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Second Meeting of the Task Team on
Implications of Climatic Changes
on the Coastal Area of Fuka-Matrouh, Egypt

Alexandria, 30 August-1st September 1994

REPORT

**OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE TASK TEAM ON IMPLICATIONS
OF CLIMATIC CHANGES ON THE COASTAL AREA OF FUKA-MATROUH**

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BACKGROUND

As part of the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to analyze the potential implications of predicted climate change and to assist the governments in designing policies and measures which may avoid or mitigate the expected negative effects of this change, or to adapt to them, task teams on the implications of climate change were established in 1987 for six regions covered by the UNEP-sponsored Regional Seas Programme (Mediterranean, Wider Caribbean, South Pacific, East Asian Seas, South Asian Seas, and South East Pacific regions), with the initial objective of preparing regional studies on expected climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as on the socio-economic structures and activities within these regions. Additional task teams were later established for the West and Central African, Eastern African, Persian/Arabian Gulf and Black Sea regions.

During the work on the Mediterranean regional study¹, in the period from 1987 to 1989, it was felt that while the general effects might be similar throughout the Mediterranean region, the response to these effects would have to be highly site-specific. Therefore in the framework of the Mediterranean Task Team six specific case studies were prepared (deltas of the rivers Ebro, Rhone, Po and Nile; Thermaikos Gulf and Ichkeul/Bizerte lakes) in 1989. The final results of the work on the Mediterranean regional studies and on the six case studies were published as a book in 1992².

In preparing these case studies it had become apparent that prediction of impacts was constrained by the absence of scenarios of future climates on a regional, sub-regional and local scale. Accordingly the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia had been commissioned by UNEP to attempt to produce a Mediterranean Basin scenario and to develop scenarios of future local climate for the selected case study areas.

Using the experience of the "first generation" case studies, in 1990 the preparation of the "second generation" of site-specific case studies was initiated for the island of Rhodes, Kastela Bay, the Syrian coast, the Maltese islands, and the Cres-Losinj islands.

The objectives of these studies were:

- to identify and assess the possible implications of expected climate change on the terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems, population, land- and sea-use practices, and other human activities;
- to determine areas or systems which appear to be most vulnerable to the expected climate change; and
- to suggest policies and measures which may mitigate or avoid the negative effects of the expected impact, or adapt to them, through planning and management of coastal areas and resources;

using the presently available data and the best possible extrapolations from these data.

¹ Implications of expected climate changes in the Mediterranean. MAP Technical Reports Series No. 27. UNEP, Athens, 1989.

² L. Jeftic, J.D. Milliman and G. Sestini (eds.): "Climatic Change and the Mediterranean". Edward Arnold Publ., London, 1992.

The final results of these five case studies were presented at the meeting on Implications of Climatic Changes on the Mediterranean Coastal Areas (Island of Rhodes, Kastela Bay, Syrian Coast, Malta and Cres/Losinj), held in Malta in September 1992³.

A third generation of case studies was launched, in 1993, in the framework of the site-specific Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP). So far two such studies are being developed (Fuka-Matrouh coastal region and the Albanian coast).

While the first generation of the case studies was prepared by individual experts, the preparation of the second and third generation case studies was entrusted to multidisciplinary Task Teams established by UNEP in close cooperation with the relevant national authorities. Each Team consists of about ten national experts, and a few (2-3) external members who assist the work of national experts. The final reports of the Task Teams are a collective work of the teams as a whole.

The Task Team for the Fuka-Matrouh region was set up in mid-1993 and it held its first (preparatory) meeting in Matrouh, 28-30 November 1993. The meeting considered the temperature and precipitation scenarios prepared for Northern Egypt by The Climate Research Unit of the University of East Anglia, and the experience gained by the other Task Teams in preparing their reports. On the basis of these information, the meeting agreed on the time horizons (years 2030 and 2100), as well as on the scenarios for temperature, precipitation and sea-level rise which will be used in the preparation of the Task Team's report. The meeting also agreed on the outline of the final report, on the distribution of the tasks among the members of the Team, as well as on the workplan and timetable for the preparation of the report⁴.

The present meeting is the second meeting of the Task Team for the Fuka-Matrouh case study. The meeting was called to review the first drafts of the chapters contributing to the final report, and to agree on the programme for the finalization of that report.

³ The report of this meeting, containing the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the five studies, was published as document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.55/7.

⁴ Report of the first meeting of the Task Team on Implications of Climatic Changes on the Coastal Area of Fuka-Matrouh (Matrouh, 28-30 November 1993). UNEP(OCA)MED WG.78/2.

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Opening of the meeting - Agenda item 1

1. The meeting was opened, on 30 August 1994, in the premises of the Coastal Research Institute (CRI) in Alexandria, by Mr A. A. Khafagy, Coordinator of the Task Team on Implications of Climatic Changes on the Coastal Area of Fuka-Matrouh. He welcomed the participants on behalf of the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA) and expressed appreciation for the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan in preparing for the second meeting of the Task Team on the Implications of Climatic Changes on Fuka-Matrouh coastal region.

2. Mr L. Jeftic, Deputy Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr L. Chabason, the recently appointed Coordinator of the MAP. He expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Egyptian authorities, thanked Mr A. A. Khafagy for providing premises and facilities for the meeting, and commended the Task Team for the considerable work carried out since the first meeting of the Team in November 1993. He continued by recalling that the purpose of the present meeting is to review the first draft of the Team's final report and to agree on the steps leading to the finalization of the report. In concluding his address, Mr Jeftic expressed the hope that both the present meeting and the future work of the Task Team would be successful.

3. The meeting's participants are listed in Annex I to this report.

Election of officers - Agenda Item 2

4. The meeting unanimously elected Mr A.A. Khafagy, Coordinator of the Task Team as Chairman, and Mr S. Keckes as Rapporteur of the meeting. Mr L. Jeftic acted as technical secretary of the meeting.

Adoption of the agenda - Agenda Item 3

5. The provisional agenda as proposed by the secretariat was adopted and appears as Annex II to this report.

Presentation and review of the draft chapters - Agenda Item 4

6. Mr L. Jeftic recalled that the drafts of the individual contributions to chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the Task Team's report received by the Coordinator of the Task Team were recently made available to all members of the Task Team. The drafts were computer-processed and issued without editorial changes by the Secretariat as the first consolidated draft of the final report. This draft serves as the main working document of the present meeting.

7. In the general debate about the first draft of the final report, and during the presentation and review of individual contributions to the first draft, the following general approach was agreed to be used in the finalization of the report:

- reference to the UNEP-sponsored coastal area management programme (CAMP) in the Fuka-Matrouh region should be included in the introductory chapter (by the Secretariat);
- likewise, the introductory chapter should include a reference to the Task Team (with the list of members as an annex to the report), and should describe the methods of work used by the Task Team (coordination, meetings, etc.);

- the present lack of proper balance between chapter 2 and 3 would have to be redressed by considerably expanding the text of chapter 3 and reducing the text of chapter 2;
- chapter 2 should be considered as the background information on which chapters 3 and 4 are based; it should contain only information relevant to a better understanding of chapters 3 and 4;
- the "operative scenarios" developed by the East Anglia University will be attached to the final report of the Task Team, as an annex of the report; therefore there is no need to give, in either of the substantive chapters of the report, an expanded review of the results contained in the scenarios;
- specific issues (e.g., sea currents, precipitation) relevant to several sections of the same chapter should be treated only in one of the sections, preferably in the one which comes up first in the chapter;
- the captions and legends of figures and tables should be standardized; the same system of measures (units) and their notations should be used consistently throughout the report;
- references should be consolidated in a list at the end of the report; references should be listed in a standard (uniform) style and format; no reference should be included in the list of references unless it is quoted in the main body of the report, and vice versa;
- there should be no inconsistencies in the presentation of the report's factual basis (chapter 2), nor contradictions between the predicted impacts (chapter 3) and the measures recommended to counter these impacts (chapter 4);
- whenever possible, the degree of uncertainty underlying certain predictions should be emphasized;
- the recommendations should be formulated as alternative options, whenever feasible; and
- the executive summary of the final report, as well as chapters 3 and 4 should be written in a non-technical language, keeping in mind that they are primarily addressed to national policy-makers and managers.

8. While reviewing the individual contributions to the first draft of the final report, numerous concrete suggestions were made for the improvement of their quality and for the possible harmonization of the texts dealing with the same or similar issues in various parts of the report. Likewise, the members of the Team were encouraged to identify the gaps in knowledge and data which may be of critical importance for improving the prediction of the likely impacts of the expected climate changes, and the recommendations for measures to cope with these impacts.

Programme of the finalization of the report - agenda item 5

9. Recalling that the work of the Task Team is associated with the development of the UNEP-sponsored CAMP for the Fuka-Matrouh region, Mr L. Jeftic insisted that closer links should be established between the members of the Team and the coordinators of the relevant CAMP activities. He has stressed that it is the only way to ensure full conformity and compatibility between the results of the CAMP and the Task Team's report.

10. Taking into account the present status of the report, the programme of its finalization was discussed and it was agreed that:

- the first draft of the final report, as well as the few written additions provided by the members of the Task Team at the meeting, shall be used as the basis for the final report;
- in finalizing the report, the Coordinator and the members of the Team shall follow the general approach agreed at the present meeting (see paragraphs 7 and 8);
- the members of the Team shall prepare and submit to the Coordinator the revised sections of chapters 2 and 3, and the sections of chapter 4 for which they are responsible (see Annex X in the report of the Task Team's first meeting - UNEP(OCA)/MED W.78/2), by the end of November 1994; in preparing their inputs, the Task Team members will specifically liaise with the coordinators of the relevant activities of the CAMP for the Fuka-Matrouh region, and other relevant projects undertaken in that region (e.g., the German project);
- the members of the Team dealing with cross-cutting issues are encouraged to meet informally and prepare jointly the sections of the report which are of mutual interest to them;
- the narrative part of each section of chapter 2 should be preceded with a listing of the main issues covered in the section, followed by a short and concise summary of the facts relevant to each issue; these summaries should be the basis for presenting the present situation and trends in the executive summary of the report, and for analyzing the impacts and formulation of recommendations in chapters 3 and 4 of the report; in principle, each main issue identified in chapter 2 should be reflected in chapters 3 and 4;
- the revised sections of chapters 2 and 3 shall be submitted to the Coordinator using the present hard copy of the first draft of the report, with clear indication of the changes, amendments, deletions and additions which are suggested to be made; the members of the Team are encouraged to provide comments and suggestions on all, and not only on the sections of the report for which they are responsible;
- the Coordinator shall consolidate the comments, suggestions and the new texts received from the members of the Team and shall submit them as the second draft of the final report to Mr L. Jeftic, using the present hard copy of the first draft of the report, by mid-January 1995;
- the Coordinator is encouraged to meet, as necessary, with the individual members of the Team, or with the Team as a whole, in order to facilitate the preparation of the second draft of the report;
- Mr L. Jeftic shall arrange the computer processing and printing of the second draft of the report; he shall provide the Coordinator with the requisite number of printed versions of the second draft by mid-February 1995;
- the Coordinator shall distribute the second draft of the report to the members of the Team, and they will be expected to provide the Coordinator with their final comments on the whole draft by mid-March 1995; by the same date, the external members of the Task Team will also provide the Coordinator with their comments on the second draft of the report;
- the Coordinator shall inform Mr L. Jeftic about the final comments, amendments and suggestions of the Team on the second draft of the final report by the end of March 1995;
- taking into account the final comments, amendments and suggestions received from the Coordinator, Mr L. Jeftic will issue the third draft of the report by the end of April 1995, and shall provide the Coordinator with the requisite number of copies of the report;
- the third meeting of the Task Team shall be organized in late June 1995, to consider and clear the final version of the report;

- Mr. L. Jeftic shall arrange that the final report of the Task Team is issued by the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan by the end of July 1995; and
- the final report of the Team shall be presented at a national seminar to be held in Egypt at a date yet to be agreed, tentatively envisaged for September or October 1995..

Adoption of the report - Agenda Item 6

11. The draft report, including its annexes, was considered and adopted by the meeting, as it appears in this document.

Closure of the meeting - Agenda Item 7

12. In his closing remarks, Mr L. Jeftic expressed satisfaction with the results of the meeting, and the constructive spirit in which the meeting had been conducted. He also thanked the participants, the Chairman and the Rapporteur for their hard work.

13. An exchange of courtesies followed after which the Chairman closed the meeting on 1 September 1994.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Presentation and review of the draft chapters
5. Programme of the finalization of the report
6. Adoption of the report
7. Closure of the Meeting