



**PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME INCLUSION  
UNDER THE GEF TRUST FUND**

**GEFSEC PROJECT ID:**

**IA/ExA PROJECT ID:**

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

**PROJECT TITLE:** 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

**GEF IA/ExA:** UNEP, FAO and UNIDO <sup>a)</sup>

**OTHER PROJECT EXECUTING AGENCY(IES):** UNEP/MAP-MEDU, MEDPOL and its associated RACs (CP/RAC, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC); UNESCO/HP; WWF; GWP-Med; MIO-ECSDE; GFCM, METAP

**DURATION:** 5 years

**GEF FOCAL AREA:** International Waters, and Persistent Organic Pollutants

**GEF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:** IW-1 Catalyzing Implementation of agreed reforms and on-the-ground stress reduction investments to address Transboundary water concerns; POP-1 Strengthen capacity for NIP implementation; POP-2 Partnering in Investments for NIP Implementation

**GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM:** OP 9, OP 14

**PIPELINE ENTRY DATE:** 06/09/27

**EXPECTED STARTING DATE:** June 2007

**EXPECTED CEO ENDORSEMENT:** December 2007

**IA/ExA FEE:** USD 1,233,190

<b>FINANCING PLAN (\$)</b>		
	PPG	Project*
<b>GEF Total</b>	700,000	12,891,000
<b>Co-financing</b>	(provide details in Section b: Co-financing)	
GEF IA/ExA	966,000	5,177,400
Government	292,500	18,627,500
Others	0	5,802,300
<b>Co-financing Total</b>	1,258,500	29,607,200
<b>Total</b>	1,958,500	42,498,200
Financing for Associated Activities If Any:		

OP9: 9,991,000 (project); 700,000 (PDF)  
OP14: 2,900,000

<b>FOR JOINT PARTNERSHIP**</b>		
<b>GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT (\$)</b>		
	Share	Fee
UNEP	12,591,000	1,133,190
UNIDO	1,000,000	100,000

**CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS**

**IDENTIFIED IN THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:**

- Adoption/sustainable implementation of regional and national policy/legal/institutional reforms for pollution reduction in all countries
- Regional and National institutions strengthened in all countries
- Sustainable financing mechanisms in place to support SP Resource mobilization strategy/financing mechanism for SAPs and NAPs
- Surface area covered by MPA's will be increased by 10% (from 9,732,600 to 10,705,860 hectares)
- Pollution reduction of min. 50% at demonstration sites
- Unsustainable fishing practices reduced by 90% at priority sites (covering 30,000 ha)
- 45,000 ha coastal zone managed through application of ICZM and IWRM
- 20,000 ha of land with appropriate aquifer and groundwater management in place
- Five countries with strengthened administrative capacity, including chemicals management administration within the central government;
- Five countries with strengthened legislative and regulatory frameworks for the management of POPs and chemicals more generally;

- Five countries with strengthened capacity for enforcement.
- POPs destroyed and mode of destruction: 1187 tons at 2500 US\$ per ton;

Approved on behalf of the *UNEP*. This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for work program inclusion.

Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel  
Deputy Executive Director and Officer-in-  
Charge, Division of GEF Coordination



Date: (May 09, 2007) May 09, 2007

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a) FAO will execute a set of activities with the GEF resources to be channeled through UNEP functioning as the Implementing Agency for these activities.

## 1. PROJECT SUMMARY

### a) PROJECT RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS, AND ACTIVITIES.

#### RATIONALE

The Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem and its biodiversity are under increasing threat due to pollution from land based sources - particularly nutrients, uncontrolled coastal development, over-extraction of freshwater along coastal areas (including aquifers and groundwater) and unregulated and unsustainable fishing. These threats are transboundary in nature, and need to be addressed through concerted actions of the littoral countries. Population pressure is at the origin of most of these threats. The population of the Mediterranean region has almost doubled since 1970, with greatest densities in the coastal zone, compounded by growing tourism, which represents an additional stress on coastal resources. 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 and preserve its immense value in terms of livelihoods and economic growth, all the riparian States and the EU launched in 1975 an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Mediterranean Basin (MAP) - 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 the work carried out by MAP and its Regional Activity Centers (RACs) over the years, 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. In response, MAP with the financial support of GEF, in 1997, initiated a comprehensive regional effort aimed at identifying and accelerating the key reforms and investments necessary to reverse negative trends, and move towards sustainability. In little over 6 years, a full Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea (TDA-MED) was prepared and agreed upon by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, followed by the adoption of two Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) to address main transboundary concerns: land based pollution (SAP MED), and loss of biodiversity (SAP BIO)<sup>1</sup>.

The Mediterranean countries, recognized that there is a 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 the GEF and involving other relevant agencies, IFIs and bilateral and multilateral donors. The Partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of the Mediterranean Sea Basin, with its coastal habitats and marine living resources. The Strategic Partnership, following the model of the GEF Black Sea Basin Strategic Partnership for Nutrient Reduction, consists of two complementary components (see Figure 1):

- a Regional Component: “Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources

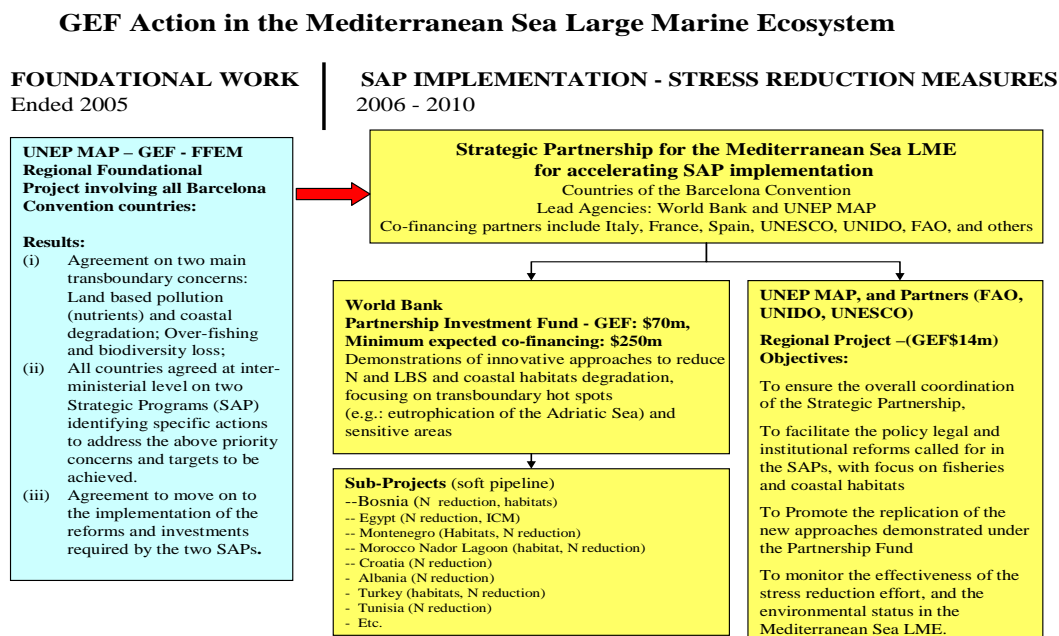
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<sup>1</sup> The TDA-MED identified the major sources of transboundary pollution and hotspots and provided a foundation for interventions at national and regional level that would benefit both the individual countries and the basin as a whole. Decline 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 Programs (SAPs): the Strategic Action Program to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP-MED) and the Strategic Action Program for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO). 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.

of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas” led by UNEP, and the object of the present proposal, and - the “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.

The Partnership will stimulate and further enhance the implementation at the Mediterranean level of Global Conventions and initiatives such as the 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.

**Figure 1: Presentation of GEF Action in the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem**



### Advantages of a regional approach

This regional approach to the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs has a number of important advantages, which include: the implementation 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 successful pilot demonstrations implemented under the Investment Fund and/or the regional project 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 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.

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.

## OBJECTIVES

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.

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 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.<sup>2</sup>

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

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) the design and application of a replication and a communication strategy resulting in concrete replicable projects both identified and financed; ii) providing a mechanism for the long-term sustainable financing of the SAPs and NAPs; iii) ensuring systematic linkages between both components, and overall monitoring and evaluation of the SP; 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.

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.

## OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of the **Strategic Partnership** – to which both the Investment Fund and Regional component contribute – include:

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<sup>2</sup> Approved by the GEF Council in August 2006

- National & Regional Policy, legal & institutional reforms adopted and ready for implementation in minimum of 6 countries;
- Hotspots and sensitive areas of national priority previously identified in NAPs and SAPs with improved environmental conditions (15% of major hotspots/sensitive areas identified in TDA);
- Replication/Scaling – Up strategy adopted and successful investments being replicated in 5 countries;
- Leveraged financing for multiple investments and policy measures. Strategy developed for links with private sector;
- 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.

The expected outcome of the **Investment Fund**<sup>3</sup> is:

- Innovative, cost-effective investments in specific country contexts promoted/implemented

The expected outcomes of the **Regional component** include:

- Increased knowledge of countries and donors on most innovative projects/ technologies that address regional priority objectives;
- Enhanced capacity of country governments to implement policies and strategies that address SAP priorities;
- Stress reduction measures monitored at water-body level; and
- Increased scientific knowledge concerning the coastal zone, pollution and biodiversity of the Mediterranean.

In addition the expected outcomes of the Regional Component related to the **Co-ordination, Communication and Replication of the SP** include:

- Replication/communication strategy for scaling up successful investments within and across countries fully developed.
- Resource mobilization strategy/financing mechanism developed introduced.
- SP coordination of project team(s), committees, donors and governments programs.
- Monitoring & Evaluation System

## ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

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 Coordination, Replication and Communication strategies, Management and M&E.

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.

The detailed activities within each of these components are outlined below, described in greater depth in the Project Brief and are fully detailed in Annex F.

## 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 \$)

Ex/co-executing agencies: UNESCO/HP, PAP-RAC, METAP and GWP-MED

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<sup>3</sup> See Investment Fund proposal for further details

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) introduced integrated coastal management in the mid 1980s as a response to the growing development pressure evident in coastal areas. Although 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 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention still explicitly consider that the "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.

Component 1 aims at promoting ICZM, IWRM and the management of coastal aquifers throughout the Mediterranean, and providing support to the ICZM Protocol. A number of these activities and demonstrations will be jointly implemented (see Annex F for further details on the activities and Annex G for the demonstration sites).

### **1.1. Management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater**

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

*Ex/co-executing agencies: UNESCO/HP*

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: i) assessing the risks to coastal aquifers and associated uncertainties, ii) the preparation of a regional action plan, demonstrations in collaboration with ICZM, IWRM and MPAs and iii) the drafting of legislative, policy and institutional reforms.

Activities related to the **assessment of risks and uncertainties relating to Mediterranean coastal aquifers** will focus on a regional assessment of risks and uncertainty for coastal aquifers, vulnerability mapping of coastal aquifers and an aquifer supplement to the TDA-MED. The regional assessment will prepare an updated inventory assessment of the coastal aquifer resources in the Mediterranean and identify concepts with assessment of main risks and uncertainties, related to coastal aquifer and land systems and wetlands and to ICZM with related transboundary issues. It will establish the significance of related social, economic and environmental attributes, objectives and goals related to coastal aquifer risk<sup>4</sup> and assess the causes with socio-economic drivers and pressures. The vulnerability mapping activity, focuses on defining the management efforts for quality protection in the coastal aquifers, and draws upon the unique Italian experience and applied methodology for coastal area management based on inventory, identification and mapping of aquifer vulnerability. A team of specialists<sup>5</sup> will develop GIS based aquifer vulnerability maps as tools to invent and monitor the sources and the risks of LBS contamination of the coastal aquifers. One demonstration project (see Annex G) will be implemented which will result in a field assessment of coastal aquifers, increased local awareness, computerized maps of contamination sources and a computerized management information system. As a result of the above activities, a coastal TDA supplement to the substantial sections under major environmental concerns, legal and Institutional analysis and environmental quality objectives is developed and adopted in a regional workshop as a supplement to the TDA-MED.

Secondly actions under **Regional actions for coastal aquifer management**, aim at the formulation, development and initiated implementation of a plan for regional and national actions of coastal groundwater and land management and include the following activities: a) The *Regional plan* will identify priority issues and steps to identify, manage and protect coastal aquifers and related land systems with reference to the geographic, hydro-geological and environmental conditions of coastal ground waters, sustainable land management, including socio-economic issues and policy and strategies on groundwater and land management. The approaches under the plan will use up-to-date appropriate technology and will be demonstrated in replicable coastal groundwater demonstrations at three sites (see Annex G). b) *Groundwater management will be*

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<sup>4</sup> E.g. saline intrusion and coastal zone salinization, coastal aquifer pollution and groundwater transport and discharges into coastal and marine waters of LBS contamination, loss of coastal ecosystems and wetlands etc

<sup>5</sup> from Italian universities

*integrated into ICZM and IWRM planning systems* and will be demonstrated as a common Aquifer, IWRM and ICZM management project jointly with GWP-MED and PAP/RAC (see sub-Components 1.2. and 1.3) in a selected river basin and coastal zones; c) *Three coastal groundwater demonstrations* will be identified and prepared for the three sub-regions<sup>6</sup>, including capacity building and training programs and exchange and replication mechanisms; d) To ensure a sustainable coastal natural resource base with water and land management an activity on *sustainable coastal land management* will be focused on land management objectives, and aims at coordinate and establish linkages between the SAP-MED and SAP-BIO and the Sub-regional Action Programme (SRAPs), notably for the Magreb and the Western Asia sub-regions, under the CCD process. The activity provides for an initial assessment of land degradation in the context of ICZM; identification and definition of options for action formulated in a regional guideline on coastal zone land management<sup>7</sup>; policy and legal/institutional development of enabling capacity for coastal land management; and the planning and initiation of three integrated coastal land management demonstrations, integrated with the coastal aquifer demonstrations, at selected coastal sites; e) *Eco-hydrogeology applications for management and protection of coastal wetlands* will be implemented of up-to-date technology for hydro-geological management and protection of listed and other coastal wetlands. Finally an addenda to SAP-MED, SAP-BIO and NAPs to address coastal aquifer management based on the consolidated results of the above activities will be finalized.

Thirdly, **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 groundwater's. This will include a) 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; and b) 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 \$)*

*Ex/co-executing agencies: PAP-RAC and METAP*

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. Activities are focused on: i) the preparation of National ICZM Strategies and National Action Plans; and ii) the application of ICZM approach, tools and techniques in demonstration areas.

A number of activities will aim to support the **preparation of National ICZM Strategies and National Action Plans**. This includes: a) the preparation of ICZM strategies and NAPs to be finalized in cooperation with the national authorities of all eligible countries; b) the drafting of a minimum of two ICZM NAPs to be presented to national authorities and other relevant stakeholders for adoption; c) the harmonization of national institutional arrangements and legislation with ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean (through a case study, workshops and training of juridical practitioners); d) the developing and strengthening of coastal management legislation in the Mediterranean (notably national coastal legislation) through the exchange of experience and best practice among Mediterranean countries; and e) "Cost of Environmental Degradation" (COED) approach as an ICZM tool to be demonstrated, including the execution of a pilot COED assessment in selected coastal areas.

Demonstration projects for the effective management of coastal areas and the identification and management of sensitive areas and marine protected areas (MPAs) will be implemented using the **application of ICZM approach, tools and techniques in demonstration areas** (see Annexes F and G). Plans to demonstrate the

<sup>6</sup> (1) the North African coast (Tunisia), (2) the Eastern Adriatic coast (Croatia and Montenegro); and (3) the Eastern Levantine coast (Lebanon or Egypt)

<sup>7</sup> The land degradation issues will be introduced as supplements under the TDA-MED with land management action under SAP-MED and SAP-BIO; and supplements under the ICZM Protocol



ICZM approach, tools and techniques in combination with the drafting and finalization of ICZM Plans will be carried out for two selected areas (in collaboration with IWRM and Aquifers). In parallel, capacity building will be provided for the 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. In order to ensure co-ordination and harmonization of the ICZM sub-component with other co-executing agencies activities in demo projects, an international expert will co-ordinate the implementation of activities in ICZM demo areas with other implementing institutions' activities, notably with activities on IWRM and coastal aquifers, and organize three harmonization meetings.

### **1.3 Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)**

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

*Ex/co-executing agencies: GWP-MED*

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 a regional 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 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 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. The assessment will cover approximately 15 transboundary water bodies.

#### **Component 1: Expected Results**

- 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;

## **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)*

*Ex/Co-executing agencies: UNIDO, MEDPOL, WHO MED, CP-RAC*

It has been recognized that with the rapid increase in population and land conversion in the Mediterranean coastal zone, coupled with inadequate pollution prevention strategies, the Mediterranean Sea Basin 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. The MED-TDA details the impacts and causes of pollution in the Mediterranean and SAP-MED outlines priorities for interventions.

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 and to implement targeted actions for reducing pollution in the Mediterranean. It is divided in three sub-components as follows:

### **2.1. Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control**

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

*Ex/co-executing agencies: MEDPOL and WHO MED*

The objective of this sub-component is to develop and improve the legislative and institutional framework in the region and to implement NAP priority actions that will protect and reduce contaminants to the Mediterranean marine environment from land based activities. This will be achieved through: i) the implementation of four pilot projects; ii) an assessment for the magnitude of riverine inputs of nutrients; iii) the setting Emission Limit Values (ELV) in industrial effluents and Environmental Quality Standards (EQS); and iv) enhancing permit, inspection and compliance systems.

The following **pilot projects** have been developed to focus on key NAP priorities in selected countries: i) the management of phosphogypsum wastes from phosphate fertilizer production; ii) chromium, nutrients and BOD control in tanneries; iii) the recycling and regeneration of used lubricating oils; and iv) the recycling of lead batteries (see Annex F and G for further details). Activities will include work with legislative agencies to the draft necessary institutional, legislative reforms, the strengthening of national institutions through training and transfer of knowledge, as well as actions aimed at reducing pollution at each pilot site by a minimum of 50% by the end of the project, and increasing recycling by 50%.

In response to the limited data on diffuse sources of nutrients in the Mediterranean, an assessment will be undertaken to assess the **magnitude of riverine inputs of nutrients** into the Mediterranean Sea, furthering the existing database started in the framework of MEDPOL, 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.

In addition, activities will aim at **setting Emission Limit Values (ELV) in industrial effluents and Environmental Quality Standards (EQS)**. Many of the participating countries lack appropriate ELV for their industrial effluents. The development and use of environmental quality standards (EQS) for receiving waters

has not yet progressed far. This activity will introduce ELV and EQS in the legislation of all countries, for all substances include in the SAP targets<sup>8</sup> for the protection of the Mediterranean marine ecosystem and to propose changes in the institutional framework of the GEF-eligible countries to ensure the proper use of the ELV and EQS for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea.

Finally 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. Activities will be undertaken in eight countries 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)**

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

*Ex/co-executing agencies: UNIDO*

The TEST-MED component has been designed to address pollution from land-based activities of priority industrial pollution hot spots identified in the Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The sub-component 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 (approximately 8) 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.

**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.

**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).

**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.

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<sup>8</sup> SAP-MED targeted substances include POPs, heavy metals, organohalogen compounds, radioactive substances, nutrients, suspended solids and hazardous wastes

### **2.3. Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries (OP POPs)**

*(GEF 2,450,000 \$, Co-financing 2,550,000 \$)<sup>9</sup>*

*Ex/co-executing agencies: MEDPOL and CP-RAC*

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. The benefits that the POPs component will derive from being part of the regional project (as opposed to a standalone project), consist essentially in being included into the replication strategy and related communication activities, and fall under the overall coordination of the regional project benefiting from the exposure to the Barcelona Convention system, infrastructure, meetings etc., bringing POPs in the mainstream of the Barcelona Convention. Details are given in Annex F.

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): i) reforming the institutional and legal frameworks for the implementation of ESM of PCBs; ii) the implementation of demonstration projects for the appropriate management and disposal of PCBs and facilitate the implementation of NIPs and SAP-MED; iii) technical training on the ESM of PCBs equipment will be undertaken; iv) awareness raising of the importance of ESM of PCBs equipment; and v) National capacity to implement PCBs phase-out and disposal programs.

**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.

**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

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<sup>9</sup> Please note that of the 2.9 M USD for the POPs focal area, 200,000 USD have been taken for Replication Strategy (Sub-Component 4.3) and 250,000 USD for Project Management (Sub-Component 4.1)

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.

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).

**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.

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.

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.

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.

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 (minimum of 5 policy 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;
- TEST-MED: Environmentally sound technology implemented in demonstrations within the industrial sector that result in higher productivity and reduced contaminant loads;
- Increased (by 50%) recycling of used lubricating oils and lead batteries at pilot sites; and
- Reduction in pollution at demonstration sites for Cd, Hg, Pb, Cr, BOD and total nitrogen
- Demonstration projects implemented in five countries, with 1197 tons of PCB's removed and disposed, 100% reduction at the selected demonstrations sites;
- Improved maintenance, servicing and storage operations of PCBs;
- Phase-out plans for equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs implemented;
- Disposal of obsolete equipment in demonstration project according to Stockholm convention guidelines;
- Technical capacity for ESM of PCBs equipment enhanced;
- Awareness of importance of ESM of PCBs equipment increased; and
- National capacity to implement PCBs phase-out and disposal programs established.

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

*(GEF 800,000\$, Co-Financing 6,600,000\$)*

*Ex/Co-executing agencies: FAO, WWF and SPA-RAC*

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 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)<sup>10</sup>.

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.

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

*(GEF IW 42,500 \$, Co-financing 5,842,500\$)*

*Ex/Co-executing agencies: FAO, WWF and SPA-RAC*

A coordination mechanism **for regional MPA management** will be established for the Mediterranean, to ensure that the two-biodiversity sub-components are managed in a cost-effective manner and that common management issues are addressed together.

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<sup>10</sup> 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).

Activities will include the **identification and planning of new MPAs to extend the regional network** and enhance its ecological comprehensiveness, that 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. 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. A specific activity (to be implemented by FAO) will focus on new fisheries-based MPAs in international waters (High Seas) aiming at enhanced collaboration of riparian countries for the creation of up to 3 SPAMIs in international waters.

In order to **improve the management of marine protected areas**, building upon the existing MEDPAN MPA network, a set of common management approaches will be developed that can be applied throughout the Mediterranean. A number of practical toolkits for wider distribution and use will be developed and demonstrated in two countries (Turkey and Algeria). In order to build a coherent pan-European network of marine protected areas, there is the need to develop 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. Therefore a **regional network monitoring capacity** will be established. A suitable organization will act as an ‘observatory’, the monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed, project managers will be trained in its use and the detailed application of the system will 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. To **ensure the financial sustainability of regional and national MPA networks**, MPA managers and key practitioner groups will be trained through a number of workshops. The financial needs for maintaining the wider Mediterranean MPA network will be investigated and will 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. Finally activities will also focus to **improve the legal governance frameworks for marine protected areas**, through the development of a common legislative platform and the production of a users guide for managers 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 –**

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

*Ex/Co-executing agencies: FAO*

In order to mainstream the ecosystem approach into recurrent fisheries management activities there is the need to **establish an ecosystem approach to fisheries management at regional and sub-regional levels**, through the development and implementation of national action plans and policy and legislation reforms. To achieve **reduction of by-catch of regionally important species at a fleet level**, activities 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. 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. In addition actions will be taken for the **identification and addressing of unsustainable fishing practices at regionally- representative MPA sites**. This will focus in areas of particularly high bio-diversity and/or vulnerability. Fisheries activities will be evaluated 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. Wider-scale demonstration toolkits will then be developed and tested in a variety of fisheries in the Mediterranean in a similar and complementary manner to those of the previous project activity. In each case, the temporal and spatial patterns of irresponsible fishing will be evaluated and stakeholders consulted to determine the drivers behind these interactions.

#### **Component 3: Outputs/results**

- Implementation of the actions prioritized by the SAP-BIO 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 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; and
- A robust and practical legislative governance structure that supports the ecosystem approach to conservation and sustainable use in the Mediterranean.

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

*(GEF 4,471,000 \$, CO-FINANCING 3,146,500 \$)*

*Ex/Co-executing agencies: UNEP-MAP, MEDPOL, INFO-RAC, MIO-ECSDE*

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 coordination and management.

##### **4.1: Project Coordination, Management and M&E**

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

*Ex/Co-executing agencies: UNEP-MAP, MEDPOL, MIO-ESCDE*

This sub-component includes activities related to the SP project coordination, management and M&E activities, and the involvement of stakeholders in project activities and demonstrations, and sustainable financing mechanisms. 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 ensure country ownership of partnership processes; provide overall guidance and oversight to the RC/SP; and facilitate and foster synergies between the two main components of the project.

Four basic management and coordination structures will be created for the duration of the project. The **Program Management Unit (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 overall monitoring and evaluation of project and the production of half-yearly advance reports and half-yearly and annual expense reports. Environmental status indicators, reflecting SAP targets and agreements, 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) and will be presented to the Steering Committee during the Inception Meeting. 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 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), FAO and UNIDO, the GEF Secretariat, the co-executing agencies (UNESCO, MEDPOL, METAP, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC, CP-RAC, WWF, MIO-ECSDE, GFCM,) 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. **The Strategic Partnership Coordination Group (SPCG)** 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 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. **Inter-agency meetings** will ensure that the executing and co-executing agencies will effectively co-ordinate their activities and demonstrations. In addition to regular emails and conference calls, all the co-executing agencies (UNESCO, GWP-MED, METAP, MIO-ECSDE, WWF, GFCM, MEDPOL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC and CP/RAC) and representatives from GEF, 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.

Additional activities include the **Mid-Term Stocktaking Meeting**, which will take place during the second or third year of the Strategic Partnership. 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. Also a **Strategic Partnership Country Support Programme (SPCSP)**, which will further increase support to participating countries and enhance country ownership will be established at the beginning of the project. Limited funds will be available to strengthen the capacity of the SP focal points (see Annex J) 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.

Two additional activities will aim to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project beyond the period of the GEF intervention. **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. Actions to be undertaken by UNEP-MAP and the WB will include a) the establishment of a sustainable financing resource capacity/platform in the region, b) the collection and diffusion of information and policy briefs, c) the 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, d) 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); e) 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, and f) the organization of national and regional training workshops to evaluate lessons learned and increase capacities to prepare financial strategies. To ensure that the project activities live on after the end the project, it is proposed that within the structure of MAP and the Barcelona Convention actions are undertaken to ensure the **Long term Sustainability of Activities Beyond the Lifetime of the SP**. 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.

Finally in addition to the Stakeholder Involvement Plan (see Annex K), specific activities will be directed **to mobilize NGOs in the 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. Activities include the following:

i) 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.

ii) 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 with project activities) 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.

iii) 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 \$)

Ex/Co-executing agencies: INFO-RAC

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*. The information and communication (IC) activities of the Regional Component of the Strategic Partnership will include the Establishment of an IC mechanism *within* the Partnership itself to ensure comprehensive and continuously-updated information exchange among partners regarding project activities; and the setting up an IC mechanism to the *outside world* to publicize the partnership and disseminate information on project progress and results.

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. These include the 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). **Design and production of ad hoc IC material** (leaflets, brochures, etc.) for selected audiences. **Participation to selected national and international environmental events** (such as the Day of the Environment, the EU Green Week, etc.) to present project information to governments, institutions and the

media on national and international scales and design. Establishment of Mediterranean SP “*windows*” in selected Mediterranean environmental photographic and film festivals, such as the *Mediterranean Environmental Award* (MEA) and the *Mediterranean Environment Day* (MEDday) - organized annually by INFO/RAC for the MSSD and MAP. Also undertaken will be the planning of an ad hoc audiovisual campaign for wide media dissemination.

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 \$)*

*Ex/Co-executing agencies: INFO-RAC*

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. At the start of the project will be the **Creation of a Project Replication Team (PRT)**. 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. 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**. The ICT platform will cover information related to activities carried out under the regional component of the project. **Information Analysis and Dissemination**, is an essential part of the project whereby 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. 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 site visits and assessments as necessary. **Organization of two Replication Meetings (ARMs)** which will be held in conjunction with the Project Steering Committee meetings (tentatively in the second and fourth year of the project) and will involve all the NPCs, members of the PRT and relevant partners. Both national and project representatives will be expected to attend each Annual Replication Meeting and provide a comprehensive presentation on the main challenges in each project; the steps and methods adopted; and the results/impacts of the actions and lessons learned. Activities also include the **Design and Implementation of Dissemination Mechanisms and Partnership Building** in order to achieve 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. **Organization of a Regional Conference**, which will focus on partnership as an indispensable requisite for successful project implementation and essential for replication project success, especially in the complex cultural, political and social conditions found in the Mediterranean region. **Design and Implementation of a Replication Scoring System**, will provide 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. Finally, **initial facilitation of on-site project development** will be achieved by promoting the establishment of Local/National Project Replication Groups (LPRGs), the exchange of experience on successful RPs through the use and consultation of the database and other channels as opportune, the use of PBSA scheme for setting up working partnerships and cooperation among key stakeholders and interested at project level; and to 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;

#### **b) KEY INDICATORS, ASSUMPTIONS, AND RISKS (FROM LOGFRAME)**

##### **Key Indicators**

The logframe matrix presented in Annex B details the main project-related outcomes, indicators, 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 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. Therefore some of key indicators in achieving this objective are presented in the following table.

Overall Objective	Key Indicators
All countries have strengthened institutional/regulatory framework for the reduction of pollution and preservation of biodiversity, addressing priorities in the SAPs and NAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption implementation of regional and national policy/legal/institutional reforms in all countries</li> <li>- Regional and National institutions strengthened in all countries</li> <li>- Increased scientific knowledge of the Mediterranean: Assessments (min. of 6) undertaken related to coastal aquifers, nutrient fluxes, MPA's, by-catch and unsustainable fishing practices</li> <li>- Participation of all relevant stakeholders in project activities and SAP/NAP implementation</li> <li>- Development, training and demonstration of new tools/techniques and guidelines to address SAP priorities in all countries and widely disseminated</li> <li>- Replication strategy designed and implemented with a minimum of 20 new replication projects identified</li> </ul>
Outcomes	Key SR Indicators
Enhanced coastal zone management and support to the ICZM Protocol, including IWRM and the management of coastal aquifers and groundwater in the Mediterranean Sea Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 45,000 ha coastal zone managed through application of ICZM and IWRM</li> <li>- 20,000 ha of land with appropriate aquifer and groundwater management in place</li> </ul>
Countries have the capacity and knowledge to implement SAP-MED and the NAPS and reduce pollution from land-based sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pollution reduction of min. 50% at demonstration sites (Cd, Hg, Pb, Cr, BOD and total nitrogen)</li> <li>- 50% of lubricating oil and lead batteries recycled at demonstration sites</li> <li>- PCB's removed and disposed, 100% reduction at the selected demonstrations sites.</li> </ul>
Countries have the capacity and knowledge to implement SAP-BIO and the NAPS and preserve biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surface area covered by MPA's will be increased by 10% (from 9,732,600 to 10,705,860 hectares)</li> <li>- Unsustainable fishing practices reduced by 90% at priority sites (covering 30,000 ha)</li> </ul>

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: i) a Regional Action Plan on Coastal Aquifers; ii) Regional plan for eco-hydrogeological management, land degradation mitigation and protection of priority coastal wetlands; and iii) 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.

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)<sup>11</sup>. 100% of PCB's will be removed and disposed at the demonstration sites in the five participating countries. 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 sedimentation and siltation, flooding, wetland sedimentation. This will result in 10,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> 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.

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 at least 20 new potential replicable projects identified, including their funding mechanisms.

## Risks

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<sup>11</sup> In addition significant stress reduction will be achieved through the Investment Fund sub-projects

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.** 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.** 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.** 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.

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.

## 2. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

### a) COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

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 Tunisia<sup>12</sup> The ratification status of the Stockholm and other conventions is presented in Table 1 of the Project Brief

#### b) COUNTRY DRIVENNESS

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.

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.”

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.

### 3. PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

#### a) FIT TO GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND OPERATIONAL PROGRAM

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<sup>12</sup> 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



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 Program OP 9. Sub-Component 2.3 of the proposed project is also designed for consistency with GEF Persistent Organic Pollutants Operational Program OP 14.

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 OP9<sup>13</sup> 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.

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.

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.

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

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<sup>13</sup> GEF Operational Program Descriptions

Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The status of signatures and ratifications of those Conventions by the GEF eligible countries of the Strategic Partnership is shown in Table 1 of the Project Brief.

#### b) SUSTAINABILITY (INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)

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.

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.

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. **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. In addition, approximately **31 demonstration projects** will be undertaken within the project. These address pollution control from land based sources, 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.

Finally, 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.

#### c) REPLICABILITY

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 contextualized when used for other initiatives, other countries, and other areas/sites.

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 region<sup>14</sup>.

#### **d) STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT**

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.

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.

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

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

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<sup>14</sup> A specific web-site for the Strategic Partnership has been developed as of 2005: <http://www.medsp.org/>

- 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

#### e) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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.

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

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.

## 4. FINANCING

### a) PROJECT COSTS

Project Components/Outcomes	Co-financing (\$)	GEF (\$)	Total (\$)
<i>Co-Financing for the overall Regional Component</i>	8,900,000	0	8,900,000
Component 1. Integrated approaches for	5,964,700	3,220,000	8,284,700

<b>Project Components/Outcomes</b>	<b>Co-financing (\$)</b>	<b>GEF (\$)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
the implementation of SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM, and management of coastal aquifer			
Component 2. Pollution from land based activities: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs	4,996,000	4,400,000 (1,000,000 to UNIDO for 2.2)	9,396,000
Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs	6,600,000	800,000 (FAO)	7,400,000
Component 4. Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E	2,536,500	3,190,000	5,726,500
<i>Project management budget/cost*</i>	610,000	1,281,000	1,810,000
<b>Total Project costs</b>	<b>29,607,200</b>	<b>12,891,000</b>	<b>42,498,200</b>

\* This item is an aggregate cost of project management; breakdown of this aggregate amount should be presented in the table b) below.

b) **PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST**<sup>15</sup>

Component	Estimated staff weeks	GEF(\$)	Other sources (\$)	Project total (\$)
Locally recruited personnel <sup>16</sup>	676	1,251,000	260,000	1,511,000
Internationally recruited consultants*	12	30,000	0	30,000
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications		0	250,000	250,000
Travel		0	100,000	100,000
Miscellaneous		0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,281,000</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>1,891,000</b>

c) **CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:**

Component	Estimated staff weeks	GEF(\$)	Other sources (\$)	Project total (\$)
Personnel	4.160	1,608,000	2,753,500	4,361,500
Local consultants	3.491	2,360,000	1,422,500	3,782,500
International consultants	1.202	2,346,775	3,644,000	5,990,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,853</b>	<b>6,314,775</b>	<b>7,820,000</b>	<b>14,134,775</b>

d) **CO-FINANCING SOURCES**

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 21/03/07
Government of Sweden/ Sub-Component 1.1	Government	Cash	200,000	Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007
FFEM / 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	Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007

<sup>15</sup> For all consultants hired to manage project or provide technical assistance, please attach a description in terms of their staff weeks, roles and functions in the project, and their position titles in the organization, such as project officer, supervisor, assistants or secretaries.

<sup>16</sup> Local and international consultants in this table are those who are hired for functions related to the management of project. For those consultants who are hired to do a special task, they would be referred to as consultants providing technical assistance. For these consultants, please provide details of their services in c) below:

Co-financing Sources				
Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Status
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 Bank	Cash and in kind	400,000	Endorsement letter prior to April 15, 2007
European Space Agency/ Sub-Component 1.1	International organization	Cash and in kind	500,000	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 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 20/03/2007
Mediterranean Trust Fund/Sub-Components 2.3 POPs	Multilateral Agency	Cash (82%) and in kind	2,000,000	Letter of commitment 20/03/2007
Participating Countries/Sub-Component 2.3 POPs	Governments/ National Institutions	In kind	550,000	Final confirmation still pending
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
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
Demonstration enterprises/ Sub-Components 2.2 TEST	Private sectors	In kind	127,000	Final confirmation still pending

Co-financing Sources				
Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Status
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//Component3	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	United Nations Organization/ 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-executing Agency	In kind	800,000	Final confirmation still pending
UNEP-MAP/Sub-Component 4.1/Activity 4.1.1	United Nations Organization	In kind	250,000	Letter of commitment 21/03/2007
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 21/03/2007
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 20/03/2007
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	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	Government		1,000,000	Letter of



Co-financing Sources				
Name of Co-financier (source)/Sub-Component	Classification	Type	Amount \$	Status
Environment and sustainable Development/Regional Component		In kind		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//Component3	Government	In kind	1,00,000	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
<b>Total co-financing</b>			<b>29,607,200</b>	

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

## 5. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

### a) CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES

All countries participating in the project have demonstrated their commitment to the Strategic Partnership, directly through signed letters of endorsement (see Annex L) and during the stocktaking meeting for the development of the project held in Trieste, Italy in October 2004. The countries are all members of the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, and in this capacity fully participated in and endorsed the TDA-MED, SAP-MED, SAP-BIO and the NAPs, which form the basis of the proposed actions within this proposal. All countries have also signed, accessed or ratified key Global conventions (see table 1 of the Project Brief) including the Convention on Biological Diversity, Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

### b) CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN IAS, AND IAS AND ExAs, IF APPROPRIATE.

During the PDF-B phase of the project MEDU-MAP, the RACs, FAO, UNIDO and the co-executing agencies (UNESCO, MIO-ESCDE, GFCM, GWP-MED, MEDPOL and METAP) worked in collaboration to develop the current complimentary activities proposed for the Regional Component of the Strategic Partnership, that address priorities identified in the SAPs and NAPs, and to complement their own ongoing work in the Mediterranean. These are presented in full detail in Annex F. The project will cooperate closely with a number of programs and projects within the Mediterranean. These include the Horizon 2020 initiative (launched in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean process of the European Commission); the Athens Declaration Process (Jointly coordinated by the Government of Greece and the World Bank), launched in May 2003; and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI).

The project will be jointly executed by UNEP, UNIDO and FAO, along with the above-mentioned co-executing agencies. UNIDO will be responsible for the implementation of sub-component 2.2. Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology, and FAO will be responsible for the implementation of sub-component

3.2. Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in the Mediterranean through the Development and Application of Ecosystem-based Management Approaches and one activities in sub-component 3.1. on new fisheries-based MPAs in international waters.

Sub-Component 4.1 deals with the co-ordination of all executing and co-executing agencies for both the Regional Project and the overall Strategic Partnership (Regional Component and Investment Fund combined) through the SP Co-ordination Group and SP Steering Committee (see the Project Brief for further details).

It should be mentioned that a particular advantage in the involvement of a large number of executing/co-executing agencies, is that these agencies are also responsible or are collaborating in the majority of related IA programs/projects within the Mediterranean, and therefore cooperation with other projects has been inherent to the development of the proposed activities. Regarding Component 1, PAP/RAC, METAP, UNESCO and GWP-MED are all active in the majority of ICZM, IWRM and aquifer management related projects currently underway and activities have been designed to compliment them. These are detailed further in the Project Brief and Annex F. UNEP/MAP, MEDPOL, WHO-MED, UNIDO and CP/RAC responsible for the development and implementation of activities under Component 2 for pollution reduction are also working on many complementary projects which have been used to form the basis of the current activities. Concerning MPA and the EAF activities in Component 3, FAO/GFCM, SPA/RAC and WWF-MedPO propose to further existing programs and initiatives and compliment current projects, in particular the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MEDPAN) and the Med-MPA Project.

Throughout the project there will be ongoing collaboration with the World Banks Investment Fund projects such as the Neretva and Trebisnjica River Basin Management Project (Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia) and the Alexandria Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project in Egypt, which will compliment the activities under Component 1. Integrated Approaches for the Implementation of the SAPs and NAPs. Through the establishment of a Strategic Partnership Co-ordination Group, exchange of information/results will enable both the Regional Component and Investment Fund to co-ordinate their activities to ensure greater impact.

Other regional GEF projects (current and in the pipe-line) within the Mediterranean that have been considered in the development of the activities for the SP/RC include: the Lake Skhoder Integrated Ecosystem Management (Albania, Serbia and Montenegro); the Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia); Lake Ohrid Management (Albania, Macedonia); Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR-Macedonia and Greece (Albania, Macedonia); and the Protection of the North West Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS) and related humid zones and ecosystems (Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Africa)

### C) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

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

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.