

**THE GEF 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**



**REPORT**

**of the Expert Meeting to Identify Priority Actions  
for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)  
in the Maghreb, Mashrek, Turkey and Adriatic Countries**

**(Split, April 25 - 26, 2006)**

EFMedLME/2006/EM/1  
Priority Actions Programme  
Regional Activity Centre  
Split, May 2006

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. 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 Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Protocol on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (LBS Protocol). The main aims of SAP MED are improvement of the quality of the marine environment by better shared-management of the land-based pollution and facilitation of the implementation of the LBS Protocol. A Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) was developed under the full-size GEF Project and was adopted in 2003. It is related to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA and Biodiversity Protocol) and its principal objective is establishing a logical base for implementing this Protocol.

2. A Stocktaking Meeting for the development of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems, which consists of a Regional Component and an Investment Fund, was held in Trieste, Italy, on 11-12 October 2004 with the support of the Italian Government. The representatives of the Mediterranean countries expressed their full support to the GEF initiative. They stressed the need for assistance for the full implementation of their National Action Plans (NAPs) in order to fulfil the goals of the two SAPs. To achieve that, the representatives suggested to tailor the project's activities according to the specific needs identified in two SAPs. 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 emphasised 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.”

3. The main objective of the Regional Component of 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 (EQOs) identified in the Mediterranean Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (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 (i.e. habitats, ecosystems, biological taxa and genetic resources).

4. The proposed project will focus on and assist the countries:

- 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.
- To develop an adequate human capacity for legal/institutional set up, reforms and harmonisation 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- To develop a long-term sustainable financing capacity of countries through increased integration of environmentally related economic instruments and innovative use of financing mechanisms 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.
- To respond to the SAP BIO targets related to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) 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).

5. The GEF Secretariat has approved a PDF B phase of the project in order to develop a Full Size Project, which should include a comprehensive regional and national Stakeholder Involvement Plan. In addition, in the countries, *National Stakeholder Committees*, with representation from the public, private and NGO sectors, will be established to co-ordinate project activities and ensure that decisions of the project co-ordination bodies are implemented in the countries.

6. PDF B activities include:

- Design of a strong overall co-ordination of the two Elements of the Partnership (the Regional Component and the Fund) including the establishment of the Strategic Partnership Steering Committee, Co-ordination Group, Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator, and independent evaluation function;
- Establishment of National Focal Points and Inter-ministries Co-ordinating Committees in all eligible countries;
- Recruitment of the PDF B Co-ordinator and technical assistants;
- Preparation of Stakeholders Involvement Plan for the Full Project;
- Development of effective management and co-ordination mechanism for the Full Project;
- Development of effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the Full Project (M&E Plan);
- Development of effective project information and lessons learned dissemination strategies;
- Preparation of the GEF Project Brief for the submission to the GEF Council;
- Securing co-financing for the Full Project activities;
- Securing countries co-financing of the Full Project;
- Donor conference and Meeting of high level governmental representatives (Project Focal Points) and key stakeholders to agree on the key elements of the Project Brief;
- Preparation of the UNEP project document for Full Project implementation;
- Development of relevant Process Indicators, Stress Reduction Indicators, and Environmental Status Indicators to be used within the M&E process as well as to be adopted by the participating countries as tools for long-term monitoring of project objectives. One particularly important Process Indicator will be the level of ratification by participating

countries to various pertinent regional and international multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) by the end of the project.

7. The outputs from this PDF B process will include:

- Consolidated Mechanisms for consultation and co-ordination among various Stakeholders through established co-ordinating bodies;
- Stakeholders Involvement Plan;
- GEF International Waters M&E Indicators established and M&E plan developed;
- Project dissemination and replication strategies developed;
- A fully costed Project Brief (and ultimately Implementing Agencies' respective Project Documents) indicating agreed incremental costs, the sources of baseline funding and co-financing required to implement identified national and regional demonstration projects will be produced.

8. The Expert meeting to Identify Priority Actions for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in the Maghreb, Mashrek, Turkey and Adriatic Countries was held in the premises of PAP/RAC, on April 25-26, 2006.

### ***PARTICIPATION***

9. The meeting was attended by 14 participants, including the representatives of beneficiary countries, i.e. Albania, Croatia, Egypt, Serbia and Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, UNEP/MAP, PAP/RAC and invited experts. A detailed List of participants is attached as Annex I.

### ***OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING***

10. The meeting objectives were as follows:

- to discuss and comment the prepared National Overviews and drafted sub-regional Policy Briefs;
- to discuss and recommend the priority actions for ICM in the region, with the view of the forthcoming ICM Protocol and reaching an agreement of the specific areas where Integrated Coastal Management will be demonstrated;
- to discuss the structure and contents of Policy Briefs and Full Project Brief; and
- to discuss the next steps.

### ***REFERENCE DOCUMENTS***

- UNEP/MAP (2005), Draft Protocol on the Integrated Management of Mediterranean Coastal Zones
- PAP/RAC (2006), National Overviews
- PAP/RAC (2006), Policy Brief Overview: Maghreb, Mashrek and Turkey
- PAP/RAC (2006), Policy Brief Overview: Eastern Adriatic Sub-region
- Pavasovic, A. (2006), Approach to Sub-Category 3 - Regional ICM
- UNEP/MAP/MED POL (1997 and revised version of 2005), Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea

April 25, 2006

**Agenda Item 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

11. The meeting was opened by Mr. I. Trumbic, PAP/RAC Director, who welcomed the participants on behalf of PAP/RAC, and of his own. Mr. A. Lascaratos, GEF/UNEP Strategic Partnership (SP) Project Manager, also greeted the participants, expressing wishes for the success of the Expert Meeting. A short overview on the Meeting Agenda has been presented. The Meeting Agenda is attached to this document as Annex II. Objectives of the meeting together with activities to be carried out within the PDF B phase and in close collaboration with all partners were indicated as well. It was stressed that the consultation process with each Mediterranean country would follow in order to reach the final agreement on activities of this sub-category. The on-going process of preparing, signing and ratifying the ICM Protocol will be parallel to the GEF project, therefore, synergies between these two should be created.

**Agenda Item 2: PRESENTATION OF THE GEF PROJECT**

12. Mr. Lascaratos presented in more detail the project "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem". He explained the project objectives, its two Components (Regional Component and Investment Fund), all the partners involved and the structure of the Partnership and the Regional Component with emphasis on PDF B activities under Component III, Sub-Category 6 - Regional Integrated Coastal Management. Furthermore, he elaborated the current status of PDF B, timeframe and activities, Project Brief structure as well as International Waters monitoring indicators. He emphasised the importance of the replication strategy as the "mechanism" to enable implemented projects to be replicated in other areas, countries and in the region. The preparation of the Full Size Project has to focus on implementation of priorities identified by SAP MED and SAP BIO. It should be taken into consideration that time frame of the PDF B phase was shortened for at least 6 months, and so the submission deadline for its presentation is now November 2006. Mr. Lascaratos' presentation is attached to this document as Annex III.

13. The participants were mainly interested in how the Strategic Partnership will impact on-going or projects in preparation, notably those submitted to Investment Fund. Mr. Lascaratos pointed out that the GEF project would not prevent funding of any other project, but it is recommended that these other projects should be in line with the priorities of Regional Component. Also, the World Bank is not likely to fund projects submitted to Investment Fund prior to its formal establishment. In relation to discussion on other projects that are or will be linked to GEF project, the example was used of the World Bank funded project on Sustainable Tourism in Montenegro dealing with water supply from Skadar lake to the coastal area. Italian experts were sent to identify the priorities within that project but these were not in line with the ICM priorities of the national authorities. Therefore, the representative of Serbia and Montenegro expressed hope that the GEF project would avoid such approach and fully respect national coastal management priorities.

14. It was pointed out that the activities of the ICM sub-category should be linked with the other project components, focused at project GEF Focal Areas and Operational Priorities (OPs) and in relation with the objectives of SAP MED and SAP BIO. This should be the main approach in preparing the GEF Full Size Project Brief.

**Agenda Item 3: PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL OVERVIEWS AND POLICY FOR MAGHREB COUNTRIES**

15. Mr. P. MacClanahan, PAP/RAC Consultant, presented draft Strategic Overviews for the Maghreb countries. The presentation included: identification of ICM issues and the relevant context; ICM policy options proposed and recommendations on how to address the identified issues. He stressed that the problems identified were primarily related to the ICM legal framework, waste management and lack of data (including problem of access to data and sharing the information). Concerning the ICM legal framework, he said that the three policy options taken into account were: legally binding framework, strong legal framework and integration of sectoral policies into ICM. It was pointed out that the problems of waste management should be addressed and solved with the support of the Investment Fund. Problems of data collection and dissemination could be addressed through MAP existing tools like Clearing House, with the addition of a more interactive approach; on-line training course (MedOpen) could be a step towards that direction. Mr. MacClanahan mentioned that production of a sort of meta-database on existing information could help data exchange and would be used for future replication of pilot projects. The discussion on options, recommendation and technical aspects on PDF B followed the presentation. The participants discussed on what would be an "ideal package" of activities under the ICM sub-category; whether it is production of a strategy, establishment of ICM agencies and/or committees, etc. It was concluded that the activities should be implemented at regional, national and local level.

16. When designing the ICM sub-component activities, conformity in terms of GEF priorities and eligible activities should be carefully taken into consideration, especially related to GEF Strategic Priorities: International Waters 1 (IW-1) - *Catalyzing Financial Resources for Implementation of Agreed Actions*, Biodiversity 1 (BD-1) - *Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Areas* and Biodiversity 2 (BD-2) - *Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes and Sectors*.

17. The procedure for preparation of the Full Project Brief was discussed in detail: first, problems and needs should be identified; then, generic list of eligible activities should be prepared and relevant stakeholders consulted so that individual activities that can contribute to solving the problems identified and that are in conformity and eligible with project objectives could be defined. One of the eligible activities of the ICM sub-category could be assisting countries to strengthen the legal and set institutional arrangements for ICM where they do not exist.

18. The participants recommended that when defining activities at the national level, it was necessary to take into consideration specific national situations; a clear picture on what is in place, what is missing and what are the development possibilities has to be outlined. The case of Tunisia was presented to show that there is a well developed legal framework and established committee for sustainable development. They have important coastal management agency as well. Morocco and Algeria have just established such coastal agencies, based on Tunisian model. Possibilities for strengthening collaboration among neighbouring countries should be identified within this project. In order to identify priorities, inputs from countries would be very important. Finally, once the draft Full Project Brief is prepared consultations with partners and countries will start.

19. Within the project proposal, it should be clearly stressed out how the project could support the process of ICM Protocol endorsement and how it can be implemented in the Mediterranean countries.

***Agenda Item 4: PRESENTATION OF STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND POLICY BRIEF FOR MASHREK SUB-REGION***

20. The ICM related problems and needs of Mashrek countries are similar to the Maghreb ones, with the difference of more significant problem of lack of data. One issue identified in all Mashrek countries is strengthening of an environment and biodiversity-friendly tourism, notably eco-tourism. The participants stressed that eco-tourism as a narrow sector was not economically sustainable for local communities. It does not generate income large enough and it is usually linked with MPAs that are not a favourable management option for local communities. This indicates the need for a more comprehensive approach of this issue.

21. It was pointed out that tourism, within the GEF project, should be of an environmentally sound type, which would both generate profit and integrate different sectors. Therefore, the term "eco-tourism" is not an appropriate one because it is too narrow. "Sustainable tourism" might be better wording. The participants concluded that wording notwithstanding, a link of tourism-related activities with SAP BIO priorities was the crucial task of the project.

22. Involvement of NGOs and creation of a small grant component were identified as important issues, especially because ICM activities could be linked with a small grant programme. MIO-ECSDE is in charge of this component, as well as the public awareness one, so communication and integration with them should be set up. Also, linkages with the other project components should be established, like fisheries, protected areas, etc. ICM activities should be embedded within other activities.

23. In accordance with the comments and suggestions provided by the meeting, Mr. MacClanahan finalised the Policy Brief for Maghreb and Mashrek countries and Turkey as a single document. The Policy Brief for Maghreb and Mashrek countries and Turkey is available at PAP/RAC upon request.

***Agenda Item 5: PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL OVERVIEWS AND POLICY BRIEF FOR THE ADRIATIC SUB-REGION***

24. Mr. Trumbic, on behalf of Mr. G. Berlengi, PAP/RAC Consultant (who was not able to attend the meeting), presented the Strategic Overview of the Adriatic Sub-region. First, he introduced the Adriatic context and then presented the main issues of the three Adriatic countries (Albania, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro). He presented the legal and institutional context, coastal strategies and policies, instruments and coastal practices. The presentation was concluded with the overview of possible solutions that can tackle indicated issues. Mr. Trumbic's presentation is attached as Annex III to this document.

25. In accordance with the comments and suggestions provided by the meeting, Mr. Berlengi finalised the Policy Brief for the Adriatic Sub-region. The Policy Brief Adriatic is available at PAP/RAC upon request.

***Agenda Item 6: DISCUSSION ON THE ADRIATIC SUB-REGION***

26. After the presentation, the discussion followed. The participants pointed out that Montenegro have a Law on Coastal Zone, but that it was not the best solution for an efficient ICM. Currently, there are discussions whether to produce the amendments of the Law or even to decree a new one. Also, the present situation with the Public Agency "Morsko Dobro", which is administering the coastal area, is not the best possible option for coastal agency. Some new institutional arrangements might be needed in order to promote sustainable development.

27. ICM problems in Albania relate with legislation, its implementation and institutions, as well as capacity building. However, there is no co-ordinated way of decision-making within ministries, no integration among projects and possible follow up of the projects is taken into account. There are variety of ICM-related projects in Albania but there is sort of "lack of memory in the system", because projects are not built upon each other. Important for Albania is to develop: a) ICM strategy, not just as a paper document, but in terms of general consensus and capacity building on strategic policy; and b) appropriate ICM institutional arrangements, for example an inter-sectoral agency. One example of similar body exists in Tunisia (APAL), but it's role is implementing and not a decision-making one. In Croatia, such body is needed as well, since the existing Office for the Adriatic (as a part of the Ministry of Environment) does not have the necessary executive power.

28. Once again, the question on linkages between the discussed PDF B phase of the project and ongoing (as well as planned) national projects was raised, especially in relation with CAMP Morocco. It was stressed out that PDF B phase was just a preparatory phase of the project. The Full Size Project will be implemented based on relevant proposals submitted, and the results of CAMPs being implemented (in particular CAMP Morocco) might serve as inputs.

29. It was concluded that when implementing the ICM sub-category, links with national authorities of eligible countries should be established, not only with Ministries of Environment (MoEs), but also with other "stronger" ministries, like Ministries of Finance, etc. Still, comments were made that, especially in case of Egypt, Ministries of Environment can be very well used as a co-ordinating body since they can easily communicate with all other ministries, as they do not feel "threatened" by MoE.

*April 26, 2006*

***Agenda Item 7: DISCUSSION ON THE PRIORITIES FOR INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN***

30. The second day of the meeting started with the invitation to the countries' representatives to give comments on presented documents to help identify the project priorities and activities.

31. Mr. A. Pavasovic, PAP/RAC ICM Consultant, based on his experience with the PDF B Phase of the UNDP/GEF "COAST" Project, identified some possible activities. He also explained various technical details of preparation and submission of PDF B outputs, in order to help countries' representatives understand the complexity of the process.

32. Mr. Lascaratos pointed out that activities, which are to be funded by GEF, would be the ones with the greatest incremental benefits. Identification and calculation of global benefits of a GEF project is done by an Incremental Cost Analysis (ICA). GEF insists that ICA section of GEF project proposals be well prepared and documented. Therefore, Mr. Lascaratos promised to send PAP/RAC the Guidelines on Incremental Cost Analysis in the first week of May.

33. The question was raised on how to get from a wider list of potential activities (as identified by Mr. Pavasovic) to a narrow one, which would be in conformity with the GEF objectives. Based on the National Overviews, experts' knowledge, literature consulted and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GEF Office and PAP/RAC (dated on 17th February 2006), first approximation of activities could be produced. Countries would be invited to send comments to be used for preparation of the final Full Policy Brief text.

34. Within the whole process, it will be necessary to nominate the persons at national level responsible for the project. The process of nomination has already started but some nominations are still missing. Mr. Lascaratos promised to send the existing list of GEF Focal Points (FPs) to countries' representatives by Friday, April 28th. By the time all the Focal Points



are nominated the list would be distributed to all project partners and participants of this meeting. In order to push the project forward it will be necessary to involve MAP, RACs and GEF FPs as much as possible. The meeting participants were invited to contact their respective countries' Focal Points.

35. A short discussion on responsibilities of the countries towards the project preparation took place, especially in terms of endorsement of the project and in-kind contribution of the countries. Countries' representatives were explained that there is a difference between "in kind" and "in cash" contribution, as "in kind" is not actual money but financial calculation on commodities used, time and efforts of national experts and responsible involved in the project.

36. The first version of the Full Project Brief will be sent to countries for their comments. In relation to the ICM Component of the project, countries should communicate with PAP/RAC. The contact person will be the PAP Director, Mr. Trumbic.

37. Differences between the Policy Brief and the Project Brief have been emphasised. Policy Briefs are experts' output; based on National Overviews, to be used for the preparation of Project Brief. The draft Full Project Brief related to ICM Component is the PAP/RAC's output to be incorporated in the overall FPB text and afterwards submitted to GEF for approval. The Full Project Brief template has been sent to all project executing institutions, together with some examples of good Project Briefs.

38. ICM is mainly a national affair, so the final issue was raised on how to make ICM activities of the global importance, and therefore make it eligible for the project. Two options were offered: i) Activities related to the Mediterranean Protocol on ICM, which is a regional document itself, but will be nationally implemented for the regional (global) benefit; and ii) Activities of transboundary nature. A comment from GEF representative (from Washington) was read by Mr. Lascaratos, indicating that the ICM sub-category of the Project should facilitate the jump/starting of the ICAM Protocol adoption by the Mediterranean countries.

#### ***Agenda Item 8: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING***

39. Mr. Lascaratos thanked the participants for their contribution and provided his contact details, inviting them to contact him if there are any clarifications needed. Finally, Mr. Trumbic thanked the participants for their comments and suggestions and closed the meeting at 12 a.m.

## ANNEX I

### List of Participants

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## ANNEX II

### Meeting Agenda

#### Tuesday, 25 April 2006

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Registration, opening, and objectives of the meeting (Trumbić)                                      |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Presentation of the GEF Project "Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership" (Lascaratós) |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Policy Brief for the Maghreb Sub-region (MacClanahan)   |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Policy Brief for the Mashrek Sub-region and Turkey (MacClanahan)                                    |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | Discussion on the findings on the Policy Briefs for the Maghreb and Mashrek Sub-regions and Turkey  |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Policy Brief for the Adriatic Sub-region (Trumbić)  |
| 15:30 – 16:15 | Discussion on the Adriatic Sub-region   |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | What are the GEF projects about? (Lascaratós, Pavasovic, Bjelica)                                   |

#### Wednesday, 26 April 2006

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 09:00 – 10:00 | Discussion on the priorities for Integrated Coastal Management in the Mediterranean |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Identification of actions for ICM   |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | Conclusions and recommendations   |
| 13:00         | Closure of the meeting  |

**ANNEX III**

**Presentations of Participants**

1. Mr. Alex Lascaratos: *Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership*
2. Mr. Ivica Trumbic: *Policy Brief for the Adriatic Sub-region*