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**THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA LARGE MARINE
ECOSYSTEM (MEDPARTNERSHIP)**

Istanbul (Turkey), 15 – 17 May 2012

Introduction

1. The Third Steering Committee Meeting of the UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) was held, at the kind invitation of the Government of Turkey, at the Mim Hotel, Istanbul (Turkey) from 15 to 17 May 2012.

Participation

2. The following Steering Committee members were represented: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, France, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey, UNEP/MAP, UNEP/DEPI, The European Commission, The World Bank, FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO-IHP, MEDPOL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, CP/RAC, BP/RAC, WWF MedPO, MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med and the Officer-in-Charge.

3. The following observers were represented: MedPAN, Union for the Mediterranean and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

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

Opening of the meeting and welcome addresses

5. Mr. Recep Şahin, General Director of Environmental Management of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the Third Steering Committee Meeting of the UNEP/MAP-GEF MedPartnership by thanking UNEP/MAP for organizing it in Istanbul. He expressed concern with the deterioration of the state of natural resources not only in the Mediterranean but on the planet as a whole, which would be considered as one ecosystem. In that respect, application of the ecosystem approach to resource management is extremely important. In this context, MedPartnership is the cornerstone of the Mediterranean efforts to improve regional cooperation in natural resources management. He believes that every activity of the project will have major positive effect on the Mediterranean ecosystem. Continuing his presentation, Mr. Şahin highlighted the efforts of Turkey to protect its marine ecosystem. These primarily refer to the reduction of land based sources of pollution by adopting a national action plan in 2005. Management plans have been prepared for 11 of 25 Turkish river basins, with the rest coming into force in 2013. Solid waste management and combating oil spills pollution, including the accidental one, are other areas where Turkey has made significant progress. Finally, he emphasised his country's efforts to reduce the negative effects of climate change. The respective strategy has been prepared in 2010 and it is expected that it will be effective in mitigating of and adapting to the expected climate change. Closing his speech, Mr. Şahin wished the participants every success in their endeavours.

6. Mr. Laurent Duriez, Director of the French Development Agency (AFD) in Turkey and representative of France, the President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, welcomed the participants and thanked Turkey for hosting this meeting. He called upon the Paris Declaration where countries were invited to implement concrete measures to preserve the Mediterranean biodiversity, in order to realise the vision of the clean, healthy and productive Mediterranean. He reminded participants that Mediterranean, one of 64 large marine ecosystems of the world, suffers from human pressures and that this

partnership is a critical initiative that could inverse negative trends through implementation of concrete projects, which could contribute to the protection and preservation of the Mediterranean marine ecosystem. He also placed the MedPartnership, as a multi-partner initiative, in the centre of Mediterranean countries' efforts towards UNEP/MAP's transformation into an efficient regional organisation, which would, naturally, need to be coupled with adequate financing. France is committed to this effort, among other through its significant financial contribution to the MedPartnership. Closing his intervention, Mr. Duriez wished the participants success in this meeting.

7. Mr. Habib El-Habr, Deputy Coordinator of MAP and Officer-in-Charge of MedPartnership, introduced himself as he has joined UNEP/MAP only recently. He thanked Turkey for hosting this meeting and praised its efforts in UNEP/MAP of which it is a long standing member. He mentioned that the MedPartnership is one of the biggest projects ever undertaken in the Mediterranean and is currently the biggest GEF project in UNEP's portfolio and informed the meeting that MedPartnership is at the midpoint of its implementation. The Midterm evaluation will be carried out this year and it will result in proposals to successfully complete the project, which will be adopted at the next Steering Committee meeting. The MedPartnership is expanding after the "Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" has been endorsed by the GEF Chief Executive Officer in January 2012. From now on, the MedPartnership's Steering Committee meeting will also serve as the Steering Committee meeting for both projects. Finally, he expressed the hope that this meeting will be successful and that the now expanded MedPartnership will continue its successful course.

Election of officers

8. Following the provisions of the Project Document, the meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Recep Şahin, General Director of Environmental Management of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey and Mr. Habib El-Habr, Deputy Coordinator of MAP and Officer-in-Charge of MedPartnership. Ms. Jelena Knezevic, Montenegro and Mr. Mohamed Ali Ben Temessek, Tunisia were elected as vice chairpersons of the meeting.

Adoption of the agenda

9. The agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.368/1) and the annotated agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.368/2) were adopted. The agenda is attached as **Annex II** to the present report.

Introduction to the meeting: Objectives, structure of the meeting, method of work, expected results

10. Mr. El-Habr briefly presented the background and history of the MedPartnership, which dates back more than a decade. MedPartnership is a turning point in the efforts of Mediterranean countries to improve management of the sea and produce practical results. The role of Steering Committee is particularly important as it gives necessary guidance for the project's execution. He informed the meeting of the objectives to be achieved during the next three days, namely: (i) to present and discuss the progress in implementation of the project, (ii) to review the MedPartnership's work-plan and budget for 2012 and adopt them, (iii) to review the approach for 2012-2014 expanded replication strategy and criteria for the selection of replicable practices, and (iv) to review the roadmap for the Climate Variability and Change project and provide guidance for the Inception Phase and further implementation.

Introduction to the 2011 Annual Report, followed by general discussion

11. Ms. Virginie Hart, MedPartnership's Marine and Coastal Expert, introduced the 2011 Annual Report showing what has been achieved over the last reporting period. The Annual Report is a publication which presents, in a condensed, graphical and user friendly form,

these achievements. As the majority of activities are in full implementation, there were many highlights presented and reflected on in the report.

12. Country representatives congratulated the PMU on this very useful document, which in a concise way presented achievements of MedPartnership in 2011. They also briefly informed the meeting on major aspects of project implementation in their country. A number of countries have ratified or have initiated the process of ratification of the ICZM Protocol. Some informed on the new projects and initiatives in their coastal areas linked to the issues of coastal development, water resources management, disposal of PCBs, climate change adaptation, clean production and green economy, and land degradation.

13. Ms. Alessandra Sensi, Programme Manager for the European Commission, emphasized achievements made in the biodiversity protection component as well as MED-TEST in the component 2. She mentioned the agreement recently reached with the MedPartnership PMU to jointly continue replication activities, which would include, among other, the results of Horizon 2020 and SWIM programmes. She also stressed the need to make better use of inter-ministerial committees in countries.

14. Mr. Francois Gueber, Senior Advisor for the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), which attended the meeting for the first time, explained the role of that organization as well as the tasks of the 30-strong secretariat in Barcelona. Speaking of the activities in the field of water and environment, he specifically mentioned the initiative to label projects. The goal of labeling is to emphasize the impacts a certain project, even if national, will have on the region as a whole. Such is the desalinization project in Gaza, which in addition of having impact on the protection of the aquifer, will have an impact on the region's stability and peace. Although UfM doesn't have its own sources of financing for projects, it is well linked with sponsors in EU and the Gulf, which opens possibilities for joint search for project financing.

15. Ms Kelly West, Task Manager for UNEP/DEPI, expressed her satisfaction with the 2011 Annual Report and overall results achieved. She also said that the project is still facing several challenges. These were well elaborated and the proposals to overcome them were given in the 2011 PIR. She congratulated PMU on the award of a new GEF project on climate variability and change and ICZM, which will have to be mainstreamed into MedPartnership.

16. MedPAN representative, who is also partner in the MedPartnership's component 3 congratulated on the excellent Annual Report and expressed desire to participate in the replication activities to be proposed by WWF.

Aquifer, Water and Coastal Management: Regional and national highlights followed by discussion

17. Mr. Jose Luis Martin Bordes (UNESCO-IHP), Ms. Daria Povh (PAP-RAC) and Mr. Vangelis Constantianos (GWP-Med) presented the 2011 achievements within their respective sub-components of the Component 1. The power-point presentations are uploaded on the MedPartnership web-site.

18. A number of countries congratulated the three partners on their presentations and the results achieved and progress reached in 2011. Montenegro emphasized the fact that the activities in Buna Bojana River, executed by all 3 partners were linked to the implementation of ICZM Protocol and also to the national ICZM Strategy. Special challenge are (1) linking ICZM and Water Management from the methodological perspective, and taking in account the EU Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directives, and (2) linking ICZM and Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) activities of MAP.

19. Ms Sensi (EC) expressed the desire that UNESCO-IHP should link with the similar activities of the EU, such as the SWIM demonstration on artificial recharge, while Mr. Gueber

(UfM) thought that EU countries, which are not participating in the project, could take the benefit of this experience for their own ICZM strategies and plans. Ms. Povh (PAP-RAC) responded that all countries are invited to participate in their activities, but that the rules allow only for financing in GEF eligible countries. Mr. Martin Bordes (UNESCO-IHP) informed the meeting of examples related to additional contribution to their activities, such as universities in Morocco and Italy, which are participating with expertise within their domain, Geological Survey of Spain, and Group Sea Directorate of EU contributing to monitoring the groundwater dependent ecosystems.

Pollution reduction from land based sources: Regional and national highlights followed by discussion

20. Ms. Tatiana Hema (MED POL), Ms. Carolina Gonzalez (UNIDO) and Mr. Enrique Villamore (CP-RAC) presented the 2011 achievements within their respective sub-components of the Component 1. The power-point presentations are uploaded on the MedPartnership web site. Their presentation was followed by two special country presentations. Ms. Heba Sharawy (Egypt) presented their efforts to dispose of PCBs, in particular noting that each time they do the inventory the amount increases, especially for trace levels of PCBs. Mr. Temessek (Tunisia) gave an overview of his country's efforts to reduce the pollution from industrial sources. Among the measures taken by the Tunisia's government, he stressed the adoption of the regulation to stimulate industrial enterprises to adopt green technology, and the establishment of the depollution fund, which is offering subsidies to industries aimed at reducing the pollution.

21. Country representatives expressed their overall satisfaction with the results achieved within this component. They were particularly satisfied with the results of the MED-TEST, and some of them are ready to financially stimulate further reduction of pollution by industries. The Palestinian representative, supported by the Turkish representative, asked the Steering Committee to support their interest to host the PCB and other POPs disposal activity, pending the availability of funds. It was agreed that UNEP/MAP would try and find solutions to accommodate these requests. This request prompted the CP/RAC Director to ask if the workshops on PCBs, which they organize, could also include other dangerous pollutants. This proposal was approved by the Steering Committee. In addition, Mr Scoullos (H2020 CB/MEP Team Leader) noted that synergies between Horizon 2020 and the PCB activities could be accommodated.

22. The EC Representative informed the meeting that a new programme, worth around 20 million euros, is in preparation, and one of the first issues it will deal with will be the dangerous pollutants, such as PCBs. UfM representative also expressed his satisfaction with the MED-TEST results and confirmed that the savings achieved, which were presented during the UNIDO's presentation, are real.

23. Ms. Maria Serentil (CP-RAC) made a presentation on "green" events. The purpose of this initiative is to minimize the ecological footprint of the meetings and, ultimately, reduce the number of meetings introducing alternative means of communication. She presented benefits of the "green" events including economic, social and environmental ones. The MedPartnership holds over 100 meetings each year and it was therefore agreed that all members of the Steering Committee would utilize the green events toolkit when organizing meeting for the remainder of the project.

Marine Protected areas and Fisheries management: Regional and national highlights followed by discussion

24. Mr. Giuseppe De Carlo (WWF MedPO), Mr. Pedro Barros (FAO) and Ms. Souha El Asmi (SPA-RAC) presented the 2011 achievements within their respective sub-components of the Component 3. The power-point presentations are uploaded on the MedPartnership web site.

The representative of Tunisia gave a presentation on the fisheries regime in Tunisia, while the representative of Turkey presented experiences and results of the establishment of marine protected areas in Turkey. These presentations are also uploaded on the MedPartnership web site.

25. The country representatives expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved within the component 3 of the project, and several stressed the importance of data sharing and GIS, and the need to integrate MPAs with coastal area plans and ICZM. The Moroccan representative requested that information on the achievement within this as well as within other components of the project be better disseminated in respective country, as she wouldn't be aware of many results if she is not attending this meeting. Morocco is very much interested to participate in the implementation of this component as they have carried out number of activities on establishment of the MPAs. Several other countries also informed the meeting of the initiatives to establish new MPAs in their countries.

26. The EC representative congratulated on the results achieved in this component. EC will continue to support this activity and is securing additional financing for biodiversity, in particular for SPA-RAC activities on the high seas, which has the objective of increasing the area protected from 3% to 10%. She specifically emphasized the importance of activities to be carried in Libya, as the financing for that country is now available, and proposed that SPA-RAC prepares a leaflet for Libya. She also suggested that the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) under Horizon 2020 should be used for sharing data within the region.

27. The UfM representative also confirmed that financing might be available and that replication activities might be instrumental in that endeavor, but that the investment component will have to be developed. He also commented that the annual report, although very useful, could in the future be made more integrated, since the synergies between components were not always clear.

Coordination and stakeholder involvement: Regional and national highlights followed by discussion

28. Ms. Hart presented the activities of the Project Management Unit, which included project coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation, sustainable financing for NAP implementation, and inter-ministerial coordination, while Ms. Thomais Vlachogianni (MIO-ECSDE) presented progress in NGOs involvement. Both power-point presentations are uploaded on the MedPartnership web site.

29. Several country representatives commented on the issue of NGO data base. They wanted to know how an NGO could be listed in the data base, and mentioned that the NGO data base should also request the changing political situation in the South of the Mediterranean, where new NGOs are being registered. Ms. Vlachogianni replied that the NGO data base is the "work in progress" and that it could be updated regularly. The current data base is available online on the MedPartnership's web site and countries are invited to send their proposals for the list (<http://www.themedpartnership.org/med/pfpublish/p/doc/b70c8150c28a8da3df6a7ae3e7749e49>). UfM representative commended the idea of inter-ministerial committees, and suggested that it could be extended to UfM, but that meetings could eventually be held on a topical basis and mentioned replication as the first potential topic to be discussed at that level. Tunisian representative expressed the opinion that such committees could also include other stakeholders besides the ministries.

The implementation of the Communication Strategy so far: Results and discussion on future focus

30. Ms. Thomais Vlachogianni presented the results of the implementation of the Communication Strategy. The power-point presentation is uploaded on the MedPartnership web site.

31. Participants congratulated MIO-ECSDE on successful implementation of the strategy and high quality of its products. UNEP/DEPI representative expressed her great satisfaction with the communication products, which are being of a very high quality, in particular compared to those produced by other GEF projects in the UNEP portfolio. She has asked executing partners to populate the web site more actively even if inputs are in draft form or not yet fully finished such as, for example, the guide on Integrated Management Framework. Tunisian representative emphasized the importance of the Rio+20 meeting, which is an important event for MedPartnership, and it should be present there in some way. Moroccan representative asked that, for the sake of wider acceptance by the public, the contents of the web site should be translated into French and, if resources will allow, into Arabic. Algerian representative proposed that major events, such as Coast Day, be utilized as an opportunity to publicize the achievements of the MedPartnership and increase awareness of the wider public on coastal and pollution reduction issues.

32. Ms. Vlachogianni welcomed the proposal to translate the contents of the web site into other languages, though it could be done only gradually starting with the news section translated in French and Arabic. She also mentioned that some other communication products could be introduced such as e-learning modules, while some countries proposed that educational games for children be produced.

Introduction to the expanded Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy (MEReS): Presentation of draft and discussion

33. Mr. Andrea Merla, UNEP/MAP Consultant, presented the expanded Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy (MEReS). The power-point presentation is uploaded on the MedPartnership web site.

34. The presentation raised great interest among the participants because it has shown that the replication strategy has been brought closer to actual implementation. The proposed replication strategy is an initiative with a long vision. Its objective is to ensure the sustainability of good practices implemented within the MedPartnership, SWIM and Horizon 2020 projects. However, it was mentioned that while the Steering Committee should take note of this proposal and approve it, the Coordination Group will, at its next meeting in autumn 2012, discuss modalities for its accelerated implementation. The EC representative reiterated the support to MEReS, in particular the interest of all three components of the Horizon 2020 to participate in it, which was also expressed by all H2020 countries at its recent steering committee meeting.

35. It was noted that a different approach would be needed to replicate different practices. It was also stated that submitting a proposal for replication should be stimulated. The executing agencies should be encouraged to propose practices, since acceptance of a practice to be replicated could also be considered as recognition of these agencies' work. The participants were informed that funds available for the replication strategy were never considered as being enough for actual replication, and that the replication of practices selected will have to be funded from other sources. However, the authority of the partners involved in the selection process (countries, EU, UNEP/MAP, executing agencies) should be enough to trigger the interest of the governments and donors for financing. The representative of UfM expressed its interest to participate in selection of the replication cases and their implementation, while the representative of Egypt raised the issue of capacity building as a replication activity and

stressed that they really need training in environmental law and on natural resources degradation.

The Sustainable Med: Presentation of achievements

36. Ms. Nathalie Abu Ata from the World Bank's office in Marseille (CMI) presented the achievements of the Sustainable Med. Her power-point presentation is uploaded on the MedPartnership web site.

37. UNEP/DEPI representative pointed to the need to achieve synergy between UNEP/MAP and the World Bank, which was one of the most important objectives of MedPartnership. She expressed the opinion that there is still room for cooperation, and this particularly refers to the Regional Governance and Knowledge project, as well as through meaningful integration of other Sustainable Med projects in the replication process. EC representative would like to see the governance part of the respective project linked to the core UNEP/MAP activities. She also urged for a better linkage of the Sustainable Med projects with the complementary EU projects, such as SWIM. Some participants requested that an updated list of the Investment Fund (now Sustainable Med) projects be placed on the MedPartnership web site, in line with the list presented by Ms. Abu Ata.

Presentation of the 2012 Work-plan

38. Ms. Virginie Hart presented the 2012 Work-plan and her presentation is uploaded on the MedPartnership web site.

39. The 2012 Work-plan was adopted by the Steering Committee who suggested that the MedPartnership takes in consideration other initiatives in the region and coordinates with them.

Presentation and adoption of the 2012 budget

40. Mr. Giorgos Petridis, UNEP/MAP Administrative Assistant, gave a presentation on the 2012 budget revision as well as on the administrative and financial items of the project. His presentation is uploaded on the MedPartnership's web site. Mr. Petridis informed the meeting on the process, which will have to be followed for the preparation of the budget revision. Information was also provided on the financial delivery of the project's UNEP administered funding, split by component as at 31 December 2011. In his presentation, the issue of in kind co-financing from participating countries was raised and the recommendation for a revised methodology of reporting was presented. This new methodology is based on established ratio between the in kind co-finance commitment of \$14,100,000 made by countries at the project approval stage and the total GEF grant commitment of \$11,891,000, with the general ratio being that of 1.186. More detailed information on the ratios and methodology can be found in the document: UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.368/5. Mr. Petridis informed the meeting that annually, at the respective Steering Committee Meeting of the project, the total expenditure of the project will be presented and, based on the above ratio, the estimated proportional in kind co-financing from countries will be presented for review and endorsement. Then, the approved figure will be included in the respective forthcoming PIR. Following that procedure, he informed the Steering Committee that as of 31 December 2011 the cumulative expenditure of \$3,821,970 was reached, while the respective estimated in kind co-financing commitment from countries amounted to \$4,531,981.

41. The 2012 Budget Revision of the project as well as the new reporting modality and ratios on in kind co-financing from countries was adopted. The amount of \$ 4,531,981 in kind co-financing from participating countries was approved and will be included in the forthcoming PIR. This is a cumulative figure starting from the inception of the project until 31 December 2011 and includes all previous amounts reported to date.

Presentation of MedPartnership Film and iPad and iPhone applications

42. The 26 minute movie on the MedPartnership activities, prepared by MIO-ECSDE as part of the implementation of the communication strategy was presented. The presentation of the iPad application was carried out as an interactive exercise after the session was concluded.

Date and place of the next Coordination Group (CG) and Steering Committee (SC) meeting, and any other business

43. Ms. Virginie Hart informed the participants that the next Coordination Group meeting will be held in Paris, tentatively during the third week of October 2012. UNESCO – IHP will host the meeting in the UNESCO premises. Mr. Habib El-Habr informed that there are two possibilities for the next Steering Group meeting (Tunisia and Lebanon), both options waiting for the confirmation from the respective capital. The tentative date for the meeting is March 2013.

Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting

44. The Steering Committee examined a set of conclusions and recommendations of the first part of the meeting prepared by the Secretariat, which it adopted with the necessary modifications. The complete text of the conclusions and recommendations is attached as **Annex III** to this report.

SESSION ON INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE INTO NATIONAL STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT THE ICZM PROTOCOL IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

45. In the continuation of the meeting, the Steering Committee discussed the GEF Project “Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean”. The session was attended by the countries that have endorsed the project (present at the meeting were Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine Authority, and Tunisia), Algeria and Turkey as observers, UNEP/MAP and the executing partners (BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and GWP Med), and other organizations as observers (SPA/RAC, UfM, UNESCO-IHP).

Introduction to the meeting: Objectives, structure of the meeting, method of work, expected results

46. The session was opened by Ms. Jelena Knezevic, Vice-chairperson of the SC meeting, who also chaired it and Mr Habib El-Habr, who introduced Mr. Ivica Trumbic, as the Regional Advisor to this project. Mr. Trumbic introduced the background to the meeting, its structure, history of the project, expectations and results to be achieved. The participants were informed of the objectives of the meeting, which were stated as the following: to inform participating countries on the project’s structure; to decide on the steps and activities during the first year of project’s implementation; to review potential for synergies with other regional projects and initiatives; and to give directions and provide inputs for the preparation of the Inception Report.

47. The chair of the meeting proposed the agenda, which was adopted without comments. The agenda is contained in the overall agenda of the meeting, which is attached as **Annex II** of the report.

Introduction to the Roadmap for the Implementation of the Climate Variability Project

48. Mr. Trumbic gave the introductory presentation on the Roadmap to the Climate Variability. He tried to define the basic notions and explain what is the difference as well as compatibility between the climate variability and climate change; how one leads to another; what are the causes of climate variability, which is increasingly being generated by human actions; and how this issue needs to be mainstreamed into ICZM. The main point of his presentation was the position that this project has two equally important foci: analysis of the climate variability in the region and the ICZM as a tool to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change. Giving preference to one or the other would lead to missing the main objective of the project: mainstreaming the issue of climate variability into ICZM. He presented the activities that are envisaged during the first year of project's implementation. His presentation is uploaded on the MedPartnership web site.

49. Several participants commented on Mr. Trumbic's presentation. All of them confirmed that the subject of the project is a big issue in the Mediterranean at the moment. Some proposed that a wider perspective should be taken, and that it should go beyond coastal zone and include the adjacent river basins, since the climate change in these areas can have profound impacts on the coastal zone, particularly in terms of increased flooding. The issue of impact of climate change on coastal infrastructure is also important because it can cause increased pollution by wastewater. The scope of the project should, thus, be extended to identify vulnerability areas in and beyond coastal zone. Publishing relevant maps could be of great help for management actions. Some participants found the definitions of and relationship between climate variability and climate change as interesting but also very complex, and stressed that both are very dynamic concepts, since their geographical scope is constantly shifting. They also recommended that impacts of climate variability on biodiversity be analysed, since that component has not been emphasized enough in the project document. Finally, it was proposed that the strength of this project will be the linkage between scientific facts and policy making.

50. Several country representatives stressed the importance of coastal areas and the need to deal with the impacts of climate change and adaptation on it. In EU countries, or those that will join soon, climate change adaptation should also be linked with the Marine Strategy implementation. Some countries informed the meeting that they have launched studies to assess the vulnerable areas. Countries have also progressed in establishing institutional framework for climate change, and they are ready to utilise it for this project. The Palestine representative spoke of specific conditions in his country and said that this project has to be appropriately adjusted to reflect that situation.

Presentation of main regional complementary initiatives

51. Ms. Françoise Breton, project manager of PEGASO, an EU FP7 project, gave a presentation on the structure and current status of implementation of the project. Its objective is to assist implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean and stimulate similar action in the Black Sea. It is complementary with the Climate Variability project. Its main output will be an ICZM governance platform. During the discussion it was proposed that the possibilities be explored of merging the PEGASO platform and the data sharing module of this project. Ms. Breton's presentation is uploaded on the MedPartnership website.

52. Mr. Antoine Lafitte from the BP/RAC gave a presentation on the CLIM-RUN project, another EU project that might be compatible with this project. His presentation is uploaded on the MedPartnership website.

Presentation of main national initiatives by country focal points

53. The countries participating at the meeting were invited to present the status of their adaptation efforts to the climate change as well as provide a main points of their national communications, in particular with regards to the climate change scenaria. It became obvious that in almost all countries there has been soome form of action undertaken to adapt to the climate change. In all countries linkages will be established between this project and other current initiatives in countries in order to create synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. All countriuy presentations are uploaded on the MedPartnership website.

Presentation of project activities

54. Mr. Antoine Lafitte (BP/RAC), Ms. Daria Povh (PAP/RAC) and Mr. Vangelis Constantianos (GWP/MED) gave presentations on their activities to be performed in the project. Their respective presentations are uploaded on the Medpartnership web site.

55. Country representatives accepted theexecuting partners' detailed description of activities. Morocco reiterated their willingness to be part of the DIVA activities to be carried out by PAP/RAC, while the Palestine representative expressed the wish that his country also be a pilot area in this activity.

Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting and closure of the meeting

56. The Steering Committee examined a set of conclusions and recommendations of this session of the meeting prepared by the Secretariat, which it adopted with the necessary modifications. The complete text of the conclusions and recommendations is attached as Annex IV to this report.

Closure of the meeting

57. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 6 p.m. on Thursday 17 May 2012.

Annex I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****COUNTRIES**

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Annex II**AGENDA OF THE MEETING****Tuesday, 15 May: STEERING COMMITTEE DAY 1**

09:00 – 09:30	Registration of participants
09:30 – 09:45	Opening of the meeting and welcome addresses
09:45 – 10:00	Election of officers
10:00 – 10:15	Adoption of the agenda of the meeting
10:15 – 10:30	Introductions to the meeting: Objectives, structure of the meeting, method of work, expected results
10:30 – 11:15	Introduction to the 2011 Annual Report, followed by general discussion
11:15 – 11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45 – 13:00	Aquifer, Water and Coastal management: Regional and national highlights followed by discussion
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 15:45	Pollution reduction from land based sources: Regional and national highlights followed by discussion
15.45 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Announcements

Wednesday, 16 May:

STEERING COMMITTEE DAY 2

09:00 – 10:15	Marine Protected areas and Fisheries management: Regional and national highlights followed by discussion
10:15 – 10:45	Coordination and stakeholder involvement: Regional and national highlights followed by discussion
10:45 - 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15 – 11:50	The implementation of the Communication Strategy so far: Results and discussion on future focus
11:50 - 12:30	Introduction to the expanded Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy “MERE S”: Presentation of draft and discussion
12:30 – 13:00	The Sustainable Med: Presentation of achievements
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Presentation of the 2012 Work-plan
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Presentation and adoption of the 2012 budget
16:30 – 17:00	Presentation: Introduction to organizing greener events in the Mediterranean
17:00 – 18:00	Presentation of MedPartnership Film and Ipad application

Thursday 17 May**STEERING COMMITTEE DAY 3**

09:00 – 09.30	Date and place of the next Steering Committee meeting, and any other business
09:30– 10.30	Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>

INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR THE “INTEGRATION OF CLIMATIC VARIABILITY AND CHANGE INTO NATIONAL STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT THE ICZM PROTOCOL IN THE MEDITERRANEAN”

11:00 - 11:15	Opening of the meeting and welcome addresses
11:15 – 11:30	Adoption of the agenda of the meeting
11:30 – 11:45	Introduction to the meeting: Objectives, structure of the meeting, method of work, expected results
11:45 – 12:30	Introduction to the Roadmap for the Implementation of the Climate Variability Project
12:30 – 13:00	Presentation of main regional complementary initiatives
13:00 - 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Presentation of main national initiatives by country focal points
15:30 – 16.00	Presentation of project activities
16:00 - 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 17:30	Presentation of project activities (continued)
17:30 – 17:45	Date and place of the next meeting, and any other business
17:45– 18:15	Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting and Closure of the meeting

Annex III

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Third meeting of the MedPartnership Steering Committee held in Istanbul, Turkey, 15 – 17 May 2012, commending the efforts made by UNEP/MAP Project Management Unit (PMU), all executing partners (UNESCO/IHP, FAO, World Bank, UNIDO, UNEP/MAP's MEDPOL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, CP/RAC, WWF-MedPO, MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med) and all participating countries (with the exception of Libya and Syria) in this since the Second Steering Committee meeting, and made the following recommendations:

1. *Takes note* of the request of the Palestinian representative for technical assistance for the disposal of PCBs in the Palestinian Authority and will look into possibilities to accommodate this request within the availability of resources.
2. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the 2011 Annual Report and *recommends* that the next Annual Report highlight jointly coordinated activities between executing partners.
3. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the high quality results achieved by the MedPartnership and *recommends* UNEP/MAP PMU and all executing partners to maintain the quality and accelerate the delivery of results and outputs under the ambitious 2012 work plan.
4. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken on the development of the expanded Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy ("MEReS"), and approves its further development and implementation taking due considerations of the recommendations made by the Steering Committee.
5. *Recommends* consideration to be given to translation of the MedPartnership web-site into French and Arabic to ensure greater outreach within the region.
6. *Requests* that the UNEP/MAP PMU implements activities to support in-country inter-ministerial coordination, to be individually agreed with each participating country according to their requirements to ensure long term sustainability of activities undertaken within the project.
7. *Adopts* the revised overall Work plan and budget for the Regional Project component, and taking due considerations of the recommendations made by the Steering Committee.
8. *Adopts* the 2012 detailed Work plan and Budget for the Regional Project component of the MedPartnership including the new execution arrangements proposed for the communication and replication activities, and calls for the effective implementation of the work plan taking due considerations of the recommendations made by the Steering Committee.
9. *Extends* special thanks to the government of Turkey and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization for their hospitality and contribution to the organization of the meeting.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

"Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean"

The Third Meeting of the MedPartnership Steering Committee, which also served as the Steering Committee for the "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean", during the special session devoted to the project, which was held on 17 May 2012, made the following recommendations:

1. *Takes note* of the request made by some participants that a wider range of thematic issues be taken in consideration when assessing the impact of climate variability and change in coastal areas, and that possibilities be explored that the list of project executing agencies be expanded to incorporate eventual new activities.
2. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the efforts undertaken so far in starting the inception phase activities and initiating the project activities by executing partners.
3. *Recommends* that every effort be made that Inception Report is finalized and distributed to the participating countries, and legal agreements signed, by the end of June 2012.
4. *Recommends* that an assessment on the potential for synergies with other relevant projects currently being implemented in the region, such as PEGASO, CLIM-RUN, CLIM-ADAPT, as well as UfM and EU led initiatives and programmes (SWIM, Horizon 2020, DG Research) and other initiatives and investments projects be carried out as a matter of priority.
5. *Adopts* the revised work-plan and detailed account of activities and recommends that implementation of project activities starts as soon as possible in order to keep the original work-plan and timetable unchanged.