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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

First Meeting of the National Focal Points
for Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean

Athens, 1-4 June 1987

Report of the Regional Activity Centre for
Specially Protected Areas, Programme Development 1985-1986

INTRODUCTION

1. In the 4th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Genoa, 9-13 September 1985), the following recommendations were made:

The Contracting Parties

2. - recommend that all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention ratify the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas before the end of 1987;
3. - recommend that all Contracting Parties appoint a National Focal Point responsible for Specially Protected Areas;
4. - recommend that national reports on existing and potential Specially Protected Areas and on applicable legislation be drafted and transmitted to the Secretariat by June 30, 1987 in order to facilitate the rapid establishment of a regional network and to ensure coordination with the other components of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
5. - invite the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas to formulate, in cooperation with the Secretariat and the other international organizations common guidelines on the selection, creation and management of Specially Protected Areas.

I. RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

6. The ratification of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas was adopted on 3 April 1986 and entered into force on 23 March 1986. As of 28 February 1987, the following countries had ratified it: Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia and the EEC (Annex I).

II. APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

7. Focal Points for Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas have been appointed by 13 countries: Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia.

III. PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS ON SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

8. In order to standardize the information contained in the national reports on existing and potential Specially Protected Areas, the Centre at Tunis prepared a questionnaire on the country and another on Specially Protected Areas which were transmitted to the countries by the Co-ordinating Unit at Athens on 9 December 1985. As of 1 February 1987, the following countries had sent replies to Athens (Algeria, EEC, Spain, France, Israel, Italy, Morocco) (cf. document UNEP/WG.163/4). Tunisia had submitted its reply directly to the Regional Activity Centre/Specially Protected Areas in Tunis.

IV. PREPARATION BY THE RAC/SPA OF GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION,
ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

9. The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas has undertaken, in the framework of its programme for 1985-1986, to carry out preliminary work for the formulation of guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of Specially Protected Areas (cf. Document UNEP/WG.163/6). This work included the formulation of methods for the inventorying and selection of protected areas, the collection of existing literature on the subject and field case studies.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STRUCTURE OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE
FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

10. Personnel working for the Centre (date of commencement of appointment)

- Alain Jeudy de Grissac, French, expert (1 September 1985)
- Francesca Nazzaro, Italian, documentalist (in office between 10 October 1985 and 28 February 1987).
This post is actually filled with replacement personnel from IUCN and CMC Cambridge for the period required to find a new documentalist.
- Raoudha Salhi, Tunisian, secretary (1 December 1985).

11. Contribution by the supporting organization (Tunisian Government)

- a) Premises: The premises placed at the disposal of the Regional Activity Centre/Specially Protected Areas are an integral part of the Institut National Scientifique et Technique d'Océanographie et de Pêche (INSTOP), which is under the administrative aegis of the Ministère de la Production Agricole et de l'Agroalimentaire. The premises consist of 3 offices and a garage, for which all utilities are provided (electricity, water, heating, cleaning, maintenance, painting).
- b) Scientific facilities: The Centre has access to all INSTOP facilities, namely the library, the museum, the reference collections etc.
- c) Personnel: At the present time, INSTOP provides the Centre with the services of the Director and of the following personnel:
 - Karim Ben Mustapha, Tunisian, scientist, on the staff of INSTOP at the disposal of the Centre since 7 March 1986.
 - Moncef Bessi, Tunisian, driver and technical assistant on the INSTOP staff, temporarily on loan to the Centre since 1 August 1986.

Financial management

The financial management of RAC/SPA is carried out in close collaboration with the services of the Tunis bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Before the end of 1987, the Centre will become administratively and financially autonomous; the management will be taken over by the Tunisian administration and carried out in accordance with the regulations in force.

THE LONG TERM OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTRE

12. The permanent, long-term objectives of the Centre must be in conformity with the initial decisions contained in the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and with the guidelines that may have been adopted during the September 1987 Meeting of the Contracting Parties, after discussion and proposal by the Focal Points in June 1987.
13. For the long term, it can be proposed that the permanent activities of the Centre be based on the following 4 broad objectives:
 - Objective A: Creation, extension and constant improvement of the data bank and especially of the Inventory of the Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (existing, proposed, potential).
 - Objective B: Inventory and selection of sites for the establishment of a network of the Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas.
 - Objective C: Research, classification, monitoring.
 - Objective D: Knowledge, information, education, training.
14. To these long-term objectives, one could add other objectives, covering special activities (limited in time) aimed at safeguarding species of regional importance, mainly:
 - Objective E: Safeguarding of the Mediterranean monk seal Monachus Monachus.
 - Objective F: Safeguarding of the Mediterranean sea turtles.
15. Objective A: Creation and constant improvement of the inventory of the Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (existing, proposed and potential). The improvement of the data bank should be a continuous process, follow strictly defined standards and cover areas proposed and potential. All information gathered will be placed at the disposal of countries and interested bodies.
16. Objective B: Inventory and selection of sites for the establishment of a network of Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas. The methodology for making the inventory and for selecting the Mediterranean Protected Areas is being developed (cf. UNEP/WG. 163/Inf. 3) and it needs the support of a group of experts from the Mediterranean countries. This group has begun its work by holding a meeting on selection criteria (Arles, February 1987).
17. Objective C: Research, Classification and Monitoring. The standardization of methods of classification and monitoring and the implementation of common research programmes to meet the objectives stated in the protocol will be based on several working groups, each covering a particular area, and also on the previously described Mediterranean group of experts; the latter will act as the Board of the Centre for all its activities.
18. Objective D: Knowledge, information, education, training. One aspect of the activities of the Centre will concern the following: to store and make available relevant information on existing documents

(bibliography) , to put together synthesis reports on special topics, to draw up lists of experts and centres that concern themselves with specially protected areas, also lists of educational material and inventories of possible sites for training courses.

19. Objective E: Safeguarding of the Mediterranean Monk Seal. Work has already begun in this area, due to the urgency of the matter. It will be fully developed in the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal which will be the object of a meeting of experts (28 and 29 May 1987) immediately preceding the meeting of Focal Points (cf. IUCN/UNEP/MM-IC and UNEP/WG. 163/7).

PROGRESS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 1985-1986 PROGRAMME
ACTIVITIES EXTENDED IN 1987

20. The RAC/SPA was installed in the premises of the INSTOP at Salamambo on 1 October, 1985. As concerns the first part of its programme (October 1985 - December 1986) several projects were completed within the framework of the objectives previously described. The 1985-1986 programme included 4 main activities. Certain projects could not be completed by the end of 1986 and will be completed in 1987.
21. Within the framework of Objective A: Establishment of a data bank on the Specially Protected Areas, both existing and potential in the Mediterranean Area and preparation of an inventory of the Mediterranean Specially protected Areas.

a/ PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 1986

- Elaboration of the programme Data Base III.
- Establishment of a computer file on the protected areas, experts, bibliographical references and activities in each country.
- Drafting of the first version of the inventory of existing areas on the basis of the bibliography and the answers to the questionnaire returned by the countries.
- Putting together the first version of the map of existing specially protected areas and preparation of the map of potential areas.
- Collection of data and documents for the creation of the file, the document library and the map library.

b/PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED IN 1987

- Updating the inventory and the map, translation, publishing and dissemination.
- Updating the files on protected areas, experts and bibliography.
- Consolidation of the document and map libraries.

The activities of this programme are the object of publications (Annex II).

22. Within the framework of objectives B and C: Elaboration of criteria, methods and guidelines needed for the selection, creation and management of the marine and coastal Specially Protected Areas of the Mediterranean region.

a) PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 1986

- Preliminary version of documents.
- Carrying out case studies and preparation of reports: inventory of the national resources of Zembra and study of the distribution of the Monk Seal Monachus Monachus in Galite (Tunisia), analysis of the management system of the national park of Port-Cros (France) and the biogenic constructions of the Mediterranean (cf. List in Annex III) and documents UNEP/WG.163/Inf.4,5,6,7 and 8).

b) PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED IN 1987

- Publishing of guidelines and information documents (inventory and selection, case studies).

The provisional document on the guidelines is one of the working documents for the meeting of Focal Points (UNEP/WG.163/6).

23. The two activities (21 and 22) have led to the organization of the meeting of Focal Points for the Specially Protected Areas. This workshop will be the joint work of UNEP, IUCN and the Regional Activity Centre/Specially Protected Areas.

a) PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 1986

- Preparation of the first draft of documents, inventory, map of protected areas, guide, case studies.
- Establishment of the network of Focal Points: as of 15 December 1986, 13 Focal Points had been appointed.

b) PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED in 1987

4-1 Assistance in the administrative preparation and the organization of the meeting of the Focal Points.

4-2 Preparation of the report of the meeting of Focal Points.

4-3 Publication, translation and dissemination.

24. Within the framework of objective D: Preparation of an information document for the general public on the Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas.

a) PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 1986

- Preparation of a brochure on the structure and activities of the Centre.
- Preparation and presentation of articles describing the activities and the structure of the Centre, the data bank and the Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas.

b) PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED in 1987

- On the basis of available printed and photographic material, preparation of an information brochure for the general public on the Centre and the Specially Protected Areas.

25. Within the framework of Objective D, the Centre has carried out a number of missions and participated in meetings and seminars whose object it was to make the Centre and its activities known and to collect and exchange information (Annex III).

ANNEX I

STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION AND ITS RELATED PROTOCOLS
Status as at 28 February 1987

	<u>Convention (1)</u>			<u>Dumping (2)</u>			<u>Emergency (3)</u>			<u>Land-Based Sources (4)</u>			<u>Specially Protected Areas (5)</u>		
	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	
Albania	--	16 Feb 81/AC	--	16 Mar 81/AC	--	16 Mar 81/AC	--	16 Mar 81/AC	--	16 Mar 81/AC	--	2 May 83/AC	--	16 May 85/AC	
Algeria	--	19 Nov 79	--	19 Nov 79	--	19 Nov 79	--	19 Nov 79	--	19 Nov 79	--	17 May 80	--	--	
Cyprus	16 Feb 76	24 Aug 78/AP	16 Feb 76	24 Aug 78/AP	16 Feb 76	24 Aug 78/AP	16 Feb 76	24 Aug 78/AP	16 Feb 76	24 Aug 78/AP	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	16 Feb 83	8 Jul 83	
Egypt	16 Feb 76	11 Mar 78/AP-R	16 Feb 76	11 Mar 78/AP-R	16 Feb 76	11 Mar 78/AP-R	16 Feb 76	11 Mar 78/AP-R	16 Feb 76	11 Mar 78/AP-R	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	13 Jul 82/AP-R	2 Sep 86/AP-R	
France	16 Feb 76	3 Jan 79	11 Feb 77	3 Jan 79	16 Feb 76	3 Jan 79	16 Feb 76	3 Jan 79	16 Feb 76	3 Jan 79	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	26 Jan 87	
Greece	16 Feb 76	3 Jan 79	16 Feb 76	1 Mar 84	16 Feb 76	3 Mar 78	16 Feb 76	3 Mar 78	16 Feb 76	3 Mar 78	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	--	
Israel	16 Feb 76	3 Feb 79	16 Feb 76	3 Feb 79	16 Feb 76	3 Feb 79	16 Feb 76	3 Feb 79	16 Feb 76	3 Feb 79	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	4 Jul 85	
Italy	16 Feb 76	8 Nov 77/AC	16 Feb 76	8 Nov 77/AC	16 Feb 76	8 Nov 77/AC	16 Feb 76	8 Nov 77/AC	16 Feb 76	8 Nov 77/AC	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	--	
Lebanon	16 Feb 76	31 Jan 79	31 Jan 77	31 Jan 79	31 Jan 77	31 Jan 79	31 Jan 77	31 Jan 79	31 Jan 77	31 Jan 79	31 Jan 77	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	--	
Libya	16 Feb 76	30 Dec 77	16 Feb 76	30 Dec 77	16 Feb 76	30 Dec 77	16 Feb 76	30 Dec 77	16 Feb 76	30 Dec 77	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	--	
Malta	16 Feb 76	20 Sep 77	16 Feb 76	20 Sep 77	16 Feb 76	20 Sep 77	16 Feb 76	20 Sep 77	16 Feb 76	20 Sep 77	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	--	
Monaco	16 Feb 76	15 Jan 80	16 Feb 76	15 Jan 80	16 Feb 76	15 Jan 80	16 Feb 76	15 Jan 80	16 Feb 76	15 Jan 80	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	2 Apr 83	--	
Morocco	16 Feb 76	17 Dec 76	16 Feb 76	17 Dec 76	16 Feb 76	17 Dec 76	16 Feb 76	17 Dec 76	16 Feb 76	17 Dec 76	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	--	
Spain	16 Feb 76	26 Dec 78/AC-R	16 Feb 76	26 Dec 78/AC	16 Feb 76	26 Dec 78/AC	16 Feb 76	26 Dec 78/AC	16 Feb 76	26 Dec 78/AC	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	--	
Syria	--	30 Jul 77	25 May 76	30 Jul 77	25 May 76	30 Jul 77	25 May 76	30 Jul 77	25 May 76	30 Jul 77	25 May 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	26 May 83/R	
Tunisia	25 May 76	6 Apr 81	16 Feb 76	6 Apr 81	16 Feb 76	6 Apr 81	16 Feb 76	6 Apr 81	16 Feb 76	6 Apr 81	16 Feb 76	17 May 80	3 Apr 82	6 Nov 86/AC-R	
Turkey	16 Feb 76	13 Jan 78	15 Sep 76	13 Jan 78	15 Sep 76	13 Jan 78	15 Sep 76	13 Jan 78	15 Sep 76	13 Jan 78	15 Sep 76	17 May 80	30 Mar 83	21 Feb 86	
Yugoslavia	15 Sep 76	16 Mar 78/AP	13 Sep 76	16 Mar 78/AP	13 Sep 76	16 Mar 78/AP	13 Sep 76	16 Mar 78/AP	13 Sep 76	16 Mar 78/AP	13 Sep 76	17 May 80	30 Mar 83	30 Jun 84/AP	
EEC	13 Sep 76														
1- Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution															
Adopted (Barcelona):			16 February 1976												
Entry into force:			12 February 1978												
2- The Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft															
Adopted (Barcelona):			16 February 1976												
Entry into force:			12 February 1978												
3- The Protocol concerning co-operation in combating pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency															
Adopted (Barcelona):			16 February 1976												
Entry into force:			12 February 1978												
4- The Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources															
Adopted (Athens):			17 May 1980												
Entry into force:			17 June 1983												
5- The Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas															
Adopted (Geneva):			3 April 1982												
Entry into force:			23 March 1986												
Accession - AC															
Approval - AP															
Reservation - R															

ANNEX II:

DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

A number of reports and documents on the RAC/SPA and its activities has been published. The list of publications is given here, along with certain indications on their content and the forum where each item was presented.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

Directory of Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas. In English.
Presented at the meeting of Focal Points.

Map of Specially Protected Areas existing around the Mediterranean Sea.
Map and explanatory note. In English.

The Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas.

The Regional Activity Centre for the Specially Protected Areas
Joint publication of RAC/SPA-UNEP-IUCN describing the activities of the Centre and the correlations between the MAP programme and the RAC/SPA programmes concerning the marine and coastal environment. In French.
Presented at the UNESCO-MAP meeting on the reserves of the Biosphere in the Mediterranean held at Florac, France in September 1986.

The Mediterranean marine and coastal protected area database: structure and functions.

Publication concerning the computerized file created by the Centre on the Mediterranean marine and coastal protected Areas. In English.
Presented at the UNESCO-MAB meeting on the reserves of the Biosphere in the Mediterranean, held at Florac, (France) between 9 and 12 September 1986; also at the 3rd Colloquium on Computer Applications for the Conservation of Nature, Council of Europe, November 1986, Strasbourg, and at the Workshop on Marine Science Database Development, UNESCO, Indonesia, November 1986.

Development of Marine Conservation in the Mediterranean

Publication on the activities of the Centre and the first results of the inventorying of the Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas. In English.

Presented at the International Marine Protected Areas Management Seminar, June 1986 organized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA and at the UNESCO-MAB meeting on the reserves of the Biosphere in the Mediterranean held at Florac (France), 9-12 September 1986.

Guide: Criteria and Guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of the Mediterranean marine and coastal Protected Areas.

A guide that gives the necessary elements for the selection, establishment and management of the Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas and which proposes methods for a general inventory of the coast, also management approaches and elements on which decisions can be based. In French.

CASE STUDIES

1. General characteristics of the marine benthos of the island of Zembra (Tunisia).

Report of a field study of the insular environment; an example of the standard study applicable to the Mediterranean marine environment. In French.

2. Synthesis of land studies on the island of Zembra.

This document comprises the main data gathered by successive groups of scientists who for many years have worked on the Zembra site. The main components deal with land flora and fauna, avifauna and the geology and hydrogeology of the site. In French.

3. The Monk Seal in Tunisia (Actual status).

Report of the mission to spot the seal in the Archipelago of La Galite and the Galiton (Tunisia).

Biology, disappearance problems, protection measures, annotated bibliography. In French.

4. Management and administration of the National Park of Port-Cros.

Administrative aspects, management, scientific activities, scientific and educational documents published. Developments in the last 20 years that the National Parc of Port-Cros has been in existence. The model is dealt with in extreme detail shedding light on its limitations due to inadequate or incomplete legislation. In French.

5. Biogenic Constructions around the Mediterranean sea.

This document inventories the type and main sites where biogenic constructions (reef formations) are found. In English.

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Publication of an information brochure on the Centre, its means and activities with 5 colour photographs.

ANNEX III;

MEETINGS, MISSIONS AND SEMINARS

Representatives of the RAC/SPA participated in the following meetings, missions and seminars:

- 7-11 October 1985: Participation in the Second International Workshop on Posidonia Oceanica Beds at Ischia (Naples, Italy).
- 6-27 December 1985: Mission in Greece and Italy to make contact with officials responsible for the environment and the protected areas, as well as with Focal Points of these two countries.
- 16 December 1985 to 8 January 1986: Mission in France to make contact with officials responsible for the protected areas of the Mediterranean French coast and with scientists for possible collaboration on case studies.
- 17-21 March 1986: Mission to Paris, France to participate in information meeting at the French Ministry of the Environment (appointment of Focal Point and progress report on the inventory of protected areas). Trip to Marseille, France, for a meeting on the preparation of a COST 647 programme of the EEC member countries with Mediterranean coastline.
- 26-30 March 1986: Participation in the 1st Symposium on Mediterranean Birds, Alghero, Sardinia.
- 3-10 April 1986: Trip to France (UNESCO, Paris) for collection of data on the reserves of the Biosphere and the Mediterranean sites of Man's Heritage; trip to Italy (Ministry of Ecology, Rome and University of Rome) for the collection of data on the marine protected areas.
- 1-12 June 1986: USA (NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) to participate in the First International Marine Protected Areas Management Seminar.
- 9-12 September 1986. Florac, France to participate in the International meeting on the Action Plan concerning the biosphere reserve in the Mediterranean region.
- 15-16 October 1986: mission to France, working meeting at Sophia Antipolis, Blue Plan for exchange of information on the respective programmes.
- 26-28 November 1986: Participation in the International Seminar on Marine Cooperation in the Mediterranean, organized by the Association of International Studies at Tunis. During the workshop presentation of the RAC/SPA and its current programmes.