

REPORT OF THE
FORTH BLUE PLAN FOCAL POINTS MEETING

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Introduction

1. In conformity with paragraph 30 of the report on the third Meeting of the National Blue Plan Focal Points (Sophia Antipolis, April 3 and 4, 1981), the Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, after consultation with the Group of Coordination and Synthesis (G.C.S.) convened the National Blue Plan Focal Points to Sophia Antipolis on January 31 to February 2, 1983 to attend the Review Meeting for the end of Phase I of the Blue Plan and for launching Phase II.

Participants

2. The delegations of twelve Mediterranean Coastal States, as well as that of the European Economic Community, participated at the Meeting.
3. UNEP, the Medeas Administration and the G.C.S. also took part in the Meeting.
4. A representative of the European Economic Commission of the United Nations attended the Meeting as observer.
5. A complete list of the participants is attached as Annex II to the present report.

Item 1 of provisional agenda : opening of the Meeting

6. M. Aldo MANOS, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan opened the fourth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Blue Plan.

M. MANOS said that the dates for this meeting were dictated by the organization of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the M.A.P. in Dubrovnik in February and the need for national delegations to be presented with precise recommendations.

7. He reminded the tasks of this meeting which as stated in the letter of invitation are : to take note of the first phase of the Blue Plan; to establish the guidelines of an intermediate phase of reflexion, seen as a completion of the first phase and as a transition to the second phase; and finally to make precise recommendations for the second phase of the Blue Plan.

Item 2 of provisional agenda : organization of work and election of officers

8. M. MANOS suggested that the Bureau of the Meeting be constituted in conformity with the rules of procedure for the Meetings of Contracting Parties to the Mediterranean Action Plan which applies mutatis mutandis to the present Meeting.

9. The meeting unanimously elected the following officers :

Chairman : M. Franco CIARNELLI
 Consultant Environnement
 Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
 Point Focal Plan Bleu pour l'Italie
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 ROME - ITALIE

Vice-Chairman : M. Adel HAMWI
 Président du Conseil d'Administration
 Président de la Commission Nationale d'Océanographie
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 DAMAS - SYRIE

Rapporteur : M. Yannis PIRGIOTIS
 Scientific Adviser
 Ministry of National Economy
 1, Zalakosta Street
 ATHENES - GRECE

The Meeting decided to continue the work in plenary session.

Item 3 of provisional agenda : adoption of the agenda

10. The agenda proposed is amended and adopted by the Meeting (Annex III of the present report).

Item 4 of the agenda : review of the First Phase of the Blue Plan

11. The Coordinator of the Blue Plan was invited by the Chairman to introduce the discussion on the first phase of the Blue Plan.
- M. Sabri ABDALLA first said that the timetable planned at the last Meeting of the Focal Points had to be revised due to financial difficulties. He mentioned UNEP'S Executive Director's interest and assistance in overcoming those difficulties. M. ABDALLA thanked, for their contribution to the work of the first phase, the G.C.S., and especially M. Michel GRENON, Executive Secretary of the Blue Plan, Mlle. Anne-Françoise MATHIEU, programme officer, the Medeas organization and team for providing facilities, the work environment and organization of work.
12. He then introduced the documents :
- Document BP / 4 / 3 "Progress report" which is a factual report on the proceedings of the first phase.
- Document BP/ 4 / 5 "Statistical Information" which is the result of the efforts so far to construct a Mediterranean System of Information, and
- Document BP / 4 / 4 "Draft Synthesis Report of the First Phase" which is a preliminary report of phase I.

This last report was drafted by the G.C.S. and was based on the twelve sectorial studies, the confrontation seminars and other information available to the authors. It is not in a depth exhaustive study of the issues dealt with by the expert studies. It is rather a cross-sectional view of the Mediterranean stage attempting to give a tentative picture of environment in relation to development. The main features of the report are the attempts to identify the points of conflict, the extrapolation from existing trends and the identification of those trends that can lead to increasing problems, and the description of emerging social practices which can lead to alternative development strategies and styles of life. Such seeds of social change are particularly useful for the second phase of the Blue Plan which will analyze alternative scenarios for the future and their impact on the Mediterranean environment. Finally, the study identifies a certain number of urgent actions as recommendations to the Contracting Parties, to initiate an exchange of views with the concerned countries.

13. In the discussion that preceded, various points were raised and views were expressed as to the conclusion of the first phase, the launching of the second phase and the meaning of an intermediate phase. This discussion remained open until the final session of the meeting in which an agreement was reached.
14. It was however understood that the conclusion of the work of the first phase will include the finalization of the synthesis report, based on the comments offered by the Focal Points. The Focal Points reserve the right to circulate the draft document to the appropriate agencies in each country in order to submit it to fuller and more constructive criticism. The first revised draft of the report will be available in the Dubrovnik Meeting. Later on the twelve expert studies will be edited so that they can become public documents. The complete set of documents of the first phase is expected to be available by September 1983.

A. Review of activities of the first phase

15. Document BP / 4/ 3 "Progress Report", as amended in the discussion, is accepted by the Meeting as a factual description of the proceedings and activities of the first phase of the Blue Plan.

During the discussion of this item several comments were offered as to the proceedings and the products of the first phase and ways to improve effectiveness of communication in the future, especially by providing effective Focal Point structures in all countries concerned.

16. The representative of Israel reiterated that the scientific soundness of projects and the opportunity for all countries to participate should be preserved by all means.
17. On criticism of the binary principle (two experts, one from the North and one from the South) on grounds of ineffectiveness, the Coordinator of the Blue Plan answered that this principle is not a dogma but was a way of insuring for the first phase of the Blue Plan that both North and South countries should be given an opportunity to express their views on the relationship between environment and development.
18. On criticism that too much money was spent for travelling, the Coordinator answered that it would have been more expensive to have people working at Medeas on full time basis, and that travel was necessitated anyway since Phase I was a fact and idea gathering exercise involving many experts.
19. The unevenness of the contributions of the expert studies, in style, depth of approach, data collection and, often, quality, was also noted. Some delegates expressed the view that certain expert studies might not be of any use in the continuation of work. On the other hand it was pointed out by various participants that the time period of two months that was given to the experts was too short to achieve better results, that most studies were of high quality anyway and that this part of the Blue Plan was not perhaps highly cost effective but it was an important accomplishment to coordinate and express North and South ideas on the same issues.
20. The G.C.S. was commended for carrying out the work of this phase under often difficult financial conditions and problems of communication.

B. Review of the Synthesis Draft Report for the First Phase

21. M. GRENON of the G.C.S. was asked by the Chairman to present the report. M. GRENON went on to describe the intent and contents of the report stressing that it was not and was not meant to be only an integration or a summary of the twelve sectoral studies.
22. It was pointed out by most participants that the report was forwarded to them too late for serious reading and criticism. It was therefore decided that certain comments and reactions would be given during the Meeting, but the discussion could not be concluded at this stage. The Focal Points would be presented with a revised version of the report for which they will offer their formal critical comments after soliciting the opinions of appropriate agencies and organizations in the respective countries. It was accepted that this revised version of the draft report will also be made available in time for the Contracting Parties Meeting in Dubrovnik.
23. In the discussion on the content of the report several comments were offered which were answered and taken note of by the G.C.S. with the understanding that they would be incorporated in the revised draft of the report.
24. M. GRENON submitted a report which deals with methodological questions, (G.C.S. report "Note sur la méthodologie pour le Plan Bleu").

C. Statistical Information

25. The Focal Points were asked to comment on the statistical information contained in the "Blue Plan data base" in terms of gaps and validity of data and to specify sources of data in each country.
26. The delegate of Spain expressed his reservations for constructing a Blue Plan data bank.

Item 5 of the agenda : proposals for the contribution of the Blue Plan

27. The Coordinator of the Blue Plan was invited by the Chairman to introduce the discussion.

M. Sabri ABDALLA presented the objectives and the necessary organizational form contained in G.C.S. proposals for the second phase of the Blue Plan (document BP / 4 / 7).

28. M. GRENON presented the methodological considerations of this proposal.
29. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Blue Plan should continue; and that recommendations seeking budgetary appropriations to that end for years 1983, 1984 and 1985 should be made to the Dubrovnik Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
However, the Meeting refrains from recommending immediate formal launching of the second phase, pending :
 - a) the finalization of the work of the first phase as understood in paragraph 14 above;
 - b) the finalization of the contents and methodology of the second phase.
30. The final reports of the first phase and the contents for the second phase will be examined by the Focal Points who should be specifically authorized by the Contracting Parties to do so in an extraordinary Meeting.
31. This Meeting should take place not later than the end of 1983. In this Meeting the Focal Points will review the documents of the first phase and will examine and finalize the proposal for launching the second phase in light of the conclusions of the first phase, and will discuss derestriction and publication procedures for the documents of the first phase.
32. To facilitate the drafting of the final proposals for the second phase, the Focal Points agreed to send to the secretariat of the Blue Plan, their views and suggestions before the end of June 1983.
33. Among the views expressed during the Meeting on the proposal for the second phase is Yugoslavian suggestion that the scenarios proposed should be limited.

34. In the spirit of the above, and drawing the conclusions of the debate, the recommendation included in Annex IV was approved.
35. The Israeli and Maltese delegations expressed reservations for paragraph 1 of the approved recommendation

Communication by WMO

36. A message was received from the World Meteorological Organization expressing regret for not being able to attend the meeting and drawing the "attention of Focal Points to the need for preparing and making available to WMO emission inventories for heavy metal and organochlorines required for implementation of project on assessment of transport and deposition of air-carried pollutants to mediterranean for which the cooperation of national Focal Points was essential".

Communication by the Yugoslavian delegate

37. A communication was received by the Yugoslavian delegate on the issue of strengthening Mediterranean cooperation on information systems and improved coordination on this field. The text submitted by the Yugoslavian delegate appears as Annex VI.

Item 6 of the agenda : adoption of the report

38. The report was revised and Medeas was assigned the task of presenting it to the Executive Director after making formal modifications which would not change the content. The National Focal Points manifested their desire to receive a copy as soon as possible.

Item 7 of the agenda : closure of the meeting

39. Before the closure of the Meeting, the participants, the G.C.S. Coordinator and the Director of Medeas expressed their mutual thanks for their joint backing in the continuation of the work involved in the Blue Plan.
40. The meeting was closed by the Chairman.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

BP/4/1	Provisional agenda
BP/4/2	Provisional annotated agenda
BP/4/3	Status report of the G.C.S.
BP/4/4	Synthesis draft report for the first phase
BP/4/5	Statistical information
BP/4/5 add.	Statistical information Addendum (January 1983)
BP/4/6	Administrative report of MEDEAS
BP/4/7	Proposals for the second phase
BP/4/8	Provisional list of participants
BP/4/9	Proposal of Lebanon
BP/4/10	Proposal of France
BP/4/11	Proposal of Spain, France, Italy, Lebanon and EEC
BP/4/12	Proposal of Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Lebanon and EEC
BP/4/13	Report of the Meeting
BP/4/Inf.1	Note sur la méthodologie pour le Plan Bleu (French only)

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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A G E N D A

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of work and election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Review of the First Phase of the Blue Plan
5. Proposals for the continuation of the Blue Plan
6. Adoption of the report
7. Closure of the Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

The Meeting

1. Notes the completion by the G.C.S. of the reconnaissance work provided for in the Phase One program and takes note of the presentation of its preliminary report on the results of this work.
2. Considers that Phase One can only be concluded after assessment by the Contracting Parties of the results of this reconnaissance work so that phase Two can be oriented in a satisfactory way, and requests circulation of the synthesis report on Phase One and the conclusions of the expert studies.
3. Considers that it is indispensable to start without interruption the preparation of Phase Two in consultation with the Focal points who will comment on the preliminary synthesis report and the proposal for Phase Two and who will provide guidance for Phase Two.
4. Requests G.C.S. to prepare for the next regular Meeting of Contracting Parties a work program for 1983 which takes account of the above-mentioned points and the points made at the fourth Focal Points Meeting as well as of the funds allocated to it for this current year.
5. Recommends that a Focal Points Meeting with a clear mandate to this end should be held by the end of 1983 :
 - . examine the results of Phase One
 - . examine and adopt the program of Phase Two.
6. Proposes that the Contracting Parties should provide within the 1984-1985 budget an amount to enable activities of Phase Two of the Blue Plan to be carried out in a normal way

WORDING OF THE PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE RECOMMENDATION

SUBMITTED BY ISRAELI DELEGATE

Notes the progress made in the first phase of the Blue Plan and the presentation by the G.C.S. of a preliminary draft of the synthesis report.

COMMUNICATION BY THE YUGOSLAVIAN DELEGATION

The Yugoslavian delegation

1. Requests the Mediterranean Coordinating Unit to improve the cooperation among the Blue Plan, P.A.P. and Med Pol for the benefit of the M.A.P.
2. Requests the Mediterranean Coordinating Unit to set the conception frame for the development of the information system of the M.A.P. in which the information systems of the Blue Plan, P.A.P. and Med Pol should be integral parts.