

Mandate of the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

(As adopted by the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Marrakech, Morocco, on 3-5 November 2009)

Background

The Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) was established in Split in 1980 by the decision of the Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/IG.5/7, paragraph 54) of 1977 to assist in the implementation of the Integrated Planning Component of the Mediterranean Action Plan adopted in Barcelona in 1975. Its original mandate was broad in scope and encompassed ten priority actions in six fields of activity that required immediate action. With the further development of MAP, and in light of the challenges of the global environmental context, especially those relating to coastal areas, the focus of PAP/RAC's operations was subsequently repositioned to respond to the need for the sustainable development of the region's coastal areas, particularly through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The adoption of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (the "ICZM Protocol") in 2008 formalized the role of PAP/RAC with regard to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

Objective and mission statement

The specific objective of PAP/RAC is to contribute to sustainable development of coastal zones and sustainable use of their natural resources. In this respect, PAP/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of Article 4(i) of the Barcelona Convention, meeting their obligations under the ICZM Protocol and implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), 2005, and by carrying out, in particular, the tasks assigned to it in Article 32 of the ICZM Protocol, 2008.

Scope of action and key issues

PAP/RAC's main fields of action for the achievement of the sustainable development of coastal zones consist of:

- 1. assisting the Contracting Parties in formulating and implementing national strategies for action plans under the ICZM Protocol;*
- 2. assisting countries in the region in strengthening their capacities with a view of facilitating the sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development; preserving coastal zones and their integrity; ensuring the sustainable use of coastal natural resources; and achieving coherence between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities at all levels that impact the coastal zones;*
- 3. assisting countries in the implementation of demonstration/pilot coastal management projects (such as Coastal Area Management Programme - CAMP) in selected local Mediterranean coastal areas to demonstrate the application of ICZM as a major tool, with a view to implementing specifically the ICZM Protocol. CAMP projects have the goal to develop relevant implementation instruments and procedures for sustainable development in project areas; to identify and apply relevant methodologies and tools; to contribute to capacity building at the local, national and regional levels; and to secure the broad use of the results achieved;*
- 4. developing regional cooperation in the field of capacity building and awareness raising of the importance of the integrated management of coastal zones through the organization of training, education and awareness-raising activities, networking, publications and the dissemination of information;*
- 5. developing ICZM methodologies and tools as well as addressing specific sectoral issues with a coastal focus in the framework of ICZM, such as urban development, natural resources management, sustainable tourism, landscape and heritage protection, coastal and soil erosion, infrastructure and transport, pollution and waste, climate change, and specific coastal ecosystems.*