SPB may also be used instead or in addition to actual meetings.

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.

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).

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.

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.

BUDGET ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT (US \$)

GEF			
	PDF-B Phase	700,000	
	FULL SCALE PROJECT:	12,891,000	
	International waters (OP9)	9,991,000	
	Biodiversity (OP2)	Via co-financing	(6,600,000)
	POPs (OP14)	2,900,000	
	Sub-Total GEF		13,591,000
Co-financing			
	PDF-B Phase Co-financing	1,258,500	
	FULL SCALE PROJECT:		29,607,200
	Governments (Particip. countries)	11,527,500	
	Other countries	7,100,000	
	Other co-financing sources	10,979,700	
	Sub-Total Co-financing		30,865,700
Total Project Cost			44,456,700



Implementing, executing and co-executing agencies



World Bank

Mediterranean
Action Plan



MEDPOL
WHO/MEDPOL



UNEP/MAP - United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan

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