

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

REGIONAL PROJECT DOCUMENT

Number: RAB/97/G31/A/1G/31

Title: Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region

Duration: 5 years

Countries/Authority: Albania, Egypt, Tunisia, Palestinian Authority, Morocco, *(Lebanon funded from FFEM funds)*

Sector and subsector: 0400 Environment
0340 Biological Resources

GEF Theme: Biodiversity

Executing Agency: UNOPS

Estimated Starting Date: February 1999

UNDP/GEF:	\$2,649,500
TdV contribution:	\$1,150,000
GdL contribution:	\$1,850,000
Med Wet contribution:	\$52,500
Total:	\$6,302,000

Brief Description:

The project addresses biodiversity conservation in coastal and wetland sites of global importance, situated in 5 countries/Authority of the Mediterranean region. Priority actions include the development of innovative legal frameworks; development of intersectoral management structures able to address complex land management issues; capacity building, and, the promotion of a regional network able to exchange experience, providing economies of scale and the transfer of innovative components of the project within the region. The project will develop the structures and networks required by:

- promoting interministerial coordination and policies at local and national level to address root causes of biodiversity loss;
- implementing sustainable development activities in 15 key pilot sites containing globally threatened biodiversity;
- sensitising, training, and associating stakeholders and building links within the region.

Approved by:	Signature	Date	Name/Title
Government of Albania	_____	_____	_____
Government of Egypt	_____	_____	_____
Government of Tunisia	_____	_____	_____
Government of Morocco	_____	_____	_____
UNDP	_____	_____	_____
UNOPS	_____	_____	_____

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

REGISTRATION

Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region

UNEP/GEF/EMF/001/001
17/001/001

Ministry of Environment, Planning and Economic Affairs
P.O. Box 11500, Nicosia, Cyprus

0480 Environmental
0380 Biological

Biodiversity

HOPS

January 1993

Executive Agency

Environment Planning Data

The project addresses biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean region. It aims to develop a network of protected areas and to enhance the capacity of local authorities to manage these areas. The project will also provide technical assistance and training to local authorities. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Planning and Economic Affairs, Nicosia, Cyprus. The project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Approved by:	Signature	Date	Name/Title
Government of Algeria			
Government of Egypt			
Government of Tunisia			
Government of Morocco			
UNEP			

UNEP/GEF/EMF/001/001

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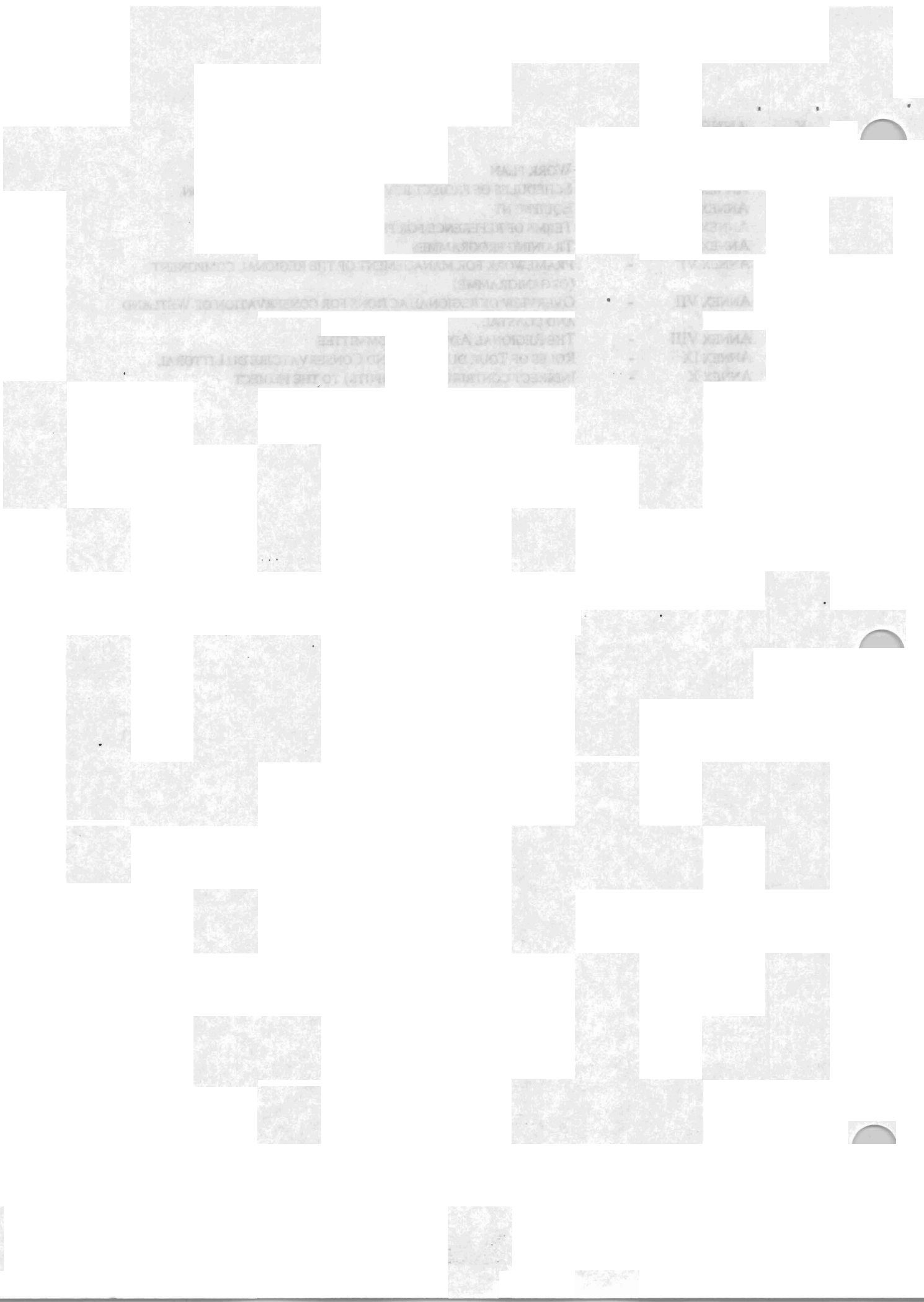
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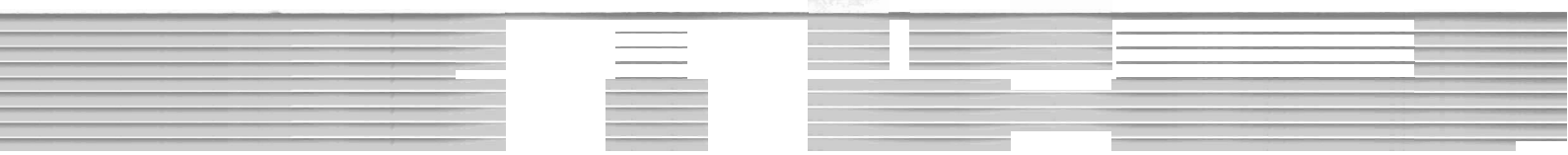
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ACRONYMS

APAL:	Agence de protection et d'aménagement du littoral
AFD :	Agence française de développement
BAD :	Banque africaine de développement
BEE :	Bureau européen de l'environnement
CBD :	Convention on biological diversity
CdL :	Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres (France)
CEP :	Committee for environment protection
CNPPA :	Commission on National Parks and protected areas
CORINE :	Land classification system used by EC
CP:	Contracting parties
EC:	European Commission
EEB:	European Environment Bureau
EEAA:	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
EIB:	European Investment Bank
EIA:	Environmental impact assessment
EU:	European Union
GEF:	Global Environment Facility
IUCN:	World Conservation Union
LIFE:	Financial instrument for the Environment (EU)
MAP :	Mediterranean Action Plan
TPR:	Tripartite Review
MEDA:	Mediterranean assistance programme of EU
MedPAN:	Mediterranean protected areas network
MedWet:	Mediterranean Wetlands initiative (see Annex VII)
METAP:	Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme
NGO:	Non-government organisation
ONEM:	Observatoire national environnement du Maroc
PDF:	Project development facility
PHARE:	East European programme of EU
RAC/PAP:	Regional activity centre/Priority action programmes (UNEP)
RAC/SPA:	Regional activity centre/Specially protected areas (UNEP)
SSC:	Species survival commission
TdV:	Tour du Valat Biological Station (Camargue, France)
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
WCPA:	World Commission on Protected Areas
WWF:	World-Wide fund for Nature

NOTE TO THE READER

This project document is part of a regional proposal involving Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, Morocco and Tunisia. These were the only eligible beneficiaries in the region which satisfied GEF eligibility criteria at the outset of the project development process. In order to simplify project management, each beneficiary will sign an independent project document referring to activities specific to the country/authority and defining the participation of that country/authority in the regional actions. A separate project document defines the nature of the regional actions common to all countries and which are implemented regionally by UNOPS.

This project management structure essentially decentralises administrative decision-making to local level, simplifies project management and empowers a regional team to provide effective horizontal technical assistance, networking and transfer for the duration of the project.

Each beneficiary country/Authority will therefore sign a project document in two parts - the regional document and the national document. These documents should therefore be read in conjunction with one another for a full overview of national and regional activities.

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A. CONTEXT

1. DESCRIPTION OF SUBSECTOR

This regional project addresses conservation of globally threatened biodiversity in 15 important wetland and coastal sites in five Mediterranean countries and in the Palestinian Autonomous region. Through a combination of innovative land-use and wetland policies at national level, site protection and management at local level and regional networking and exchange of experience the project will provide a biodiversity protection increment to other brown programmes addressing pollution and water resource issues in the beneficiary countries/authority.

The Mediterranean region has seen the rise and fall of many empires over the last 2500 years. These numerous invasions and commercial links, many of them by sea, have led eastern traders to found cities in the western basin, allowed Catalan influence extend as far as Greece, and seen Arabic culture penetrate well into the Iberian peninsula. These fluxes, together with the enclosed nature of the sea, have led to the establishment of a common Mediterranean identity and culture. This identity is reinforced by the circum-mediterranean climate of hot dry summers and rainy winters, which leads to a similar range of agricultural produce and to the development of ecosystems characteristic of the region.

The Mediterranean coastline (26,000 km) is an area of high biodiversity, where more than 50% of the 25,000 plant species are endemic to the region. It is also a critical area for migratory birds in the Africa-Palearctic flyway as wetlands in the region provide an essential flyway stepping stone on either side of the Mediterranean Sea and between the sea and the vast expanse of the Sahara desert to the south.

The major threats to the exceptional biodiversity of these wetland and coastal ecosystems relate to uncontrolled development, urbanization, increasing national and international tourism, land-based pollution, and unplanned or over-exploitation of natural resources, in particular freshwater.

1.1 Mediterranean Biodiversity Overview

As a result of its geology, varied climate and richness of habitat types, the biological diversity of the Mediterranean region is exceptionally high. The meeting of three continents, an enclosed sea, climate fluctuations within Europe and Africa over the last 10,000 years and the long-standing impact of man on local ecosystems has created and maintained a wide range of habitats.

Knowledge of the biodiversity of the region is heterogeneous at country/Authority level, sometimes restricted to species lists, occasionally also including spatial distribution. Data is dispersed, and there is no regional summary, nor *internationally recognised* baseline for assessing which plants or invertebrates listed as endemic or on national red lists are in fact truly globally threatened. Data in this project are based on the biodiversity overview prepared during the PDF and involving national and international experts (see Annexes 4 and 5 to the GEF Brief).

The diversity of vascular plants in the Mediterranean exceeds that of other regions of the world¹.

Region	Area in km ²	No. of plant species	No. of endemic species	% endemic species
Mediterranean	2,300,000	25,000	12,500	50%
Zaire	2,345,000	11,000	2,800 (approx)	30%
India	3,166,000	15,000	5,000	30%
Australia	7,682,000	22,000	7,600	34%

¹Quezel P and Médail F, 1995. La région Méditerranéenne, centre mondiale majeur de biodiversité végétale. 6ème rencontres de l'Agence Régionale pour l'environnement Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur.

A recent detailed study for Morocco shows that it has particularly high species diversity and endemism and holds approximately 3,800 species of plant, of which 829 are endemic. Four of these are in danger of extinction and 238 species are directly threatened. Other countries with high species richness and endemism representative of the region as a whole include Syria (2,600 species, 395 endemic) and Greece (4,000 species, 554 endemic).

The biological diversity of the Mediterranean is not limited to plants. Of 62 species of amphibian in the Mediterranean, 35 are endemic (56%), as are 111 of the 179 reptile species (62%). In Morocco, for example, there are 93 reptile species, 20 of which are endemic (21%). Of the 184 mammal species recorded, 25% are endemic and 52 species are threatened (excluding marine mammals).

The Mediterranean is also hugely important for its bird populations, being on the migration route of millions of waterfowl. An estimated 2 billion migratory birds of 150 species use Mediterranean wetlands as stopover or seasonal sites. About 50 per cent of the wintering Western Palaearctic populations of ducks and coot occur in the Mediterranean region.

However, the number of waterbirds has declined by 46 per cent in the last 15-20 years, from 2.8 million in the early 1970s, to 1.5 million in 1989. Population of the globally threatened Ferruginous duck fell by 93 percent. Twenty globally threatened bird species live in the region. Seven of these breed in Mediterranean wetlands, and wetlands host about seventy other species whose populations are locally threatened.

It should be noted that in Mediterranean-type ecosystems, which are seasonally dry, wetlands have a high degree of species variety, thus underscoring the importance of the «wetlands in drylands» phenomenon. The table below outlines the globally threatened taxa in relation to total taxa in each of the beneficiary countries:

	Albania	Egypt	Lebanon	Morocco	Tunisia	Palestinian Authority*
Mammals	69	102	52	92	80	93
Birds	320	421	250	408	362	289
Reptiles & amph.	28	89	42	112	68	50
Flora	3250	2066	2700	6930	2200	2470
Total threatened sp.	215	240	53	365	110	72
Coastal threatened sp.	69	83	23	67	63	45
Proportion of coastal threatened sp. in total threatened sp.	32,10%	34,60%	43,40%	18,40%	57,30%	62,5%

* Approximate due to lack of data

1.2 Regional Trends Threatening Biodiversity

The countries of the region are in different stages of economic development and each has a development model influenced by its history, culture and legal system over the centuries. Trend analysis, and in particular the Blue Plan scenarios for the future of the Mediterranean, shows that the main factors inducing loss of coastal and wetland ecosystems are common to many countries and include:

- inadequate intersectoral planning
- population migration to the coastal strip leading to uncontrolled urban and touristic development
- increasing demand for water
- expansion of agricultural land
- inadequate response to pollution (brown issues)

The Blue Plan showed that in 1950 two thirds of the population lived on the northern shores of the Mediterranean Sea yet by the year 2025 the population living in the southern and eastern shores will have increased fivefold, and

the northern shore will only represent one third of the total. 125 million people (35%) of the Mediterranean population already live in the coastal strip and the 14,000 km² which were urbanised in 1985 will rise to 30,000 by 2025. In addition, tourism, mostly to beach resorts, is also expected to increase from 116 million in 1985 to 500 million by 2025. Coastal ecosystems are severely impacted by this coastal development especially those parts of the coastline which are accretionary (46%) rather than rocky (54%).

The coast lies at the interface between land, river and marine systems and activities within each of these interconnected components affect coastal environments. This requires intersectoral planning and clear land-use policies, especially for the large areas of government-owned land which are typical of the beneficiary countries/Authority. Activities which impact the coastal environment include urbanization, agriculture, fishing, aquaculture, quarrying, industry, development of ports and refineries, tourism and the related solid and liquid wastes.

Water and water quality is an important preoccupation of many Mediterranean countries subject to unpredictable annual rainfall, the high demands of agriculture and the increasing demand for urban and tourism development. Within the region, over 70% of water is used for irrigation, usually at less than cost price. Some countries are facing severe water stress as the water demand exceeds 80% of the available resources (Tunisia, Libya, Israel, Egypt), others still have considerable leeway (Albania, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey) although with local problems due to the geographical distribution of supply and use. Programmes are underway (e.g. under METAP) or planned (e.g. 1997 Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Water) in order to tackle some of these problems.

At the interface between water management and conservation of biodiversity, the diverse functions and values that wetlands may provide are not fully recognized even though these may provide significant services to local communities (floodwater storage, increase in water quality, groundwater recharge, fisheries, etc.).

Many wetlands in the Mediterranean have been lost, mainly by drainage for agriculture, but also for industry, housing and tourist development, or degraded through domestic, agricultural or industrial pollution. Some areas have lost 60 per cent of their wetlands during the 20th century. In Greece, in the five years from 1960 to 1964, 24,600 hectares of wetlands were destroyed, 120,000 hectares of land were drained and flood protection was provided for 108,000 hectares. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has lost 62 per cent of its wetlands since the turn of the century. Tunisia has lost 28 percent of its wetlands in the last 100 years; the most affected region is the catchment of the Mejerdah river which has lost 84 percent of its wetland area. In Spain, 60 percent of the historical wetland surface has been lost, most of it in the last 40 years, and in Albania more than a third of the country's wetlands have been drained since the 1940s.

Albania is emerging into the Mediterranean community after many years of isolation. Its coastline remains largely free of construction, and is currently zoned for tourism investment. Lebanon is rebuilding after internal strife and turbulence, yet its coastline is 95% developed, and only three small natural areas remain. In Egypt, secondary housing and tourism developments are spreading rapidly outwards from coastal agglomerations, while the Palestinian Authority is obliged to address severe environmental problems against great odds, yet parts of its coastline remain of value for globally threatened biodiversity.

The lack of clearly-defined land-use policies and inadequate intersectoral planning means that the coastal zone is impacted piecemeal by different sectoral interests. As the biodiversity sector has no champion in these circumstances, or is seen as a brake on development, important coastal and wetland ecosystems are not fully taken into consideration during the planning process. In many cases biodiversity is lost through inadequate knowledge or appreciation of its presence, or value, rather than as a deliberate, thought-out act.

2. REGIONAL STRATEGY AND ONGOING ASSISTANCE – THE REGIONAL RESPONSE TO BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Despite differences between Mediterranean countries, there are common trends which have shown the logic of the Mediterranean region acting in concert to resolve shared problems such as coastal management, marine and coastal pollution and catchment management. Within the framework of regional conventions or regional programmes, the main activities deal with common policies, agreements, concerted actions, funding for pollution legislation, enforcement and monitoring, and listing of protected sites.

Aware of their common heritage, the Mediterranean States and European Union have developed common programmes and policies for the sustainable development and conservation of the coast and wetlands since 1975. The Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP Regional Seas Programme), the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, METAP, LIFE, MedWet, Natura 2000 and MEDA (EU) are some of these regional initiatives.

The MedWet programme for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands originated as a European initiative from the Grado Conference (Italy, 1991). The initiative was widened in Venice (1996) where all the riparian States present endorsed a common strategy for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands. In 1998 MedWet became a formal activity within the framework of the Ramsar Convention. In parallel, the Mediterranean Action Plan, Conservatoire du Littoral (France) and Ramsar Convention secretariat held a joint technical meeting on coastal zone management (Hyères, 1995) where 12 countries agreed on the need to develop land use policies for effective management of the coastal zone. This has led to a major, EU funded project (1998 -2000) on coastal zone management in Greece, Italy, France and Spain.

Today, the States of the Mediterranean region are at different stages of economic and institutional development and therefore differ in their capacity to address biodiversity issues within the context of sustainable development. Incremental funding is required to allow them to implement agreed regional policies in the field.

Charters, declarations, conventions and protocols signed by countries signify the commitment of their government to tackle the region's environmental problems, yet the financial and human resources required to implement agreed priority actions remain limited. For example, the 1996-2005 priority actions programme of the Mediterranean Action Plan includes biodiversity conservation and management, which cannot currently be fully implemented in the less-developed riparian countries. This is due to a lack of finance, of adequate legislation or institutions, of trained staff and of relevant information. If this implementation is difficult at the national level, it is even more problematic at the site level. Consequently the gap continues to grow between the biodiversity conservation efforts of the developed countries of the region, with the support of EU Directives and finance, and those of the developing countries of the Mediterranean.

The present project is therefore an effort to begin to «close the circle» of the Mediterranean so that the lessons learnt with respect to biodiversity and land use management of wetlands and coastal zones are exchanged and adapted between different countries of the region. Their implementation in national settings in a cost-effective and efficient manner will secure greater global benefits.

During the project preparation process, contacts have been made with the main actors listed below, and the analysis of their activities and of results has shown the necessity to increase biodiversity conservation efforts at the site level through the implementation of new tools as included in numerous recommendations of the Mediterranean action plan and of Ramsar/MedWet (e.g. land use and water use policies, integrated coastal zone management).

They include:

- The UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and its tools: - legal Barcelona Convention, - financial: Mediterranean Trust Fund, and, - technical the Regional Activity Centres (in particular Special Protected Areas (SPA), Priority Actions Programme (PAP) and Blue Plan) and the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. MAP develops specific action through regional centres such as PAP for integrated coastal zone management, the SPA on biodiversity and Blue Plan for development/environment monitoring in all countries.
- The UNDP national offices in particular through the development of national policies and project support (in particular for water supply).
- The Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (1991-2002 - joint programme between UNDP, World Bank, EU and EIB). For Phase III (1997 to 2002) actions include coastal management and intersectoral issues on water and pollution. METAP III will not directly address green issues, and the

complementary and indirect linkages with this project are outlined in each of the country /Authority project documents.

- The European Union (EU) is active as a partner of MAP and METAP, but also with specific programmes implemented by the European Commission (EC). The most relevant programmes for the coastal and wetland ecosystems are CORINE, LIFE, and MEDA. The EU countries have adopted a concerted approach to biodiversity conservation through the "Habitats Directive "(1992). Over 80% of the species listed under this Directive have a Mediterranean distribution and the EC provides around 50 million ECU per annum to support actions under the Directive, in particular through constitution of the Natura 2000 network.
- International NGOs activities such as WWF, EEB, BirdLife and the international organisation IUCN (Environmental Law Centre; Species Survival Commission; World Commission on Protected Areas) are also active in the region.
- Finally, the World Bank implemented and GEF-funded MedPorts project (Oil Pollution Management Project, operational in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and now also adding Egypt) is an important complementary project to the present initiative. The MedPorts project is focusing on the reduction of hydrocarbons entering the international waters of the Mediterranean. While the present MedWet/Coastal project is not addressing marine biodiversity, the project is addressing biodiversity conservation in terrestrial wetlands and coastal eco-systems. The efforts of the MedPorts project to put in place national contingency plans, as well as cooperative plans to combat oil spills, will certainly lead to a reduction of the potential risk of oil pollution in fragile wetland and coastal eco-systems.
- International environmental conventions with a specific focus on the Mediterranean include the Convention on wetlands (Ramsar, 1971) and the Barcelona Convention. The Ramsar Convention provides small grants for wetland conservation, assists Contracting Parties with the management of designated sites and promotes the establishment of national policy for wise use of wetlands within the framework of the 1997 - 2002 Strategic Plan. Ramsar has established close working links with the Mediterranean Action Plan / Barcelona Convention and with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The MedWet initiative for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands is an important regional initiative which originated from the Mediterranean Wetland Conference held in Italy in February 1991. A Steering Committee composed of the five EU Mediterranean states, the Ramsar Bureau, the European Commission and three NGOs (Wetlands International, WWF and the Tour du Valat centre for Mediterranean wetland research and conservation) established the basis for the MedWet Initiative. The first phase (1992-1996) concentrated on the development of tools and methodologies to support wetland conservation efforts, especially in the fields of inventory and monitoring, training, management, public awareness and application of research results.

The initiative was widened in Venice in June 1996 where riparian states endorsed a common strategy for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands². In October 1996, the Ramsar Steering Committee gave its formal support to the Ramsar Bureau promoting this activity as a regional initiative under the Ramsar Convention. The initial, European phase, cost 6,6 million ECUs, the extension to 5 non-EU countries (Albania, Croatia, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) in 1996 a further 1 million ECUs. The latter project lays the foundation for the development of national wetland strategies in these countries. The EC has contributed a total of 5,3 million ECU to this programme. In March 1998 the Ramsar Bureau chaired the first meeting of the MedWet committee in which 20 Mediterranean countries participated. The meeting established priorities for regional collaboration on wetland conservation and management, several of which are addressed in this project.

Regional activities for coastal zone management and the development of land-use policies for coastal protection have been supported through a \$550,000 project, managed by the Conservatoire du Littoral and partners in Italy, Greece, Spain and Greece (1998 – 2000).

² Venice declaration

4. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK – INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

The activities defined in this regional project follow the commitments made by the beneficiary countries in becoming Contracting Parties (CPs) to the Biodiversity, Ramsar and Barcelona Conventions.

Specifically and *inter alia*, CPs to Biodiversity make a commitment to the protection of globally threatened species, CPs to Ramsar are committed to making "wise use" of the wetland resources on their territory, notably through the development of a national wetland strategy, and to establishing management plans for sites designated for the List of wetlands of international importance. CPs to Barcelona have defined a range of priority actions (1996 - 2005) which include development of coastal zone management and planning tools.

The Ramsar Bureau has established a Mediterranean Wetland committee to oversee the implementation of the Venice declaration within the overall framework of the regional MedWet initiative.

The Barcelona Convention and Mediterranean Action Plan manage their biodiversity programme through the regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas in Tunis. Strong linkages will be established with this centre for the regional networking and participation aspects of the project.

B. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. PRESENT SITUATION AND PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

The biodiversity of the Mediterranean region is of global significance, yet the disparities between North and South, and the pressing need for development in many countries of the region, mean that resources for biodiversity conservation are scarce at national level. Not only are the financial resources which allow countries to respect their international commitments lacking, but limited human resources and technical expertise is often also a major constraint.

At regional level, cooperation and exchange of information on management of protected areas and biodiversity conservation is essential if the region as a whole is to conserve its biodiversity effectively. The existing networks are all relatively recent, but they have shown that inadequate exchange of experience in the past has led many countries to follow similar paths of trial and error, rather than building on the experience available in the region to deal with similar problems. Networks must remain technical (not diplomatic, or constrained by restrictive operating procedures) to be effective, while drawing their mandate from clearly established national and regional policies.

Activities during the development of this project therefore focused on the identification of globally threatened species at regional level, an analysis of the current activities underway in the Mediterranean region, and the establishment of national working groups to identify priority sites and design project activities coordinated by the national focal point.

A regional analysis of the existing institutions, policies and programmes was undertaken in order to assess the present and planned activities focused on the root causes of loss of coastal and wetland biodiversity. Analysis of the activities of each major player in the Mediterranean region allowed identification of gaps and additional needs which are addressed by this proposal.

National working groups were established in each beneficiary country/Authority, through UNDP/GEF focal points, to assess biodiversity distribution, to select pilot sites and develop project activities. The methodology applied for the selection of national priorities for conservation was based on the criteria developed by a group of regional experts in the conservation of Mediterranean coastal ecosystems, organised by RAC/SPA and IUCN in 1993.

The selection process was based on an evaluation of (a) environmental characteristics (and in particular biodiversity), (b) socio-economic benefits of conservation, and (c) existing and potential threats. In order to

define priority sites, the evaluation takes account of the presence of globally threatened species, and the imminence and the seriousness of the threats.

A National Team of Experts carried out this biodiversity evaluation for each country, coordinated by the national biodiversity focal point. The regional and global status of individual species were assessed by an international working group of biodiversity experts, coordinated by MedWet/ Tour du Valat with input from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

After an analysis of the national institutional and legal framework, priority areas for conservation in the coastal zone were identified, as well as proposals for their protection and management. Documentation was collected from regional sources in particular UNEP/MAP centres such as RAC/SPA, PAP and Blue Plan, METAP, UNDP and from university scientists. Priority sites were selected, taking into account other criteria such as the existence of related programmes and project viability.

It should be noted that the sites retained are among the most important sites in the region from the global biodiversity significance point of view as up to 57% of known globally-threatened species in each beneficiary country/authority occur in the Mediterranean coastal zone.

The proposed five year time-scale for the project is based on an assessment of the considerable groundwork laid by the beneficiary countries over the last three or four years for coastal zone and wetland management; it should be stressed that the project will be building on a firm and existing base, rather than starting from scratch. The discussions held during the 14 months PDF have also served to consolidate a clear policy orientation, and this will continue until start-up.

For each country/Authority, the Table below summarizes information on:

- the national, coastal and site biodiversity and its global importance (globally threatened species),
- the selected sites and the main threats for local biodiversity
- the proposed activities at the site and at the national levels.

Table 1.

Overview of biodiversity, sites selected, principal threats and project activities
 Status at the present time is listed on a scale of 0 (totally lost/degraded) to 5 (pristine)

TUNISIA Biodiversity	SITES + STATUS	EXISTING THREATS	PROPOSED SITE ACTIVITIES	INTERIM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	PROPOSED SITES & NATIONAL ACTIVITIES
<p>NATIONAL</p> <p>Flora: 2200</p> <p>Mammals: 80</p> <p>Reptiles: 60</p> <p>Amphibians: 8</p> <p>Birds: 362</p> <p>GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES (GTS): 110</p> <p>On the coastal zone: 63</p> <p>ON THE 3 SITES : 24 7 birds 3 reptiles 2 mammals 8 plants 4 invertebrates</p>	<p>Dar Chichou Oued Abid</p> <p>6350ha</p> <p>GTS 4</p> <p>Status : 3</p>	<p>Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Local, dispersed agric pollution Over- Pumping of water</p> <p>Coastal dune erosion</p> <p>Hunting</p> <p>Over-grazing</p> <p>Tourism</p>	<p>Legal protection</p> <p>Water management Users awareness and training</p> <p>Dune fixation</p> <p>Enforcement and wardening</p> <p>Wardening and awareness</p> <p>Tourism plan</p>	<p>Long term site protection to conserve biodiversity</p> <p>Reduction in pumping and agricultural inputs</p> <p>Stabilise coastal dunes</p> <p>Reduced hunting pressure</p> <p>Grazing regime compatible with biodiv conservation</p> <p>Control of tourist flux</p> <p>Association of local people with conservation programmes</p>	<p>Legislation, regulation land use policies</p> <p>Coordination</p> <p>Participation</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Awareness information</p> <p>Networking</p>

	<p>Korba Kelibia</p> <p>1500ha</p> <p>GTS 6</p> <p>Status : 2</p>	<p>Lack of legal protection for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Urban development spreading towards sensitive areas</p> <p>Pollution (solid and liquid waste)</p> <p>Water circulation</p> <p>Coastal dune erosion</p> <p>Hunting</p> <p>Tourism</p>	<p>Legal protection</p> <p>Regulation enforcement; Land use policies; land acquisition; alternative urban plan</p> <p>Seek alternative sites for waste dumps Sewage infrastructure and waste treatment</p> <p>Hydrological management</p> <p>Dune fixation</p> <p>Regulation enforcement and wardening</p> <p>Tourism plan / zoning / ecotourism</p>	<p>Long term site protection</p> <p>Prevent spread of urban areas from Korba and Kelibia and protect shoreline</p> <p>Treat sewage and prevent fly-tipping in sensitive areas</p> <p>Maintain links with the sea and catchment</p> <p>Consolidate coastal dunes</p> <p>Reduce hunting pressure</p> <p>Control tourist access. Associate local people with conservation programmes</p>	
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	<p>El Haouaria Zembra</p> <p>Area 1200ha</p> <p>GTS 16</p> <p>Status : 3</p>	<p>Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation (excepted Zembra Park)</p> <p>Over-grazing by sheep and goats</p> <p>Hunting and bird catching</p> <p>Growing visitor pressure</p>	<p>Legal protection</p> <p>Wardening and awareness</p> <p>Regulation enforcement wardening</p> <p>Eco-tourism plan</p>	<p>Ensure long term protection for the site (in addition to Zembra)</p> <p>Organise grazing regime compatible with biodiv conservation</p> <p>Reduce hunting pressure taking account of falconry tradition.</p> <p>Control fluxes to avoid impacts on GTS</p> <p>Associate local people with conservation activities</p>	
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ALBANIA Biodiversity	SITES STATUS	EXISTING THREATS	PROPOSED SITE ACTIVITIES	INTERIM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	PROPOSED SITES & NATIONAL ACTIVITIES
NATIONAL : Flora: 3250 Mammals: 69 Reptiles/amphibians: 28 Birds: 320 ON THE 2 SITES : 53 GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES (GTS): National: 215 Coastal zone: 69	Narta 10000 ha GTS 18 Status : 2	Lack of legal site protection for biodiversity conservation Water stagnation and sediment accumulation Salt production works pumps water from lagoon Pollution (chemical dump which may in future seep into lagoon) Unplanned tourism	Legal protection Hydrological management to maintain water circulation Integrate saltworks into holistic mgt. process Plan safe disposal (chemical pollutants) Tourism plan / zoning / ecotourism	Long term site protection Maintenance of links with the sea and catchment Ensure compatibility with biodiv. Conservation Remove threat of pollution to lagoon Establish pilot operations with local people.	Legislation, regulation land use policies capacity building Coordination Participation Training Awareness information Networking
	Llogara Kanali Orikumi Karaburum Area 25000 ha GTS 44 Status : 3	Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation Over grazing Wood collection Fire Hunting Drainage of wetland Unplanned tourism	Legal protection following departure of military Regulation enforcement, wardening and awareness to divert threats away from sensitive areas Intersectoral planning Awareness-raising Tourism plan/zoning/ ecotourism	Long term site protection Maintain the forest and maquis cover Reduce hunting pressure Maintain key parts of wetland Promote sustainable tourism	

EGYPT Biodiversity	SITE STATUS	EXISTING THREATS	PROPOSED SITE ACTIVITIES	INTERIM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	PROPOSED SITES & NATIONAL ACTIVITIES
<p>NATIONAL :</p> <p>Flora: 2066</p> <p>Mammals: 102</p> <p>Reptiles: 83</p> <p>Amphibians: 6</p> <p>Birds: 421</p> <p>GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES(GTS): 240</p> <p>On the coastal zone: 83</p> <p>On the 3 sites : 72</p> <p>10 birds</p> <p>9 reptiles / amphib.</p> <p>8 mammals</p> <p>19 plants</p> <p>23 invertebrates</p> <p>3 fish</p>	<p>Zaranik (Ramsar Site)</p> <p>60000 ha</p> <p>GTS 25</p> <p>Status : 3</p>	<p>Land speculation within the reserve boundaries</p> <p>Urban development encroaching on the site</p> <p>Potential future pollution (Agri.) from inflow of drainage water into lagoon</p> <p>Over-grazing</p> <p>Hunting</p> <p>Unplanned tourism</p>	<p>Law enforcement</p> <p>Land use planning Alternative urban plan</p> <p>Influence drainage plans proposed for new agric. area, propose alternatives</p> <p>Grazing plan</p> <p>Wardening, enforcement and awareness</p> <p>Tourism plan / zoning / ecotourism</p>	<p>Long term protection of site</p> <p>Prevent extension of housing within the reserve boundaries</p> <p>Prevent drainage water from reaching the lake</p> <p>Grazing regime compatible with biodiv cons.</p> <p>Eliminate hunting</p> <p>Promote ecotourism to site</p>	<p>legislation, regulation land use policies</p> <p>Coordination-participation</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Awareness information</p> <p>Networking</p>

	<p>Burullus (Ramsar Site)</p> <p>59500 ha</p> <p>GTS 16</p> <p>Status : 2</p>	<p>Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Water freshening due to inflow of drainage water</p> <p>Eutrophication and Pollution (Agri.)</p> <p>Hunting</p>	<p>Legal protection</p> <p>Water quality management</p> <p>Catchment mgt. and reed mgt. Users Awareness and training Intersectoral planning with Agric dept</p> <p>Regulation enforcement, wardening and awareness</p>	<p>Long term site protection</p> <p>Maintain salinity cycle and fluxes</p> <p>Reed filter (short term) Reduce inputs from catchment (long term)</p> <p>Reduce hunting pressure</p> <p>Association of local people.</p>	
	<p>Matrouh sector</p> <p>150 000 ha</p> <p>GTS 52</p> <p>Status : 3</p>	<p>Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Land conversion to agriculture</p> <p>Illegal building encroaching on site</p> <p>Hunting and species collection</p> <p>Unplanned tourism</p>	<p>Legal protection</p> <p>Land use policy, seek alternative sites</p> <p>Regulation enforcement, alternative urban plan.</p> <p>Enforcement, wardening and awareness</p> <p>tourism plan / zoning / ecotourism</p>	<p>Long term protection of the site</p> <p>Avoid sensitive areas</p> <p>Reduce urbanisation</p> <p>Reduce hunting pressure</p> <p>Promote ecotourism</p> <p>Association of local people.</p>	

MOROCCO Biodiversity	SITES STATUS	EXISTING THREATS	PROPOSED SITE ACTIVITIES	INTERIM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	PROPOSED SITES & NATIONAL ACTIVITIES
NATIONAL: Flora: 6930 Mammals: 92 Reptiles/amphibians: 112 Birds: 408 408 Globally threatened Species (GTS): 365 On the Med. Coastal zone: 67 On the 4 sites : 28 10 birds 4 reptiles 3 mammals 11 plants	Moulouya 3000 ha GTS 18 Status : 3	Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation Coastal dune erosion Local dispersed pollution (agric) Drainage (agric.) Salt intrusion over-pumping Urban development spreading to site Solid waste Hunting Overgrazing Increasing tourism (road access)	Legal protection Dune fixation Water management Users Awareness and training Regulation enforcement Land use policy Alternative urban plan Seek alternative sites Regulation enforcement and wardening Wardening, awareness Tourism plan / zoning / ecotourism /	Long term site protection Soil fixation/ reduction of erosion Minimum flows, sustainable water use, reduced salinity, reduced agricultural inputs Limitation of urban extension to east and west of Moulaya Eliminate fly-tipping Reduced hunting pressure Grazing regime compatible with biodiversity cons. Channeling of tourists, birdwatchers. Association of local people.	legislation, regulation land use policies Coordination participation Training Awareness information Networking

	<p>Beni Snassene</p> <p>6500 ha</p> <p>GTS 7</p> <p>Status : 3</p>	<p>Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>River pollution (Agri.)</p> <p>Future liquid and solid waste if tourism develops in catchment,</p> <p>Hunting</p> <p>Overgrazing</p> <p>Tourism</p>	<p>Legal protection</p> <p>Water management</p> <p>Users Awareness and training</p> <p>Waste management</p> <p>Wardening and enforcement</p> <p>Wardening, awareness</p> <p>Tourism plan / zoning / ecotourism /</p>	<p>Long term site protection</p> <p>Reduced pumping, and agric. inputs</p> <p>Eliminate fly-tipping</p> <p>Reduced hunting pressure</p> <p>Grazing regime compatible with biodiversity cons.</p> <p>Channeling of tourists, birdwatchers.</p> <p>Association of local people.</p>	
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Nador, Sebka Bou Areg, Gourougou 15000 ha GTS 16 Status : 2	Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation	Legal protection	Long term site protection
	Urban development spreading to sensitive areas	Regulation enforcement Land use policy Alternative urban plan	Limit urban extension from Nador and Karie Arkman
	Illegal campsite	Regulation enforcement ; wardening and sanctions	Removal of illegal campsite
	Solid / Liquid waste	Waste management and id. of alternative sites	Collect and treatment of sewage, control of fly-tipping
	Dune erosion	Dune fixation	Consolidation of coastal dunes
	Lack of water circulation leads to eutrophication	Hydrological management	Maintain water circulation in lagoon and links with sea
	Aquaculture spreading to sensitive areas	Aquaculture plan	Sustainable economic activity
	Local pollution (agri.)	Users Awareness and training	Reduced pumping, and agric. inputs
	Hunting	Regulation enforcement, wardening	Reduced hunting pressure
Unplanned tourism	Tourism plan / zoning / ecotourism /	Channeling of tourists, organisation of beach tourists promotion of birdwatching. Association of local people.	

	<p>Le Cap des Trois fourches</p> <p>8000 ha</p> <p>GTS 13</p> <p>Status : 4</p>	<p>Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Illegal secondary housing</p> <p>Hunting</p> <p>Overgrazing</p> <p>Unplanned tourism</p>	<p>Legal protection</p> <p>Regulation enforcement Land use policy</p> <p>Regulation enforcement, wardening</p> <p>Wardening, awareness</p> <p>Tourism plan / zoning / ecotourism /</p>	<p>Long term site protection</p> <p>Focus new constructions around existing dwellings</p> <p>Reduce hunting pressure</p> <p>Grazing regime compatible with biodiv cons.</p> <p>Organisation of tourism,</p> <p>Association of local people with conservation activities</p>	
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PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY Biodiversity () possible*	SITE STATUS	EXISTING THREATS	PROPOSED SITE ACTIVITIES	INTERIM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	PROPOSED SITES & NATIONAL ACTIVITIES
NATIONAL : Flora: 2470 Mammals: 93 Reptiles/amphibians: 50 Birds: 450 Globally threatened (GTS): 54 On the Med. Coastal zone: 27 On the site: birds 3 (+ 6 ?) reptiles ? mammals 1 plants 1 *(Figures in brackets - possible presence during migration)	Wadi Gaza 250 ha GTS: 5 (11 ?) Status: 1	Lack of site legal protection for biodiversity conservation Encroaching urban development Coastal dune erosion Pollution (domestic) Liquid / Solid waste Hunting	Legal protection Regulation enforcement Land use policy Alternative urban plan Dune fixation Waste and water management; sewage treatment. Id. of alternative dump sites Regulation enforcement, wardening	Ensure long term legal protection Promote urban planning avoiding sensitive areas Consolidate coastal dunes Treat sewage and eliminate fly-tipping Reduce hunting pressure Associate local people with conservation plan	Legislation, regulation land use policies capacity building Coordination participation Training Awareness information Networking

2. EXPECTED SITUATION AT THE END OF THE PROJECT

Environmental benefits

The 15 sites will be effectively protected and managed, making a major local contribution to the sustainable development of the coastal zone, and to the protection of significant threatened biodiversity of global importance. These sites will provide demonstration value, and the participating countries/authority have made a commitment to replicating similar activities at other coastal sites. At National level, policy and legal work will address the root causes of the policy deficiencies which have led to the present situation and provide an improved policy framework for future coastal and wetland management activities.

2.2 Institutional benefits

The management of natural resources, and especially biodiversity, is a relatively new discipline in most Mediterranean countries. This regional project will promote the establishment or reinforcement of the necessary institutional framework at national level through the separate country projects. At regional level, these local institutions will be linked into the activities underway in the whole Mediterranean basin and will be able to benefit from knowledge, and experience gained from addressing similar management issues elsewhere in the region.

Individuals participating in the project will have direct access to international networks and therefore to other experts, scientists or government staff working in other Mediterranean countries.

The project will also have developed and published, at regional level, documentation which will ensure a multiplier effect at national level and promote access to information and guidance on particular technical issues which will assist national staff in implementing future biodiversity conservation measures.

Through the training programme, training focal points will be created or reinforced, training materials provided, and access to national and international training expertise improved.

3. TARGET BENEFICIARIES

At regional level, the beneficiaries include all the actors in the project in each of the participating countries/Authority national level - the national project directors and coordinators, the decentralised site management staff, the local intersectoral site management committees, the scientists undertaking monitoring and assessments of the sites and the NGOs involved at local level. Technical staff from countries other than the direct beneficiaries will also benefit from experience especially through the MAP and MedWet.

The beneficiaries at national level are listed in each of the 6 project documents.

4. PROJECT STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Strategy at the regional level

The priority sites identified in each country/Authority provide the basis for urgent actions to protect threatened biodiversity. They also provide a framework to which further sites can be added in future in order to address coastal and biodiversity issues in the country/Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The project will develop, within the Mediterranean region, the instruments and management policies for wetlands and coastal zones whose conservation is of common interest to all the riparian countries. The experience from site level will feed into the activities for addressing root causes of biodiversity loss at national level and provide the case studies necessary for justifying the need for policy change. The combination of regional, national and local activities will allow the development of a set of legal, technical, regulatory and organisational frameworks which are individually specific but which serve to achieve a common goal.

The regional team will be a full technical partner to UNDP and the executing governments/authority, to provide advice on terms of reference, project planning through the TPR and to give technical guidance to both national and local actions. The

main issues to be addressed at regional level are the horizontal themes which are relevant to all participating parties and where economies of scale can be made by undertaking these activities at regional level. The project will therefore emphasise exchange of the best available experience through technical assistance and networking, regional seminars on key topics of relevance to this project, training initiatives, and publication of guidance on management issues.

The regional activities will support the national actions by promoting exchange of experience within the region and by demonstrating how different countries (from north and south) have resolved or addressed similar problems. The regional team will also seek to promote information exchange concerning project activities at regional, national and site level through web-sites on the Internet.

A number of networks exist within the region and through their key positions in these technical and political networks, the Conservatoire du Littoral and the Tour du Valat are able to mobilise their members to support country actions, and to disseminate the results of the project in ways that will benefit stakeholders in other countries. Both organisations are committed to the sustainable development of coastal and wetland ecosystems within the Mediterranean region.

4.2 Project implementation

The implementation structure adopted for this regional project seeks to decentralise implementation to the competent national authority for all those actions which can be managed at local level. Therefore each beneficiary country directly manages funds allocated to UNDP by GEF through a government/Authority-executed project for the national actions in Albania, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. In the case of Lebanon, FFEM has allocated funds to a government executed project via UNDP Beirut and the French Embassy. For the Palestinian authority PAPP/UNDP in Jerusalem will be the implementing agency, and the Regional project will be managed through UNOPS.

This "subsidiarity principle" will lead to more effective local decision-making and improved administrative efficiency. In order to achieve the added value from the regional initiative, and to avoid repeating similar errors in each country/Authority, a Regional Facilitator to organise exchange of experience and information flow for all the technical aspects of the national programmes is absolutely essential, backed by an Advisory Committee.

4.2.1 The Regional Advisory Committee

In order to maintain the coherence of the regional approach capitalising on the experience of each of its participating members, it is essential to maintain a common regional vision through the constitution of a Regional Advisory Committee. This committee will, at the highest level, ensure that this regional vision is maintained, hence providing synergy to each of the national actions (ToR in Annex 8).

The composition of the Regional Advisory Committee will include:

- One representative of each of the Ministries or entities in charge of the environment in each country/Authority (if possible the Chief or Assistant Chief of the delegation to the MAP meeting)
- The National Project Coordinator;
- GEF/UNDP,
- UNOPS
- FFEM/AFD,
- French Environment Ministry;
- The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan or his representative;
- The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention or his representative.
- Tour du Valat
- Conservatoire du Littoral

The Regional Advisory Committee may invite the participation, at their own expense, of other partners or qualified authorities: European Union, IUCN, WWF or any other person whose presence might be considered appropriate.

The expenses incurred by the members of the *Regional Advisory Committee* for their participation in the Committee's annual meeting are charged to their respective national budgets.

4.2.2 The Regional Facilitator

The need to establish networks linking all the actors in each country/Authority and the organisation of training, exchanges and the monitoring of coherence requires the establishment of a regional focal point : the regional facilitator is recruited to this effect.

The facilitator will assist each government/authority to reach the objectives fixed within the framework of the project in collaboration with the different national UNDP representations and those of the French GEF (as appropriate). This task is essentially a technical one, and implies no administrative control over expenditure of the national/Authority components. The regional facilitator will monitor the use of UNDP funds and will report on the implementation of planned project activities.

He/she will maintain direct contact with all project participants in each country/Authority at local and national level, including all concerned Ministries and agencies, the UNDP office and the local representatives of French GEF. The national coordinators will provide the Regional Facilitator with all the information necessary to his/her mission. They will transmit a copy (in paper and digital form) of all the technical studies, project reports, minutes of meetings from local site and national steering committees, and any other documents required for efficient monitoring of project activities. The ToR are outlined in Annex 4.

At the end of the project the results from the whole project are reviewed at regional level and a summary of case studies and lessons learned is made by the Regional facilitator. This summary will be distributed throughout the region through existing networks.

Roles of Tour du Valat and Conservatoire du Littoral

The tasks entrusted to the Regional Facilitator will be numerous and varied. He/She will be supported in his/her activities by a team of experts in training, wetland management, biodiversity, integrated management of coastal areas and land-use policies. All of these experts will make their technical knowledge available to the Facilitator to support the development of regional activities and will also provide access to their own regional expert networks. The technical coordination of this team of experts will be ensured by Tour du Valat/MedWet for the wetland component and the Conservatoire du Littoral for matters pertaining to coastal management and the development of land policies.

There are numerous networks in place in the Mediterranean region and, thanks to their central position within those technical and institutional networks, the Conservatoire du littoral and the Tour du Valat Centre are able to support the project by calling on their counterparts throughout the region. These two not-for-profit organizations were created for the purpose of conducted integrated actions for the development of coastal areas and wetlands and to protect biodiversity

5. REASONS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GEF

The narrow Mediterranean coastline and its associated wetlands is a limited area increasingly colonised by human presence. The most frequent, and irreversible, trend is urbanisation which wipes out the potential for biodiversity and natural habitats.

This occupation of space is virtually irreversible as a return to natural habitats is largely impossible. At the other end of the spectrum, however, other dangerous threats, for example pollution, can be reversed with appropriate resources. It is therefore essential to develop planning and management policies, natural resource management and sustainable development initiatives that aim to limit the loss of natural habitats, especially wetlands.

All the beneficiaries of this project have ratified the Convention on Biological diversity, and the Ramsar Convention. This project also complies with principles of biodiversity protection, the GEF operational strategy and the programmes on coastal, marine and freshwater agreed at the second conference of the parties to CBD (Jakarta, Indonesia, Nov 1995).

The incremental contribution of the GEF and FFEM will accelerate the implementation of policies whose costs could not otherwise be carried by the states alone, considering the substantial funds committed by them to address existing brown issues.

In addition, the development of pilot management methods for the coastal zone, and the development of structured exchanges through a regional network, will allow a number of Mediterranean countries to avoid the need to reinvent the wheel in addressing their own national issues, hence promoting accelerated replication of experience gained elsewhere.

6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

7. COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS

Coordination arrangements at regional level are envisaged at political and technical level. At political level, representatives of two International Conventions, Ramsar and Barcelona, are invited to participate in the annual Advisory committee which will help develop linkage with those international conventions which have agreed priority regional actions in the fields addressed by this regional project.

At technical level, the regional activities such as seminars or training will be open to participants from other, non-beneficiary, countries of the region if they cover their own costs. This will be assessed by the Regional Facilitator on a case by case basis. Distribution of regional information materials and guidance will also not be restricted to the sole participating countries/Authority in order to allow other countries to benefit from this major regional initiative.

In addition, the project will be able to capitalise on ongoing networking activities and to both draw in international expertise and outreach project results through existing channels. The project will not have to create its own regional delivery mechanism (beyond the beneficiary countries/Authority) but will tap into those already available through the partnerships catalysed by the project. The two major networks will be the MedWet group which has participants from all countries in the region, and the IUCN coastal zone management group which is coordinated by Conservatoire du Littoral.

Specific linkage will be sought with current or future GEF projects under way in the region to seek synergy and technical exchange, specifically, at the present time, with the Pilot Phase project for El Kala National Park (Algeria), the GEF project for Azraq (Jordan), and the GEF project for artificial wetland creation in Egypt.

C. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The project's overall development objective is to conserve globally endangered species and their habitats, recognising wildlife conservation as an integral part of sustainable human development while improving capacity of government and non-government agencies to address biodiversity conservation issues.

D. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Capacity building through technical assistance

Output 1.1 Provide the necessary technical assistance to national project coordinators during project start-up

The Regional Facilitator will visit each of the beneficiaries during start-up in order to participate in national planning meetings, meet the project staff, UNDP project managers, Agence française de développement focal points (in countries where FFEM funds project components) and consultants, consult on regional procedures and introduce the regional approach to each of the national project components.

Activity 1.1.1: Organise an initial seminar for project participants at national level to present the project, define operating procedures at regional level, and, where, appropriate assist the national coordinators in assembling a team of national and regional experts.

Activity 1.1.2: Provide an information base (essential documentation) to the national project participants through establishment of a modest technical reference library in each country/Authority.

Responsible party: Regional Facilitator

Activity 1.1.3: Appointment of the regional facilitator and assistance in project start-up at regional level. Technical experts (wetlands and coastal) involved in the development of this complex regional project will assist the facilitator in project start-up during initial missions to the 6 project countries/Authority.

Responsible party: Tour du Valat/Conservatoire du littoral/UNDP

Output 1.2 Provide technical support on wetland and coastal components to the national coordinators and to UNDP during project implementation

Activity 1.2.1: Review of terms of reference for proposed contracts over US \$ 5,000.

Activity 1.2.2: Identify appropriate regional expertise to assist in implementation of national programmes

Activity 1.2.3: Assist local project coordinators in gathering the information and documentation necessary for effective management of wetland and coastal sites

Activity 1.2.4: Circulate models and example for the site diagnosis, monitoring of globally threatened species and the hydrological studies in order to guide activities on each site.

Activity 1.2.5 Develop a checklist of actions to assist project coordinators in developing and implementing the management programme for each of the project sites.

Activity 1.2.6: Assist the national coordinators, UNDP country offices and the regional facilitator in planning and implementing the innovative aspects of the project concerning institutional change for coastal zone management and the development of appropriate land-use policies.

Responsible party: Regional Facilitator

2. Closing the Mediterranean circle through networking, publications and sharing of experience

Output 2.1 Organise exchange of technical knowledge and information on regional experience drawing lessons concerning coastal zone management and wetland management from experience elsewhere in the region. Publish a technical report on each seminar.

Activity 2.1.1: Provide a focal point for exchange of information on coastal and wetland management approaches and techniques

Activity 2.1.2: Organise a regional seminar on the development of national wetland strategies

Activity 2.1.3: Organise a regional seminar on design of public awareness programmes.

Activity 2.1.4: Organise a regional seminar on the use of land-use policies and tools for the protection of the coastal zone.

Activity 2.1.5: Organise a regional seminar on integrated management planning techniques for biodiversity conservation;

Activity 2.1.6: Organise a regional seminar on how applied research can support site managers in implementing monitoring and conservation measures for biodiversity conservation.

Activity 2.1.7: Organise a regional seminar on EIA techniques for wetlands.

Responsible party: Regional Facilitator

Output 2.2 Preparation of documentation to assist the site managers with the implementation of management measures on the project sites.

Activity 2.2.1: Prepare a publication in the MedWet series on the conservation of globally threatened amphibians, focussing on those addressed in this project.

Activity 2.2.2: Prepare a publication in the MedWet series on how to address integrated site management through intersectoral coordination and cooperation. This will include case studies, legal aspects and ways of overcoming obstacles in the site management process.

Activity 2.2.3: Prepare a publication in the Cahiers du Conservatoire/MedWet series on land-use policies as a tool for coastal management. This will include case studies, legal aspects and ways of overcoming obstacles in the site management process.

Responsible party: Regional Facilitator

Output 2.3 Exchange experience on the management of sites from local to national and regional level and vice versa

Activity 2.3.1: Draw on the technical reports produced by the national project components and distil and summarise the lessons learned in management of pilot sites for other countries/Authority in the region.

Activity 2.3.2: Develop a technical exchange network between the project sites in the beneficiary countries/Authority and other sites sharing common problems in the Mediterranean region.

Activity 2.3.3: Prepare, publish and disseminate results and achievements of this project in biodiversity conservation, in order to establish an effective written basis for the transfer of experience within the region. (e.g. articles, conferences etc)

Activity 2.3.4: Establishment, and updating throughout the project duration, of a web-site on the Internet where project participants can seek and exchange information on the project and on wetland and coastal issues.

Responsible party: Regional Facilitator

3. Capacity building through training

At the local level, the development of protection and management programmes at new sites will require local staff to acquire additional skills and know-how in order to organise a new protected area, and how to manage the consultation and negotiation procedures which are essential if consensus is to be reached concerning sustainable use and management of these sensitive areas. See Annex 5 for details.

Output 3.1 Reinforce the capacity of each country/Authority to implement training courses to meet the needs of project participants at the national and local levels

Activity 3.1.1: Analyse detailed training needs for all the project participants and associated staff in each of the countries/authority.

Activity 3.1.2: Design a training programme, reviewed on an annual basis, to accompany the implementation of the management actions at site level according to the evolving needs of project staff.

Activity 3.1.3: Implement training activities to respond to the needs of the project staff.

Responsible party: Regional Facilitator

4. Monitoring and regional management

Output 4.1 Participation in national and regional project monitoring and reporting cycle on an annual basis.

Activity 4.1.1: Participate in the preparation of the APR and annual TPR for each country and at regional level, and assist national coordinators in the annual project planning cycle.

Activity 4.1.2: Provide ongoing technical advice to UNDP and national coordinators to assist the project to meet its declared objectives.

Activity 4.1.3: Prepare the Annual Project Report and associated papers in consultation with the Chair for discussion by the Regional Advisory committee

Activity 4.1.4: Organise the annual meetings of the Advisory committee and draft the minutes

Responsible party: Regional Facilitator

E. INPUTS

1. UNDP Contribution

	TOTAL	
	m/m	US \$
1. Regional Facilitation Unit		
Personnel		
Regional facilitator	60	465,360
Bilingual secretary	60	272,760
Total personnel		738,120
Regional Travel		110,000
Basic bibliography for countries		7,000
Production publications		
Publication on amphibians		19,000
Publication on integrated site mngt		19,500
Publication on land use policies		17,000
Guidelines, Training, Final reports		49,000
Total production Publications		104,500
Web Site (Internet)		18,700
Logistical + administrative support :		
Equipment (see Annex 3.)		16,500
Computer maintenance		6,670
Communication (tel, fax, mail,Express...)		35,770
General secretariat (copies, operator, insurances...)		11,550
Financial direction (financial survey)		20,870
Accounting		26,260
Vocational training (french tax)		7,160
2 offices + general services (incl. maintenance)		23,800
SubTotal Logistic and administrativ support		148,580
Total Facilitation Unit		1,126,900

2. Other expenses, Regional component		
Training organisation		
Expertise, Training	26.5	275,100
Travel, training		30,000
Total Training organisation		305,100
Ressourceful expertise		
Expertise Wetland	25.75	265,620
Expertise, Coastal	23	253,000
Expertise, other	7.5	82,500
Travel, ressourceful experts		90,000
Total ressourceful expertise		691,120
Other expenses		18,000
Contingency (for Tour du Valat allocation)		67,120
Mission costs		25,000
Mid Term Evaluation		20,000
Contingency		200,000
Project support services		196,260

Total UNDP Contribution :

2,649,500

2. Tour du Valat Contribution

- Additional costs associated with producing two of the planned publications (Amphibians and Integrated Management Planning) within the MedWet series (thus benefitting of an established readership, publicity networks...):

2 booklets X \$25,000 = \$ 50,000

Total Tour du Valat Contribution: \$ 50,000

3. Conservatoire du Littoral Contribution

- Mobilization of Conservatoire du littoral internal network in order to answer specific issues related to the management of sensitive coastal areas (site managers, sociologists, GIS...)
5% annual worktime for one Conservatoire network staff

\$3,500/yr X 5 yrs = \$ 17,500

- Regional institutional facilitation by the Conservatoire's International Delegate:

- Promotion of the project to Mediterranean member states ;
- Mobilisation of the expert and NGO networks in the relevant countries, towards the project's aims
- Organizing the cooperation with IUCN Mediterranean Bureau in Malaga
- Inserting the project within the framework of IUCN's Coastal/Marine programme
- Liaising with the Environment Legislation Centre in Bonn : Comparative studies of legal frameworks for coastal protection

5% Annual worktime of the International Delegate

\$3,500/yr X 5 yrs = \$ 17,500

- Administrative and material support by Conservatoire du littoral :

- Secretariat; accounting (salaries and expenses management) ; insurance; communications; photocopies; hospitality; overheads.

\$10,000/yr X 5 yrs = \$ 50,000

Total Conservatoire du littoral Contribution \$ 85,000

4. MedWet contribution

The MedWet Coordinator and the MedWet Project Development Unit will play a key role in promoting the project and coordinating it with all the other initiatives for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands and coastal zones, both inside and outside the beneficiary Countries/Authority, thus contributing to closing the Mediterranean circle.

5% annual worktime of the MedWet Coordinator,

\$5,000/yr X 5 yrs = \$ 25,000

- MedWet coordinator travel to sites/ countries

\$2,000/ trip X 1 trip/yr X 5 yrs = \$ 10,000

5% annual worktime of a MedWet Project Development Leader

\$3,500/yr X 5 yrs = \$ 17,500

Total MedWet Contribution \$ 52,500

In addition to the contributions above, the FFEM is making large direct contributions to Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia for national activities there. (see Annex 10).

F. RISKS

Adapting legislation and reglementation concerning land-use rights is a longterm and complex process. The creation of new structures specialised in the protection of the coastline may also generate opposition within the administration and therefore requires substantial commitment from government to succeed. The support of local people and of the media may also contribute, and in this sense the image and international nature of the project is an important feature.

The active participation of local people and local government in decision-making on land-use and water issues is essential as it is at this level that the main pressures on remaining natural areas occur. This purpose is rendered difficult by lack of resources to allow full participation and the weakness of analytical, consultative and inter-administrative systems.

In addition, effective coordination between all administrative levels (local and national) is essential for project success and this will require a sustained effort from all project participants and strong political will. Building on the interest shown by all the participating countries/authority, the project preparation process has nevertheless improved the awareness of these issues and attention should remain focussed on promoting this in each of the project sites.

G. PRIOR OBLIGATIONS AND PREREQUISITES

Prior obligations: None

Prerequisites: This regional project will only begin its activities and major financial obligations will only be accepted once a minimum of four countries/Authority have signed their respective national project document and the regional project document.

H. PROJECT REVIEW, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

In view of the regional characteristics of this project, and further in view of its linkages with the five national projects, special monitoring and reporting relationships have been established.

As also described elsewhere, this regional project will be providing a networking, advisory and assistance support to the national projects with which it is associated.

The Regional Facilitator will be responsible for writing and providing a number of performance reports, in addition to providing support to the national-level Annual Project Review process (note that the national tripartite review, is termed "Annual Project Review" in the context of this project), in addition to assisting with the Annual Advisory Committee meetings and with the national projects Annual Project Reviews.

Advisory Services and Policy Dialogue

This regional project component forms part of the overall GEF Mediterranean Wetlands and Coastal initiative with a total funding level of \$13,273,200. The project is constructed with a large number of project partners. The main approach in this GEF initiative is to close the Mediterranean circle in terms of wetlands and coastal zone conservation and protection. In approving this project, the GEF recognized that such efforts have proceeded quite far ahead, and that important lessons have been learnt in wetlands and coastal zones along the northern Mediterranean. In view of the pressures inevitably put on ecosystems such as those on the Mediterranean wetlands and coastal zones, a major aim of the project is to facilitate exchange, policy dialogue, experiences and lessons learnt between north and south and between south and south.

The Government of France, in recognition of the importance of this subject, has therefore set aside resources which, in parallel to the present project, will assist Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia in the important work which lies ahead. It is also

noted that France itself hosts two of the most outstanding Mediterranean institutions which have worked for over 20 years on the subject of wetlands and coastal conservation and the policy dialogue associated with these efforts: the Conservatoire du Littoral and Tour du Valat Biological Station

Conservatoire du Littoral (see Annex IX) is a quasi-Governmental agency which has worked for 23 years on issues pertaining to coastal preservation through zoning, community participation and institutional policies. It owns 750 km (13%) of the French coastline which is thus under direct, long-term protection ; in the Mediterranean subregion, it owns 150 sites (30,860 ha), which are managed either by NGOs or local communities. It is the only body in the Mediterranean with such an experience on this scale in land-use policies for the protection of the coastal zone.

Tour du Valat Biological Station (see Annex IX) is a non-Governmental organisation which has been involved since 1954 in managing the Camargue, one of the region's most significant and important wetlands. Its mission is to transfer the results of 45 years of experience in wetlands (applied research on biodiversity and wetland management, management planning, training wetland managers...) to Mediterranean wetlands in all countries which can benefit of its experience; as such, it is unique on a Mediterranean scale. Tour du Valat is also a key partner in the MedWet initiative, which brings together 21 countries/Authority within the region in a common regional initiative for the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands within the framework of the Ramsar Convention. Tour du Valat is a focal point institution for channelling support to the MedWet initiative secured from GEF, EU, Governments and non-Governmental donors in support to southern Mediterranean wetland conservation efforts.

In dialogue with the 5 beneficiary countries/Authority, UNDP and the GEF have therefore entrusted these two organisations, in view of their technical capacities, networks and uniqueness, with hosting the Regional Project (Tour du Valat) and with the provision of overall technical support and advice services to the Regional Facilitator and to the national Project Coordinators and the Government focal points.

While each of the two agencies has its own specialization (Tour du Valat – wetlands and Conservatoire du Littoral – coastal zones), both have extensive experience in facilitating the policy dialogue which is a necessary requirement and to any effective action on the ground. Tour du Valat has excellent networking experiences with most wetland departments, NGOs and universities in the Mediterranean region, especially in most of the beneficiary countries/Authority of this project. It has conducted numerous, international projects on wetland conservation throughout the region, in collaboration with these partners. CdL has excellent links with the environment and coastal management departments in the region.

The two agencies will therefore be providing technical support and technical monitoring/backstopping within their respective fields. Continuous coordination between the various funding partners and their regional technical partners (UNDP/GEF and FFEM on the one hand and TdV and CdL on the other) through the Office of the Regional Facilitator will ensure that duplication of inquiries and missions is avoided. Moreover, CdL and TdV will ensure that they do not duplicate in terms of support/advice missions provided to the National Coordinators through good partnership and cooperative information sharing, through the Office of the Regional Facilitator and the Offices of the National Project Coordinators.

Support for the Regional Facilitator

In line with the general approach outlined above, the Regional Facilitator will also receive from and draw on technical support and policy advice from CdL and TdV's technical specialists. This becomes especially important in the start-up phase of the project, so as to ensure that the overall strategy, objectives and thrust of the GEF project is continued along the same lines as during the formulation and project design 1995 – 1998. In the early start-up of the project, the Regional Facilitator is therefore expected to be in weekly dialogue and contact with CdL and TdV to brainstorm on approaches, component design and other matters. As the Regional Facilitator gains experience and contacts in the region and in the countries following the first 6 – 12 months of the project, it is expected that the frequency of this contact will lessen. While the Regional Facilitator is contracted through the UNOPS-TdV sub-contract, the frequency of contacts with both CdL and TdV is expected to be in equal extent.

Annual Advisory Committee meetings, including Project Review

The objective of the Advisory Committee is to provide an annual forum for dialogue and guidance on the strategic vision and direction of the project; to provide exchange between project participants and to transfer lessons learnt and experiences made between the Mediterranean countries. (See also full terms of reference for the Advisory Committee in Annex 8 of this document). The Advisory Committee can also make recommendations with respect to the thrust and direction of the

regional project. UNOPS and GEF/UNDP will move to implement these, following a review of budgetary situations and GEF-eligibility criteria.

The Regional Facilitator will act as administrator and secretary for the Annual Advisory Committee meetings. With advice and suggestions from the various project partners, including the national governments, FFEM, Ministry of Environment, France, UNDP, Ramsar Convention, TdV and CdL, the Regional Facilitator will propose an agenda for these meetings to the current chairperson of the Committee. In dialogue with the Chair and with UNDP/GEF and FFEM, the Facilitator will finalize the agenda and will further assist the Chair to prepare supporting documents and ensuring the mailing out of these to the Advisory Committee members in a timely fashion. The Regional Facilitator will further act as a secretary to the meetings, ensuring that minutes from the meeting are written, cleared by the Chairperson and distributed to the members of the Committee.

The composition of the Regional Advisory Committee will include:

- One representative of each of the Ministries or entities in charge of the environment in each country/Authority (if possible the Chief or Assistant Chief of the delegation to the MAP meeting)
- The National Project Coordinator;
- GEF/UNDP,
- UNOPS
- FFEM/AFD,
- French Environment Ministry;
- The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan or his representative;
- The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention or his representative.
- Tour du Valat
- Conservatoire du Littoral

The Regional Advisory Committee may invite the participation, at their own expense, of other partners or qualified authorities: European Union, IUCN, WWF or any other person whose presence might be considered appropriate.

The expenses incurred by the members of the *Regional Advisory Committee* for their participation in the Committee's annual meeting are charged to their respective national budgets.

Annual Project Report

In preparation for the Annual Advisory Committee meeting, the Regional Facilitator will have prepared an **Annual Project Report (APR, formerly titled PPER)**. This Annual Project Report will follow the standard UNDP format and will be reporting on (i) regional activities conducted during the past year conducted by the Regional Facilitator's Office, and (ii) a narrative summary for each country highlighting progress and achievements of the national projects in Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia.. (It is assumed that this narrative summary will be written by the National Project Coordinators on the basis of their national Annual Project Reports and national Annual Project Review processes. The Regional Facilitator will issue an agreed outline for this report and similar levels of details is therefore expected in each report. Each national summary should not exceed 7 pages and should succinctly highlight the achievements made and constraints faced at the level of the national project. The Regional Facilitator will be responsible for ensuring that the same standards are met by all the national reports.

GEF Project Implementation Review (GEF PIR)

As this project is GEF funded, it will also adhere to the GEF PIR system. This system is designed by the GEF Executive Council and is implemented by the GEF Secretariat and the relevant GEF Implementing Agency. While the process may be changed over the project duration, at present it involves the completion of a GEF format PIR in June of every year. The PIR tracks a number of set performance benchmarks and the Regional Facilitator should therefore familiarize him/herself with this report from the outset of the project. The Regional Facilitator may be called to either Washington or New York to present the project to the GEF at the occasion of the PIR project-by-project meeting, if it is found that the project is representative of specific aspects of GEF projects or to highlight a policy level or strategic approach. The PIR which the Regional Facilitator submits should cover both national and regional actions. It may therefore be opportune to ensure that the national Annual Project Reviews, the regional Advisory Committee meeting has happened prior the PIR, so as to enable the Regional Facilitator to provide the most up to date and accurate PIR to the GEF. This will also save effort and limit duplication.

Mid-term evaluation

A mid-term evaluation will be conducted during the third year of the project. The organisation, terms of reference and timing will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The consultants to undertake this evaluation will be drawn largely from the GEF STAP roster, in consultations between the parties to the project document. The evaluation will be independent in nature. Every effort will be made to include regional consultants in the evaluation team, however, it should be stressed that the team will be small (maximum three persons) and that the same team will visit each country/Authority in order to ensure uniformity in approach. This mid-term evaluation will be publicly available, in accordance with GEF rules on access and transparency.

Project Terminal Report

A project terminal report will be prepared for consideration at the terminal Project Advisory Committee meeting. This report will be prepared in draft sufficiently in advance to allow review and technical clearance by the GEF/UNDP and its partners at least four months prior to the terminal Project Advisory Committee.

Technical Reports

In addition to the project progress monitoring instruments listed above, the project will also prepare a large number of technical reports, public awareness materials, workshop and seminar reports, etc. These reports will be distributed to all project partners, including: the National Government Focal Points, the national Project Coordinators, the FFEM, the French Ministry of Environment, the UNDP, UNOPS, Ramsar Secretariat, MedWet Secretariat and of course, the two sub-contracted institutions involved in the execution of the project: TdV and CdL.

FFEM monitoring of FFEM-funded project activities

It should be noted that FFEM will also be undertaking monitoring of the FFEM-funded components. While this monitoring will be in parallel to the one described above, in accordance with FFEM procedures, it should be noted that FFEM has agreed that the overall monitoring of both the FFEM contribution to the national and regional components will be done through the UNDP-system of Project Advisory Committee and national Annual Project Reviews. FFEM is therefore an integral participant, along the same lines of that of UNDP, in the national Annual Project Reviews in Morocco and Tunisia as well as in the regional Advisory Committee.

FFEM has delegated its technical monitoring to the CdL, and the CdL will therefore be expected to undertake monitoring missions to Morocco and Tunisia (as well as to the Lebanon project, which is entirely funded by the FFEM). These backstopping/monitoring missions to Morocco and Tunisia will be coordinated with the Regional Facilitator, UNDP and TdV in the spirit of good partnership, with an eye to avoiding duplication of efforts by the various agencies involved in supporting the national components.

UNDP monitoring of GEF-funded project activities

Ad hoc monitoring visits may also be undertaken by GEF/UNDP in New York to all the countries which sees a UNDP/GEF involvement in project implementation (Albania, Egypt, Morocco, Palestinian Authority and Tunisia). In addition, UNDP Country Offices will be responsible for ongoing backstopping and dialogue with national authorities on project implementation.

The GEF/UNDP New York missions will be coordinated with the Regional Facilitator, with FFEM and with TdV/CdL in the spirit of good partnership, with an eye to avoiding duplication of efforts by the various agencies involved in supporting the national components.

L LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Governments and the United Nations Development signed by the parties. The host country implementing agency shall for the purposes of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement refer to the government cooperating agency described in that agreement.

J. BUDGET

Code	Description	Total		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
		m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$
16.00	Mission costs												
16.01	Mission costs		25,000		5,000		5,000		5,000		5,000		5,000
19.00	Component total		25,000		5,000		5,000		5,000		5,000		5,000
20.00	Sub-contracts												
21.00	Sub-Contract Fondation Sansouire (Tour du Valat)		2,208,240		510,805		490,835		494,820		428,120		283,660
29.00	Component total		2,208,240		510,805		490,835		494,820		428,120		283,660
50.00	Miscellaneous												
52.00	Reporting Costs												
52.01	Mid Term Evaluation		20,000		0		0		20,000		0		0
52.99	Subtotal reporting costs		20,000		0		0		20,000		0		0
53.00	Sundries												
53.01	Contingency		200,000		40,000		40,000		40,000		40,000		40,000
53.99	Subtotal Sundries		200,000		40,000		40,000		40,000		40,000		40,000
59.00	Component total		220,000		40,000		40,000		60,000		40,000		40,000
93.00	Project support services		196,260		44,460		42,870		44,790		37,850		26,290
99.00	BUDGET TOTAL		2,649,500		600,265		578,705		604,610		510,970		354,950

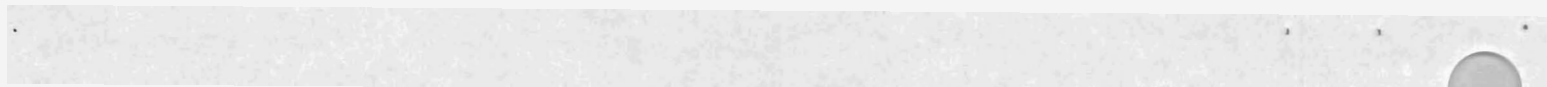
Budget breakdown for line 21,00 "Subcontract Fondation Sansouire (Tour du Valat)"

Lines	Description	TOTAL		1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
		m/m	US \$	m/m	\$/m	US \$	m/m	\$/m	US \$	m/m	\$/m	US \$	m/m	\$/m	US \$	m/m	\$/m	US \$
1	Regional Facilitation Unit																	
2	Personnel																	
3	Regional facilitator	60	465360	12	7720	92840	12	7740	92880	12	7750	93000	12	7770	93240	12	7800	93600
5	Bilingual secretary	60	272760	12	4520	54240	12	4530	54360	12	4540	54480	12	4550	54600	12	4590	55080
6	Total personnel		738120			146880			147240			147480			147840			148680
7	Regional Travel (1)		110000			22000			22000			22000			22000			22000
8	Basic bibliography for countries		7000			3000			1000			1000			1000			1000
9	Production publications																	10000
10	Publication on amphibians (2)		19000			19000												
11	Publication on integrated site mgnt (2)		19500						19500									
12	Publication on land use policies (2)		17000									17000						
13	Guidelines, Training, Final reports (3)		49000			5000			13000			13000			13000			5000
14	Total production Publications		104500			24000			32500			30000			13000			5000
15	Web Site (Internet)		18700			7900			2500			2650			2760			2900
16	Logistical + administrative support :																	
17	Equipment		16500			10000			2000			2000			2000			500
18	computer maintenance		6670			1200			1250			1350			1400			1470
19	communication (tel, fax, mail, Express...)		35770			6470			6800			7150			7500			7850
20	general secretariat (copies, operator, insurances...)		11550			2100			2200			2300			2400			2550
21	Financial direction (financial survey) (4)		20870			3780			3970			4160			4370			4590
22	accounting (5)		26260			4750			4990			5250			5500			5770
23	vocational training (french tax)		7160			1300			1350			1430			1500			1580
24	2 offices + general services (incl. maintenance)		23800			4300			4530			4750			4990			5230
25	SubTotal Logistic and administrativ support		148580			33900			27090			28390			29660			29640
26	Total Facilitation Unit		1126900			237680			232330			231520			216250			209120
27																		
28	Other expenses, Regional component																	
29	Training organisation																	
30	Expertise, Training	26.5	275100	6.5	9200	59800	7	10400	72800	7	10800	75600	6	11150	66900			
31	Travel, training (6)		30000			8000			8000			8000			6000			
32	Total Training organisation		305100			67800			80800			83600			72900			
33	Ressourceful expertise																	
34	Expertise Wetland	25.75	265620	8.75	9180	80325	5.25	10420	54705	5.25	10800	56700	3.5	11100	38850	3	11680	35040
35	Expertise, Coastal	23	253000	6.5	11000	71500	5.5	11000	60500	5.5	11000	60500	3.5	11000	38500	2	11000	22000
36	Expertise, other	7.5	82500				2.5	11000	27500	2.5	11000	27500	2.5	11000	27500			
37	Travel, ressourceful experts (7)		90000			20000			20000			20000			20000			10000
38	Total ressourceful expertise		691120			171825			162705			164700			124850			67040
39	Other expenses (8)		18000			18000												
40	Total Other expenses		1014220			257625			243505			248300			197750			67040
41																		
42	Contingency		67120			16500			15000			15000			14120			7500
43																		
44	Total Fondation Sansouire (Tour du Valat) sub-contract		2208240			510805			490835			494820			428120			283660

Notes to the budget:

1. Travelling costs for regional facilitator : two missions per year to each of the 5 countries is planned, plus a third emergency visit to the country posing-most problems : total of 11 visits per year. Budgeting per trip is as follows (average costs over 5 years): air travel \$1250, visit duration one week per diem average \$150 per day (\$750 for 5 days) : total per visit = \$2,000 Total for 11 visits : \$22,000 per year.
2. For these publications which will be in colour (for the first two only) and bilingual, costs include basic design & lay-out, graphics, cover, translation (English – French), copyrights on photos and printing.
3. Design and printing costs (black & white) for the publications containing the Guidelines resulting from the 6 Regional seminars (act. 2.1.2 to 2.1.7), the summaries of lessons learnt from pilot sites (act. 2.3.1), the analysis of national training needs (act. 3.1.1) and the achievements of the project (act. 2.3.3).
4. Financial direction includes half a month worktime annually (with associated costs) of Tour du Valat Administrative & Finance Director : overall project supervision, assistance to the Regional Facilitator for the production of financial reports, administrative management of project staff...
5. Accounting includes the equivalent of one month time annually of an accountant in charge of keeping the project accounts/ books, payrolls, making the payments/ reimbursements etc...
6. Travelling costs for training experts : same basis as Regional facilitator. 4 one-week trips for each of the first 3 years (\$8,000/yr), 3 in the fourth year (\$6,000).
7. Travelling costs for other experts : same basis as Regional facilitator. 10 one-week trips for each of the first 4 years (\$20,000/yr), 5 in the last year (\$10,000).
8. These costs include costs associated with advertizing and selection of candidates for the various full-time and consultancy assistance, relocation, etc.

K. ANNEXES



ANNEX I WORK PLAN

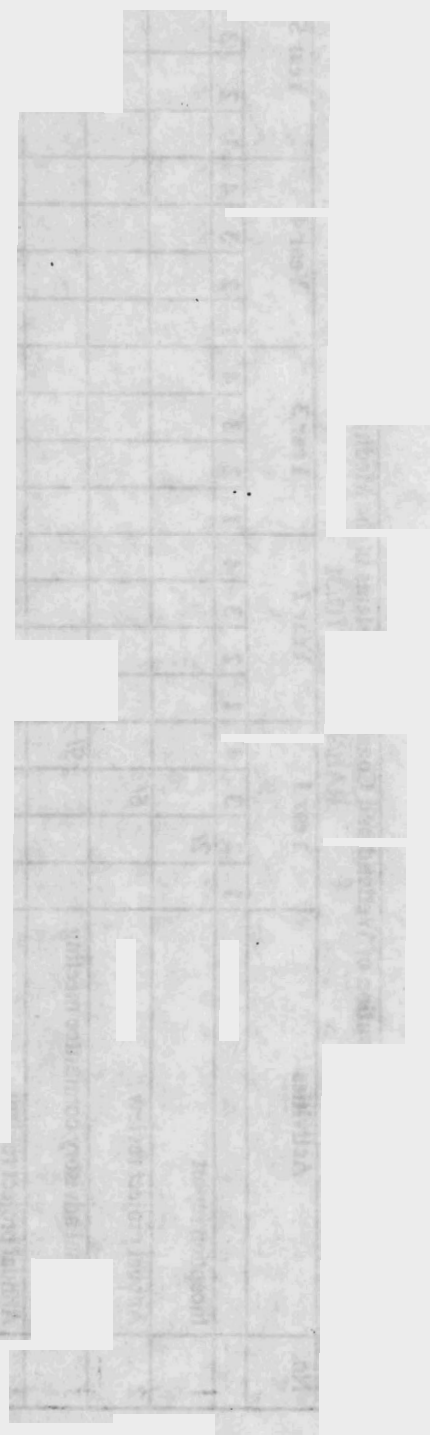
Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region RAB/97/G31/A/1G/31																							
N°	Objective	Expected Results	Activities	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.																							
2.																							
3.	Objective 1	Output 1.1	Capacity building through technical assistance																				
4.			1.1.1/ Organise initial seminar																				
5.			1.1.2/ Provide information base																				
6.			1.1.3 Recruitment Regional Facilitator																				
7.																							
8.		Output 1.2	Provide technical support																				
9.			1.2.1/ Review ToR																				
10.			1.2.2/ Identify appropriate expertise																				
11.			1.2.3/ Assist local project coordinators																				
12.			1.2.4/ Circulate models																				
13.			1.2.5/ Develop checklist of actions																				
14.			1.2.6/ Assist re. institutional change for coastal zone management																				
15.																							
16.	Objective 2	Output 2.1	Closing the Mediterranean circle																				
17.			2.1.1/ Provide focal point for info. Exchange																				
18.			2.1.2/ Organise seminar on national wetland strategies																				
19.			2.1.3/ Organise seminar on designing public awareness programmes																				
20.			2.1.4/ Organise seminar on tools for coastal zone protection																				
21.			2.1.5/ Organise seminar on integrated management planning																				
22.			2.1.6/ Organise seminar on using applied research																				
23.			2.1.7/ Organise seminar on EIA techniques for wetlands																				
24.																							
25.		Output 2.2	Prepare documentation																				

26.				2.2.1/ Prepare publication – amphibians							
27.				2.2.2/ Prepare publication – integrated site management							
28.				2.2.3/ Prepare publication-Land-use policies for coastal zone management							
29.											
30.	Output			<i>Exchange experience</i>							
31.	2.3			2.3.1/ Summarize lessons from pilot sites management							
32.				2.3.2/Develop technical exchange network							
33.				2.3.3/ Publish & disseminate results of this project							
34.				2.3.4/ Establish and update Web-site							

Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region

RAB/97/G31/A/1G/31

N°	Objectives	Expected Results	Activities	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
35.																							
36.																							
37.																							
38.	Objective 3	Output 3.1	<i>Reinforce capacity</i>																				
39.			3.1.1/ Analyse training needs																				
40.			3.1.2/ Design training programme																				
41.			3.1.3/ Implement training activities																				
42.																							
43.	Objective 4	Output 4.1	<i>Monitoring and regional management</i>																				
44.			4.1.1/Participate in preparation of APR and TPRs																				
45.			4.1.2/ Provide technical advice to UNDP & National coordinators																				
46.			4.1.3/ Prepare annual project report																				
47.			4.1.4/ Organise meetings of Advisory Committee																				



ANNEX II. INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF PROJECT REVIEW AND REPORTING

No.		Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region RAB/97/G31/A/1G/31																			
		Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
1	Inception report	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
2	Annual project review		6/																		
3	Regional advisory committee meeting				9/																
4	Annual project review						6/														
5	Regional advisory committee meeting								9/												
6	Annual project review											6/									
7	Mid-term evaluation												9/								
8	Annual project review															6/					
9	Regional advisory committee meeting																9/				
10	Annual project review Terminal report																			6/	
11	Terminal tripartite review meeting																				9/

ANNEX III. EQUIPMENT

Equipment list	Destination	Description	Units	Unit cost US\$	Total US\$
PC computer able to accomodate a Web site	Facilitator	HP Netserver ESO Pentium II 333 Mhz Ram 64 Mo DD 4,2 Go Ultrawide SCSI	1	4050	4050
PC pentium with modem	Facilitator's secretary	NEC Direction SM 350B Pentium II 350 Mhz Ram 64 Mo DD 6,4 Go DVD-Rom 20x Fast Ethernet 32 10/100TX card	1	2640	2640
Portable PC	Facilitator (for travelling)	NEC Versa LX 13.3 Pentium II 233 Mhz Ram 32 Mo DD 3,2 Go CD-Rom 24x	1	4460	4460
Colour laser printer	Facilitator + Secretary		1	870	870
PC portable print	Facilitator (for travelling)	Canon BJC-50	1	550	550
Portable Overhead project	Facilitator	Intimus Métro F44S	1	900	900
Software : Pack Office 97 (ou 98)	Facilitator (2 computers) + Secretary	MS Office 97 Pro	3	960	2880
Mobile phone	Facilitator	SFR Pack	1	150	150
TOTAL					16500

REGIONAL FACILITATOR

Background

Funded by the Global Environment Facility and by the French Global Environment Facility, the goal of this regional UNDP/GEF project is to conserve threatened coastal and wetland biodiversity on 15 key sites in six countries/authority (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority and Tunisia). The wetland components of this programme build on the achievements of the MedWet programme.

The regional component of this programme will be implemented through Fondation Sansouire (Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, Camargue, France) with support from the Conservatoire du Littoral. The project is executed by UNOPS. The six beneficiary countries/authority all have separate country project documents, executed by UNDP country Offices under Government execution procedures.

Within this regional component, the Regional Facilitator (RF) is responsible for ensuring that there is effective transfer of knowledge and experience within the region, supporting the development and implementation of innovative tools for wetland and coastal management, development of regional training activities and technical back-stopping. The RF will also play a key role in the annual evaluation and review process for all the country/authority programmes.

Technical responsibilities

1. Encourage exchange of experience on the management of coastal and wetland sites from local to national and regional level and vice versa. This will be done through exchange of documentation, preparation and diffusion of guidelines, national workshops and in-country site placements.
2. Provide technical support to national project coordinators in the design, planning and execution of their national programmes through the terms of reference (ToR) and annual project reports (APR) cycle, through assistance in project design and implementation, and review of terms of reference prior to launching of subcontracts.
3. Take lead responsibility in the monitoring and evaluation of use of GEF funds in the project.
4. Supervise the definition of training needs at national and regional level. Identify and reinforce partner training institutions in each country.
5. Promote exchange of knowledge and experience through the Internet system, linking national coordinators, wherever appropriate, and establishing a website on project progress and activities.
6. Liaise and collaborate with other biodiversity and coastal/wetland conservation initiatives in the region.
7. Comment on terms of reference for all the studies (>\$5000) subcontracted by the national/Authority components of the project. Assist in the identification of international consultants and promote the creation of a Mediterranean network of experts able to assist in addressing the issues identified by the participating countries/Authority.
8. Analyse the technical reports of subcontractors, national programmes and existing literature and draw lessons with a regional perspective.
9. Disseminate existing MedWet methodologies and publications to all site level managers, and training materials to partner training institutions.
10. Provide information from the project to the Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism.

11. Raise funds locally for continuation of the technical exchanges.
12. Ensure allocation of funds from the national/Authority components to the implementation of training activities, as required by the project.

Managerial responsibilities

1. Manage the implementation of the regional work programme in close cooperation with countries/authority and UNDP offices.
2. Assume responsibility for the management of the regional funds in liaison with UNOPS.
3. Define the terms of reference for sub-contractors and consultants, supervise the quality of the work and certify payments.
4. Submit regular reports to UNOPS and to GEF on progress of the regional component, and on progress of the project as a whole, as required.
5. Liaise with national coordinators to ensure effective implementation of the workplan with support from regional experts.
6. These functions are undertaken under the overall responsibility of Director General of Tour du Valat and in concert with UNDP, the Conservatoire du littoral and FFEM.

National project coordinators will transmit to the regional facilitator a copy (in paper and digital form) of all the technical studies, project reports, minutes of meetings from local site and national steering committees, and any other documents required for efficient monitoring of project activities.

Qualifications and experience

- 10 years professional experience with at least 3 years spent in international multi- or bilateral cooperation.
- 3 years of project leadership including budgetary management, work planning, and team leadership in an international setting
- Trilingual : Arabic, English and French
- Proven successful project implementation in Maghreb or Middle eastern country/ies in an environmental or related field
- Professional mobility essential
- Post graduate diploma in a technical field related to wetlands and coastal management, for example forestry, territorial planning, agriculture, water resources...

The Regional facilitator will be based at Tour du Valat in Camargue, France

Technical assistance : Wetland strategies and wetland management

The project aims at the sustainable use of wetlands for the conservation of their biodiversity in 6 countries/Authority in the Mediterranean. A strong technical input at both strategic and technical (management) level is therefore required. This input will be provided by Tour du Valat, in coordination with the Mediterranean Committee (MedCom) established under the MedWet initiative. It will consist in :

- Providing a key, permanent, strategic link with other Mediterranean initiatives for the conservation of Biodiversity and Wetlands, such as MedWet.
- Providing the information basis (wetland biodiversity, management...) existing in Tour du Valat's resources : library, scientists, network of site managers throughout the Mediterranean;

- Writing technical publications / report sections on wetlands as required by the project;
- Assist the Facilitator with reviewing the ToR for technical studies/contracts forming part of the project (wetland components);
- Providing technical input on wetland biodiversity and management in the Regional seminars and training courses.

Technical assistance : Coastal zone management and land-use policies

The project also aims at the conservation of the coastal zone biodiversity in the Mediterranean. Technical and strategic inputs are similarly required, and will be provided by Conservatoire du Littoral. This input will consist in :

- Providing technical input on the coastal zone biodiversity and its management in the Regional seminars and training courses;
- Writing technical publications / report sections on coastal zone biodiversity and management as required by the project;
- Reviewing ToR for technical studies/contracts (coastal zone aspects).

Technical assistance : Legal and institutional issues concerning land-use policies

Land-use is a key issue for the conservation of wetlands, the coastal zone and their biodiversity. However, this issue has far-reaching legal implications. Twenty-five years of experience are available with the Conservatoire du Littoral, in France and other countries (Tunisia...), and the Conservatoire will therefore lead this technical assistance, i.e. :

- Make available to the participating countries/Authority, throughout the project duration, its experience in land-use policies as a tool for coastal zone conservation;
- Organise a regional seminar on these issues;
- Prepare a technical publication including case studies, legal aspects, and ways of overcoming obstacles.

Training expert : Definition of training needs, design and evaluation of courses

The project includes a substantial training component which represents an essential part of this project, as its success or failure hinges on the ability of the site managers to address the threats to the different sites in a sustainable manner.

- The training programme will be conceived and executed by Tour du Valat in close association with the Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels (ATEN). ATEN will be responsible for the following activities :
- Identification of the training needs of national staff as they evolve during the project cycle.
- Design and implementation of training operations to address these needs as they arise.
- Transfer of training materials to a national training focal point identified by each beneficiary country/authority.

Training experts : other

The project will require short-term additional expertise in specific fields not directly linked to Coastal or Wetland ecosystems, or to training, such as Socio-economic (including Participatory) approaches, Environmental Impact Assessment, Management of Research Programmes. The experts will :

- Actively participate in the relevant regional Seminars and training courses;
- Contribute to the technical publications/ guidelines resulting from these seminars.

ANNEX V. TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Training is an essential component of this project as its success or failure hinges on the ability of the site managers to address the threats to the different sites in a sustainable manner. This will, in many cases, require personnel to acquire new skills and especially to develop the habit of intersectoral collaboration and decision-making in their daily activities.

The training component of the programme has three main aims :

1. Support to the development of a training focal point for protected areas management in each country.
2. Training as a means to acquire knowledge and methodologies appropriate to intersectoral management planning for coastal and wetland areas.
3. Training as a tool within the site management process.

For the training programme to be effective, it requires to be clearly focussed on needs at local level. These needs can be expected to evolve during the project cycle, and the intervention of the training activities must therefore be developed and applied on an annual basis. For example, when the site management committees are convened, a training session will be organised in order to create a "common culture", and to help the local dynamics of management plan preparation and implementation. The precise needs of the members of that committee can only clearly be identified once it is established.

The training programme will emphasise a hands-on practical problem-solving style, with "general knowledge" issues kept to a minimum. This means that it will also be strictly targeted at those who will use their improved skills in their daily work. Selection of the profile of trainees will therefore be decided in consultation with the regional training team to ensure maximum effectiveness.

The regional team will provide the design, content and material for the local training courses, while all the local costs will be covered by the national budget. To facilitate the implementation of the courses and improve capacity-building at national level, a training focal point will be designated by the National Project Director. This focal point will be responsible for mobilising national experts to deal with different themes, when such expertise is available locally.

In addition to the local courses, six regional meetings will be held on the following themes :

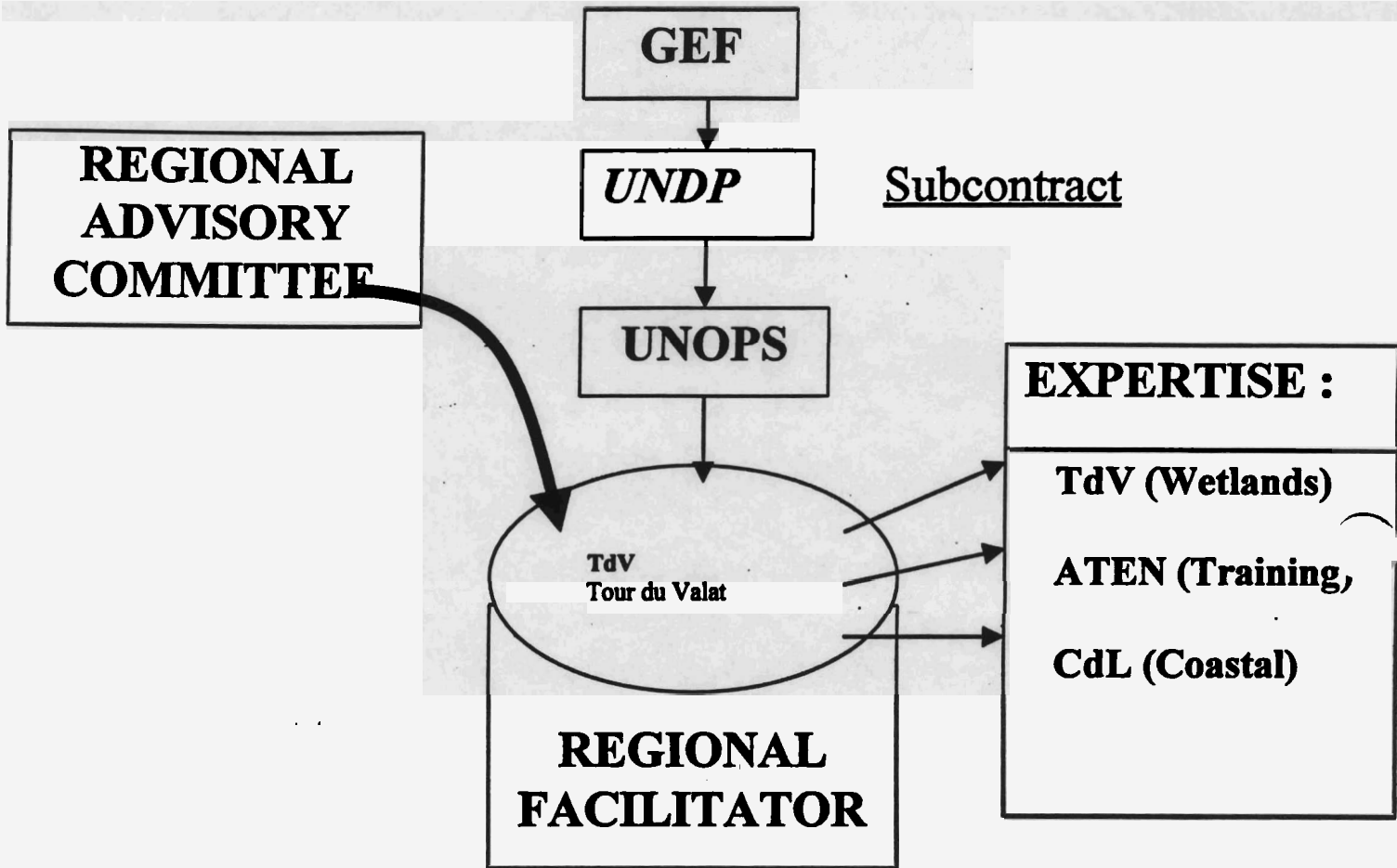
1. Designing a national wetland strategy
2. Coastal zone planning tools
3. Integrated management planning
4. EIA techniques for Mediterranean wetlands
5. Design of public awareness programmes
6. Organising applied research on biodiversity conservation

These courses will be geared towards information, knowledge and understanding of existing tools and methods, and will improve the participants awareness of similar activities ongoing at a regional level. Information materials and documentation will be distributed at these meetings. Countries other than the beneficiaries may also participate with the agreement of the regional coordinator if they cover costs, in order to promote the regional nature of the action.

The content and design of the courses will be defined by the regional team, who will establish the nature of the key target beneficiaries and select candidates with the required profile in consultation with the national project director.

One course will be held in each participating country/Authority at or near a project site and will hence allow project participants to familiarise themselves with other sites in the network.

ANNEX VI. FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE REGIONAL COMPONENT (ORGANIGRAMME)



ANNEX VII. OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL ACTIONS FOR CONSERVATION OF WETLAND AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY - SUMMARY

Many environmental problems affecting coastal and wetland ecosystems are shared by the countries of the Mediterranean region. However, pressures are particularly acute in many of the countries on the southern and eastern shores, where populations are growing most rapidly, rainfall is lowest, and development needs are greatest. Some problems are transnational, requiring international co-operation for their solution. Marine pollution, the loss of habitat for migratory birds, declines in populations of marine mammals and sea-turtles, and meeting demands for water from rivers and aquifers that cross national boundaries, are among the shared regional problems. They require regional co-operation, communication and sharing of experience and information to find a peaceful and lasting solution. The region has been successful in organising such collaboration over the last 25 years in order to find a common response to common problems.

Mediterranean Action Plan

In the mid-1970s there was a growing international awareness of the global extent of environmental problems and of the linkages between environment and development. At the first Mediterranean intergovernmental conference, organised by UNEP in 1975, the Mediterranean countries and the EEC adopted the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). This called on Mediterranean governments to prepare and adopt a series of legally binding agreements on environmental concerns.

The main objectives of MAP were "to assist the Mediterranean Governments to assess and control marine pollution, to formulate their national environmental policies, to improve the ability of governments to identify options for alternative patterns of development and to make more rational choices for allocation of resources".

In recognition of the linkages between environmental problems and social and economic development, MAP consisted of a number of interdependent components intended to provide a framework for comprehensive action promoting both conservation and development of the Mediterranean region. These include The Blue Plan, The Priority Actions Programme (PAP), MED POL, and The Barcelona Convention.

In 1995, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of MAP, a new Mediterranean Action Plan, MAP Phase II was adopted (The Barcelona Resolution). MAP Phase II takes account of the results of developments since the first phase of MAP, such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro 1992) and has wider coverage than its predecessor. Its main objectives are:

- (a) to ensure sustainable management of natural marine and land resources and to integrate the environment in social and economic development, and land-use policies;
- (b) to protect the marine environment and coastal zones through prevention of pollution, and by reduction and, as far as possible, elimination of pollutant inputs, whether chronic or accidental;
- (c) to protect nature, and protect and enhance sites and landscapes of ecological or cultural value;
- (d) to strengthen solidarity among Mediterranean coastal States in managing their common heritage and resources for the benefit of present and future generations; and
- (e) to contribute to improvement of the quality of life.

The fields of activities for the phase 1996-2005 include measures to promote the integrated management of water resources (including catchment plans, demand management, and treatment of waste water and sewage); integrated management of coastal areas; and nature conservation (with special attention to the conservation and rational management of Mediterranean wetlands.)

The Barcelona Convention. Soon after adoption of MAP in 1975, The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea was adopted. This comprised five protocols: on dumping; emergency; land-based sources of pollution; offshore exploration and exploitation; and, of most relevance to this report, The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Special Protected Areas, which was adopted in 1982. The protocol concerned the selection, establishment and management of protected areas for their biological,

ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, cultural, archaeological, historical or educational interest. The protocol was revised in 1995 in the form of **The Protocol on Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance**. In June 1995 there were 21 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, including all five of the GEF eligible countries.

MAP has also served as the basis for Charters, declarations and workshops in associated fields relevant to the conservation of biodiversity and of wetlands in the Mediterranean basin including:

- The Charter on Euromediterranean co-operation for the environment of the Mediterranean basin (Nicosia, 1990).
- Declaration on Euromediterranean co-operation for the environment of the Mediterranean basin (Cairo, 1992).
- The Mediterranean Charter for Water (Rome 1992).
- **Med 21** is a Mediterranean initiative in the context of the universal, global approach outlined in Agenda 21. Whilst adopting a similar thematic approach to Agenda 21 (social and economic dimensions, conservation and management of resources, the role of groups and organisations) it attempts to take account of the specific context of the Mediterranean and the spirit of intra-Mediterranean co-operation.

At the regional level, among other priorities, Med 21 calls for Mediterranean States to work collectively to:

- ratify the Biodiversity Convention;
- reconfirm the commitments made at Nicosia and to establish management plans for the most threatened biotopes;
- control illegal trade in endangered species;
- increase the number of Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean.
- The workshop on 'Making best use of land ownership and land-use policies for the protection of the Mediterranean coastline' (Hyeres, 1995) demonstrated the regional concern with the effects of land use policies on the coastal zone. A priority identified at the meeting was the need to further encourage regional initiatives for the management of wetlands. The workshop concluded by expressing the wish that a network for collaboration, concerted action and information exchange be maintained".

Other relevant regional initiatives

While the MAP serves as the political and technical basis for collective action in the region, two other technical and financial vehicles are also important within the region.

- (a) Four Mediterranean countries are part of the European Union and implement regional actions discussed and co-ordinated through Brussels.

Wild Birds Directive. (1979) For 13 years, the Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EC) provided the most important mechanism for the conservation and management of wetlands in the States of the EU. EU member states are required to protect threatened bird species through designation of a network of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), and to take appropriate measures to prevent pollution of the habitats or disturbance to the birds within them. Many SPAs are wetlands. Greece has 12 wetland SPAs, Spain 42, France 65, and Italy 34.

Habitats Directive (1992). The EU expanded its scope for nature conservation by adopting the Council Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC).

This builds on the existing provisions of the Birds Directive. The main aim of the "Habitats" Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora. This is to be achieved through a coherent European ecological network of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. SPAs classified under the Wild Birds Directive shall be included within the Natura 2000 network.

Lagoons and Mediterranean temporary ponds are amongst the habitats highlighted as a conservation priority. Rivers and ponds, which may be essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species, are among the features that are singled out.

Of 92 projects funded by the EC under this programme, 59 dealt specifically with wetland conservation, with an EC contribution of 18.143 MECU. At least 30 sites were situated along the coast, reflecting not only the degree of threat experienced, but also the high numbers of species in Annex I of the Birds Directive in these areas.

(b) Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP)

METAP was launched in January 1990. It is funded by a range of bilateral and multilateral donors. Together they will "support efforts to integrate environmental concerns into the main stream of economic and social policy and will encourage the adoption of policy measures conducive to the efficient use of natural resources".

NGO Regional Activities

As well as the actions for biodiversity of governments in the Mediterranean, there are many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that are active in promoting environmental protection, conservation and sustainable development. NGOs provide an important means for involving the general public in environmental concerns, and ensuring consultation, participation and accountability. In total there are 1641 environmental NGOs in Mediterranean countries, including 34 in Albania, 40 in Egypt, 12 in Lebanon, 107 in Morocco and 103 in Tunisia. Most of these are local, but some, including The World Conservation Union and World Wide Fund for Nature, have Mediterranean programmes.

The Mediterranean Programme of IUCN will be implemented in 1999. The WWF Mediterranean Programme (launched in 1996) will conserve, and where necessary restore, freshwater ecosystems and their processes for biodiversity and people in the Mediterranean region. Wetlands International maintains a network of focal points for the annual international waterfowl counts.

The MedWet initiative for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands is an important regional initiative which originated from the Mediterranean Wetland Conference held in Italy in February 1991. A Steering Committee composed of the five EU Mediterranean states, the Ramsar Bureau, the European Commission and three NGOs (Wetlands International, WWF and the Tour du Valat centre for Mediterranean wetland research and conservation) established the basis for the MedWet Initiative. The first phase (1992-1996) concentrated on the development of tools and methodologies to support wetland conservation efforts, especially in the fields of inventory and monitoring, training, management, public awareness and application of research results.

The initiative was widened in Venice in June 1996 where riparian states endorsed a common strategy for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands². In October 1996, the Ramsar Steering Committee gave its formal support to the Ramsar Bureau promoting this activity as a regional initiative under the Ramsar Convention. The initial, European phase, cost 6,6 million ECUs, the extension to 5 non-EU countries (Albania, Croatia, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) in 1996 a further 1 million ECUs. The latter project lays the foundation for the development of national wetland strategies in these countries. The EC has contributed a total of 5,3 million ECU to this programme. In March 1998 the Ramsar Bureau chaired the first meeting of the MedWet

² Venice declaration

committee in which 20 Mediterranean countries participated. The meeting established priorities for regional collaboration on wetland conservation and management, several of which are addressed in this project.

REGIONAL NETWORKS

Mediterranean states have shown their commitment to regional action and to reinforcing North-South and South-South exchange of experience. Regional and bilateral cooperation is underway in a range of brown environmental fields, including pollution, water supply and quality which have been identified for priority action.

In the biodiversity field, regional networks are still in their infancy, and to be successful they require a number of characteristics

- a common goal for participants
- a clear mandate from governments
- appropriate funding
- the freedom to operate at technical level without undue political constraint
- they should respond to the needs of the participants
- a coordination point to act as a focus for kick-starting the network, disseminating information and responding to needs.

For the time being, no such dedicated network exists to support biodiversity managers in the region, and the current proposal fills this gap.

ANNEX VI.1. THE REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Regional Advisory Committee is composed of the following:

- representatives of each of the donors (GEF/UNDP, French GEF/Caisse Française de Développement, the French Ministry in charge of Environment)
- a representative of each ministry or agency responsible for Environment in each of the countries/Authority (where possible the usual head of delegation, or his/her deputy at MAP meetings) and the project coordinator.
- the coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan or his representative
- the Secretary general of the Ramsar Convention or his representative

Other appropriate partners may be invited, at their own expense, such as IUCN, WWF, the European Union as well as any other person whose presence is judged useful. The participants in the Regional advisory committee cover their own costs from the national/Authority budgets.

The Role of the Regional Advisory Committee is as follows:

- assess the national coordinator reports of each of the countries/Authority
- hear the report of the Permanent Monitoring Team
- validate the annual report on the activities of the regional component of the project prepared by the Regional Facilitator and ensure its conformity with the project document
- evaluate the action of the regional facilitator
- determine the necessary adjustments to the objectives, outputs and activities of the project for the following year
- examine the mid-term evaluation report

The Committee meets at least once per year, coinciding wherever possible with the meetings of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

The Advisory Committee is chaired for one year by each beneficiary country/Authority in turn in the following order: Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Palestinian Authority, Albania.

The Committee can be convened in extraordinary session by its president, one third of its members, or the funding agencies.

ANNEX IX. ROLES OF TOUR DU VALAT AND CONSERVATOIRE DU LITTORAL

INFORMATIONS ON THE CONSERVATOIRE DU LITTORAL

The Conservatoire du Littoral, a quasi-governmental agency, was created by Law in 1975. Since land-ownership is mostly private in France, its mission is to buy coastal natural areas, as well as the shores of large lakes, in order to conserve them forever. Buying can be either on mutual agreement or through a preemption right on sales, or more seldom through expropriation. The Conservatoire closely works with local communities, and on its National Board sit various elected representatives from these communities. The Conservatoire delegates the management of its sites, which are open to the public, to NGOs or more often, to local communities which, through the French tax system, have direct possibilities in managing natural areas.

This quasi-governmental body has a permanent staff of 50, to which should be added a few secondments from various Ministries. The staff in charge of sites management is usually recruited by the managing body (NGO or local community).

With an annual budget of 150 million FF (130 for land acquisition), the Conservatoire has so far bought 403 sites (54,000 ha), which affords protection to 750 km (13%) of the French coastline. In the Mediterranean – Corsican subregion, it owns 150 sites (30,860 ha), which are managed either by NGOs or local communities.

The experience and international activities of the Conservatoire

Since its creation, the Conservatoire was closely associated with most international initiatives for the protection of coastlines. A member of IUCN, it was also one of the founders (of which it hosts the secretariat) of EUROSITE in 1989, an organisation which federates 60 of the most important public and private bodies managing natural sites in Europe, such as the National Trust (UK), the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (UK) and Natuurmonumenten (NL). Since its creation, Eurosite has organised 27 workshops and conferences which gathered over 1200 Participants.

The Conservatoire has long been involved in development activities throughout the world, through the Ramsar convention for the conservation of wetlands of international importance. Its director has been nominated as an expert for Western Europe, and sits on the convention's Scientific and Technical Evaluation Panel. In 1997, the Conservatoire proposed to the Convention the creation of a communication tool to assist with the implementation of the convention at international level. This action is funded by the Groupe DANONE and the mineral water company EVIAN, together with the FFEM. The objectives of this programme are to enable a transfer of know-how between Ramsar sites, training activities and the development of communication tools throughout the world.

The Conservatoire participates in numerous expert visits (Western and Central Africa ; North Africa, Indian Ocean, South America...), and is often requested (e.g. by the European Union) to participate in specialised commissions.

In 1995, the Conservatoire du Littoral organised a conference on land-use policies, which gathered representatives from 12 of the Mediterranean countries, as well as regional and international organisations dealing with environmental conservation. It contributed to the creation of the MEDPAN network, which federates natural area managers from the Mediterranean.

The Conservatoire recently obtained a contract from the European Union, aiming at developing land-use policies for conservation in E.U. countries belonging to the Mediterranean realm (Spain, Italy, Greece and Portugal).

In Mediterranean France, the Conservatoire which owns 150 sites (30,860 ha) has to face all the usual regional problems such as exceedingly large visitor numbers, conflicts with urban, industrial and tourism

development, public use, fire protection... Although it delegates management to other bodies, it contributes to the terms of reference for the management, and has therefore long been practising integrated management planning as a contribution to sustainable development.

The current Conservatoire staff involved in this project was previously the Director of Port-Cros National Park, the first terrestrial and marine Park to be created in the Mediterranean, in 1963.

The Conservatoire, a unique structure in the Mediterranean until the creation of APAL in Tunisia, has for the past 23 years capitalized a unique experience in terms of conserving natural areas through land acquisition.

Coordination with international programmes of the Conservatoire du Littoral.

The Conservatoire has recently obtained a project for 3.4 million FF (1.7 million European Union, 0.8 million French Ministry of Environment and Land-use Planning, 0.6 million own funds and 0.3 million WWF-MedPort and IUCN). This project aims at developing land-use policies for conservation in European countries bordering the Mediterranean (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain). The project will :

- reinforce intersectorial coordination of actions at local and national level, around a common goal of long-term preservation of coastal areas ;
- develop or reinforce legal tools, institutional processes as well as tools and means necessary for the conservation of natural coastal areas and threatened biodiversity (control of land-use, acquisition...).

For this aim, the project will develop management mechanisms and know-hows both at local and national scales, and will ensure full information and awareness by all stakeholders who, through their involvement in the project, will ensure its success and its replicability in the countries involved as well as in the whole Mediterranean.

So, thanks to this additional project, 11 out of the 22 Mediterranean countries in total will directly benefit from the coastal land-use tool approach, which was initiated 3 years ago through the GEF/FFEM project.

Since its inception, the project was conceived as a part of a joint action for the protection of the Mediterranean which was initiated by funding agencies, MAP and CMDD. IUCN has decided to create a specific Mediterranean Bureau which will be based in Spain (Malaga). The members of IUCN-France and its Board, of which the Conservatoire is a member, contributed to this development.

The Conservatoire will promote the project to IUCN Mediterranean members, states as well as NGOs ; it will make available its network of experts and NGOs, and will contribute to the cooperation with the IUCN Mediterranean Bureau in Malaga.

Staff time devoted to these activities will be a further contribution by the Conservatoire.

Technical assistance and institutional advice from Conservatoire du Littoral to the FEM/PNUD project :
The Conservatoire du Littoral will put at the disposal of the Regional Facilitator a part-time (40%) Technical Advisor, based with him for half of the time, and whose mission will be to contribute to the Facilitator's action in the field of integrated coastal zone management and land-use policies.

The assistance from the Conservatoire will consist in :

1. **Advice and technical assistance to the Regional Facilitator for questions related to integrated coastal zone management, and to legal and institutional aspects of land-use policies.**
- In a first phase, the Conservatoire's role will be to transfer its knowledge and memory of the project to the Regional Facilitator, especially those aspects which enabled the project development at both regional and national levels. Its role will also be to pinpoint key contacts, to facilitate them and if necessary to introduce the Facilitator to the various stakeholders.

Background information on Tour du Valat

Tour du Valat is a centre for research and conservation of Mediterranean wetlands based in a 2500 ha private estate, much of which is a conservation area, in the Camargue, France. Established in 1954 it has built an international reputation in ecological sciences and wetland management. In 1991 the Foundation that supports the station's activities reformulated the mission statement « To halt and reverse the loss and degradation of Mediterranean wetlands and their natural resources » and established a more focussed programme of Mediterranean cooperation for wetland conservation, hitherto based mainly on scientific and NGO networks. The Sansouire Foundation is the administrative and legal structure for the centre and currently employs around 80 staff with an annual budget of around \$4 million.

The work programme involves three main axes :

- scientific research programmes to better understand the ecology of wetland ecosystems, their fauna and flora. Scientific expertise is available on fish/fisheries, waterbirds; aquatic vegetation, amphibians, GIS and hydrology.
- active management of 3500 ha of the Camargue on a day to day basis, which allows testing and evaluation of different management approaches and establishment of contractual management relationships with local economic actors (grazing, hunting, fishing, ecotourism) .
- a conservation programme designed to apply the results of these programmes to the wider Mediterranean environment through training, publications, management planning and joint projects with government and non government institutions involved in wetland management throughout the region.

International and Mediterranean activities of TdV

The international and Mediterranean activities of Tour du Valat can be broadly divided into :

- scientific networking and participation in joint projects. Research projects on wetland ecology and functioning or on wetland fauna/flora are currently established with universities or other research institutions in, for example, Greece, Italy, Spain, Malta, Morocco, Mauritania, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Netherlands, Portugal, Iran, Slovenia, Albania, Israel, Romania.
- participation in NGO and intergovernmental networks of natural area managers and their international umbrellas. e.g. Eurosite, MIOECSD, IUCN, RAC/SPA, RNF, Rivages de France. These networks exchange experience, develop methodologies, and digest international best practice in different fields.
- Joint projects with governments, regional authorities and NGOs throughout the region. These have recently included, for example, management planning approaches for wetland sites in Albania, Croatia, Tunisia, Morocco, Italy and Turkey, training courses in Morocco, Turkey, Spain and Tunisia, wetland management advice in Greece, Slovenia, Romania and Italy, as well as extensive wetland management planning and training in partnership with central and local government in France.

Tour du Valat has developed substantial international expertise in training over the last 5 years and in 1997 became a founding member of a new organisation called Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels (ATEN) which is based in Montpellier and brings together all the natural area management organisations in France. Tour du Valat has detached a full time international training expert to the new organisation hence further drawing national expertise into international training initiatives within the Mediterranean region. Tour du Valat maintains a training programme specifically aimed at wetland management and at intersectoral training initiatives designed to assist in project implementation. The training documentation on management planning has already been translated into four different languages.

Tour du Valat also publishes a series of technical booklets, launched under the MedWet initiative, dealing with different topics of interest to decision-makers and technical staff involved in wetland management within the region. Nine such volumes exist already, and a further two are being drafted. The series is greatly appreciated as a reference collection, based on scientific knowledge and understanding, on particular management issues. It is presented in easy-to-read fashion with technical assistance in the form of more

detailed fact sheets where appropriate, with complete bibliographies, and is published in English and in French.

TdV technical assistance and policy advice to UNDP/GEF project

Within the framework of the UNDP/GEF project, Tour du Valat will host the regional facilitator and provide him/herewith technical assistance and policy advice concerning wetland conservation and management. In conjunction with its training partner, ATEN, Tour du Valat will design and implement the training component of the project in collaboration with the regional facilitator.

Advice on wetland management issues and on legal and policy issues will be made available to the National Project Coordinators and coordinated through the Regional Facilitator's Office: This input will be especially important during project start-up to ensure smooth transition from project development under the PDF to project implementation.

Tour du Valat's hosts the Regional Facilitator's Office

As also described in Annex 4, the Regional Facilitator will be located in the offices of Tour du Valat and will be contracted by Tour du Valat through the Tour du Valat -UNOPS contract. On day-to-day matters, the Regional Facilitator will report through the Tour du Valat structure. On project technical matters pertaining to wetlands issues, the Regional Facilitator will take advice and guidance from the Conservation co-ordinator, Tour du Valat, while on technical matters pertaining to coastal zone management, the Regional Facilitator will take advice and guidance from the Conservatoire du Littoral.

ANNEX X. INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROJECT

FFEM Contribution to the overall project :

This project is made up of a joint initiative by the GEF and the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM). This synergy allowed to increase the number of beneficiary countries, the number of natural areas able to benefit from pioneer management actions, and the development of a network which is necessary for the protection of the biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

Interventions by the two funding agencies were shared between countries, with GEF acting alone in Albania, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority, GEF and FFEM acting jointly in Morocco and Tunisia, and FFEM acting alone in Lebanon where GEF already had an active project for 3 years; a liaison will be established between the two projects.

FFEM Contribution	LEBANON	MOROCCO	TUNISIA	TOTAL
In FF :	3,331,100 FF	3,887,250 FF	3,974,000 FF	11,192,350 FF
In US \$ (indicative rate: 1US \$ = 5 FF)	666,220 \$	777,450 \$	794,800 \$	2,238,470 \$

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REGION	MANAGEMENT	UNITARY	TOTAL
1,331,100	2,887,250	1,000,000	5,218,350

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