



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme



UNEP(OCA)/MED/WG.62/2  
1 April 1993

Original: ENGLISH

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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Seventh Meeting of MED Unit and Regional  
Activity Centres (RAC) on MAP programme

Malta, 15-16 February 1993

**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF MED UNIT AND  
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES (RAC) ON MAP PROGRAMME**

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UNEP  
Athens, 1993

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The meeting was convened at the Foundation for International Studies (FIS) of Malta and was opened by Dr. Stanley Zammit, Minister of the Environment of Malta, who pointed out that the Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan are both the tangible and the symbolic edifices of the MAP policy with reversal of environmental degradation trends in the Mediterranean basin.

2. The mutual feedback system that has been established between the individual Mediterranean Coastal States and the Regional Activity Centres was a core-feature of MAP. He continued to say that, if there were any imperfections, the probability was that these have their matrix with weakness in the institutional structures of the countries themselves. In fact, the RACs have, by their own very existence stimulated national capacity building and their output has assisted in no uncertain manner the attainment of individual national objectives.

3. He pointed out that after UNCED, new challenges seem to loom in our horizon, and that within the orbit of these new challenges, there was more than ample scope for the Regional Activity Centres. In the knowledge that both individually and collectively, the Mediterranean Coastal States were far from a full attainment of their potential, for sustainable development, the roles of regional institutions appear essential and they will always remain so.

4. The Co-ordinator of MAP, Professor S. Busuttil, explained the objective of the meeting and pointed out that this meeting should be considered as a brainstorming one requesting that all participants try and reach practical and attainable solutions to the many issues before them.

5. With regard to the important issue of sustainable development, he pointed out that the Bureau of the Contracting parties at its last meeting expressed the views that henceforth, all efforts of MAP should be directed and reoriented towards a Mediterranean programme for sustainable development. For this he intends to propose to the Bureau at its next meeting, and subsequently, to the Contracting Parties' meeting, the creation of a special budget line for sustainable development and the recruitment of a permanent professional post under this budget line.

6. The Director of the REMPEC Centre stated that he was surprised to note that two meetings of RAC Directors were held in Malta but not at his Centre, a matter of concern to him and his staff who wanted to show their interest and enthusiasm.

7. In response to this statement, the Co-ordinator of MAP pointed out that the main reason for convening this meeting as well as the meeting on Agenda 21 at the Foundation for International Studies (FIS) and not at the REMPEC Centre was mainly due to the fact that FIS had offered to host and partially finance some of the participants' attendance in the Agenda 21 meeting as well as providing interpreters and other facilities free of charge. In particular it was the RAC Directors themselves who had wanted simultaneous interpretation for their meetings which would have cost over \$ US 1,500 per day at REMPEC, since the Centre does not have the appropriate facilities. The Co-ordinator further pointed out that the REMPEC staff could attend, and that the REMPEC Director should examine the causes of problems at REMPEC itself.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. The meeting adopted its provisional agenda contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.62/1 and decided to conclude the discussions on the various agenda items during the first day of the meeting and devote the second day to bilateral meetings with the RAC Directors on individual issues relevant to each Centre, and on issues relevant to two or more centres, in particular the issues of historic settlements and sites, BP/RAC and PAP/RAC relations.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the co-ordinator on the implementation of MAP activities during 1992

9. Professor Busuttill briefed the meeting on the main developments that occurred during 1992:

Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP)

Rhodes (Greece)

With regard to the Rhodes project, he referred to the results of the presentation Conference for the Rhodes project (Rhodes, 15 - 16 December 1992). He pointed out that during the Conference the MOU with the EIB was finalized, and was subsequently signed by MAP and EIB. In accordance with this agreement, the Bank will financially assist the project in Rhodes with an amount of ECU 360,000.

Fuka-Matrouh project (Egypt)

A MAP policy/technical mission will pay a visit to Cairo and the Fuka-Matrouh area at the beginning of April 1993.

Albania

A meeting with all experts involved in the project as well as the representative of Albania was held in Malta on 13 February 1993, during which the draft project was reviewed.

Sfax (Tunisia)

A MAP policy/technical mission headed by Mr. I. Dharat had just returned from a mission to Tunis and Sfax. The preparatory steps for the preparation of the Agreement to be signed by MAP and Tunisia have been undertaken.

Morocco

Mr. Civili of MAP will pay a visit to Morocco within the framework of the MEDPOL programme for Morocco; the issue of a CAMP project for Morocco will be discussed during his mission.

Malta/Israel

The Co-ordinator informed the participants that he had received two requests for new CAMP in Malta and Israel. The requests will be raised during the forthcoming meetings of the Contracting Parties, as well as at the next Bureau meeting.

10. He reminded the participants of the decision of the last meeting of the RAC concerning the recruitment of a junior assistant for the CAMP's programme. In this connection, he pointed out that Ms. Alexandra Laffon was recruited for this part on 4 January 1993 for an initial period of three months. He added that the terms of reference of the members of the steering committee (Regional planner, economist and a Marine Scientist) would be prepared soon for approval by the Bureau.

11. The Co-ordinator informed the participants of the appointment of the new Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell who had sent a message of encouragement on the occasion of the meeting on Agenda 21.

12. Referring to his recent visit to Split, in conformity with the decision of the last meeting of the Bureau, the Co-ordinator pointed out that he was impressed by the work done in the Centre which required to concentrate and consolidate its efforts and activities. He intended to visit Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Israel and Turkey during March and April 1993.

13. He stated that briefing meetings had been given at the MEDU premises for the Ambassadors in Athens of the Contracting Parties, who had requested that similar meetings should be held on a regular basis.

14. Concerning the forthcoming meeting of the Bureau (Cairo, 1 - 2 March 1993), he informed the participants that the main issues to be discussed will be the status of the Croatian application to membership of MAP, the situation with regard to the Split Centre for PAP/RAC, the 1994/1995 programme and budget, results of the informal meeting on Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean and the preparations for the Joint Meeting and the Eighth Ordinary Meeting.

15. The MAP Co-ordinator informed the meeting on the signature of a MOU with CEDARE in Malta on 12 February 1993 on the occasion of the Meeting of Experts on Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean. Copies of the MOU were distributed to all participants in the RAC meeting.

Agenda item 4: Preparation for the Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee and the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties

16. Mr. Dharat, Senior Programme Officer, explained that preparations are being pursued for the forthcoming Joint Meeting (Athens, 3 - 7 May 1993). He distributed to the participants a draft Agenda for the meeting and an organization of its work and requested comments and amendments to these drafts to be made before their finalization.

17. A long discussion took place on the future meetings of the two committees. The following points were raised:

- whether to have a joint meeting, with separate sessions of the two committees;
- a longer duration than the five-day meeting;
- the usefulness of the meetings of the national focal points (NFP);
- terms of reference of the two committees;

18. At the end of the discussion of this agenda item, the following points were considered concerning future sessions of the joint meetings:

- a. organize one joint meeting of the two committees, without having separate sessions, around May or June of the year when the ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties are convened, with a view to finalizing the programme and budget for the Mediterranean Action Plan as a whole;
- b. duration of 5 or 6 days for the joint meetings would be sufficient;
- c. meetings of the National Focal points were essential. They should meet around the end of the year or beginning of the year when the ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties are convened, with a view to reviewing progress achieved and prepare the programme and budget for the next biennium;
- d. the Bureau of the Contracting Parties should henceforth, give an indication of the budget increase for each biennium, in order to assist the meetings of the NFPs and the joint meetings to prepare the draft programme and budget for each MAP component.

It was decided to further elaborate on this issue.

Agenda item 5- Programme and budget for the 1994-1995 biennium

19. Professor Busuttil opened the discussion on this item by informing the participants that during the last meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, the President of the Bureau stressed the importance of putting greater emphasis on action oriented activities. Sustainable development should be the cornerstone of MAP activities with CAMP projects as an important component of this process.

He pointed out that priority should also be given to strengthen the weaker links and centres within MAP. SPA, for example should be given more financial resources than before. The allocation of funds for the various components of MAP depended largely on the percentage of budget increase. He pointed out that bilateral meetings would be held with RAC directors on specific issues the following day.

20. Mr. C. Marx, Fund/Administrative Officer, gave an account of the new budget to be prepared for the next biennium. He stressed the importance that the budget should truly reflect the actual situation. To illustrate this, he pointed out that the travel and salary estimates for the last biennium were not justified. He stated that counterpart contributions should be more utilized.

21. The Director of SPA/RAC, Mr. M. Saied pointed out the following points:

- The SPA Centre had been settled down, all experts had been recruited and the host country had honoured its obligations with regard to the agreement with UNEP.
- A new action Plan (for Cetaceans) had been approved by the 7th meeting of the Contracting parties and for which no financial provisions had been foreseen in the budget.

- Because of the reduced activities in the past, the Centre had accumulated some delays in the implementation of the already approved Action Plans. As an example, the Action Plan for the conservation of the monk seal had foreseen a meeting of experts in order to evaluate the state of conservation. This meeting did not take place because of the lack of credit.
- In October 1992, the NFP meeting adopted several recommendations; notably on marine vegetation, cetaceans, countries' support, information and training which require financial resources for their implementation.
- Finally, as it had been stressed on during the last meeting on Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean with regard to bio-diversity, SPA should reinforce its activities which fit well with the Convention of Rio on Bio-diversity.
- For all these reasons, the rate of increase in the RAC/SPA budget should be exceptionally higher than the average rate agreed on. This will allow the budget of RAC/SPA to cover partly the delay occurred in the past.

22. The Director of PAP/RAC, Mr. A. Pavasovic, pointed out that some priority actions will be proposed to be concluded in 1993, or reduced in the next biennium, such as those on renewable energies, tourism, and aquaculture (pending decision on cooperation with MEDRAP II), and the Centre will orient its efforts even more towards CAMP projects.

23. The issue of increasing the travel budget line was stressed by Mr. A. Hoballah (BP).

24. Mr. L. Jeftic pointed out that the MEDPOL programme had being adjusted and expanded to be in line with the new development (Agenda 21, Biodiversity Convention, Climatic Changes Convention, large number of CAMP). He consequently stressed the need to increase the MED POL budget at least at the level of the other components of MAP.

25. Mr. G. P. Gabrielides proposed that a contingency budget line be created to account for unforeseen activities and that a justification should be given for every budget line/activity proposed.

26. The Director of REMPEC, Mr. J.-C. Sainlos pointed out that sustainable development has to be translated into new ideas in concrete action oriented terms. The Co-ordinating Unit should give RACs Centres a guidance on how to proceed vis-à-vis the programme and budget for the next biennium. REMPEC Centre needs to be given the means to realize its expanded function (for example the implementation of the Action Plan for the Port Reception Facilities in the Mediterranean). He stressed the importance of increasing the budgetary provisions allocated to training courses. Finally, he referred to personnel matters of the Centre and requested that clear instructions be given.

27. The Director of the Marseille Centre for 100 historic sites in the Mediterranean, Mr. D. Drocourt, briefed the meeting on the activities of the Centre in relation to the 100 historic sites, which now has expanded to 115 sites. He pointed out that 79 sites were visited or assisted. A network of 280 managers or experts of historic sites in the Mediterranean region had been created. A library had been created in Marseille for these sites and training courses of high level

persons were organized. Co-operation and co-ordination with other relevant UN organizations, such as UNESCO, were secured. Finally, he expressed interest to be involved in the CAMP's exercise.

28. Mr. A. Hoballah (BP/RAC) pointed out that the BP Centre will present in addition to its regular budget, an additional 1994-1995 budget related to the establishment of its new function "Mediterranean Environment Observatory".

29. At the end of the general debate on this item, it was agreed that an increase between 10 to 15 percent of the budget, over that of the past biennium, for the classical components (MEDU, BP, PAP, MED POL, REMPEC, SPA, Historic Sites) and by 30% for the CAMP exercise, could be a guideline for RAC directors as well as the MEDU professionals, on which an estimated budget for 1994-1995 biennium could be prepared for submission to the joint meeting (Athens, 3 - 7 May 1993).

Moreover, a new budget line for the Sustainable Development exercise (Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean), including a new P.4 professional post, would also be recommended to the Bureau as well as to the Joint Meeting. A figure of about \$ 150,000 per annum was proposed.

Agenda item 6 - Review of the results of the meeting of Mediterranean experts on "Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean"

30. Professor S. Busuttill briefed the meeting on the main results of the informal meeting of experts on "Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean", held in Malta from 11 - 13 February 1993. He pointed out that MAP should take account of the sustainable development concept of which the CAMP exercise is an important component. He continued to say that the CAMP exercise has decisively proved the validity of MAP and the Contracting Parties themselves have recognized this fact. However, more co-ordinated work vis-à-vis the CAMP programme was still needed.

Agenda item 7 - Any other matters

31. The Co-ordinator raised his concern with regard to the various, unco-ordinated approaches to funding institutions which should be centralized and co-ordinated by the Athens Office.

32. As regards the need for more co-operation and co-ordination between the Co-ordinating Unit and the RAC Centres, as well as between the Centres themselves, he pointed out that while he urges for stronger co-operation and co-ordination, we cannot apply the same system of co-ordination for all RAC Centres, because they have different juridical bases.

33. At the end of the discussion on this agenda item, it was agreed that:

- a. a stronger co-operation and co-ordination between all components of MAP were needed, the Co-ordinator would insure soonest instructions thereon to all RACs;
- b. the MAP Office in Athens should be informed and fully integrated in any approaches to the international financial institutions;
- c. the monthly report requested by the Headquarters should be sent to Athens Office every month (on the 25th day of the month), and it should concentrate only on the main achievements;

- d. copies of the sixth monthly progress reports should be sent directly between the centres.

34. On 16 February 1993 various bilateral meetings were held with the Co-ordinator concerning "Co-ordination of activities among RACs" and "Sustainable Development and CAMPs". The modus operandi agreed upon during these meetings is attached as Annex II to this report.

Agenda item 8: Adoption of the report of the meeting

35. The participants agreed that a draft report of the meeting would be sent to all participants for comments before its finalization.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the meeting

36. H.E. Dr. Ugo M. Bonnici, Minister of Education and Human Resources of Malta, made a closing statement.

37. The Co-ordinator of MAP expressed his thanks and appreciation to all participants for their co-operation and understanding, and expressed, on behalf of the Mediterranean Action Plan, his thanks and appreciation to the Foundation for International Studies for hosting the meeting in its premises. He declared the meeting closed at 13:00 hours on 15 February 1993.



ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

Sustainable Development

1. MEDU will have overall responsibility for sustainable development projects, of which CAMPs are part. In particular, MEDU, through the Liaison Officer, will have the responsibility for the integrated planning and management of all CAMPs.
2. The CAMPs Liaison Officer of MEDU will have, under the Co-ordinator's authority, a full supervisory role over all CAMPs. The Bureau will be requested to authorize, in this regard, the temporary recruitment of a P4-level staff member in Athens, who will have special responsibility for sustainable development projects, including CAMPs. The Bureau will be asked to recommend to the Contracting Parties the eventual establishment of such a post on a permanent basis.
3. (i) The decisions taken at the January 1992 meeting of RACs Directors (UNEP/OCA)/MED/WG.40/2), para 45, and subsequently amended/added to at the September 1992(UNEP/OCA)/MED/WG.56/5) and November 1992 (UNEP/OCA)/MED/WG.61/2) meetings respectively, are to be implemented immediately.  
  
(ii) The CAMP Liaison Officer at MEDU will ensure that these dispositions are fully adhered to.
4. Concerning the Steering Committee recommended at the sixth Meeting of RACs Directors (UNEP/OCA)MED/WG.61/2, the Bureau will be requested to give the necessary instructions at its meeting on 1 and 2 March 1993 in Cairo.
5. In CAMPs, the Blue Plan will offer the techniques and the training necessary for the systematic and prospective studies when the level of activity evolves from a national to a local level. On the other hand, the Priority Actions Programme will assist local and national experts by providing the techniques and training necessary for the management of the identified priority action.
6. Furthermore, to avoid confusion, misunderstandings and overlap, the co-ordinator of a specific CAMP should from the start, and regularly thereafter, keep informed the local and national experts involved, of the activities and functions of each of the Centres in the framework of that particular CAMP.  
  
Once the Mediterranean Environment Observatory is established, the identification, the collection and analysis of socio-economic and especially environmental statistics, will be the responsibility of the Blue Plan, on the understanding that within the framework of a given CAMP, PAP can collect the data necessary, if the Blue Plan, once consulted, is not able to provide them. Naturally, PAP should then offer the collected data to the Blue Plan/Observatory.

Co-ordination of Activities among RAC's

1. PAP/RAC and BP/RAC

The principal objective of the Blue Plan activities, which are of a scientific nature, is to help the relevant Mediterranean authorities in the formulation of their decisions, while that of PAP, whose activities are technical, is to assist the relevant Mediterranean authorities in the implementation of their decisions.

Systematic and prospective studies in the framework of a global, national, local or sectoral approach are the responsibility of the Blue Plan, while the Priority Actions Programme is in charge of planning and providing technical assistance for the successful implementation of specific priority actions, immediate and short-term.

2. PAP/RAC, "100 Historic sites", Marseilles  
SPA/RAC

Ref.: Historic Settlements and Sites

(i) "Historic Sites", Marseilles is responsible for all scientific and substantive aspects relating to MAP work on historic settlements and sites.

(ii) SPA/RAC is responsible for the juridical aspects emanating from the relevant Protocol in the execution of which task it will regularly seek and obtain, where appropriate, the scientific input of "100 Historic Sites", Marseilles.

(iii) Training in this area will be, as from 1 January 1994, the responsibility of the "100 Historic Sites", Marseilles, in co-operation, where appropriate, with SPA/RAC, and building on the experience thus far obtained by PAP/RAC.

(iv) The 1994/95 programme for these operations is to reflect clearly the above modus operandi.

(v) The above decisions amend, where applicable, the dispositions contained in document UNEP/IG-5/7 of February 1977.

(vi) Separate directives concerning co-operation on CAMPs are given in the accompanying document thereon.

3. Approaches to funding sources

It is essential that approaches to funding sources (e.g. EC, World Bank) should be cleared with, and co-ordinated by, MEDU in Athens.