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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Meeting of MAP/GEF Coordinators to review  
and approve a GEF Project for the implementation  
of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

Athens, Greece, 22-23 January 1998

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MAP/GEF COORDINATORS  
TO REVIEW AND APPROVE A GEF PROJECT FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME (SAP)**

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## **Introduction**

1. The Meeting of the MAP/GEF National Coordinators to review and approve a GEF Project for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) was held in Athens, at the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan from 22 to 23 January 1998.

## **Participants**

2. Coordinators or their representatives from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attended the Meeting: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, European Community, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Monaco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. WHO as well as CP/RAC were also represented.

3. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

## **Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting**

4. Mr Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, welcomed the participants and opened the Meeting of MAP/GEF National Coordinators to review and approve a GEF Project for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

## **Agenda item 2. Election of Officers**

5. The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson	:	Mr Abdulfattah Boargob (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)
Vice Chairperson	:	Mr Philippe Maire (France)
Rapporteur	:	Mr Nenad Mikulic (Croatia)

## **Agenda item 3. Adoption of the Agenda**

6. The Meeting adopted the proposed agenda contained in document (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.138/1), which appears as Annex II to this report.

## **Agenda item 4. Background and Purpose of the Meeting**

7. Mr Civili, First Officer of MAP, briefly recalled the events which had occurred before the Meeting and, in particular, the implementation of the GEF PDF-B Grant's activities carried out in 1997, which had successfully led to the formulation of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address pollution from land-based activities. The SAP had been prepared on the basis of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the major problems affecting the Mediterranean Region, and of a Report on Priority Pollution Hot Spots and sensitive areas.

8. Mr Civili recalled that, after the adoption of the SAP by the Contracting Parties at their 10th Ordinary Meeting held in Tunis in November 1997, the MAP Secretariat had contacted the GEF Secretariat through the GEF/UNEP Coordination Office to prepare a three-year project which would prepare the basis for the implementation of the SAP in the region.

9. As a result, a Brief of a full project as a follow up to the PDF-B activities and the adoption of the SAP was prepared. As the Project Brief had been sent to the 12 GEF-eligible countries

by the UNEP/GEF Coordination Office for formal endorsement, the MAP Secretariat felt it necessary to call the present Meeting to present the content of the Project to the MAP/GEF National Coordinators of all countries in order to receive a mandate to launch the project in the framework of MAP.

#### **Agenda item 5. Presentation of GEF Procedures**

10. Mr J. Pernetta, representative of UNEP's GEF Coordination Office, informed the participants that it is a requirement of the GEF procedures that project briefs are formally endorsed by the Nationally designated GEF Operational Focal Points of the eligible countries, prior to their inclusion in the GEF Work Programme presented to the GEF Council. Accordingly, UNEP had despatched copies of the brief to the GEF Operational Focal Points in the GEF recipient countries, and had received to date seven endorsements from the 12 countries. He noted that for some countries the GEF Operational Focal Points and MAP Focal Points were the same national officials, but that this was not the case in all countries.

11. Mr Pernetta further explained that the project brief had been informally despatched to the GEF Secretariat, and to UNDP and the World Bank for comments and proposals for amendment. The informal views of the GEF Secretariat had been received last week and the formal discussions would take place on January 29th during the UNEP-GEF Bilateral to be held in Nairobi. During this meeting the views of the present meeting would be presented to the GEF Secretariat by the UNEP GEF Coordination Office. If the Bilateral recommends that the project be included in the Work Programme then it would need to be revised in line with all comments and submitted to the Executive GEF Operation Committee in mid-February. The document would then be despatched to the GEF Council members for consideration during the April 1-3 Council meeting in New Delhi which could approve, or reject the project or recommend further revising of the proposal.

#### **Agenda item 6. Introduction and discussion of GEF Project Brief**

12. Mr Civili introduced the content of the Project Brief by underlining its main activities, the expected outputs and the budget for their implementation.

13. Mr Chabason stated that, after clarification with the GEF Secretariat, he had been recently officially informed that Libya had to be considered among the GEF Eligible countries. The Libyan representative thanked the Secretariat for their efforts.

14. The MAP/GEF Coordinators reviewed the document and expressed gratitude to the GEF Secretariat for considering the financing of a project which would be instrumental for the long-term implementation of the SAP.

15. After analysing in detail the content of the Brief, the MAP/GEF Coordinators agreed on a number of recommendations related to the general philosophy of the Project as well as to specific issues and gave a mandate to the MAP Secretariat and the UNEP/GEF Coordination Office to keep such recommendations into full account in the preparation of an amended draft to be sent for formal approval to the GEF Council.

16. The recommendations are as follows:

a) General recommendations

- The Project aims at the implementation of the SAP as it was formally adopted by the Contracting Parties in Tunis in November 1997 and its content should be strictly related to the activities deriving from the SAP;
- In view of their importance for the region, and taking into account the views expressed by the GEF Secretariat, the issues related on the whole to the protection of biodiversity shall be given a higher and full consideration and shall be the object of another Strategic Action Programme which should be formulated on the basis of the new Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity as part of the Barcelona Convention as well as other relevant international instruments;
- As decided during the Contracting Parties meeting in Tunis, the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis should be revised and completed and an agreement on its content should be sought from all countries of the region;
- The expenditures of MAP for the project's activities should be based on the 1998-1999 MAP budget approved in Tunis in 1997 and should be made available to all Contracting Parties for the implementation of the SAP for the whole Mediterranean region;
- As to the management of the project, any proliferation of structures should be avoided and administrative costs reduced to the actual needs, in order to ensure the maximum flow of funds to the countries to allow them to fulfill their international obligations in conformity with GEF objectives.

b) Specific recommendations

- The Coordination of the Programme will be assured by MED POL; to this end, the MED POL structure should be strengthened, as requested by GEF, through the recruitment by MAP of a project manager (the representatives of Greece and Turkey expressed reservation to the need to recruit additional staff for the management of the project);
- An inter-Agency Committee (GEF, MAP and other donors) should be established; it should regularly meet under the coordination of MAP to follow the implementation of the activities; a Coordination Committee should also be established, composed of representatives of all Contracting Parties; MAP Focal Points will be asked to designate their respective members of such a Committee considering that they should be closely working with the MED POL Coordinators; the precise functions of these two bodies should be specified in the amended draft of the Brief;
- In organizing the work related to the formulation of regional guidelines and regional plans, reference should be made to the work already carried out as part of MED POL;
- The Hot Spots and sensitive areas for which action has been proposed, are those identified in the SAP;

- A specific SAP should be prepared to allow countries to fully implement the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity as well as other international instruments related to Mediterranean Biodiversity; the SAP should not duplicate the work already carried out by existing programmes and activities;
- In referring to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) prepared as part of the GEF PDF-B Grant, the text of the brief should take into account the present status of the TDA which still needs to be revised and completed;
- When listing the countries participating in the project activities, reference should be made to all Contracting Parties including the European Community;
- In the list of the Executing Agencies of the Project, the Coordinating Unit for MAP including its Regional Activity Centres should appear as the main Agency.
- As a follow up to the above recommendations made by the Meeting, information should be given to all Contracting Parties on the content of the revised draft of the Brief including the budget before its submission to the GEF Council for approval.

#### **Agenda item 7. Other Business**

17. The Coordinator from Greece raised the issue of the difficulties arising from the need to approve and launch projects and programmes, such as the GEF Project in discussion, proposed by international donors to MAP and involving a budget, after the biennial MAP budget is approved by the Contracting Parties. He suggested the Secretariat to raise the issue at the next Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties in order to find a solution which would not prevent MAP from accepting any new proposal but which could at the same time ensure an approval procedure from all Contracting Parties.

18. Several Coordinators stressed the importance of receiving in future working documents at least a few weeks before Meetings are convened, to allow the participants to analyse their content in detail.

#### **Agenda item 8. Adoption of the report of the Meeting**

19. The English and French versions of the Report were unanimously adopted, as amended, by the participants.

20. After approving the recommendations listed in paragraph 16., the participants stressed that the budgetary allocations which would appear in the revised Project Brief would have to reflect the instructions given by the Meeting (para. 16.) and in particular with reference to the preparation of a SAP dealing with biodiversity and to the management of the project.

**Agenda item 9. Closure of the Meeting**

21. Several Coordinators stressed that the final approval of the project by the GEF Council would have very significant and positive consequences for the long-term implementation of the activities of the SAP in their countries.

22. In his closing remarks, Mr Chabason assured the participants that, considering the importance of the project for the implementation of the SAP in the region, all efforts would be made by the Secretariat to ensure as much as possible that the views of the Meeting were taken into account during the negotiations with GEF aiming at the approval of the project by the GEF Council.

23. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 13,30 of Friday, 23 January 1998.

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## **ANNEX II**

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Background and Purpose of the Meeting
5. Presentation of GEF Procedures
6. Introduction and Discussion of GEF Project Brief
7. Other Business
8. Adoption of Report
9. Closure of the Meeting