



United Nations
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ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to
the Convention for the Protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its
related protocols

Athens, 7-11 September 1987

PROPOSED 100 COASTAL HISTORIC SITES OF COMMON INTEREST



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Background

1. The Fourth Ordinary meeting of Contracting Parties adopted unanimously the Genoa Declaration that included among its targets "the identification and protection of at least 100 coastal historic sites of common interest" (UNEP/IG.56/5, II,17(g)).
2. The secretariat requested the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) to act as consultant in the preparation of general principles and criteria for the selection of coastal historic sites of common interest.
3. UNESCO has expressed its agreement with the proposed principles and criteria which are reproduced in the present document.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The 17 states that have joined the MAP are among the countries which at international level have the most important cultural heritage. The sites, the monuments and the works of art in their totality represent for humanity a unique value; their conservation falls within the sphere of competence of national authorities which must protect and develop without discrimination a considerable body of equally precious goods.
2. The proposals made by MAP deliberately do not concern but a limited number of cultural goods which, because they belong directly to the Mediterranean culture, can be placed under the common safeguarding of the coastal states participating in this programme. It goes without saying that all these states cannot claim to be represented by an equal number of cultural goods on the list of the first 100 historical sites, given the fact that their belonging to the Mediterranean world is extremely varied. In effect this representation can be integral, partial or even auxiliary in the case of certain coastal states dependent upon other areas of influence.
3. However, the list proposed today is not definitely closed, it remains open: it can possibly be lengthened by the addition of supplementary proposals illustrating the quality of mixed sites which are interesting both from a natural and a cultural point of view (e.g. well preserved agricultural systems); other proposals might concern important archeological discoveries.
4. On the other hand, this open list should not be construed in a restrictive manner as a tool of cultural and tourist selection. Quite the contrary, each site included should be considered as a bridgehead for action radiating on the region of interest to the greatest possible number of satellite sites, the development of which will be one of the most positive effects of the protocol.
5. Among these 100 sites that are being proposed, there are some that are also included in the World Heritage List established within the framework of the World Heritage Convention for the protection of cultural and national heritage and thus benefiting from the protective measures ensuing from this inclusion. The sites proposed here which meet the selection criteria used for the establishment of the Mediterranean list of the MAP meet in addition the very strict criteria on the basis of which the Committee on World Heritage decides whether a site is of "exceptional universal value", a sine qua non condition for its inclusion in the World Heritage List.

B. GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA

6. The importance of geography

Their configuration should benefit the island nations which, like Malta and Cyprus, are totally encompassed within the Mediterranean World. However, it is evident that the same countries are in a disadvantageous position because of their small territorial area, regardless of the advantages due both to their exceptional geographical position and the important historical role they have played.

On the other hand, countries like Italy and Greece are favoured by the combination of their peninsular or insular profile and their total area; this is of course independent of the fact that historical circumstances have made them par excellence the cradle of civilisations, empires and peoples that for centuries occupied, dominated and shaped the Mediterranean area.

In order to reduce the impact of these discrepancies, exclusion is made from the first list of the Italian and Greek sites belonging to the Alpine and Balkan regions, even if historically they are associated with the Mediterranean culture.

Similar restrictions must be adopted for those continental European, Asian or African states which may even have an extensive coastal front and even more so for those with a short Mediterranean coast.

To sum up, it is well understood that the island and coastal states will be favoured in the selection process and that no proposal can be made for an equal number of sites from each Contracting Party. The operation decided upon by MAP postulates choices which transcend the national cultural strategies and the crucial political balances.

7. The coastal and island sites of the Mediterranean will be favoured

The rationale of the programme would lead us to include first and foremost those coastal sites which cannot be dissociated from the history of the great Mediterranean cultures: Phoenician trade-stations, Greek colonies, Roman emporion, merchant cities of the Middle Ages etc. But we risk making a mistake if we interpret this geographical criterion in too restrictive a way: the Mediterranean list cannot give the full economic history of either Rome, Athens, Istanbul or even Seville, Cordova, Granada on the pretext that these very historical cities are located on the Tiber, the Ilissos, the Marmara Sea, the Guadalquivir or the Genil.

On the contrary, the insular character will make the case of belonging to the Mediterranean even stronger; thus the important sites of the Balearic Islands of Sardinia, Sicily, Malta, Crete, Cyprus, of the Greek Archipelago and of the Dalmatian Archipelago will naturally be favoured because of the role that the islands have continuously played in the political, trade and cultural relations among the various areas of the Mediterranean basin. On the other hand, the very strong rooting of certain Mediterranean cultures in the islands - especially from the Neolithic period to the Early Historic period - will lead to the selection of those island sites that are representative of these cultures, without special concern about whether they are located on the coast or at some distance from it.

8. The cultures common to the whole Mediterranean area will be preferred over the autochthonous cultures

The Mediterranean, in the course of its multi-millennial history, has been at the same time the common horizon of innumerable indigenous cultures, the meeting place for the civilizations of East and West, of Europe and Africa, the internal sea of great empires, the battling ground for the confrontation of political ambitions and religious beliefs, the inaccessible goal of continental expansionisms.

The list of 100 Mediterranean sites to be protected as a priority cannot but favour the cultures that have contributed to the unity of the Mediterranean world (Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Byzantine etc.).

If however, a certain number of sites, which illustrate a precisely localized civilization (Phrygian, Etruscan) can be chosen, it is because of the role that these civilizations have played in the development of the Mediterranean world. This criterion illustrates clearly which part of the national heritage of the coastal sites can be included in the list which obviously cannot include Tassili n'Ajjer, the Tadrart Acacus, Abu Simbel, Bogazkale (Hattusa), Masadah, Marrakesh, Florence or Lyon.

9. Themes common to the whole Mediterranean area must be defined

The Mediterranean, an internal space common to three continents which, until the 16th century were considered the three parts of the world, never ceased to unite or bring closer together the most distant coastal civilizations.

Listed here as examples are some themes illustrating this point:

-The great voyagers. Like the mythical heroes of the Odyssey and the Aeneid, Herodotus of Halicarnassus, Ibn Khaldun, Benjamin of Tudela, Cyriacus of Ancona and many others explored the Mediterranean world and its common boundaries and restored, on the basis of the diverse ethnic and cultural entities they observed, a global image of humanity which transcends the particular characteristics and attains universal value.

-The great Mediterranean products. They are omnipresent and create the conditions for a common material culture: Greek pottery was exported both to Gaul and to Asia, to Illyricum and to Africa; the cedar of Lebanon which was brought already by the Pharaohs of the Ancient Empire, furnished in the 12th century the material from which the door panels of the churches in the Puy region were made; the marbles of Paros and Proconnesus were exported through the Mediterranean basin during the Greco-roman and Byzantine periods; the Carrara marble is present everywhere between the 12th and 20th centuries; the Syrian textiles, the arms from Damascus (which in several languages lend their name to a particular type of technique or style of decoration) were known and appreciated from Ifriqiya to Anatolia, from Egypt to France. One could mention other examples such as the Hispano-Mauritanian pottery of Valencia, the leather-working of Cordova etc).

-The great sea routes. They made essential exchanges possible. The wine roads of Antiquity, revealed by the excavation of the shipwreck loaded with amphoras, illustrate not only the geography of consumption, but the great axes of currency circulation as well. Similarly, the shipwrecks loaded with marble (Marzamini) or bronze works of art

(Histiaea, Jerba, Riace) give us information on the course of artistic influences in the Mediterranean areas. Obviously, the trade and cultural networks can be revealed in other ways more traditional than underwater archeology: thus, the architecture, sculpture and manuscript illumination of the Latin kingdoms of the East in the era of the Crusades have been the object of numerous studies, whereas the movement of icons in the Venitian sphere of influence between the end of the Middle Ages and the 17th century has drawn recently the attention of specialists. A series of themes which takes into consideration the great unifying networks of culture (the Panhellenic sanctuaries, the Jewish Christian and Moslem roads of pilgrimage) but also of trade from antiquity until today would allow one to write a history of Mediterranean art which would be free of the rather limiting national frameworks.

C - SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

For inclusion in the "Mediterranean list" of MAP, the authenticity criterion will be required in accordance with the principles of the International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites and of those of the International Charter for the Safeguarding of Historic Cities. If the materials, the decoration of a monument, of a group of monuments or of a site, just like the urban configuration, the relationships of the various spaces in a city, the latter's relationship with the physical environment and its vocation acquired in the course of history have suffered serious and irreversible changes, the particular good, no matter what historical value and its cultural dimension, cannot be proposed for inclusion in the list.

Five essential selection criteria were used:

The particular cultural good must:

1. either illustrate one of the great civilizations (Phoenician, Greek, Roman etc.)
2. or it must have had, during a determined period, a considerable influence on the development of architecture or the arts in a specific region of the Mediterranean world;
3. or it must have played a major role in the history of trans-Mediterranean relations (between East and West, between Europe and Africa etc.)
4. or illustrate an autochthonous culture which however is specific to the Mediterranean area (Phrygian civilization, Etruscan civilization etc.)
5. or be directly and materially associated with a major event of Mediterranean history (this criterion is used only in conjunction with at least one of the other 4 criteria).

D - LIST OF THE 100 SELECTED SITES

COUNTRY	<u>CRITERIA</u>
Albania (1)	
- (Apollonia)	1
- (Dyrrachion)	1
Algeria	
- Algiers	1,2,3,4
- Cherchell	1,4
- Hippone	1,2,5
- Tipasa*	1,2
Cyprus	
- Famagusta	2,3,5
- Khiriotikia	4
- Kourion	1,2,3
- Limassol	2,3,5
- Paphos *	1,5
- Salamis	1,2
Egypt	
- Abou Mina *	3,5
- Cairo, Giza, Memphis, Saqqara	1,3,5
- Necropolis of Alexandria	2
France	
- Aigues Mortes	3,5
- Arles *	1,2,3,5
- Cucuruzzu and Filitosa (Corsica)	4
- Marseille : Old Port	1,3
Greece	
- Athens	1,2,3,4,5
- Cnossos	1,2,4
- Corfu	1,3,4
- Delos	1,2,3
- Delphi	1,2,3
- Epidaurus and Nauplion	1,2,3
- Meteora (natural/cultural site)	
- Mount Athos (natural/cultural site)	1,2
- Mycenae	1,2

* Sites on the World Heritage List

- Olympia	1,2,3
- Paros and its quarries	3
- Phaestos	1,2,4
- Rhodes	2,3,5
- Thera (natural/cultural site)	1,4
- Thassos and its quarries	3
- Tiryns	1,2

Israel

- Acre	3,5
- Caesarea on the Sea	1

Italy

- Agrigente	1,3
- Amalfi	1,2,3,5
- Aquilea	2,3
- Bari	2,3,5
- Quarries of Carrara	3
- Nuraghic complex of Su Nuraxi, Barumini (Sardinia)	4
- Genoa	2,3,5
- Lecce	2,3,5
- Naples, Pompei, Herculaneum and the Phlegrean fields	1,2,3,4,5
- Paestum/Poseidonia	1
- Palermo and Monreale	1,2,3
- Pisa	2,3,5
- Ravenna	1,2,3,5
- Rome and Ostia *	1,2,3,4,5
- Segesta	1,3
- Selinus	1,3
- Syracuse	1,2,3,5
- Tarquinia and the main Etruscan necropolises	4
- Trieste	2,3
- Venice and its lagoon	1,2,3,5

Lebanon

- Byblos*	1,2,3,5
- Sidon	1,2,3,5
- Tyre *	1,2,3,5

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- Cyrene *	1,2,3,5
- Leptis Magna *	1,2,3,5
- Sabratak *	1,2,3

* Sites on the World Heritage List

Malta

- Ggantija * 4
- Hal Saflieni * 4
- Valletta * 2,3

Morocco

- Tetuan 1

Monaco

- Museum of Oceanography :cultural and natural

Spain

- Ampurias 1
- Barcelona 1,2,3,4
- Cordova * 1,2,3,5
- Granada * 1,2,3,5
- Ibiza : fortifications of Alt Vila 2,4
- Mallorca : Cathedral and Palacio de Palma 4
- Malaga 1,2
- Minorca : Toulas, talayots and navetas 4
- Murcia 1,2,3
- Seville 1,2,3
- Tarragona 1,2
- Valencia and Albufera 1,3

Syrian Arab Republic

- Ugarit /Ras Shamra 1,2,3

Tunisia

- Carthage and Sidi Bou Said * 1,2,3,4,5
- Jerba (cultural /natural site) 1
- El Jem * 1,2
- Kerkouan * 1,4
- Susa 1
- Tunis * 1,2,3,4,5

Turkey

- Antalya 1,4
- Aspendus 1
- Bursa 1,4
- Didyma 1,4

* Sites on the World Heritage List

- Ephesus 1,2
- Halicarnassus 1
- Istanbul * 1,2, 3,5
- Pergamum 1,2
- Priene 1,4
- Troy 1,4
- Xanthus 1,4

Yougoslavia

- Dubrovnik * 1,2,3,5
- Split * 1,2,5
- Trogir (natural/cultural site) 1,2
- Zadar (natural/cultural site) 2
- Kotor 1,2,3,5

NOTE : (1) Albania has not ratified the MAP agreements

* Sites on the World Heritage List

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director invites the meeting to endorse the criteria for selection and adopt the proposed list on the understanding that the list remains open and additional sites may be added later.

As a follow-up it is proposed that

- The Contracting Parties designate a Focal Point for this subject;
- The Focal Points inform the secretariat annually on programmes and other developments concerning these sites;
- UNESCO be invited to advise interested countries on the development suitable protection plans;
- The secretariat be requested to prepare, with assistance from ICOMOS, a brief description on the significance of each site with a view to a possible publication.