



APAT – SYKE Consortium
Regional Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment
Regional Management and Support Unit (RMSU)



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

- **The Regional Management and Support Unit (RMSU) of the SMAP (Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment)**, represented by the President of the Consortium Management Board, Ms. Maria Dalla Costa, on one side,

AND

- **The Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS)** represented by the President of the Steering Committee, Mr. Juan CANOVAS CUENCA, on the other,

AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Clause 1:

SMAP is the Euro-Mediterranean Framework Programme for policy and funding orientation aimed at promoting sustainable development and supporting high priority environment related activities. In December 2002, following a call for tender, the Italian Agency for the protection of the environment and for technical services (APAT) and the Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) were entrusted with the task of establishing the Regional Management and Support Unit (RMSU).

The RMSU objectives are:

- To promote best practices in the field of sustainable development and increase environmental awareness in the Mediterranean region
- To enhance regional co-operation, communication, and networking between environment stakeholders
- To disseminate environment related information and environment management tools, promote the integration of environmental aspects into a wide range of economic and social activities and increase the availability of financial resources for the environment
- To reinforce project management capacities and monitoring and reporting within EC-funded projects
- To increase the visibility of EC co-operation in the environment and of all the projects sponsored under SMAP resources

In this framework, the RMSU is developing the “SMAP Clearing House”, a “Knowledge Management Mechanism” based on a participatory process to collect, organise and make available existing information resources relevant to the SMAP framework.

This process aims at involving the programme stakeholders in a “collaborative network” to share information resources through a web based information system that provides gateways to



information in multiple sources, displaying what information is available on a specific subject and how to gain access to the data.

□ - Clause 2 :

The Euro-Mediterranean Information system on know-how in the Water Sector gathers the 35 countries, of the Barcelona agreements, with the support of the European Commission. It aims to gather, certify and disseminate the information useful for better water management in the Mediterranean region.

□ - Clause 3 :

SMAP RMSU and EMWIS agree to cooperate for improving the collection and dissemination of the information and documentation on integrated water resources management within their respective partnership.

In particular:

- > The RMSU will make available water management project metadata (already published in the SMAP Clearing House) in such a manner that EMWIS can use them automatically via the Internet.
- > EMWIS and RMSU will collaborate in making available water management project data collected by them to be published in their websites.
- > EMWIS will provide content for the water management section of the SMAP Clearing House,
- > The RMSU will create a permanent link between its website and the websites of EMWIS and will foster the dissemination of their information in the Mediterranean basin through the SMAP Bulletin and Mailing list.
- > EMWIS will create a permanent link between its website, the RMSU website and the SMAP Clearing House and will disseminate the information of the SMAP RMSU initiatives inside its network.
- > The RMSU will disseminate information material about EMWIS to SMAP stakeholders during the events it is organizing in the region
- > EMWIS will disseminate information material about SMAP RMSU initiatives among its stakeholders during the events it will organise in the region

□ - Clause 4 :

This partnership agreement will last six months (July 2005 – January 2005). It can be renewed, unless termination by one party or the other.

The Presidents of the SMAP RMSU Consortium Management Board and EMWIS Steering Committee will be invited, as observers, respectively to the meetings of the Steering and Technical Committees of EMWIS, of the Focal Points of the SMAP Clearing House, and to events of common interest they will organise.

Made in Rome, Italy on 30 June 2005

**President of EMWIS
Steering Committee**

**President of
SMAP RMSU Consortium Management Board**

Juan CANOVAS CUENCA

Maria Dalla Costa