



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FACILITY REQUEST FOR PIPELINE ENTRY

AGENCY'S PROJECT ID:

GEFSEC PROJECT ID:

COUNTRY: Mediterranean (12 countries): Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Serbia and Monte Negro, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

PROJECT TITLE: Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean 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 AGENCY: UNEP

OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES): UNEP/MAP

FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO, ICS-UNIDO, METAP/WB, WWF

DURATION: 6 Years

GEF FOCAL AREA: International Waters and Biodiversity

GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: OP 9 AND OP 2

GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY: IW-1 Catalyzing Financial Resources for Implementation of Agreed Actions; BD-1 Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Areas and BD-2 Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes and Sectors.

ESTIMATED STARTING DATE OF PDF-B: 2005

ESTIMATED WP ENTRY DATE: FY 2006

PIPELINE ENTRY DATE: November 2004

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF ALLOCATION	
Project (<i>estimated</i>)	\$15 million
Project Co-financing (<i>estimated</i>)	it is expected that at least an equivalent amount of grant funding will be leveraged from other agencies, donors and recipient countries.
PDF A*	
PDF B**	700,000 from IW 300,000 from BD
PDF C	
<u>Sub-Total GEF PDF</u>	TBD
PDF CO-FINANCING (details provided in Part II, Section E – Budget)	
GEF Agency	TBD
National Contribution	TBD
Italy	100,000
Others	TBD
<u>Sub-Total PDF Co-financing:</u>	
<u>Total PDF Project Financing:</u>	

* Indicate approval date of PDFA

** If supplemental, indicate amount and date of originally approved PDF

A – CONTEXT: THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM

The countries of the Mediterranean Sea basin¹ face a variety of shared environmental problems that are transboundary in nature. Key to the success in addressing transboundary problems is the joint political commitment of all countries in the basin. To this effect, the GEF Operational Strategy recognizes that a series of international water projects may be needed over time to: a) build the capacity of countries to work together; b) jointly understand and set priorities based on the environmental status of their water body; c) identify actions and develop political commitment to address the top priority transboundary problems, and then d) implement the agreed policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments needed to address them.

With the support of the GEF, UNEP, UNEP/MAP, and FFEM, and consistent with the GEF Operational Strategy, the Mediterranean countries have collaborated within the context of the Barcelona Convention to revise the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis² prepared in 1997, and which have agreed on the following major transboundary environmental concerns for the basin:

- Decline of biodiversity due to over-fishing, conversion and degradation of critical habitats, introduction of alien species, pollution in the form of excess nutrients, toxic waste, including oil, solid waste and litter, and use of non-selective fishery gears;
- Decline in fisheries due to over-fishing, use of harmful fishing practice, loss of shallow-water habitats for some life stages of critical fisheries, adverse water quality from rivers, coastal aquifers, sewage discharges, dredging, and non-point discharges;
- Decline in seawater quality due to inadequate sewage treatment, lack of best practices in agriculture use of fertilizers and pesticides, inadequate controls on atmospheric emissions of heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants from European industrial sources, inadequate source controls and discharge control for industries along the sea, and increases in shipping traffic across the Mediterranean with consequent increase in accidental and purposeful discharge of harmful pollutants;
- Human health risks due to ingestion of seafood, ingestion of water while swimming, contact with contaminated seafood products, and contact with seawater contaminated with pathogens or viral agents;
- Loss of groundwater dependent coastal ecosystems due to the contamination, salinization and over-exploitation of coastal aquifers.

¹ Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Serbia and Monte Negro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey, are riparian countries. SAPs have been endorsed by all riparian countries and the EU. All countries except Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia and Spain are eligible for GEF support.

² The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) is a scientifically based assessment of the environmental conditions of an internationally shared water-body, which identifies major problems, their causes, possible solutions, and discriminates between those issues requiring international action (transboundary), and those of an exclusively national nature.

The Mediterranean countries have worked together to set priorities related to these transboundary problems and have jointly agreed on what interventions are needed to address such priorities through 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 two SAPs are now ready for implementation, consistent with the GEF Operational Program 9 in the International Waters focal area, and a third instrument, the ICM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, is under negotiation. As a result of the implementation of several Coastal Areas Management Projects (CAMPs) in the region, it appeared evident that the Mediterranean region needed to have a binding Protocol to halt the process of degradation of the coastal areas in the Northern countries and to offer a model of coastal development to the countries of the South. The Contracting Parties therefore decided to ask the Secretariat to initiate the process of formulating a Protocol on ICM and to submit a draft text to the next Meeting of Contracting Parties in 2005.

In order to accelerate on the ground implementation of the SAPs, and assist with the early implementation of the ICM Protocol, a collective effort for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean - the **Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem** - is being proposed by UNEP and the World Bank to all the countries of the Mediterranean and to all international cooperation Agencies, IFIs and bilateral and multi-lateral donors. The proposed Partnership – which builds upon the model and lessons learnt from the GEF Black Sea/Danube Partnership – is a basin-wide multi-stakeholder collaboration with the main objective to assist basin countries in implementing reforms and investments in key sectors that address transboundary pollution reduction, biodiversity decline, habitat degradation and living resources protection priorities identified in the two SAPs. The Partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of this damaged large marine ecosystem its contributing freshwater basins, habitats and coastal aquifers.

The proposed Strategic Partnership will consist of the two individual components, which fit together to assist the countries in a collaborative manner according to each agency's comparative advantage:

- Regional Component: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas (UNEP)
- Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership (World Bank).

The main objective of the Partnership is to foster the implementation of the two Strategic Action Programs, and prepare the ground for the future implementation of the ICM Protocol. The two Strategic Action Programs are aimed at: (i) reduce land-based sources of marine pollution (SAP-MED) and (ii) protect the biodiversity and living resources of the

Mediterranean, as well as their habitats (SAP-BIO)³. Together the three instruments will help countries toward achieving the MDGs and WSSD targets.

The present Project Concept being submitted by UNEP refers to the Regional Project under the Strategic Partnership. A separate concept submission by the World Bank will deal with the Investment Fund under the Strategic Partnership.

B – BACKGROUND

1. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

The coastal areas around the Mediterranean are heavily populated and are undergoing a dramatic process of development. The populations of coastal states have doubled in the last 40 years to 450 million (in 1999) and will reach over 600 million in 2050. In addition, tourism arrival is expected to rise from 135 million in 1990 to 350 million in 2025, doubling the population along the coast during summer. Population load is shifting towards the southern and eastern Mediterranean and about 60% of it lives within 100 km of the coast. Population density in coastal areas ranges from double to ten times the national average due to the more favorable climatic, agricultural and often socioeconomic conditions. As a result of the increased demand for space, water and natural resources, the stress on coastal eco-systems, and the infringement on natural and agricultural land is continuously increasing.

80% of the pollution load of the Mediterranean Sea originates from land sources, mainly in the form of untreated discharges of urban waste (which includes microbiological, nutrient and chemical contaminants) reaching the sea from coastal sources and through rivers. Lack of sewage collection, treatment and disposal infrastructure is still the greatest problem in many Mediterranean countries. 69 % of coastal cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants have sewage treatment plants, resulting in a large annual discharge of more than 1 billion m³ of untreated sewage to the sea. Some countries have no treatment plants at all. Overall, 66 million m³ of untreated industrial wastewater is discharged to the Mediterranean each year. To add to this, agricultural practices cause significant soil erosion and pesticide pollution of surface and groundwater resources, consequently, through rivers and direct runoff, affecting the coastal and marine ecosystems. Uncontrolled coastal development, population expansion and increasing coastal tourism, unregulated and unsustainable fishing, damming and pollution are the greatest threats to the marine and coastal ecosystems.

The revised TDA for the Mediterranean Sea and recently adopted SAP BIO identify the major environmental concerns in the Mediterranean Sea (Box 1).

³ The environmental targets identified by the two SAPs are presented in Annex 2.

Box 1. Major transboundary environmental concerns in the Mediterranean.

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

Transboundary aspects in **fisheries** sustainability and management are of particular importance regarding migratory and shared stocks, which makes it inevitable and essential to address fisheries on an international level. This task is complex in the Mediterranean as there are a high number of riparian states in varying stages of development in the management of fisheries. Future progress in terms of fisheries management however will be based on the ability to build a multilateral dimension into national practices. The number of shared fisheries has increased in several areas of the Mediterranean like the Alboran Sea, the Gulf of Lyons, the Northern Tyrrhenian Sea, the Adriatic Sea, the Ionian Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Sicily Strait and the Gulf of Gabes. The number of shared fisheries identified already at this stage justifies common action to be taken for those stocks at international level.

Transboundary concerns related to **marine water quality** arise from the fact that pollutants often travel great distances through air, sea currents and rivers, before their effects can be traced. The Mediterranean seawater exchange patterns, persistent toxic substances dispersed by atmospheric circulation, transboundary transport of pollutants such as Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), eutrophication and the evidence of long-range biological pollution impacts on sea birds and other marine life, are the main focus areas of sea water quality. Pollution hot spots can also affect biodiversity resources of Mediterranean-wide importance in addition to site-specific impacts.

Transboundary elements affecting **human health** include the trade of contaminated seafood that diffuses health concerns beyond Mediterranean basin and through the transboundary exposures of tourists to potentially contaminated seafood; Risks of adverse health impacts from contaminated seawater such as gastroenteritis, ear, skin and eye infections, viral diseases such as hepatitis A, cholera and superficial or deep mucosae from contact with contaminated beach sand, whilst visiting Mediterranean beaches. Without adequate water resource management, human health issues will continue to degrade. Lack of water and sanitation, inadequate waste and wastewater disposal, potential waterborne diseases, unhealthy seafood and occurrences of eutrophication will increase.

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

Transboundary problem of **marine litter**. Marine litter has been an issue of concern in the Mediterranean since the 1970s. Marine litter is an environmental, economic, health and aesthetic problem. It causes damage and death to wildlife. It threatens marine and coastal biological diversity in productive coastal areas. Plastic litter is a source of persistent toxic substances. Pieces of litter can transport invasive species between seas. Medical and sanitary waste constitutes a health hazard and can seriously injure people. Every year, the presence of marine litter causes damage that entails great economic costs and losses to people, property and livelihood, as well as poses risks to health and even lives. And marine litter spoils, fouls and destroys the beauty of the sea and the coastal zone.

2. HISTORY OF COLLABORATION AMONG MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, AGREEMENTS REACHED, AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES.

The riparian States of the Mediterranean Sea have long since recognized the threat that pollution poses to the marine environment and have committed to preserving the Mediterranean basin through actions at local, regional and global level. To this effect, they agreed to launch an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Mediterranean Basin (MAP) in 1975 and to sign a Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) in 1976 (Box 2).

Box 2. Barcelona Convention.

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

The Barcelona Convention includes the following Protocols:

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

In addition to the above, the Contracting Parties have adopted, at their last ministerial meeting in Catania, November 2003, the recommendation to draft the text of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICM) in the Mediterranean. The text should be prepared and submitted for discussion at the next Contracting Parties Meeting in late 2005.

The main objective of MAP was to improve the quality of the environmental information available to governments as the basis for their policy formulation and strengthen their ability to make environmentally sustainable choices for allocation of resources. The focus of MAP shifted over time from a sector approach to marine pollution to integrated coastal zone planning and management as a way to ensure linkages between environmental protection and social and economic development.

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

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

The SAP-MED and SAP BIO outline the specific targets and activities agreed by the member countries to address the Mediterranean Sea environmental degradation. Some of the key targets that address transboundary environmental issues, in line with WSSD, include:

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

- Effective protection of endangered species by 2012.

SAP-MED and SAP BIO also identify the Adriatic Sea as one of the top priority areas for protection in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed interventions in liquid and solid waste treatment, water supply and monitoring programs for coastal zone and sensitive areas. Other hotspots include: Haifa Bay in Israel, Abu Qir bay and El'Mex bay in Egypt, Saida (Sidon) Gazieh in Lebanon, Tetouan in Morocco, and Durres and Vlora in Albania, and others (see TDA, 2004)

The cost for pollution remedial actions in the Mediterranean Sea has been estimated in 1997 at almost US\$ 10 billion [with approximately US\$ 1.3 billion for intervention in the Adriatic Sea]. The SAP BIO identified 226 actions at national levels and 30 actions at the regional level for biodiversity protection, with estimated costs of US\$ 100 million and US \$40 million respectively.

Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.

In spite of the intensive human use it has experienced for more than two thousand years, the Mediterranean Sea remains a global biodiversity hotspot, listed in the top 15 marine hotspots by Conservation International (CI) and figuring prominently in the WWF Global 200 list. In such an intensively utilized environment, traditional “fortress” protected areas established solely for the preservation of biodiversity are almost impossible to create and enforce. As a result of this pressure to both conserve and use, Mediterranean countries have already established some of the most innovative and successful marine protected areas (MPAs) in the world, ranging from small specific areas for critically important biodiversity, such as the MPAs established for protection of the Monk Seal in Greece, Turkey and Morocco, the Port Cros Park in southern France, and the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals, a transboundary protected area created by France, Monaco and Italy in the Ligurian Sea.

In spite of these innovations, the general situation with regard to marine protected areas in the Mediterranean remains critically weak when measured against a goal of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, especially for the countries in the southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean, since the geographical distribution of Marine Protected Areas around the Mediterranean clearly lacks balance: most of the MPAs are located on the North Mediterranean coast (see map).

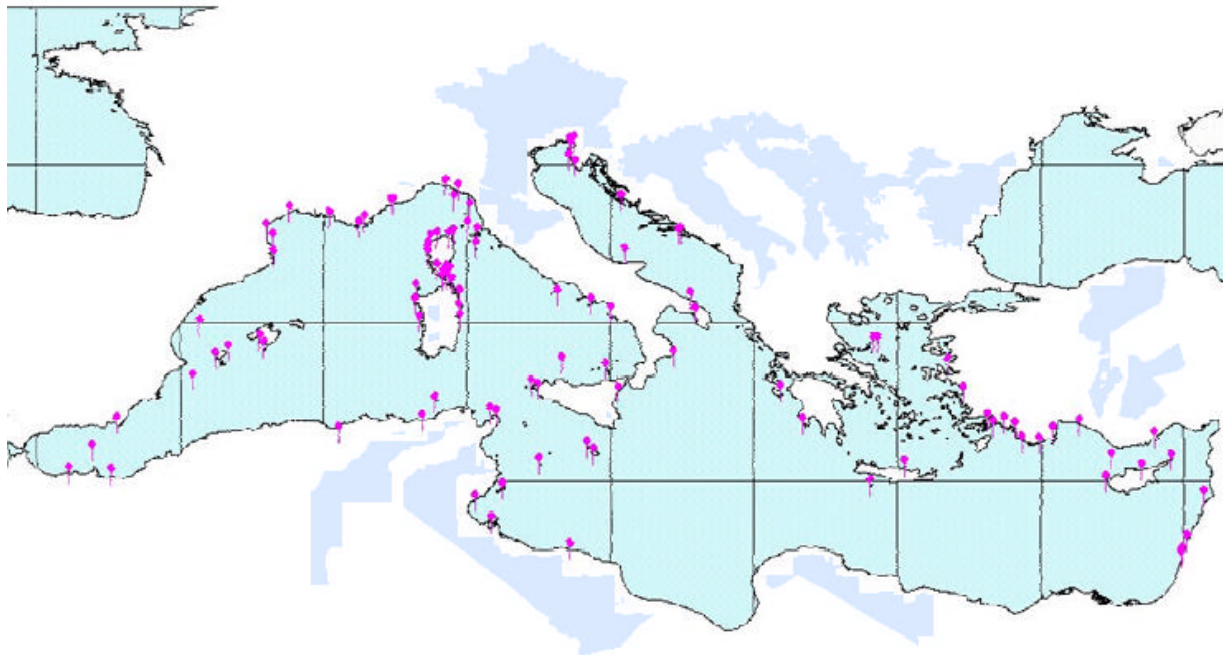
There are more than 150 Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean under the SPA Protocol, more than 50 of which are open water areas. Among the signatories to the Protocol, only Italy has specific legislation for establishing marine protected areas. Most of the other countries have adopted legislative texts permitting the establishment of such areas, without detailed rules concerning regulation and management. In the case of Wetlands, there are 150 Ramsar Sites in the region, but this number could be easily doubled applying the Convention on Wetlands criteria.

Although countries have established MPAs, many of these remain “paper parks”. In addition, many were created purely for species protection without giving adequate consideration to the opportunities to capture multiple benefits through the careful consideration of location, size,

(multiple-use) zoning/management, and the synergistic effects of networks.⁴ At the same time several national reports have identified several common problems affecting the selection, establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Box 3).

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

Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas



From: “Hotspots for Marine Biodiversity in the Mediterranean”. Marine Programme Team IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, 2003.

⁴ Agardy, T. et al. (2003). "Dangerous targets? Unresolved issues and ideological clashes around marine protected areas." Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems; published online in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com) DOI: 10.1002/ aqc.583.

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

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

Box 3. Common problems affecting the conservation of marine biodiversity through the use of MPA's in the Mediterranean.

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

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

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

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

3. SOME OTHER ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

During the implementation of the PDF-B for this project, partnership will be built with other existing activities related to the protection of the Mediterranean Sea in the region. Coordination strategy will be developed and communication links established. In the Mediterranean several activities and initiatives have been undertaken by governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, some of which have relevance for the Mediterranean Sea Basin. Among recent initiatives, reference should be made to the Adricosm Project on land and coastal management, initiated by the Italian government, as well as the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative supported by the governments of the Adriatic region.

Reference should also be made to the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative, as well as to efforts being made to improve the management of the many transboundary basins

and aquifers of SE Europe by introducing IWRM practices (the Athens Declaration Process). A number of these waters flow into the Mediterranean and have a significant impact on coastal ecosystems and water quality. Box 4 and 5 below summarize these processes.

Box 4. The Athens Declaration Process

Jointly coordinated by the Government of Greece and the World Bank

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

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

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

Box 5. The Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI)

led by the Government of Greece

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

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

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

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

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

At their Eleventh Ordinary Meeting, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols recommended giving high priority to **promoting the management of marine protected areas** and marine sites containing sensitive, threatened or rare habitats with a view to strengthening the network of marine protected areas in the region.

This Med-MPA Project (box 6), receiving funding from the European community through the SMAP Programme and coordinated by RAC/SPA is aimed at assisting the Mediterranean countries to strengthen the conservation and the sustainable management of coastal biological diversity.

Box 6. Med-MPA Project

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

Moreover, the project aims at concrete action, within the context of the priorities that have been chosen on a national and regional scale, and thus at helping countries discharge certain of their obligations entered into within the framework of the Barcelona Convention's Protocol on Protected Areas, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

4. INITIAL GEF IW PROJECT (UNEP/WB) OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In order to support the efforts of the Mediterranean countries in implementing the SAP MED, in 1998 the GEF Council approved a US\$ 6.3 million grant in support of the project "Determination of priority actions for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea" to be implemented by UNEP together with other agencies (Box 5).

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

Box 6. Initial GEF IW Project in the Mediterranean.

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

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

A revised TDA was prepared and released.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The two SAPs and the proposed ICM Protocol will help countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the WSSD targets.

C - COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

• COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY

Twelve riparian countries (listed on the first page) are eligible for GEF support for International Waters (IW) under paragraph 9(b) of the GEF Instrument: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Serbia and Monte Negro, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

• COUNTRY DRIVENNESS

As mentioned above, 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 related protocols are legal instruments for the implementation of MAP. All Mediterranean Countries participating in this project have ratified the Barcelona Convention. Strategic Action

Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP MED), prepared under a GEF PDF-B Grant, was adopted by the 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 the current 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 in consistence with GEF Operational Program 9 (OP) in the International Waters Focal Area and Operational Program 2 (OP 2) in Biodiversity Focal Area.

A Stocktaking Meeting for the development of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems was held in Trieste, Italy, on 11-12 October 2004 with the support of the Italian Government (the minutes of the meeting are provided in Annex 2). The representatives of the Mediterranean countries expressed their full support to the GEF initiative. They stressed the need for assistance for the full implementation of their NAPs in order to fulfill the goals of the two SAPs. To achieve that, the representatives suggested to tailor the project's activities according to the specific needs of each country. At the meeting the countries have 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.”

D – PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

1. PROGRAM DESIGNATION AND CONFORMITY

The proposal is consistent with the GEF Operational Programme #9 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 is to help groups of countries utilize the full range of technical, economic, financial, regulatory, and institutional measures needed to operationalize sustainable development strategies for international waters and their drainage basins (para 9.2).”

The Proposal is consistent with the BD OP 2: The objective of this Operational Program is the conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources in coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems generally (including lakes, rivers and wetlands, and island ecosystems).

(a) **Conservation** can be ensured by ecosystem functioning through the establishment and strengthening of systems of conservation areas. The scope will be tropical and temperate coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems areas at risk; and

(b) **Sustainable use** can be ensured by systems, which combine biodiversity conservation, production, and socio-economic goals. The scope, as set out in the Operational Strategy, includes strict protection on reserves, various forms of multiple use with conservation easements, and full scale use.

As indicated in the GEF Operational Strategy, this Operational Program will be implemented in conjunction with those in the International Waters focal area.

The project is also consistent with the new GEF International Waters Strategic Priority IW-1: Catalyze financial resource mobilization for implementation of reforms and stress reduction measures agreed through the (TDA)/SAP or equivalent processes for particular transboundary systems. The project is also consistent with the new GEF Biodiversity Strategic Priorities BD-1: Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Areas, and BD-2: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes and Sectors.

2. PROJECT DESIGN

REGIONAL ELEMENT OF THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: “IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED ACTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND ITS COASTAL AREAS”.

The main objective of this Regional Component under the Strategic Partnership is to promote and induce policy, legal and institutional reforms aimed at reversing marine and coastal degradation trends and living resources depletion, in accordance with what had been agreed by the countries in the SAP MED and SAP BIO to be reflected in their NAPs. In doing so, the Project will also strengthen the enforcement, assessment and monitoring capabilities of the national and local institutions; and establish technical mechanisms for supporting transboundary pollution prevention and abatement originating in the coastal areas of the Mediterranean Sea towards the Environmental Quality Objectives (EQO's) identified in the Mediterranean TDA, which broadly are:

- Reduce the impacts of LBS of pollution on the Mediterranean marine environment and human health;
- Reach sustainable productivity from fisheries; and
- Preserve the coastal and marine biodiversity (ie. habitats, ecosystems, biological taxa and genetic resources).

Long Term Objectives of the Regional Project and relevant Success Indicators are listed in Annex 1 as well as Immediate objectives, actions, outputs and related Project's Success Indicators.

The proposed Project will focus on and assist the countries:

1. To implement legal, institutional and policy reforms, which are necessary for the implementation of NAPs, in order to achieve the targets, set by the two SAPs.

2. To develop an adequate human capacity for legal/institutional set up, reforms and harmonization of policies needed to reverse pollution degradation trends, biodiversity and living resources depletion, by following the priorities established by the SAP MED and SAP BIO, by providing a required technical assistance.
3. To provide technical and financial support in implementing selected priority actions identified in NAPs in accordance with priorities set up by the SAP MED and SAP BIO.
4. To address groundwater issues in coastal regions, particularly in arid and karst areas, through use of demonstrations projects and vulnerability assessments; this should include the adoption of hydrologic basins as key management units (particularly in Balkan and Eastern Mediterranean countries, including coastal groundwater units near hot spots in arid and karst regions).
5. To develop a long term sustainable financing capacity of countries through increased integration of environmentally related economic instruments and innovative use of financing mechanism into mainstream environmental financing in order for sustainable implementation of the SAP MED including and launch of the SAP BIO implementation to achieve sustained global environmental benefits. Establish a potential regional network on environmental sustainable financing and innovative financing practices/methods.
6. To respond to the SAPBIO targets related to Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (by 2012, increase by 50% the coverage of marine protected areas, in relation to 2003, and protect 20% of the coast as marine fishery reserves;

This Regional Project will be implemented by UNEP and executed by UNEP/MAP, through MED POL and associated Regional Activity Centers (CP/RAC, PAP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC), with inputs from UNEP/GPA.

Some actions will be co-executed by relevant international organizations. Thus, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) directly and through the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) could co-execute the actions addressing fisheries management and their eventual integration into ICM frameworks. The groundwater actions would be co-executed by UNESCO/IHP. The habitat and biodiversity conservation actions will be implemented by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). WWF will specifically contribute with its technical expertise in biodiversity conservation, its ability to mobilize the civil society, build capacity and raise public awareness. The Mediterranean Environment Technical Assistance Program (METAP) will provide technical assistance to countries in integrating environmental and social components into targeted sectoral projects. Activities related to cleaner technologies and pollution reduction could be co-executed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and by the International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS-UNIDO). Other organization, as well as NGOs could execute some activities too. This broad regional alliance of institutions around a common project through the Regional Component of the Partnership will strengthen the commitment and capacity of all stakeholders to address the identified main transboundary concerns, identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA).

The full fledge Project Implementation Strategy, including specific activities, outcomes and outputs of the Full project will be developed during PDF-B implementation. The proposed activities of the Regional Project could be clustered as follows:

Component I. Facilitation of policy and legislative reforms (UNEP/MAP through MED POL, CP/RAC, PAP/RAC, REMPEC and SPA/RAC)

The development and implementation of policies and legislation aimed at addressing transboundary causes of environmental degradation of the Mediterranean Sea, as established in the SAP MED and SAP BIO, will be one of the objectives of the Regional Project. Adequate capacity will be developed in the countries for legal/institutional set up, reforms and harmonization of policies needed to reverse degradation trends and living resources depletion, by following the priorities established by the SAP MED and SAP BIO. During further elaboration of the project, the needs for reforms and the commitments emerging from each country's National Action Plan and SAP BIO National Action Plans, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant protected areas planning documents, will be identified and specific indicators will be set in the context of the project's M&E Plan.

Activities will include:

- Assisting the countries to implement the legal, institutional and policy reforms, which are necessary for the implementation of NAPs, in order to achieve the targets, set by the two SAPs.
- Assisting the countries in the development and implementation of policies and legislation aimed at addressing sectoral causes of environmental degradation of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Promoting countries coordination to develop and implement international and national Action Plans, including fisheries IPOAs and NPOAs.
- Assisting the countries to improve legislation, reinforce the human resources and exchange of information on monitoring illegal oil discharges and prosecution in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Strengthening of public awareness, participation (including NGO networks) and education, to support public participation in the implementation of NAPs and focus on transboundary environmental issues;
- Assessing the applicability of regional and sub-regional flexibility mechanisms for the achievements of pollutant emission reductions, e.g. as a market-oriented means of controlling nutrient introduction;
- Strengthening of planning and management capacities for Integrated Coastal Management –(ICM) at national and local levels in the Mediterranean countries and the development of demonstration projects for effective management of coastal areas, and identification and management of MPAs.
- Revise the 2004 TDA in year three of the project with follow up revision of SAPs, if needed.

Outcomes:

- Legal, institutional and policy reforms in order to achieve the targets, set by the two SAPs, implemented.
- Policies and legislation aimed at addressing sectoral causes of environmental degradation of the Mediterranean Sea developed and implemented.
- Multi-stakeholders participation in the implementation of the NAPs and SAPs strengthened.
- Improvement of long term sustainable financing for the implementation of the Sap-MED

- Strengthened planning and management capacities for Integrated Coastal Management –(ICM) at national and local levels in the Mediterranean countries and the development of demonstration projects for effective management of coastal areas, and identification and management of MPAs.
- A management regime capable of coordinating regional actions to overcome the key transboundary issues facing the Mediterranean Sea.

Component II. Replication Strategies. (UNEP/MAP – WORLD BANK)

This Component of the Regional Project will develop and support a replication strategy to ensure the replication of successful demonstrations, and the broader dissemination of the lessons learnt and results achieved under the Investment Fund and the overall Strategic Partnership. The replication Strategy, to be fully developed during the PDF-B, will consist of two major elements:

1. Replication of Investment Demonstration Projects. Since the Investment Fund will provide only a small portion of the investment needs to achieve significant reductions in pollution loads or coastal/marine ecosystem improvements, the proposed fund will specifically finance project components that promote wider replication of each investment project. Each demonstration project will in fact have its own replication strategy built in the project design. The World Bank, in collaboration with UNEP/MAP, will provide for each project under the Fund:

- the replication context for each demonstration, i.e.: the number, location, areas/sites in the Mediterranean where the specific technology/practice could apply;
- based on the above, a strategy aimed at promoting actual replication of each demonstration implemented under the Investment Fund Element of the Strategic Partnership, including ad hoc dissemination programs, site visits and exchanges, etc;
- Assessment of the value of demo projects replication
- Evaluation of the overall expected impact should full replication occur.

2. The UNEP/MAP executed Regional Project will (i) promote replication of its own activities and (ii) support regionally the replication strategy of the Fund's projects. This will be achieved largely through an intensive monitoring, learning, outreach and evaluation process. In parallel, the project will promote replication of its successes, and particularly its more innovative initiatives, during its own lifetime. A key element of its replication strategy that will serve both these objectives will be an aggressive and systematic awareness and results dissemination program. The main mechanism to achieve this will be an Annual Replication Workshop, to be conducted in coincidence with Steering Committee Meetings. Other mechanisms will also be employed (regional and global conferences, project and sub-project websites, printed materials, etc.) involving multiple partners. Through these multiple mechanisms and partnerships, information on successful investment and policy reform promotion strategies, innovative financing modalities and new partnerships will be widely disseminated. This will promote replication of individual Investment Fund demonstration projects and the Regional component activities as well as the Strategic Partnership itself.

Outcomes:

- Regional replication strategies for each demonstration under the Fund component defined and implemented;
- Replication strategies for the Regional Project activities and the Strategic Partnership itself defined and implemented.
- Sectoral environment assessment for full replication at the country and regional level;
- Demonstration projects successfully replicated in several Mediterranean countries.

Component III. Technical Assistance

Sub-Category 1. Implementation of the SAP MED and related NAPs (pollution reduction strategies). (UNEP/MAP through MED POL and CP/RAC, UNIDO, ICS-UNIDO, UNEP/GPA, METAP).

Under this Sub-category of actions a variety activities will be developed during the PDF-B phase, according to countries' needs and commitments, such as:

- Promoting an integrated approach to improve industrial environmental performance by introducing environmentally sound technologies in order to meet objectives and targets of the SAP MED;
- Strengthening existing institutions which could play a major role in the implementation of the SAPs such as: Cleaner Production Centers etc.;
- Developing a long term sustainable financing capacity of countries through increased integration of environmental/environmentally related economic instruments and innovative use of financing mechanism into mainstream environmental financing including building networks between ministries of finance, economy and environment at national and regional level and demonstrate and/or adapt existing economic instruments for the sustainable implementation of the SAP MED;
- Development and implementation of an Action Plan on Marine Litter which will be based on the Guidelines prepared by MED POL as part of previous GEF MED Project to prevent environmental and socio-economic harmful effects and damages caused by marine litter;
- Assisting the countries in introducing BATs as well as BEPs, following the Guidelines developed as part of the GEF/UNEP/MAP Project;
- Monitoring the compliance to the SAP MED and report on the overall progress and achievements of the project and establish harmonized environmental status indicators to meet the SAP MED and SAP BIO 2010 and 2015 targets.

Outcomes:

- Strategies of pollution prevention and reduction addressing the issues identified in the SAP MED introduced in the plans and policies of the Mediterranean countries;
- Regional pool of well trained experts capable of addressing successfully the pollution prevention and reduction objectives of the SAP MED in the national plans and policies;
- Reduced impacts of LBS of pollution on Mediterranean Marine Environment and Human Health;
- Enhanced capacity of the participating countries to address industrial pollution reduction in an integrated manner;
- Increased use of environmentally sound technology at demonstration hot spots resulting in reduction of pollution loads from industrial hot spots in accordance with SAP-MED objectives;

- Improved sharing and dissemination of information on industrial best environmental practices in the Mediterranean Region.

Sub-Category 2. Implementation of the SAP BIO and related NAPs (biodiversity protection strategies). (UNEP/MAP, SPA/RAC, FAO/GFCM, IUCN, EIFAC, WWF)

As described in section 2, although Mediterranean countries have established MPAs, many of these were created without giving adequate consideration to the opportunities to capture multiple benefits through the careful consideration of location, size, (multiple-use) zoning/management, and the synergistic effects of networks.

Existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas need to be enhanced, in terms of (i) devoting sufficient resources to funding the management of current Protected Areas; (ii) improving methods of management planning, implementation and monitoring of Marine and Coastal protected areas; and (iii) integrating specific protection measures at particular locations within wider management plans, as well as into large-scale networks of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas.

Further benefits can be obtained from networking existing and future protected areas at regional level. Although on a local scale Marine Protected Areas can be effective conservation tools, on a regional scale MPAs can only be effective if they are substantially representative of all habitats, also taking into account the biological and ecological particularities of protected species and habitats. An additional benefit of such a network is that it acts as a buffer against the vagaries of environmental variability and provides significantly greater protection for marine communities than a single reserve.

Activities to be developed in the PDF-B phase of the proposed project will build on and complement ongoing regional and national knowledge⁷ and activities in accordance with the countries' priorities and commitments and will be grouped around the following priorities actions and objectives:

- Strengthening and assisting the existing MPAs, especially with regard to monitoring management effectiveness to measure impact and derive lessons to apply to the replication component of the project⁸.
- Strengthening of the network of priority marine and coastal protected areas identified by countries and improvement of existing MPAs; to contribute to achieving the WSSD targets concerning the establishment by 2012 of Marine Protected Areas, consistent with international law and based on scientific information, representative networks and

⁷ CIESM (1999) Scientific design and monitoring of Mediterranean marine protected areas; Porto Cesareo (Italy), 23-26 October 1999; CIESM Workshop Series volume n°8; Italy's *Sistema Aphrodite* programme; Arturo López & Elena Correas (2003) Assessment and Opportunities of Mediterranean Networks and action plans for the Management of Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. ISBN: 2-8317-0734-X.

⁸The MPA Management Effectiveness Initiative (MEI) guidebook "How is your MPA Doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness" has been applied to the Miramare Natural Marine Reserve, Trieste, Italy; see <http://effectivempa.noaa.gov/cases/Miramare.pdf>

time/area closures for the protection of nursery grounds and periods, proper coastal land use⁹.

- Implement inventorying, mapping and monitoring programmes on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas: to contribute to achieving the WSSD¹⁰ targets concerning the establishment by 2004 of a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments¹¹.
- Assessing and mitigating the impact of threats to biodiversity, especially in the existing MPAs: to contribute to achieving the WSSD targets concerning significant reduction by 2010 in the current rate of loss of biological diversity¹².
- Improve understanding of Med. Coastal and marine sensitive habitats and filling in gaps in biodiversity: to improve the scientific understanding and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems¹³ and MPAs.
- Capacity-building, stakeholders involvement and awareness raising: to strengthen cooperation and coordination of all stakeholders, increase stakeholders participation in conservation initiatives and increase awareness raising on marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and MPAs.

Outcomes:

- Fully functioning system of marine biodiversity conservation through the network of MPAs.
- Biodiversity protection through the development of marine and coastal protected areas identified by countries and improvement of existing MPAs;
- Improved understanding of Med. Coastal and marine sensitive habitats;
- Implemented monitoring programmes on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas
- Improved methods of MPAs implementation, management and monitoring;
- Legislation updated to conserve sensitive habitats;
- Developed and coordinated protection actions for priority coastal and marine sites;
- Improved conservation of threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) Med species;
- Facilitated access to information for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public and increased Mediterranean-level stakeholders awareness

Sub-Category 3. Implementation of the SAP BIO related to the conservation and sustainable management of vulnerable or endangered fish and invertebrates, including

9 Extract from Paragraph 31c, Plan of Implementation“ of the World Summit on Sustainable Development - 4 September 2002, Johannesburg

¹⁰ World Summit on Sustainable Development, “ Plan of Implementation “ - Johannesburg, September 2002

¹¹ Extract from Paragraph 34b, Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development – Johannesburg, September 2002

¹² Extract from Paragraph 42, Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development - 4 September 2003 – Johannesburg

¹³ From paragraph 34 of “ Plan of Implementation “ of the World Summit on Sustainable development – Johannesburg, September 2002

IUCN/CITES lists, including sustainable related fisheries (living resources strategies) (FAO/GFCM, SPA/RAC)

Conservation and sustainable management of vulnerable or endangered fish and invertebrates requires the implementation of numerous actions, which should be undertaken at the regional and national levels, as prioritized in the SAP BIO and relevant NAPs. Specific actions, which would be developed during the PDF-B phase in accordance with the countries' needs and commitments, may be grouped into the following:

- Assisting the countries to implement fisheries and living resources reforms and programs to meet GFCM, ICCAT, SAP BIO and WSSD 2010/2015 sustainable fisheries targets;
- Improve single-species and multi-species selectivity of gear and fishing practices, addressing particularly the problems of multi-species catch, discards and ghost-fishing
- Assisting the countries to develop and implement the Mediterranean Strategy to reduce fishing-related mortality of marine mammals, turtles and sea birds
- Mediterranean Strategy to eliminate particularly harmful fishing practices, building on the SAP BIO regional report: "Effects of fishing practices on the Mediterranean sea: Impact on marine sensitive habitats and species, technical solution and recommendations."
- Develop new fisheries management techniques (fishing rights, economic incentives)
- Improve coordination between fisheries and environmental commissions and institutions

Outcomes:

- Fisheries and living resources reforms and programs to meet GFCM, ICCAT, SAP BIO and WSSD 2010/2015 sustainable fisheries targets;
- Mediterranean Strategy to reduce fishing-related mortality of marine mammals, turtles and sea birds;
- Mediterranean Strategy to reduce the impact of trawling and other towed gear on critical habitats;
- Mediterranean Strategy to eliminate particularly harmful fishing practices (dynamite, chemicals, etc.);
- New fisheries management techniques (fishing rights, economic incentives);
- Improved coordination between fisheries and environmental commissions and institutions.

Sub-Category 4. Regional Strategies to manage and protect coastal aquifers. (UNESCO)

This sub-category will identify and develop regional, national and sub-national actions and pilot demonstrations aimed at reversing aquifer related degradation trends, such as:

- the growing salinization of coastal aquifers;
- the contamination due to polluted sub-marine aquifer discharges (e.g.: karst systems);
- the loss of ground-water dependent coastal ecosystems and wetlands.

Activities will also be developed to introduce the systematic assessment of aquifer vulnerability along the Mediterranean coastal regions, so that priorities may be addressed in the revised SAP.

Outcomes:

- Improved knowledge on the status of coastal aquifers and their vulnerability;
- Agreed Regional Actions for Coastal Aquifer Management;
- Legal, institutional and policy reforms for Coastal Aquifer Management.

Sub-Category 5. Regional Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) (UNEP/MAP, GWP, METAP)

The sub-category will facilitate the incorporation of the basins draining into the Mediterranean Barcelona Convention framework and thus establish the needed strong linkages with the GPA on Land Based Sources of Pollution. Through this component the Project will link with ongoing initiatives related to the Athens Declaration Process and the EU Water Initiative.

Actions within this sub-category will include the adoption of hydrologic basins as key management units - particularly in Balkan and Eastern Mediterranean Countries. Particular emphasis would be put on including biodiversity in WRM and issues related to vulnerable habitats such as wetlands. The component would also include institutional reforms and policy dialogue, legal and regulatory coordination and private sector participation in water resource management and water quality. This effort, that will be supported through demonstration projects and *ad hoc* training, will aim amongst others at reducing the release of contaminants, both point and non-point sources, and at maintaining environmental flows and functioning of water related coastal ecosystems and habitats/sensitive areas. The component would also identify investment needs related to water resource management and water quality, and assist countries to prepare pre-feasibility studies and investment proposals which could be considered by the Investment Fund. One pillar of this sub-category, would build on the work METAP is already undertaking on water quality policy coordination and monitoring and information dissemination. The objective of the activities proposed is to encourage and enable the Mashreq and Maghreb countries to advance the process of addressing their priority water quality challenges and issues through a systematic, coordinated approach to water quality management.

Outcomes:

- Regional Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) strategies;
- National WRM and water quality programme of actions and instruments for their implementation;
- Biodiversity concerns included in national WRM plans;
- Investments in WRM and improved water quality.

Sub-Category 6. Regional Integrated Coastal Management (UNEP/MAP through PAP/RAC, METAP)

This sub-category will support countries to take the necessary steps to strengthen their policy and institutional framework to address key issues in ICM, such as coastal urbanization, biodiversity protection, water pollution, waste and litter management, erosion and climate change. The sub-category would contribute to the implementation of the ICM Protocol being negotiated upon recommendation of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties. The component would consist of three pillars: (i) a regional pillar in support of the priority actions identified in the ICM protocol which would be implemented by UNEP/MAP through

PAP/RAC; (ii) a pillar which would support the individual countries to evaluate the cost of environmental degradation in coastal areas, develop necessary policy and implementation tools at national level, which would be implemented by METAP; and (iii) a pillar that would provide a linkage to the Investment Fund component of the Partnership, by identifying potential investment opportunities for the protection and restoration of valuable coastal areas and assist the countries in the development of pre-feasibility studies and project proposals, which would be implemented jointly by UNEP/MAP-PAP/RAC and METAP.

Outcomes:

- Regional ICM Protocol developed and implemented;
- National strategies for ICM including programme of action and instruments for its implementation;
- ICM plans with institutional systems in place aimed at their implementation;
- ICM tools, instruments and approaches, such as Cost of Environmental Degradation (COED) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA);
- Use of ICM for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation;
- Investments in the protection and rehabilitation of valuable coastal areas

COMPONENT IV. OVERALL COORDINATION AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Project Steering Committee

The Steering Committee for the Strategic Partnership (SPSC) will be established to provide overall decision-making at the policy level. The SPSC will be comprised of one National Focal Points (appointed by the participating governments), the Implementing Agencies (UNEP and WB) and the executing agencies (UNEP/MAP) as well as the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention. All principal partners (particularly major co-funders) will also be represented on the SPSC.

The SPSC will act as the main policy body overseeing the project execution. The PSC will make decisions on major issues such as the reviewing and endorsing status reports from the Investments Fund demonstration projects and reports from the Regional Project, adoption of and revisions to the workplan or budget and endorsement of the Regional Project and Investments Fund Coordinator's/PCU's reports.

Specific functions of the Steering Committee will include:

- Endorsement of Investment Fund Demonstration Project Status Reports
- Annual review of the Regional project and Investment Fund budgets
- Annual review of projects activities to assess projects development

The SPSC will be expected to meet formally at least once every 12 months. The SPSC will also communicate and coordinate closely between meetings (as and when required) to ensure effective and appropriate project implementation and to agree on any proposed amendments to activities or budget requirements.

The SPSC is especially responsible for evaluation and monitoring of project outputs, outcomes and achievements. In its formal meetings, the SPSC will be expected to review the project

work plan and budget expenditure. The SPSC is responsible for endorsing any changes to the work plan or budget, and is responsible for ensuring that the Strategic Partnership remains on target with respect to its outputs (or, where necessary, approves new targets in coordination with, and approval from, the Implementing Agencies).

Coordination Group

A Coordination Group, established under the Strategic Partnership, will be responsible for the overall coordination of the Strategic Partnership, in particular ensuring effective exchanges and synergies between its two Components (Regional Project and Investment Fund). It will be formed by:

- The MAP Coordinator (chair)
- Representatives of the GEF Secretariat
- Representatives of MED POL and RACs
- The Project Manager of Component 1 (Regional Project),
- UNEP/GEF Coordination Office Representative
- The World Bank-GEF Regional Coordinators (ECA and MENA),
- The World Bank Task Managers responsible for the Fund's projects
- Representatives of co-executing agencies
- Representatives of co-funding partners and donor countries.

The Coordination Group will monitor the needed systematic linkage between the two Components, so that synergies will not be missed, and consistency with agreed rules, targets, and indicators would be achieved throughout. It will oversee the design and implementation of replication strategies and provide advice on the Fund's pipeline.

The Group will meet once a year at the office of MAP in Athens, in conjunction with regular MAP meetings of the parties. In addition to the World Bank Task Managers of the projects under the Fund, project personnel as well as representatives of the countries involved and of external experts and Executing Agencies representatives will be invited to attend the meetings according to advancements and needs.

An independent expert will perform an assessment of the Strategic Partnership advancements every year. The Coordination Group at its inception meeting will define the TORs for this task. The relevant Annual Performance Assessment will be presented and discussed at the meeting of the Coordination Group. This Coordination & Monitoring component of the Partnership will be funded under Regional Project. A mid-term stocktaking meeting of all nations and partners will be held after three years of implementation to review progress and adopt mid-course corrective measures, if needed.

A project website will be developed in coordination with the World Bank Investment Fund in consistency with IW:LEARN guidance.

Outcomes:

- Strong overall coordination of the two Elements of the Partnership;
- Effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism;
- Effective project information and lessons learned dissemination

- Enhanced replication of demonstration projects.

3. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT (INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)

The project falls under the broad policy guidance of the Barcelona Convention through the MAP. It coordinates its objectives and activities with the mandated institutions in place (e.g. fisheries commissions). The commitments of the Mediterranean countries have been demonstrated in the previous GEF IW project: “Determination of priority actions for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea”, the resulting SAP MED and SAP BIO showing a variety of regional and national actions, with related investments. Thus, the countries have made the commitment to contribute to a significant portion of the expense of developing Mediterranean-wide biodiversity conservation and pollution stress reduction measures. The project will focus on developing a strong legal/regulatory framework from which other ongoing activities can be launched and will foster existing frameworks. The project will also concentrate on the development of sustainable financing mechanisms and economic instruments to help achieve sustainability of environmental interventions in the Mediterranean region. The project will also ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the initiative through: the involvement, right from the start, of the private sector; the creation of a good environment for external investments; the creation of innovative financial tools.

4. REPLICABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The project under Component II will develop Replication strategies for actions supported by the project within the region, including successful investment demos implemented under the Investment Fund component. Sectoral environment assessment will also be developed for full replication at the country level. The full fledged replication strategy for the project will be developed during the PDF-B.

5. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT/INTENDED BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of this project are governments, civil societies, industry associations and chambers of commerce, NGO’s and the population of the riparian states. The full stakeholders participation and involvement plan will be developed during the PDF-B.

E. – FINANCING

1. FINANCING PLAN

The indicative figure for the GEF allocation to the Regional Project is \$15 million. The full flagged financial plan and budget will be developed during the PDF-B phase.

2. CO-FINANCING

The co-financing, at least in 1:1 ratio, will be sought during the implementation of the PDF-B.

F - INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

1. CORE COMMITMENTS AND LINKAGES

The riparian States of the Mediterranean Sea, fully aware of their responsibility to preserve and develop the entire area in a sustainable way and recognizing the threat posed by the pollution of the marine environment agreed in 1975, to launch a Mediterranean Action Plan for the Protection of the Mediterranean Basin (MAP) and, in 1976, to sign a Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention), which entered into force in 1978. The Convention was amended in 1995 and the amendments entered into force in 2004.

As the result of the MAP, a large number of concrete actions were taken by many countries in conformity with the requirements and provisions of the MAP, thus influencing the environmental policies and practices of the Mediterranean countries. The MAP has been a significant instrument for change and progress concerning environmental matters in the Mediterranean.

In spite of numerous regional and national efforts and successes achieved by the MAP, other regional actors (European Union, WB, international NGOs), national and local authorities, there are still many barriers to more effective ecosystems management that need to be removed. Thus stronger emphasis on the promotion of ICM is needed; national environmental legislation and its effective enforcement should be strengthened; institutional structures must be improved and more human resources allocated for these type of activities; more financial resources need to be mobilized; and strong political commitment to solve the existing problems should be expressed.

Based on the achievements and shortcomings of the Initial Phase of the MAP, as well as the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the "Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (MAP Phase II)" was prepared and adopted in 1995, followed by the adoption of MED POL Phase III.

A Strategic Action Programme (SAP MED) to address pollution from land-based activities, which represents the regional adaptation of the principles of the GPA, was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 1997. SAP MED identifies the major pollution problems of the region, indicates the possible control measures, shows the cost of such measures and establishes a work plan and timetable for their implementation.

A Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) was adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003. The Programme, prepared on the basis of national reports, presents the current status of the marine and coastal biodiversity, identifies the major threats, establishes priorities for action and indicates a time frame for their implementation. In addition, it estimates the cost of the implementation of the priority actions both at the regional and national levels.

2. CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AND AMONG IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, EXECUTING AGENCIES, AND THE GEF SECRETARIAT

A Strategic Partnership Steering Committee will be established during PDF-B (as described in Component IV above), which will include National Focal Points (appointed by the participating governments), technical advisors (nominated from cooperating national institutions), President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, UNEP/DGEF, UNEP/MAP (MED POL and MAP-associated RACs), UNEP/GPA, WB, METAP, UNESCO IHP, UNIDO, ICS-UNIDO, IUCN, FAO, GEF, WWF and any other major donors to the project. The Project Coordinator will serve as Secretary to the Steering Group. Two active regional NGOs will also be included in the Steering Group to ensure public participation and dissemination of project information to the relevant stakeholders.

3. IMPLEMENTATION/EXECUTION ARRANGEMENTS

The Regional Component of the Strategic Partnership will be implemented by UNEP and executed by UNEP/MAP through MEDPOL and MAP's associated RACs CP/RAC; SPA/RAC; PAP/RAC, REMPEC); UNEP/GPA, and other co-implementing agencies, as appropriate. So far, the following Organizations have indicated their full support and interest for participation:

- FAO – activities related to fisheries;
- UNESCO IHP – activities related to the groundwater issues;
- UNIDO and the ICS-UNIDO – activities related to industrial pollution and cleaner production technologies;
- METAP (World Bank) – activities related to capacity building, economic and financial mechanisms, ICM as well as linkages with the Investment Fund; and
- WWF – activities related to biodiversity protection.

ANNEX 1

Objectives and Success Indicators of the Regional Project

Long –Term Objectives		Success Indicators
1	Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from LBS and activities is reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emission of SAP MED targeted substances is reduced • Pollution prevention strategies and economic incentives to promote adoption of Environmentally Sound Technology (EST) introduced in the MED countries • The implementation of NAP's to reduce pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from LBS activities initiated in majority of the Mediterranean countries • Mediterranean Action Plan on Marine Litter developed and endorsed • ICM strategies introduced in majority of the Mediterranean countries • Groundwater discharges from polluted coastal aquifers are reduced and controlled
2	Biodiversity and ecosystems of the Mediterranean Sea are preserved from degradation and destruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short, medium and long-term NAPs as well as other identified National and Regional Priority Actions for the preservation of the biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea are implemented • Taxonomic and other biodiversity related expertise at PhD level is increased by 50% by 2010 • Impact of threats on biodiversity are mitigated • Threatened and Endangered species are effectively protected by 2012 • The surface area covered by MPAs increases at least by 50% by 2012 • A representative network of coastal and MPAs are established by 2012 • The WSSD target concerning establishing a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, is supported in the region by achieving a regional assessment system

3	Fisheries exploited at agreed target reference points on a sustainable manner and incorporation of area-based measures (such as ecologically sensitive areas) to improve fisheries resources protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of stocks of commercially important species are maintained or restored by 2015 • Implementation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management • Species threatened by fisheries are recovering • Breeding and/or nursery areas established as fisheries reserves and efficiently protected by 2012 • Ecologically sensitive areas are not threatened by fisheries • Control and mitigation of the introduction and spread of alien species is reinforced
Intermediate Objectives		Success Indicators
1	Urgent control measures by all riparian countries to minimize or avoid pollution from identified hot spots of LBS pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of land based hot spots reduced by 50% by 2015
Immediate Objectives		Success Indicators
1	Reduction of LBS pollution loads of SAP MED targeted substances to the Mediterranean Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with the LBS and the SPA Protocols to the Barcelona Convention • Scientific understanding and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems is improved through identification of research gaps and creation of regional research programs • FAO international plans of action are implemented, in particular the international plan of action for the management of fishing capacity and the international plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing • Enforcement of relevant international rules and regulations and compliance with the Prevention and Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention achieved
2	Healthy functioning coastal and marine key biodiversity-supporting ecosystems	
3	Improved management of fisheries	
4	Prosecution of offenders of applicable rules and regulations related to operational discharges from ships	

Outcomes and Success Indicators of the Regional Project

Component I. Facilitation of policy and legislative reforms		
Outcomes		Success Indicators
1	Development and implementation of policies and legislation aimed at addressing sectoral causes of environmental degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate capacity developed in the countries for legal/institutional set up, reforms and harmonization of policies needed to reverse degradation trends and living resources depletion

	of the Mediterranean Sea	
2	Experts and strong regional and national centers of excellency capable of coordinating regional and national actions to overcome the key transboundary issues facing the Mediterranean Sea, including ICM, nutrients reduction, BATs and BEPs, wetlands restoration etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational, fully trained network of experts from developing countries in the application of adaptive management techniques including in fisheries. • National centers are strengthen and fully operational to support the implementation of NAP/SAP and act regionally • Core of national experts in economic evaluation of damages and remediation costs • Training programs for ministries, agencies, institutes and other interested parties to incorporate assessments of the cost of environmental degradation in policy making and environmental assessment
3	Clearing-house mechanism focused on marine and coastal conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking system and exchange protocols promoted and established at a regional level • Different conventions and related initiatives coordinated • Quality control-evaluation system established
4	Coordination to developing and implementing international and national Action Plans, including fisheries IPOAs and NPOAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common tools developed • Action Plans coordinated and refined within the framework of the clearing-house mechanism • Fisheries NPOAs developed and being implemented
5	Improvement of legislation, reinforcement of human resources and exchange of information on monitoring illegal oil discharges and prosecution in the Mediterranean Sea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant rules and regulations implemented and effective enforcement mechanisms achieved • Legal personnel and operational officers fully trained • Network of competent national authorities for prosecution of offenders established
6	Capacity Building, Improvement of long term sustainable financing for the implementation of the Sap-MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established and functioning network at regional level between ministries of finance/economy and environment on environmental financial issues • Demonstrate use of environmental economic instruments at national level in several countries • Established national working groups between ministries of finance and environment on environmental financing in several countries
7	Access to information for managers and decision makers facilitated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International, Regional and National agencies coordinated to facilitate access to environmental information

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public officials trained on facilitation of public access to information and participation Regional network for information on SAP/MED is established
8	Integration of SAP MED stakeholders in the process of the implementation of NAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of stakeholders is increasing
9	Public participation and awareness in conservation initiatives increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional cooperation and coordination on educational and awareness programmes achieved Public officials trained on facilitation of public access to information and participation Awareness and Educational material and activities generated and produced at sufficient levels
10	A management regime capable of coordinating regional actions to overcome the key transboundary issues facing the Mediterranean Sea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barcelona Convention Secretariat strengthened.

Component II. Promotion of Regional Replication Strategies

	Outcomes	Success Indicators
1	Replication strategies for each demonstration under the Fund component.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration projects successfully replicated in several Mediterranean countries Sectoral environment assessment prepared for full replication at the country level

Component III. Technical Assistance

Sub-Category 1. Implementation of the SAP MED and related NAPs (pollution reduction strategies).

	Outcomes	Success Indicators
1	Strategies of pollution prevention and reduction addressing the issues identified in the SAP MED introduced in the plans and policies of the Mediterranean countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National plans and policies are in accordance with the provisions of SAP MED
2	Regional pool of well trained experts capable of addressing successfully the pollution prevention and reduction objectives of the SAP MED in the national plans and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experts trained on technical approaches for preventing and reducing pollution

3	Reduced impacts of LBS of pollution on Mediterranean Marine Environment and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets for pollution reduction identified in the SAP MED met. • The trend of NBB of releases and emissions is downward • Full compliance with the LBS Protocol to the Barcelona Convention • Monitoring of compliance with no-dumping regulations for plastics; • Increasing local planning and management capacity to avoid location of waste dump sites near coastlines or waterways or to prevent litter from escaping into the marine and coastal environment; • Trends of compliance to bathing water microbiological standards are met • Marine food, particularly shellfish are safe for human consumption
4	Enhanced capacity of the participating countries to address industrial pollution reduction in an integrated manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technicians and managers from the participating countries enabled to apply innovative methodologies (UNIDO-TEST integrated approach) to promote the diffusion and adoption of EST • Pollution prevention strategies and economic incentives to promote adoption of Environmentally Sound Technology (EST) introduced in the MED countries
5	Increased use of environmentally sound technology at demonstration hot spots resulting in reduction of pollution loads from industrial hot spots in accordance with SAP-MED objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 20 demonstration sites will be identified and skills of enterprise employees will be upgraded in modern environmental management tools • Corrective actions at the demonstration sites will be initiated to correct negative industrial practices resulting in more efficient consumption of production inputs and reduction of pollution loads generation. • Feasible cleaner production measures requiring no or moderate investment will be implemented at the first place at the demonstration enterprises. • Bankable EST investment projects and financing successfully identified for the demonstration enterprises. • Innovative financing mechanisms will be promoted to facilitate the introduction of EST and the implementation of the SAP-MED.

6	Improved sharing and dissemination of information on industrial best environmental practices in the Mediterranean Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking conducted among a growing cadre of EST experts in the Mediterranean countries to share the experience of the project and to initiate new similar initiatives in the Region. • A set of TEST case studies showing the results achieved in the demonstration enterprises prepared and disseminated to other enterprises (as well as to enterprises in the rest of the region) • Replication mechanisms are in place within the participating countries
Sub-Category 2. Implementation of the SAP BIO and related NAPs (biodiversity protection strategies)		
Outcomes		Success Indicators
1	New areas deserving protection measures in the south and eastern Mediterranean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least, one area identified per country • Action plans prepared for each identified areas
2	Biodiversity protection through the development of marine and coastal protected areas identified in the SAPBIO and improvement of existing MPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface covered by MPAs increased by 50% by 2012 • Related NAPs refined and implemented
3	Established and supported protected areas network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network functional and efficient
4	Improved understanding of Med. Coastal and marine sensitive habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complete and integrated inventory of Med. coastal and marine sensitive habitats (GIS maps of sensitive habitats)
5	Implemented monitoring programmes on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring indicators defined and sampling protocols established • Up to date information on the status of protected areas • Comparative analysis of protected areas results at regional level
6	Improved methods of MPAs implementation, management and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management measures refined • New management measures applicable
7	Updated legislation to conserve sensitive habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient, coordinate and enforced legislation to conserve sensitive habitats and to create Marine Protected Areas
8	Developed and coordinated protection actions for priority coastal and marine sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed action plans to protect sites identified by National Reports
9	Improved conservation of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related NAPs refined and implemented

	threatened and endangered (coastal and marine) Med species	
10	Increased sustainable tourism and mitigated impact of recreational activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism guidelines promoted Management and regulation of threatened recreational areas developed in accordance with environmental factors
11	Facilitated access to information for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managers and decision-makers exposed to information Integrated management scheme prepared and implemented Information initiatives conceived and implemented
12	Increased Mediterranean-level stakeholders awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication biodiversity campaigns in several Mediterranean countries Material produced (leaflets, posters, TV documentaries) Environmental work-camps organised
Sub-Category 3. Implementation of the SAP BIO (and related NAPs) related to the conservation and sustainable management of vulnerable or endangered fish and invertebrates, including IUCN/CITES lists, including sustainable related fisheries (living resources strategies)		
Outcomes		Success Indicators
1	Fisheries and living resources reforms and programs to meet GFCM, ICCAT, SAP BIO and WSSD 2010/2015 sustainable fisheries targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GFCM, ICCAT, SAP BIO and WSSD 2010/2015 sustainable fisheries targets achieved
2	Mediterranean Strategy for the conservation and sustainable management of vulnerable or endangered fish and invertebrates (including IUCN/CITES lists), including sustainable related fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of specific action plans at regional and local level aimed to reduce the impact of fishery on biodiversity.
3	Improve single-species and multi-species selectivity of gear and fishing practices, addressing particularly the problems of multi-species catch, discards and ghost-fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By-catch and discard reduced, ghost-fishing neutralization technology achieved
4	Mediterranean Strategy to reduce fishing-related mortality of marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant reduction of the fishing-related mortality of protected species

	mammals, turtles and sea birds	
5	Mediterranean Strategy to reduce the impact of trawling and other towed gear on critical habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific action implemented at regional and local level to protect critical and sensitive areas to reduce the impact of fishing activities.
6	Mediterranean Strategy to eliminate particularly harmful fishing practices (dynamite, chemicals, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively elimination of these practices.
7	Develop and refine “traditional” fishery management and control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of co-management and other traditional management practices in the use of the fishery resources.
8	New fisheries management techniques (fishing rights, economic incentives)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refined new management techniques developed and implemented
9	Increased number of marine fishery reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas identified and fisheries activities properly managed with stakeholders participation
10	Controlled recreational fishing activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational fishing evaluated • Recreational fishing regulations developed and enforced
11	Improved fishing statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps identified • Data collecting systems improved • Networks of related institutions developed
12	International and national Action Plans (FAO IPOAs and NPOAs) developed and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPOAs adopted at regional level (if relevant) and NPOAs developed and being implemented
13	Improved coordination between fisheries and environmental commissions and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reciprocal adoption of specific but coordinated plans • Organization of joint meetings
<u>Sub-Category 4. Regional Strategies to manage and protect coastal aquifers</u>		
	Outcomes	Success Indicators
1	Improved knowledge on the status of coastal aquifers and their vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transboundary diagnostic analysis- coastal aquifers, (supplement to MED-TDA)
2	Agreed Regional Actions for Coastal Aquifer Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Action Plan developed and agreed by all countries. • Demonstration projects developed and implemented.
3	Legal, institutional and policy reforms for Coastal Aquifer Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Protocol or Protocol supplement on Coastal Aquifer Management agreed by all countries.

Sub-Category 5. Regional Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).		
Outcomes		Success Indicators
1	Regional Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IWRM Strategies adopted by majority of countries
2	National WRM and water quality programme of actions and instruments for their implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National WRM plans established and implemented in all countries • Policy briefs on WRM and water quality developed in all countries
3	Biodiversity concerns included in national WRM plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special action plans developed for protection and safeguarding of critical aquatic habitats such as wetlands
4	Investments in WRM and improved water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority investments opportunities identified in each country for consideration by the investment fund
Sub-Category 6. Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Strategies		
Outcomes		Success Indicators
1	Regional ICM Protocol developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional priorities of the ICM protocol established and implemented
2	National strategies for ICM including programme of action and instruments for its implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National ICM strategies prepared in the majority of countries • Policy briefs on ICM measures developed in all countries
3	ICM plans with institutional systems in place aimed at their implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICM plans prepared and adopted on selected demonstration sites and replicated
4	Development of ICM tools, instruments and approaches, such as Cost of Environmental Degradation (COED) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of tools instruments and approaches developed and training executed • COED in coastal areas prepared in all countries • Institutional capacity to carry out SEA established in each country
5	Use of ICM for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration projects implemented, replication strategy developed • Special management measures taken to protect coastal and marine biodiversity
6	Investments in the protection and rehabilitation of valuable coastal areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority investment opportunities identified in each country for consideration by the Investment Fund
Component IV. Overall Coordination and Monitoring Arrangements for the Strategic Partnership		
1	Strong overall coordination of the two Elements of the Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergies and opportunities for replication will not be missed, and consistency with agreed rules, targets, and indicators will be achieved throughout
	Effective monitoring and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Performance Assessment issued and

	evaluation mechanism	<p>widely distributed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mid-term stocktaking meeting of all nations and partners will be held after three years of implementation to review progress and adopt mid-course corrective measures, if needed.
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Minutes of the MAP-GEF Stocktaking Meeting held in Trieste, Italy, 11-12 October 2004

Introduction

1. In order to assist Mediterranean countries to implement the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP MED), adopted by the Contracting Parties at their Tenth Meeting held in Tunis in 1997, a GEF Project entitled “Determination of Priority Actions for the Further Elaboration and Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea” has been implemented since January 2001.
2. As part of the GEF Project, a number of activities were conducted between January 2001 and October 2004 such as development and adoption of regional guidelines and plans, organization of training courses in the priority areas identified in the SAP MED. In addition, countries have been helped to prepare their sectoral plans, their national diagnostic analyses and their baseline budgets of releases and emissions of SAP-targeted substances,, while the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, prepared in 1997, has been completed and updated.
3. To enhance the implementation of the SAP MED and also of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO), adopted at the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Catania in 2003, and to prepare the ground for the future application of the Protocol being prepared on integrated coastal management (the ICM Protocol), the UNEP/GEF and the World Bank proposed to Mediterranean countries, international organizations and financing institutions concerned the establishment of a **GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean**, to be based, *inter alia*, on the model and lessons learned from the Danube/Black Sea Partnership.
4. In order to foster this process by seeking the views of Mediterranean countries before the GEF takes a decision, the MAP Coordinator in consultation with the GEF Secretariat decided to invite all the actors involved to a meeting to review the proposed GEF Strategic Partnership and to make any recommendations on its content and focus. As result of a generous invitation from and with the support of the Italian Government, the meeting was held at the Savoia Excelsior Hotel in Trieste on 11 and 12 October 2004.

Participation

5. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, and the European Union.
6. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations: World Health Organization (WHO/EURO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO-IHP), International Centre for Science and High Technology of UNIDO (ICS-UNIDO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/Regional Seas, UNEP/GPA and UNEP/GEF), Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), World Bank, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment and Sustainable Development (MIO/ECSDE), World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), and the German Federal Institute for Geoscience and Natural Resources.

7. The MAP Secretariat, through the MED Unit and the MED POL Programme, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC), and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), acted as the Secretariat of the meeting.

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

Agenda item 1 : Opening of the meeting

9. Mr. Paul Mifsud, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, opened the Meeting and warmly thanked the Italian Ministry of the Environment for the welcome extended and for the invaluable help given for the holding of the meeting. He pointed out that the presence of Mr. Corrado Clini, Director General of the International and Regional Conventions Department, Italian Ministry of the Environment and Territory, President of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, bore witness to the interest shown by the Italian authorities in international and regional cooperation in the area of the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

10. Mr. Corrado Clini welcomed participants to Trieste, a city whose geographical situation had made it particularly well suited to act as a link between the North and the South, the East and the West throughout European history. Trieste had been chosen for the meeting precisely because it was a symbol of the integration that it was sought to promote in the Mediterranean. In hosting the meeting, Italy, which chaired the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention, also wished to give a practical demonstration of its commitment to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development currently being elaborated, which should be adopted at the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia in 2005 and until then would be the nexus for all the action taken in the region.

11. Mr. Clini underscored the innovative nature of the cooperation programmes initiated by MAP such as the SAP MED and the SAP BIO, whose practical implementation was taking shape day-by-day, and the updating of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) under the MED POL. All those activities had been made possible by the financial support given by the GEF, and MAP was now called upon by the GEF and its associated institutions to embark upon a new ambitious stage in coming years with the Strategic Partnership that would shortly be presented and discussed. He then highlighted three cooperation initiatives in which Italy was participating and to which it attached special importance: (1) integrated coastal zone management programmes based on agreements with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia, which would be extended to other countries; (2) the type II MEDREP Initiative to promote renewable energy in the region, which was now moving into the implementation stage

following the start-up of a permanent Centre in Tunisia in 2004 composed of experts from UNEP, Tunisia and Italy responsible for coordinating action; and (3) the Adriatic Initiative under the ADRICOSM Partnership for the management of the Neretva river basin and the bay of Pula in Croatia. Lastly, Italy reaffirmed its willingness to provide financial support for the planned Partnership, as of the preparatory phase, on the understanding that it would not only focus on coordination but also on effective, pragmatic and lasting implementation of the projects.

12. Mr. Alfred Duda, Senior Adviser, International Waters , the GEF Secretariat, speaking on behalf of Mr. Len Good, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the GEF, thanked UNEP/MAP for having taken the initiative to hold the meeting. He also thanked the Italian authorities for their spontaneous and efficient support and welcomed the presence of the other institutions involved in the planned Partnership. He pointed out that the International Waters Program of the GEF only dealt with transboundary issues, recommending an ecosystem approach, and the experience gained with MED POL, the updated TDA and conceptual and programme bases established through the SAP MED and the SAP BIO were decisive factors for the success of the Partnership, as could be seen from similar transboundary efforts already made or under way in some 20 countries around the world. The strategic partnership formula had been launched and tested for the Danube and the Black Sea for the first time three years previously, bringing together 17 countries in two environmental programmes for the respective basins. The present meeting would hear a detailed presentation on the first Partnership, which would form the model for the Mediterranean Partnership based on two components: a regional project and an investment fund. The GEF, like the World Bank, would respond to any questions that countries might wish to raise and would listen carefully to their comments and recommendations so as to focus on practical implementation, which remained the fundamental objective shared by all.

13. The MAP Coordinator endorsed the need for concrete implementation referred to by the previous speakers. He drew attention to the numerous activities carried out in the Mediterranean since the SAP MED had been adopted in 1997, particularly over the previous three years, under the GEF MED Project, which had enabled countries that lacked resources to build their capacity and to prepare programmes to abate pollution. The GEF had supported many SAP activities: regional guidelines and plans for the major priority areas, preparation of national action plans (NAPs), establishment of interministerial committees, preparation of pre-investment studies, development of economic instruments for the sustainable implementation of SAP MED, capacity-building, training courses. At the legal level, the revised Barcelona Convention of 1995 had entered into force with the deposit of 16 instruments of ratification. The SAP BIO had been adopted by the Contracting Parties at their meeting in Catania in 2003. It was expected that the present meeting would see countries make a firm commitment to the proposed Partnership and decide to move ahead, utilizing the financial and institutional mechanisms afforded by the Partnership.

Agenda item 2 : Review of the major achievements of the previous GEF Mediterranean project

14. In introducing the item concerning the previous GEF Project, the Secretariat informed participants that they would be given a CD-Rom with the corresponding presentations and, consequently, the report of the meeting would only provide a brief summary of them.

Subsequent presentations directly concerning the Strategic Partnership itself would, however, be reported in greater detail.

15. Mr. Ante Baric, Project Manager of the GEF MED Project, underlined the objectives and the corresponding activities of the current GEF Project: revision of the list of priority pollution “hot spots” and “sensitive areas”; preparation of pre-investment studies, a set of nine regional guidelines and six regional plans for the reduction of pollution from land-based activities; revision of the TDA; development of new and adaptation of existing economic instruments for the sustainable implementation of SAP MED; capacity building including regional and national training courses for some 546 trainees. The National Action Plans (NAPs) had been launched, and the SAP BIO finalized and adopted. In conclusion, he said that the majority of the Project’s objectives had been achieved and a solid basis had been established for the implementation of the SAP MED and the SAP BIO at the regional and national levels. However, countries would need further assistance for the implementation of activities at the national level.

16. Mr. Francesco Saverio Civili, Coordinator of the MED POL Programme, explained the process of implementation of the SAP MED, which had marked a turning point in the history of MED POL/MAP by defining concrete and quantified pollution reduction commitments following the adoption of MED POL-Phase III and the “land-based sources” Protocol amended in 1996. Following the same action-oriented approach, MED POL had prepared an “operational document for the implementation of the SAP”, approved by the Contracting Parties in 2001, which provided, *inter alia*, a method for assessing the progress made in reducing pollution in each country based on a national baseline budget of releases and emissions (NBB). Mr. Civili presented a table showing that the NBB and the national diagnostic analyses (NDA) had been concluded successfully in all eligible Mediterranean countries, which was a positive indicator for preparation of the NAPs to be completed in 2005. In view of those achievements, it was his view that the Strategic Partnership, provided that it received the expected strong support, would be decisive for the successful long-term implementation of the SAP.

17. Mrs. Zeineb Belkhir, Director of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC, Tunis) described the background to the SAP BIO, whose preparation had been entrusted to the SPA/RAC and supported by financing from the GEF Project. Many actors had been involved in preparing the report itself – countries, intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations, individual experts or teams. The preparation methodology had enabled an assessment of the status, threats and trends affecting Mediterranean marine and coastal biological diversity to be made, as well as the identification of priorities for action, coordination among relevant organizations, an investment portfolio and the measures to be taken for the follow-up. It was proposed that the funds be allocated primarily to the conservation of sensitive habitats, species and sites (29 per cent), the inventory, mapping and monitoring of marine and coastal biodiversity (24 per cent), with an investment portfolio totalling US\$39 million for 58 high priority activities envisaged in the national action plans. On the basis of those elements, the SPA/RAC had submitted a proposal to the GEF.

18. Mr. Fouad Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, outlined the main features of the TDA: objectives, methodology for its preparation under the responsibility of MED POL, major

perceived problems and issues, together with an analysis of their causal chain, decline of biological diversity, decline in fisheries, decline in seawater quality, and risks for human health. He also presented maps showing Mediterranean “hot spots”, eutrophication areas and the location of the major industries contributing to the release of pollutants that were toxic, persistent and liable to biocumulate (TPBs). He then described the priority action recommended in the TDA in the light of each problem.

Agenda item 3: The proposed GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean

19. Mr. Andrea Merla, Programme Manager, International Waters, GEF Secretariat, said that the GEF had embarked upon a new phase during which action could no longer be envisaged in terms of individual projects but, in view of the multiple and complex actions that needed to be taken in several areas, rather in terms of partnerships that brought together countries, relevant agencies and financing institutions – such as the World Bank – in a position to facilitate the often very heavy investment needed in order to create the climate required for their implementation. The first such action had been taken for the Danube and the Black Sea and to date the results were generally deemed to be positive. It was now time to turn to the Mediterranean, where the context was particularly favourable: a plan of action that had been in effect for almost 30 years, an updated and very comprehensive legal framework in the Convention and its Protocols, a TDA which pinpointed the major problems, their causes and solutions, a SAP MED and a SAP BIO already prepared and ready to be put into effect. The main advantages of such partnerships were to provide a “leveraging or multiplier” effect that yielded from one to three or more times the amount of the original funds invested by the GEF, to achieve better coordination and synergy among the cooperating organizations, donors and other actors and to build the capacity of partner countries so that they observed their commitments under the SAP and the MAP. If the present meeting managed to reach a consensus on the framework concept for the Strategic Partnership, it would be possible to work seriously and pragmatically: before the end of October 2004 a final project concept could be submitted to the GEF and then several more months would be needed, through the implementation of the PDF-B, to refine the two components, namely, the Regional Component and the Investment Fund, before the Partnership as a whole would be approved by countries and then submitted to the GEF Council for approval. If countries had any comments or recommendations to make, they were requested to do so immediately so that the World Bank and the UNEP could take them into account in the draft framework concept to be submitted.

20. Mrs. Emilia Battaglini, GEF Regional Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia, World Bank, said that the purpose of the Mediterranean Partnership was to involve actively donor countries, beneficiary countries and organizations concerned with a view to the long term, going beyond the traditional concept of selective operations in favour of a strategic design. The proposed framework concept was the result of a long consultation process among the GEF, the World Bank, the UNEP/MAP, the UNEP/GEF and the other partners. The purpose of the present meeting was to discuss the objectives, the underlying principles, the advantages and the cost, and to seek the approval of countries of the Mediterranean and other partners with a view to moving ahead. After referring to the major environmental problems in the Mediterranean and the response by Mediterranean countries over the past 30 years, she stated that, according to an estimate in 1997, some US\$10 billion would be needed to remedy pollution in the region and US\$140 million to protect its biological diversity. Those were large amounts and went beyond the resources available in the countries, even on the hypothesis that they adopted an

activist policy. What was involved in the Partnership? It was intended to establish cooperation among many actors in the Mediterranean, to help countries to carry out reforms and make investments, which had little lasting effect if they were not underpinned by a change in behaviour at the national level. The Partnership would inject start-up capital that would serve as a catalyst to produce the leverage effect already mentioned by Mr. Merla: in terms of figures, that meant that an initial grant of US\$70 to 80 million from the GEF should mobilize three times that amount in co-financing from other sources. That was not an impossible hypothesis when seen in the light of the results obtained with the Danube-Black Sea Partnership, which would be described to participants. At the programme level, the Partnership would focus on transboundary pollution of “hot spots” identified in both SAPs by means of a Regional Component for the protection of environmental resources and an Investment Fund for pollution reduction.

21. The MAP Coordinator considered that the above description of the Partnership gave a clear and consistent overall view and called on representatives of countries to speak in turn to give their initial reaction, without eschewing any problems, questions or difficulties they perceived.

22. Representatives of all countries expressed a first very favourable reaction or at least an agreement in principle concerning the framework concept that had just been described by the World Bank. The framework appeared to be attractive and ambitious, giving them the resources which they so badly needed. Some speakers saw it as an opportunity to rationalize projects and outside assistance which they already received or to move further ahead with efforts undertaken under difficult financial conditions. At the same time, however, several representatives queried particular aspects of the Partnership: the difficulty for two or more neighbouring countries to reach agreement on an assessment of transboundary impacts or, more generally, for countries to work together on the same project; the absence of a specific timetable (three, five, ten years?); the inadequate exchange of information; insufficient intersectoral work; the need to find a language and arguments accessible to decision-makers, for example, by laying emphasis on the long-term benefits of a measure that appeared costly in the short term; the interpretation of certain concepts that could give rise to misunderstandings (for example, the “Mediterranean Sea large marine ecosystem”). One representative said that, although he fully supported the Partnership, implementation in his country would be difficult because of highly complex domestic policy procedures. Another representative pointed out that there had already been GEF-financed partnerships in the Mediterranean that had been more or less successful (date palms, climate change, MedWet coast projects), and they should be carefully evaluated before gradually and prudently moving forward with such a process, avoiding the danger of applying a well-defined methodology at the outset. Lastly, one representative welcomed the emphasis laid on the ecosystem approach, which was already at the heart of the EU’s sustainable development strategy.

23. As an incidental aspect, one representative expressed surprise that, at a meeting of such importance, the MAP Secretariat had not translated the working documents circulated to participants into French and made them available.

24. Responding to the comments made by certain countries, the representative of the World Bank explained that, although the Partnership provided a regional framework, the GEF and the World Bank were supporting action at the national level. Regarding the language to be found when approaching decision-makers, she agreed that the long-term/short-term comparison of

costs was crucial in strategic economic sectors in the Mediterranean such as tourism, where it was absolutely essential not to repeat the errors of the past and the price to be paid today to remedy them. In general, the various aspects of the Partnership should be assessed in comparison with what would happen if the Partnership did not come into being: there would be a return to selective activities in each country with no focus on transboundary priority sectors and without ensuring that there was a proper geographical balance among the activities undertaken in the region. The Partnership would enable a “critical mass” of action to be achieved, it would facilitate dialogue with other donors, once again underlining the decisive concept of a “multiplier effect”.

25. Without wishing to draw any hasty conclusions from the initial discussion, Mr. Clini made some comments and suggestions it had stimulated. The GEF Partnership comprised some sectors that had already been included under other programmes and it used or tied in with some existing mechanisms (the Euro-Med Partnership, the GEF, the World Bank, etc.). It therefore had to be seen not as an initiative to be added to others, but as value added, a way of placing in perspective all existing or future measures with a view to greater efficiency because, as had already been seen, counteracting pollution in the Mediterranean required US\$10 billion of investment and it was obviously impossible to envisage obtaining such an amount from any single institution whatsoever. The purpose of the Partnership was therefore to establish the conditions needed to ensure that pollution reduction became “self-financing”, to launch a process that could attract and involve new actors such as the private sector in a better position to manage the amortization of investment by becoming aware of the benefits of integrating the environment in terms of profitability, competitiveness and image. In such a context, in the preparatory phase of the Partnership, the role of governments would be to decide on clear-cut rules so as to create an environment that was favourable to proper management of the resources.

Agenda item 3.1: Regional Project under the Strategic Partnership

26. Mr. Civili, Coordinator of the MED POL Programme, described the implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas. In other words, the regional component of the GEF MED Strategic Partnership, already mentioned by previous speakers, prepared in close collaboration by the UNEP/GEF, UNEP/MAP, the World Bank, the GEF Secretariat and other partners, with the main objective of implementing policy, legal and institutional reforms aimed at reversing marine and coastal degradation trends, pursuant to the commitments made by countries when adopting the SAP MED and the SAP BIO. He then reviewed the various components envisaged: (1) facilitation of policy and legislative reform; (2) promotion of replication strategies; (3) technical assistance (implementation of the SAP MED and SAP BIO and related NAPs, regional strategies to manage and protect coastal aquifers); (4) regional integrated water resources and integrated coastal management (ICM) strategies; and (5) overall coordination and monitoring arrangements. During his presentation, Mr. Civili drew particular attention to one essential element because it underpinned all the problems of implementing the SAP, namely, the capacity of countries to ensure long-term financing of actions and projects. One of the major objectives of the Partnership would be to build this capacity through environmental economic instruments and innovative financing mechanisms - thereby simultaneously making a sizeable contribution to sustainable development – and also by setting up a regional network on innovative financing practices.

27. Mr. Cornelis Klein, UNDP Resident Representative in Croatia, raised some issues concerning the mass of information provided at the meeting. Firstly, when speaking of investment, there needed to be strong coordination capacity on the spot and, in his experience, that was far from being the case in the majority of countries, especially with regard to intersectoral issues. He also wondered how investment at the country level could be intended for transboundary activities because in such cases at least two countries were in principle involved. Finally, the UNDP was preparing a GEF-financed project for the Croatian coast and islands and it comprised almost all the elements previously mentioned in connection with the regional project: how would such a project fit into the overall design of the Partnership?

28. Mr. Anders Alm, Environmentalist, Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP), focussed on the contribution it could make to the Strategic Partnership through the instruments it had been implementing for a long time such as Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), the cost of environmental degradation (COED), integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), assistance in identifying investment opportunities, feasibility studies and project preparation. He presented a chart showing the cost of environmental degradation as a percentage of GDP (environmental sustainability indicator) for seven of the 13 Mediterranean countries eligible for the METAP.

29. One representative wondered to what extent the cost of environmental degradation was based on a realistic, quantifiable and verifiable basis. He was raising the question as a biologist specializing in nature conservation and not as a decision-maker and it was in any case a much more general question: could a quantifiable value in any currency be placed on the whole of the Mediterranean and its natural resources or, for example, on a given area of desert? How could the inestimable cultural heritage be valued? The only purpose of the question was to express a degree of scepticism regarding the calculations of economists as far as the environment and natural resources were concerned.

30. Mr. Pablo Huidobro, Director, UNIDO, pointed out that UNIDO was a privileged partner for technical assistance in relation to the impact of industrial activities and cleaner production. UNIDO could give the GEF MED Partnership the benefit of the vast experience it had gained in the private sector with regard to issues of industrial pollution and the transfer of ecologically sound technology. Mrs. De Palma, UNIDO, then described the tenor of her Organization's proposal for the framework concept for the Mediterranean Partnership. The previous year, UNIDO had developed an initiative entitled TESTMED aimed at replicating an experience of transfer of ecologically sound technology that it had just completed in the context of the Danube Partnership. The Mediterranean context lent itself ideally to this "replication" with the ongoing SAP MED process and, above all, the existence of a dual network of national cleaner production centres in the region set up under the auspices of UNIDO and UNEP, as well as a network of units to promote investment in order to develop innovative projects in the private sector. The over-riding idea was to link the dual network of cleaner production centres, focusing on technology, processes and capacity building in industry, with the investment promotion network, in order to facilitate the transfer of technology. The TESTMED proposal, for example, had been formulated with the ultimate objective of building capacity in eligible countries, demonstrating this approach by applying it to certain selected industrial "hot spots" and disseminating it throughout the region. The preparatory stage of TESTMED, with financial support from Italy, had been implemented and completed in 2004 in four countries

(Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) and had led to the preparation of a draft plan of implementation and budget, leading to the conclusion that there were substantial financing opportunities in the region but they were not sufficiently rationalized and channeled in order to be exploited. The final proposal had been incorporated into component III, "Technical assistance", sub-category 1, of the regional project previously presented by the MED POL Coordinator.

31. Mr. Duda, Senior Adviser, International Waters, GEF Secretariat, said that Countries were at the centre of the Partnership and it was therefore their responsibility to decide on the framework concept, the projects proposed by organizations and the opportunities submitted to them. They did not have to do so officially at the present stage. The comments and suggestions they made at the present meeting would, over the following ten days, be taken into account by UNEP/MAP, UNEP/GEF and the World Bank in order to revise the concepts where necessary and it would then be transmitted to the GEF Secretariat, which would assess its eligibility. It was only in the following weeks, at the most one or two months, that countries would be called on to make a commitment to the Partnership. Some might decide to remain outside it, so the total resources available would benefit a smaller number of eligible countries; they might, for instance, not have any industrial pollution problems and not require the assistance of UNIDO or, on the contrary, they might wish to benefit from know-how that presently allowed industry to be profitable and become more competitive while at the same time adopting cleaner production processes and good business practices.

32. Mr. Gennaro Longo, Director, ICS-UNIDO, described a series of activities through which his Organization could assist the Partnership: training courses and seminars, fellowships, capacity building. The Centre was involved in three major areas: advanced system in support of decision making, integrated coastal zone management, and cleaner production, with a focus on capacity building and the transfer of technology. It also cooperated closely with other international organizations: with UNEP/MAP, it had undertaken the pre-investment study on pollution "hot spots" in Croatia; with UNEP/MAP and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, it had initiated the pilot project for a pollution release and transfer register (PRTR/IETMP) in Egypt, and was preparing to do the same in the Syrian Arab Republic with the Ministry of the Environment. Lastly, it could also be of use to the Partnership by providing expertise on tools in support of decision making: monitoring, Geographic Information System (GIS), remote sensing, image processing, environmental simulation models to study the release of pollutants into certain environments.

33. Mr. Jordi Lleonart, Department of Fisheries, FAO, introduced the FAO's project for the Partnership, almost exclusively dedicated to fisheries. The FAO had a General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), which had initiated cooperation projects for various sectors in the Mediterranean. The objectives for the Partnership were the following: in the long term, to improve fisheries resources protection by setting objectives for catches to ensure their sustainability and, in the immediate, to improve the management of fisheries. The FAO had, for example, published a code of conduct for responsible fisheries. Among the expected results for the project would be the facilitation of policy and legislative reforms, Mediterranean strategies for the conservation and sustainable management of vulnerable or endangered fish species, reducing the impact of trawling, eliminating particularly harmful fishing practices, and more selective fishing gear and practices. All those objectives and activities responded to the provisions in the SAP BIO.

34. One representative acknowledged the benefits of the work carried out by the FAO in the GFCM, but could not see any tangible results in any Mediterranean country whatsoever: in his view, no sustainable and responsible national fisheries programme had yet actually been put into practice. The same remark could apply to other areas such as integrated coastal zone management: a coastal management programme implemented in his country had led to an impressive amount of theoretical work but, after many years, had not led to any concrete and rational measure on coastal management. The basic question was more than ever: where were we at present and where were we going? Another representative strongly supported that position, stating that in his country as well a coastal management programme had not had any follow-up, but that was not the fault of MAP but of the national and local authorities who had not, at the time, taken advantage of the opportunity. The failures noted clearly pointed the direction in which the proposed Partnership should move if the situation was to be truly reversed.

35. Mr. Ivica Trumbic, Director of the Regional Activities Centre for the Priority Action Programme (PAP/RAC, Split), described the experience gained by MAP/PAP over the past 15 years in the area of integrated coastal zone management with the initiation of coastal area programmes (CAMP) in the majority of Mediterranean countries. Undoubtedly the results were uneven and depended on the country, but whenever the government concerned and the national counterpart team had the will to utilize the findings of studies carried out on the spot, the result was a success, as could be seen in the examples of Croatia and Albania. There had been a decisive breakthrough in ICZM in the Mediterranean recently with the adoption of a recommendation on drafting a new Protocol on the issue taken by the Contracting Parties at Catania in 2003. The work was moving ahead and a draft text would be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005. The legal framework to be adopted would enable ICZM to be more systematically disseminated in the Mediterranean and the Partnership envisaged attributed a central role to the issue alongside the SAP MED and the SAP BIO.

36. Mrs. Alice Aureli, International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP), and Mr. Bo Appelgren, Principal Consultant, UNESCO, gave a presentation on coastal aquifers in the Mediterranean and the contribution of the IHP to the Partnership through various activities such as demonstration projects (recharge, for example), inventories of aquifers, mapping of their vulnerability, and a regional plan of action for their management. An addition on this issue had been included in the TDA. The problem needed to be addressed as a priority because in all Mediterranean countries there was a scarcity of underground water, with inadequate management of a resource that was so crucial to their economies. The main threats were the sustainability of the flow of underground water, saltwater intrusion and the salination affecting coastal wetlands, the vulnerability of aquifers to surface pollution, and pressure on resources shared by several countries.

37. Mr. Ellik Adler, Regional Seas Coordinator, UNEP, drew the participants' attention to the fact that the "land-based sources" Protocol, revised in 1996, had still not entered into force. Three instruments of ratification were lacking and that was one weak point in the legal system underpinning the SAP MED. Efforts should be made to remedy the situation by promoting awareness and by helping countries that had not yet ratified it to complete the procedure. One other issue in the regional Partnership project that called for urgent treatment was that of

coastal litter, which was politically sensitive because of its visibility for local populations and for the millions of tourists on Mediterranean beaches, but above all because of its imminently transboundary scope.

38. The MAP Coordinator replied that the question of non-ratification of new or revised Protocols had long been one of the major concerns of the MAP Secretariat and the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, which had continually urged countries to ratify. Consequently, despite the positive developments in ratification of the revised Convention and the new “prevention and emergency situations” Protocol, the question of ratification of the “land-based sources” Protocol and of other Protocols was the subject of ongoing efforts by the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau and the depositary State (Spain).

39. Mr. Paolo Guglielmi, WWF, and Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary of MIO/ECSDE, expressed the keen interest of their respective organizations in the regional Partnership project, in view of their experience in the region, their work in the field and in networks bringing together NGOs, local authorities and major actors in society. The question of the role and participation of civil society in the Partnership had not yet been mentioned at the meeting although it was decisive for winning over public opinion and, consequently, for the overall sustainability of the project. Mr. Ulrich Dan Weuder, UNEP/GPA, pointed out that, with the assistance of Italy, his programme had cooperated with UNEP/MAP on long-term financing and that continuation of those efforts would be beneficial to the GEF Partnership.

Agenda item 3.2: The Investment Fund under the Strategic Partnership

40. Mrs. Dahlia Lotayef, GEF Regional Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, World Bank, introduced the second component of the GEF MED Partnership: the Investment Fund for Pollution Reduction in the Mediterranean. The time had come for the practical implementation of the two SAPs and, as already mentioned, the cost of pollution remedial actions had been estimated at some US\$10 billion for SAP MED and US\$110 million for SAP BIO. The Investment Fund would have to provide financing of up to US\$60 to 70 million in several tranches and open to contributions by other donors. It would be a participatory process with information feedback from countries. The eligibility criteria for the resources would focus in particular on pollution “hot spots” and “sensitive areas” listed in the two SAPs, conformity of the projects with the GEF’s International Waters Operational Program, the objectives of the SAPs and the commitment made by countries to undertake relevant policy, legal and institutional reforms. No GEF grant would be earmarked in advance for any particular country or project, but financing would be on a case-by-case basis on the principle of “first come, first served”, depending on the relevance and admissibility of projects submitted with the objective for the medium and long terms of ensuring a geographical balance in the distribution of resources in the Mediterranean and achieving leveraging with a co-financing ratio of US\$3 for each US\$1 granted by the Fund.

41. During the discussion following the above presentation, several questions were put to the World Bank and the GEF by country representatives: coordination and consistency with the European Union which, under the Euro-Med Partnership and, more recently, the good-neighbour policy, also had a strategy for dialogue and financing with Mediterranean countries for the benefit of the environment; action by the European Investment Bank or other European bodies; assistance to countries for project preparation; whether the US\$60 to 70 million would

be available immediately; possibility of loans; need for a counterpart contribution; highly approximate estimate of the amount of the grant a country might receive, even though it was understood that no allocation would be made in advance, possibility of pilot or demonstration projects.

42. With regard to coordination with the European Union, the MAP Coordinator emphasized that the new Strategic Partnership and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, far from being mutually exclusive, could be complementary and benefit the region as a whole. The MAP had previously had very close and constructive cooperation with the European Union that had led to the preparation of a joint programme of work to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties in Cairo in November 2004 and then submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia in 2005 for adoption. The programme would focus on projects that used all the financing mechanisms of the EU available.

43. The representatives of the World Bank and the GEF endorsed the MAP Coordinator's statement. In their view, the European Union had a catalytic effect in many Mediterranean countries – not to mention in the six countries that were members – and several of its directives, such as that on water, constituted an inescapable point of reference. Considerable importance should therefore be attached to the links between the Partnership and the EU, its partners, its financing institutions, the follow-up to the Declaration and the Athens process. In general, coordination had been weak at several levels – even between the Fund and the regional project – in the Danube/Black Sea Partnership and it was important to ensure that such a problem did not recur in the GEF MED Partnership. In that connection, a mid-term evaluation meeting appeared to be indicated (the mid-term meeting for the Danube/Black Sea Partnership would be held in November 2004) in order to make any necessary corrections and adjustments.

44. With regard to the questions raised on the financing modalities of the Investment Fund, it was explained that: (1) there would be a sharing of responsibilities and close cooperation among countries, organizations and the World Bank regarding the preparation and eligibility of projects, but the final decision on financing lay with the GEF on the basis of agreed criteria; (2) the loans granted to complement the GEF grants for blended operations were fully justified in the case of large-scale projects, so as to have a more integrated and holistic approach, provided that they were in line with the aid strategy between the Bank and the country concerned; (3) the highly approximative amount of grants per country could be between US\$5 to 7 million on the basis of the Danube/Black Sea precedent and the estimated appropriation for the Mediterranean divided by the number of eligible countries, subject to many factors such as the final number of countries in the Partnership, the size and scope of the projects concerned, the possible association of two or more countries in a single project, etc.; (4) the total appropriation, which would represent a firm commitment by the GEF Council after its approval, could not be disbursed immediately but only in three tranches (amounting to some US\$20 million each), because the GEF was a trust fund replenished every three years and the time taken to prepare projects had to be taken into account, together with the need for follow-up and evaluation of the global trend in the implementation process and effective use of the resources.

45. Concluding the agenda item, an exchange of views took place on the advantages of participation by the private sector, which had already been mentioned in connection with the introduction of cleaner technology in industry. The World Bank referred to several projects it had carried out in the Mediterranean in the tourism sector and under the Danube/Black Sea Partnership through farmers' associations.

Agenda item 4: Experience with the Danube/Black Sea Strategic Partnership

46. Mrs. Battaglini, GEF Regional Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia, World Bank, presented the Danube/Black Sea Partnership, pointing out that the first lessons drawn from that Partnership had been valuable when preparing the framework concept for the GEF Partnership for the Mediterranean, which replicated the major elements and principles. She described the geographical, political and demographic features of the two basins, the major environmental problems to be resolved (including the vast load of nutrients) and the process of preparing and implementing the Partnership. She introduced a table showing the projects being implemented (four countries) and in preparation (eight countries) financed by the Investment Fund for the Partnership, with the amounts of the GEF grants, the co-financing obtained, and the leverage ratio achieved, which represented an average of 1/4.6. In conclusion, the Partnership had had a clearly marked catalytic effect, and had shown the possibility of introducing innovative technologies, with a concrete number of projects under preparation and a significant trend to a reduction in nutrients found in river and marine waters.

47. Mrs. De Palma, UNIDO, adding to her previous statement on UNIDO's activities in the Danube Basin dealing with industrial "hot spots", described the case of a paper and pulp factory in Romania, which had shown that substantial investment could be obtained from the private sector to replace obsolescent technology when it led to increased profitability and competitiveness by lowering production costs and improving the quality of the product.

48. As practical examples of eligibility for financing by the GEF Partnership Investment Fund, Mr. Andreas Rohde, Sanitary Engineer, World Bank, described several projects: protection of water quality in Bosnia and Herzegovina; integrated management of the ecosystem of the Neretva River Basin in Bosnia/Croatia; integrated management of water and ecosystems in Albania; combating pollution in towns on the Croatian coast. Mr. Anders Alm, Environmentalist, World Bank, described four projects: integrated coastal zone management in Alexandria (Egypt); integrated management of the ecosystem and abatement of pollution from land-based sources in the Nador lagoon in Morocco; restoration of self-purification capacity in the Bizerta lagoon in Tunisia; and integrated approach to the recovery of the ecosystem in the town of Ghazaouet in Algeria.

49. Drawing lessons from the various presentations, particularly that on the Danube/Black Sea Partnership, the MAP Coordinator said that they were tried and tested methods that had demonstrated their effectiveness and where the catalytic effect was in fact significant enough to gain support. The representatives of countries and other actors concerned by the GEF MED Partnership now had sufficient elements to form an opinion and make comments or suggestions.

50. Mrs. Belkhir, Director, SPA/RAC, thanked the representatives of the World Bank and the GEF for clarifying the financial aspects and for their presentations, which provided several

lessons. She considered, nevertheless, that biological diversity in Program 8 of the GEF's International Waters Programme came a poor second in comparison with the amounts allocated to SAP MED. Biological diversity had been endorsed downstream of the project. Although it was true that combating pollution helped to conserve habitats, that was not one of the priority actions in the SAP BIO. The Contracting Parties had approved the SAP BIO in Catania and they had high hopes of the GEF in regard to its implementation, whose coordination had been entrusted to the SPA/RAC. The latter had sent to the GEF a document on the financing phase – the GEF had from the outset accepted the principle of financing – but no reply had been received. She hoped that the GEF would explain what procedure had to be followed in order to put the two SAPs on an equal footing in the interests of the region and of the sustainability of its resources.

51. Three representatives of countries and one representative of a non-governmental organization spoke strongly in support of the position of the SPA/RAC, pointing out that the intensive, highly serious and comprehensive work that had been carried out during preparation of the SAP BIO must not end in failure because of lack of financing, otherwise it would be a “stillborn project”. Since the Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Catania, however, the process had been at a standstill. One representative considered that the two aspects could be reconciled, while another expressed disagreement with the SPA/RAC because there was overlapping between the two activities and there was indeed a SAP MED upstream and a SAP BIO downstream. Drawing conclusions from the discussion, the MAP Coordinator agreed that there was a need for more effective implementation of the SAP BIO.

52. The representative of the GEF Secretariat said that, first of all, the Partnership framework had been established for the two SAPs, which were both ready to be implemented. Secondly, the response given by countries appeared to be clear and underlined their interest in the SAP BIO. It was therefore necessary to draw the consequences by strengthening that component in the regional project and adapting the Investment Fund so as to allocate resources more directly to action in that area. Little time was left to do so. It was an opportunity for the GEF to undertake a major project for the two focal areas of biological diversity and combating pollution and to decide on eligibility at the end of October. It would therefore be useful if the meeting adopted a recommendation to that effect.

Agenda item 5: Multilateral and bilateral technical assistance

53. Mrs. Selma Cengic, representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, introduced several projects that had been undertaken in her country including, *inter alia*, the preparation of a plan for the management of the Sava River Basin, transboundary cooperation through the management of shared natural resources (Neretva Delta, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, 2001-2003, within the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe) and the integrated management of the ecosystem of the Neretva and Trebisnjica River Basins (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia).

54. Mr. Francesco Presicce, Expert, Italian Ministry of the Environment, outlined the assistance given by Italy to other Mediterranean countries. For example, the MEDREP Programme promoted the concept of innovative partnership, bringing together some 20 major actors in the region – ministries, government agencies, scientific institutions, UNEP and the World Bank – in order to supply electricity and provide sustainable energy services, targeting

rural populations. One other example: Italy participated in a water programme for Africa with the objective of creating desalination systems, reusing wastewater and plants for supplying water driven by renewable energy. Through the variety and effectiveness of those cooperation activities, Italy sought to show the vast potential for sustainable growth and the strength of the cultural links uniting the countries of the North and South of the Mediterranean.

Agenda item 6: Follow-up actions

55. Mr. Merla, Programme Manager/Administrator, International Waters, GEF Secretariat, explained the procedure to be followed in the coming weeks and months. The two organizations responsible for the framework concept of the Partnership, namely, UNEP and the World Bank, would take into account the reactions and recommendations of the countries at the present meeting in order to revise certain parts of the document presented at the Meeting, where needed, within a week or two and submit it in final form to the GEF Secretariat, which would either approve it or request further modifications before the GEF CEO decided to accept it among the projects in the pipeline. The GEF would then be in a position to disburse the funds (up to US\$700,000) for the more detailed design of the project as a whole, and countries would, for their part, jointly provide their co-financing. The period for the detailed formulation of the full-size Project – PDF-B would be approximately one year from the PDF-B approval. The final proposal, which had to be endorsed by the GEF National Focal Points (without countries necessarily having to commit themselves to the Partnership) would then be put before the GEF Council (which could occur within about one year).

Agenda item 7: Conclusions and recommendations

56. The representative of UNEP/GEF considered that the meeting had been fruitful: countries had shown their interest and the two organizations responsible for the framework concept could work constructively with them. Three representatives of countries endorsed that view, emphasizing that the Partnership provided a useful opportunity to respond to the need for implementation underlined on several occasions at meetings of the Contracting Parties, even though some questions still had to be settled, timetables fixed and further consultation meetings planned. The representative of the Italian Government emphasized that the purpose of the initiative was to catalyze financing and to ensure the sustainability of the SAPs by utilizing new economic instruments and mobilizing the largest possible number of actors. That had now become a plausible prospect. The GEF Coordinator at the World Bank considered that an important step had been taken. There was a consensus among countries to let UNEP/MAP, the World Bank and the GEF know that it was a project of interest to them and that they should move ahead, which had been the sole purpose for organizing the present initial meeting.

57. The MAP Coordinator said that a draft recommendation had been drawn up by the meeting's Secretariat on the basis of the discussions. After some editorial amendments had been made, the meeting adopted the following text, as a message addressed to the GEF Council to be included in the draft report of the meeting that would shortly be sent to all participants so that they might make their comments:

58. *"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.”

Agenda item 8: Closure of the meeting

59. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the MAP Coordinator declared the meeting closed at 1.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 October 2004.