



United Nations
Environment
Programme



UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.16/3
15 June 1990

Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations

Athens, 2-3 May 1990

Report of the Consultation
with Non-Governmental Organizations

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the Meeting

1. In welcoming the participants on behalf of Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. A. Manos, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan thanked them for accepting the invitation to attend this informal consultation.

He presented briefly the four components of the Action Plan: legal, scientific, socio-economic, and institutional. He drew attention, in particular, to the growing recognition by governments of the role NGOs have to play in the protection of the Mediterranean sea. In 1985 the Genoa Declaration listed NGO among the essential partners of governments. In 1989 the Contracting Parties modified their Rules of Procedure in order to allow for major international NGOs to attend, as observers, the meetings of the inter-governmental technical committees, in addition to the meetings of Contracting Parties.

2. Mr. Manos suggested to divide the meeting into four parts:

- a) A presentation by the NGOs of their principal interests and programme;
- b) A review of the document prepared by CERIC of the University of Aix-en-Provence; (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.16/2);
- c) A review of the ten objectives of the Genoa declaration in order to identify possible forms of participation and supporting action by NGOs;
- d) Review of the proposal to hold an open-ended Forum of NGOs active in the protection of the Mediterranean, sometime in 1991.

There were no objections to this proposal.

3. In view of the informal nature of the meeting, it was chaired by the secretariat.

Agenda Item 2 - Presentations by the NGOsGreenpeace International

4. The representative of Greenpeace informed the meeting that her Organization is an environmental organization whose activities are funded by contributions from the general public, usually in the form of small donations, fundraising initiatives and merchandising sales. This enables Greenpeace to maintain financial and political independence from both governments and business. When reasoned moral arguments fail to motivate a government or industry to correct its environmentally unsound practices, Greenpeace carries out non-violent actions as a last resort. Scientific research and investigations into industrial manufacturing and disposal practices form the basis of submissions to government inquiries and of lobbying efforts.

Direct actions, first and foremost, are direct at confronting and stopping the environment degradation and forcing polluters to face their responsibility to the environment and the public. In addition they capture public attention and entice the media to investigate and report on activities which threaten the environment. In turn, the public is made more aware of the infringements on their health and well-being, and on the global environment.

Greenpeace has been paying increasing attention to the environmental abuses of the industrialized countries which affect the less developed countries. Similarly, the international economic mechanisms which force the less developed countries to intensify the exploitation of their natural resources, have convinced Greenpeace of the need to develop diversified strategies in both the developed and less developed countries.

Greenpeace recognizes that it cannot, by itself, ensure an ecologically sound future for all. For this reason greenpeace conducts extensive public education campaigns, commissions innovative scientific research and participates in a wide range of international and national political meetings and conferences. In order to achieve the institutional changes required to move towards and sustain an ecologically sound world, the concerted efforts of citizens, policy-makers, scientists and industry are required.

Greenpeace has been carrying out a campaign in defense of the Mediterranean Sea since 1986. Greenpeace adopted a regional approach to address simultaneously a number of problems which lead to environmental degradation in this region. Greenpeace considers the Mediterranean as an area affected by diverse factors which by acting either individually or collectively, violate environmental laws and harshly abuse nature. By means of its activities Greenpeace highlights obvious examples of environmental destruction to this threatened sea.

The Mediterranean is at a critical juncture. Given the present trends, this new decade will be a period of tremendous acceleration in the growth of local industry, population and tourism. The development will be unevenly distributed, posing a further element of conflict in a region already characterized by political instability.

International co-operation and an effective regional infrastructure as well as leadership from national governments and environmental experts are required to reverse the pollution trends and halt resource depletion throughout the region. National and international policies need to be stricter if enforcement of current policies is to be effective. Both citizens and governments should be involved at multi-lateral level.

Greenpeace's Mediterranean Sea Campaign goals are:

- . Greenpeace believes that the survival and recovery of marine mammals, sea-turtles and other endangered or vulnerable marine species, should be ensured;

- . Greenpeace opposes the mismanagement of fishery resulting in the depletion of fish stocks and negative impact upon other non-target species;
- . Greenpeace supports the protection of the remaining pristine wildlife habitats from destruction;
- . Greenpeace supports actions aimed at preventing any further advance of deforestation and desertification caused by agricultural mismanagement, forest fires and acid rain;
- . Greenpeace strongly opposes the trade and maritime transport of toxic and radioactive waste;
- . Greenpeace opposes the discharge or dumping of toxic substances;
- . Greenpeace opposes the presence of nuclear armed/powering navies in the Mediterranean region;
- . Greenpeace opposes nuclear energy and promotes the use of alternative energies and the implementation of energy efficiency programmes.

Associazione Ambientalista

MAREVIVO

5. The representative of MAREVIVO supported the idea of convening next year meeting of all the NGOs from the Mediterranean coastal States and supported the involvement of the major foundations. In order to give a concrete content to such a large meeting the representative suggested that it should end up with an operational proposal common to all the 18 States on the protection and reforestation of Posidonia beds.

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

6. The representative of the EEB expressed the appreciation of his organization to UNEP/MAP and the authors of the report for their efforts to analyze and further understand the NGO's environmental movement as viewed from the "outside". He made a few comments on the approach and the analysis reflected in the report. He said he believed it is very difficult to apply a matrix and classify the "messages" or "methods" used easily in a very "rational" way, since the vast majority of environmental NGOs, known to him use a combination of messages and methods simultaneously. In his view it might be very useful for the further understanding of the NGOs to study and eventually include in the report the following:

- a) The evolution of the NGOs
- b) their institutional basis and structures
- c) the response of the Society vis-à-vis the NGOs' messages throughout the last two decades.

If the aim of UNEP/MAP is to further understand NGOs and complete this approach perhaps a similar document could be drafted as a "complementary report" by NGOs themselves, as a view from the "inside".

Yugoslav Association for Environmental Protection

7. The representative of Yugoslav Association for Environmental Protection informed the meeting that his organization was founded in 1972 in Belgrade. The first non-governmental organization for Environmental Protection on republic level was founded in Croatia February 1, 1972 in Zagreb as a member of the Socialist Alliance.

NGOs for environmental protection in Yugoslavia are undergoing big changes and differ between republics. There are four republics on the Adriatic coast: Slovenija, Hrvatske, Bosna and Hercegovina and Crna Gora. NGO organizations for environmental protection of this four republics and federal organizations have organized four conferences on the Adriatic sea and the Adriatic region's protection:

- First conference held in Opatija, 1974
- Second conference held in Hvar, 1979
- Third conference held in Budva, 1984
- Fourth conference held in Neum 1989
- Fifth conference will be held in Portoroz 1994

These conferences are specific and unique type of meetings with the participation of representatives of NGO's organizations, scientists, governments, industry and decision makers. At the Fourth conference for the first time representatives from Italy and Albania and participated in the meeting. The results of all Conferences were to speed up actions for environmental protection of the Adriatic sea.

He pointed out that there are four major goals of NGO's organizations for environmental protection in Yugoslavia:

1. To build qualified public opinion and ecological consciousness for environmental protection;
2. To strengthen public pressure for establishing efficient governmental organization - Ministry and inspection for Environmental protection;
3. To establish Environmental Protection Agency;
4. To establish Environmental Fund - "Environmental dinar".

Due to the latest social and political changes in Yugoslavia the Socialist Alliance is being transferred into a political party. As a consequence the need appeared for reforming of non-governmental organizations for environmental protection in Yugoslavia and this process is now in progress.

He added that at present there are many organizations dealing with the Adriatic sea protection; for instance in schools (Blue patrol, young keepers the nature, youth researcher organizations, bird protection sections), green organizations and associations and many specific organizations in association with divers, sport fishermen and hunters.

Arab Office of Youth and Environment

8. The representative of the Arab Office of Youth and Environment (AOYE) informed the meeting that his organization was elected to the Global 500 Honour Roll of UNEP. He pointed out that AOYE was established in 1978 by a group of youth as the first youth environmental non-governmental organization in this part of the world. Its objectives were to create and enhance the environmental awareness among the Egyptian people specially the youth to stimulate rational environmental actions.

The membership of the AOYE comprises now around 2000 members who are all committed to the conservation, protection and development of the Egyptian Environment.

As concerns the past activities of the AOYE, it has undertaken the following activities:

- School environmental education programmes;
- Training courses for local youth groups leaders to enhance their concern with environment;
- Training courses for young teachers, engineers and journalists;
- Training courses for youth leaders;
- Field work projects, including planting of trees, cleaning projects in big towns, removal of solid wastes from City streets and environmental education project for the public;
- Securing continuous flow of information to different media;
- Issuing various publications, pamphlets, source books and magazines;
- Lobbying and negotiating the political powers;
- Celebrating the World Environment Day and the Mediterranean Environment Week;

- Contacts with Arab countries on environmental issues.

As a result of the experience of AOYE, UNEP approved the AOYE proposal to establish the Environmental Information Centre for Arab states, to create a consensus among decision makers and general public in the Arab speaking countries for rational environmental actions.

Friends of the Earth International

9. The representative of Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) informed the meeting that FOEI is an international NGO with member groups from about 40 countries around the world. These are the national groups of Friends of the Earth. Each one of these national groups has other groups as members, which are the local groups of Friends of the Earth. The European Co-ordination (CEAT) is an FOEI branch.

As concerns the Mediterranean, national groups exist in Spain, France, Italy and Cyprus. These local groups cover a considerable part of the Mediterranean Sea and form a network which, depending on the case, can work either as a network or individually. The involvement of this network in activities co-ordinated with MAP would be one of the main elements of the collaboration between CEAT and MAP.

The local groups of Friends of the Earth are active in local issues which are very diverse. On one issue however there is currently a wide consensus and this is "Tourism and Environmental Protection in the Mediterranean". Several groups are currently active in this area; in the Akamas Peninsula in Cyprus we have under way a pilot project in "soft tourism" supported by the EEC.

The main objective of the project is to develop ecological forms of tourism in the Laona villages bordering on the Akamas national park with a view to contributing to the economic revival of the villages while protecting the unique character of the area.

There are also plans to organize in 1990-91 a Conference in Bezier on tourism and environmental protection measures already in force in the Mediterranean. CEAT hopes that it can collaborate on this project with MAP.

Friends of the Earth International can also be active in the following areas:

- developing ideas with respect to specially protected areas in the Mediterranean in general,

- making proposals aimed at promoting in the specially protected areas programme of the Barcelona Convention, through the development of ideas on how to improve the situation and a co-ordination of the specially protected areas programme with the efforts to protect the monk seal and the sea turtle. One idea could be to select 5 priority areas (out of the 50 planned) which should be implemented as pilot projects with international funding.
- making proposals on how the implementation of the MARPOL Convention could be more effective in the Mediterranean.
- On liability and compensation procedures for the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, by developing ideas on concepts and procedures for liability and compensation for environmental damage resulting from dumping of wastes, land based pollution and offshore activities.

Finally, she pointed out that FOEI could also link local groups of FOEI (and certain others) with some specific points of the PAM to organize a lobby.

Association for International Studies

10. The representative of the Association for International Studies informed the meeting that his organization was established in 1980. It organizes numerous symposia and seminars, as well as diplomatic conferences and meetings. Three symposia were organized in 1982, 1984 and 1986 which adopted declarations.

The Association was directly involved in the Ishkeul protected area in Tunisia. The representative drew attention to the different status of NGOs vis-à-vis ECOSOC and UNESCO. For UNESCO it must have an international membership. For ECOSOC it must meet three conditions: at least two years in existence, furnish all necessary information with its application and be accepted by the Committee on NGOs.

The representative of the Association of International Studies referred to the Declaration adopted at Tunis by the Conference on Mediterranean Co-operation in 1986 and, in particular to the still unresolved problem of an Interstate Guarantee Fund to pay for pollution damage, and the question of maritime traffic and security on which the Association was planning to convene a conference.

Union Regionale du Sud-Est pour la Sauvegarde de la Vie, de la Nature et de l'Environnement (U.R.V.N.)

11. The representative of U.R.V.N. stated that to protect the sea one must above all administer the coastal area territories in a proper manner. It is in the context of the administration of those territories and communes situated within these coastal areas that the NGO can and must play an essential role.

In Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, the region of France which borders the Mediterranean coastline from the Italian frontier to the mouth of the Rhone, the U.R.V.N. proposed to those communes who so desire, the establishment of a survey of the natural resources of the commune.

In just a few words: what are the objectives of these surveys ? How are they constituted ?

I. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY

The U.R.V.N. furthers four objectives in proposing the establishment of a survey of the natural wealth to be found within a given district or commune.

The first is to provide the municipalities with the information which is indispensable in order to fulfil the mission entrusted to them by the French law on administrative decentralisation of January 7, 1983.

In order to administer, one must know what is to be administered, an intuitive or conventional knowledge is not sufficient. One needs an objective and precise knowledge of the different sectors, biotopes and ecosystems, of their wealth and of their functioning.

The survey describes, explains and analyses the different elements which constitute the natural environment of the commune.

The second objective is to impress upon all the inhabitants of the commune the interest and the beauty of nature, the harmony of the areas surrounding them and the fragility of certain natural settings which appear so indestructible.

The third objective of the survey is to highlight the Sectors of Communal territory to be protected, those areas which due to their place in the hydraulic system, to the wealth of fauna and flora to be found there and to the beauty of the landscape merit being preserved as a nature reserve.

Finally, the fourth objective of the surveys is to demonstrate that there exists another method of protection of nature aside from that of systematically filing oppositions to new construction projects.

The method of opposition which NGOs are unfortunately forced to use as a rule is often ineffective and serves at best to merely obtain delays or modifications of detail. In order to safeguard nature it is better to prevent than to cure.

The survey prefers to take the initiative and highlights sensitive, fragile and rare sectors. It points out sources of untreated pollution. It enables the planning of the development of the commune in full awareness of relevant facts. And most especially, it substitutes a collaboration and understanding for the conflict reigning between the NGO's and the local politicians thus leading to a more effective joint action.

The objectives of the survey are obvious but why chose the communities as an area of study when it is blatantly obvious that the problems posed by nature ignore all administrative boundaries.

The answer is simple: In France ever since the law on decentralisation, it is the mayor who "decides" in so far as the organisation of space and its utilisation is concerned. It is he who has the zoning regulations drawn up and who delivers the construction permits. It is therefore he and his Municipal Council who must be made aware. The problems of nature and of pollution are greater than and their causes and effects spread far wider than the community limits but they must be solved within each administrative boundary by those who have the power to do so.

II. THE CONTENTS OF THE SURVEY

The survey outlines the characteristics of a physical milieu, (geology, hydrology, climatology, pedology) in a synthetic form accessible to all. It must describe and explain the variety of animal and vegetable life and its organisation in interdependent biological systems. It also describes the impact of human occupation just as much through archaeological riches as through the results of recent urbanisation.

The survey is a compilation, a translation and a formating of existing knowledge which must nevertheless indicate the actual situation and point out possible evolutive tendencies.

Once completed the survey comprises:

A synthetic report of about 100 pages with tables of chronological series, ratios allowing for inter-communal comparison along with objective conclusions which avoid taking sides in any problems arising from a political decision.

A bibliographical annex making reference to all studies utilised, existing references in the computerised centre 'Ecothek' along with a list of particularly interesting floral and fauna species.

A set of maps and transparencies of 1/25 scale and a chart highlighting distinct points.

A set of slides illustrating the rare or particularly beautiful species and some landscapes which make up the charm of the commune. These slides can be accompanied by a tape recorded commentary (this option is generally utilized).

Over the last three years, the URVN has carried out about 20 surveys in the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur region, some in big towns such as Cannes and Frejus, some in famous holiday towns, notably St. Tropez and Cassis as well as in some traditional villages such as Vauvenargues, Gorde and Bouc-Bel-Air.

Furthermore, these studies have the advantage of creating employment for students at the end of their studies. For each survey undertaken, we recruit 3-4 students who are remunerated and who can in this way utilize their newly acquired knowledge.

This example of action may seem like a small detail in the face of the huge problems raised by the question of the protection of the Mediterranean, but, let there be no mistake - the protection of the sea implies a protection of the shores and of the areas constituting the basin of the waterways feeding the sea.

The conservation of nature on such a vast scale can only be accomplished if it is assumed by the responsible authorities with the aid of the concerned population.

If we were able to convince each local community to draw up a survey of the wealth it has under its guardianship, and thus administer it, it is certain that we would take a great step towards solving the problem which we are all seeking to resolve.

France

12. France sent the following suggestions on how NGOs could be participant and partner in shaping environmental policy to protect and upgrade the Mediterranean environment:

- (a) The first principle is to reaffirm the important role of NGOs in the Mediterranean basin and the need to increase their participation in environmental protection while maintaining their independence: i.e. to make NGOs true partners and give them the opportunity to use their capabilities through interventions at various levels: global, thematic on the whole basin, national, regional and local.
- (b) Just as the reference to the protection of biodiversity is important, of equal importance is to respect and encourage the diversity of associations by allowing them to intervene in the area of their choice, such as:

- the protection of the sea and the marine environment (quality of water, fishing, endangered species, etc.)
 - water quality: protection of aquifers, saving in water resources, etc.
 - the protection of natural or man-shaped sites and landscapes
 - the protection of historic monuments of local, national or Mediterranean interest, the protection of the surrounding areas, of the cultural heritage, of urban centres, of quality settlements, of public works, etc.
 - the promotion of a type of tourism that respects nature and the physical environment
 - combating and preventing different forms of pollution from anthropogenic activities, especially those of industry, the promotion of alternative sources of energy, clean technologies and technology transfers
 - the protection of nature and the different animal and plant species, as well as migrant populations
 - the promotion of quality living conditions for those living in cities, especially those worse off (housing, sanitation, garbage, noise, etc.).
- (c) The right of associations to exist, their independent status must be recognized by law and safeguarded by the administrative, financial and judicial practice of the States. The Mediterranean States will gain by exchanging the relevant experience and by implementing policies that respect and promote the setting up of associations and their activities.
- (d) More specifically concerning the participation of those associations aiming at the protection of the whole Mediterranean basin, the Mediterranean Community can develop the status for a Mediterranean NGO's as such to identify the points on which consultation exchanges and interaction between MAP and the associations can be developed.
- (e) The various types of action to be carried out by the associations should be identified, in order that, depending on the associations and their respective capabilities, they could undertake concrete action; i.e.
- to carry out either a general awareness campaign or one targeted at different specific groups; access to information on the part of the mass media, exchange of information on relevant experiences, training of professionals, publication of works in various languages etc. Participation on an equal basis in the Mediterranean Environment Week.

- to play a role in environmental education, where environment is integrated in school curricula, extra-curriculum activities, etc.
 - to play a role in the formulation of a body of Mediterranean legislation and of a legal status for the environment (standards, etc.)
 - to be involved in the development of control measures and contingency plans (i.e. pollution, destruction of landscapes or species)
 - to be involved in the activities under the jurisdiction of decentralized local authorities as equal partners of the latter
 - to play an active role in involving both the resident population and the tourists in the protection of the Mediterranean basin, by encouraging for instance volunteer action
 - to be involved in environmental management, both in terms of space and equipment (e.g. nature reserves)
 - to act as a watchdog and a counterweight
 - to plan a role within or alongside scientific bodies and for organizations to promote research and disseminate the results and for the integration of the environmental dimension in both the thinking and actions of officials.
- (f) In all meetings the geographic differences among associations should be minimized as much as possible with a view to establishing a balance between the North and the South of the Mediterranean. At this point, the association listed by the Liaison Committee of Environmental Associations (Nairobi) come to about 500 to 1000 for Italy and France, 500 for Spain, to less than 100 for countries such as Greece, Turkey, Israel, Yugoslavia, to about 50 for Tunisia, Cyprus, Egypt, Morocco and to a smaller number for countries where either legislation concerning associations was only recently enacted or that are smaller in terms of population, such as Algeria, Malta, Libya, Monaco, Syria.

Agenda Item 3 - Review of the document on NGOs - Education and environmental awareness in the Mediterranean (UNEP(OCA)MED WG.16/2)

13. Document (UNEP(OCA)MED WG.16/2) was introduced by Mr. C. Joly of CERIC. He pointed out that the origin of the project lies in a demand formulated by the MAP Co-ordinating Unit. According to the agreement passed between MAP and CERIC, three reports were prepared among which only one has been circulated for the present meeting, the one entitled "NGOs - Education and environmental awareness in the Mediterranean". The two other respectively deal with NGOs and international action and NGOs and local authorities.

These reports were written after consulting a large number of NGOs. A list of NGOs was worked out by the Office of Mr. Serge Antoine, Head, Mission Environnement-Développement, Secrétariat d'Etat chargé de l'Environnement et des risques majeurs, France, on the basis of information provided by UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi. About 300 NGOs acting for the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean area were consulted and 60 of them answered.

The questionnaire sent to NGOs mostly regarded the fields and areas of concern and intervention of NGOs; it had been worked out by Mr. Antoine's office. Answers to the questionnaire varied a lot as far as the format is concerned. Some NGOs simply answered the question, but a majority of them provided documents about their activities (pamphlets, periodicals, etc.).

The reports tried to put in light major trends of NGOs' activities in the field of education and environmental awareness, by means of a survey of the content of the message and the message transmission methodology. They then got to a synthesis, a reading pattern. Obviously, each NGO does not resort on all types of messages nor to all the transmission methods which were identified. There is a great variety in the behaviour of NGOs, some of them using only one type of message and/or aiming at only one target within public opinion, others using a multiform message and/or aiming at several targets within public opinion.

The issue of the definition of NGOs was raised when preparing these reports. It is worth to mention here that the basic reference texts, Barcelona Convention, and Genoa Declaration, seem to ignore "National" NGOs which nevertheless play an essential role in public opinion environmental awareness.

14. In the following discussions it was clarified that the various contents of the environmental message were not mutually exclusive, but could be found together.

It was also suggested that the institutional basis of the NGO's and their evolution over time was also a significant factor in the typology of NGOs. The role of NGO's vis-à-vis the decision makers was also stressed, and the special needs of NGO, particularly in developing countries for recognition, access to information, financial means and action oriented programmes.

Agenda Item 4 - Review of the ten objectives of the Genoa Declaration

Establishment of port reception facilities for dirty ballast waters and other oily residues from ships (17.a)

15. The role of NGOs can be one of vigilance to ensure that discharges from reception facilities are according to specifications. A first step would require more information on existing and planned facilities.

Establishment of sewage treatment plants (17.b)

16. The serious lack of resources for maintenance and operational purposes was noted. NGOs have a role to insist on efficient functioning of treatment plants built with great expense. The need to consider treatment as part of the wider wastes management process was stressed.

Applying environmental impact assessment as an important tool to ensure proper development activities (17.c)

17. An extensive exchange of views took place on this item and participants spoke about their organizations' programmes to protect cetaceans by opposing the use of drift-nets, near-coast trawling, protecting posidonia beds and their replanting.

Co-operation to improve the safety of maritime navigation and to reduce substantially the risk of transport of dangerous toxic substances likely to affect the coastal areas or induce marine pollution (17.d)

18. All participants agreed that enforcement of agreements on the protection of the Mediterranean was weak and needed to be strengthened. Measures suggested ranged from international sanctions, to a refusal by international financial institutions to lend to countries that failed to apply environmental protection measures, to strong appeals to public opinion through the media, and improved an international tribunal of independent personalities to consider major violations, reporting by countries to the Secretariat on how measures approved were implemented at the national level. Some participants gave examples of polluting sources that were eliminated as a result of strong NGO's pressure.

Protection of the endangered marine species (e.g. Monk Seal and Mediterranean sea turtle) (17.e)

19. All participants agreed on the need to promote the establishment of protected areas, but stressed in particular the need and difficulty of effective management of such areas once they are established.

An international network, visits of international experts, the identification of some areas as international pilot projects, financial assistance for monitoring programmes, yards, etc. The possibility of NGOs to manage some protected areas and the draft "Habitat directive" considered by the EEC were all mentioned.

Concrete measures to achieve substantial reduction in industrial pollution and disposal of solid waste (17.f)

20. No comments were made on this item.

Identification and protection of at least 100 coastal historic sites of common interest (17.g)

21. No comments were made on this item.

Identification and protection of at least 50 new marine and coastal sites or reserves of Mediterranean interest (17.h)

22. NGO's could be associated in the management of protected areas and reserves.

Intensify effective measures to prevent and combat Forest fires, soil loss and desertification (17.i)

23. The representatives of the University of Aix-Marseille and of U.R.V.N. (Union Régionale du sud-est pour la sauvegarde de la Vie, de la Nature et de l'environnement) informed the participants about the planned World Conference on forest fires (September 1991) that will deal with prevention, replanting, indemnization and sanctions. The meeting organized by the EEB in Athens on common strategy for the prevention of forest fires was recalled.

The secretariat recalled the MAP programme on rain-induced soil erosion carried out by the PAP Centre in Split in collaboration with ICONA Institute of Spain.

The serious problems of desertification in the southern part of the Mediterranean were also mentioned, especially in relation to the expected climatic changes.

Substantial reduction in air pollution which adversely affect coastal areas and the marine environment with the potential danger of acid rains (17.j)

24. Finally, the secretariat pointed out that MAP's involvement in air-born pollution was limited to transport of pollutants to the sea.

Agenda Item 5 - NGO's Forum

25. There was a brief discussion on the suggestion to hold an open ended Forum of NGO's active in the protection of the Mediterranean environment, with consensus on the usefulness of such a meeting. The participants felt that it should not be open to all, considering the large number of NGOs, large and small, concerned with the Mediterranean. There could be national quotas (3 to 5 NGOs), with strong encouragement for those from the South to attend.

The advantages of such a Forum would be:

- to achieve a better exchange of information among NGOs;
- to disseminate information on the objective, mechanisms and achievements of MAP;
- to give legitimacy to NGO's efforts, that are in support of Government - approved targets.

It was also suggested that preparations for the UN 1992 Conference on Environment and Development could provide a clear focus for the Forum. This aspect would have to be co-ordinated with the secretariat of the Conference. On the practical side, the participants noted the need for a clear objective, agenda and criteria for selection of participants (e.g. those that have launched active campaigns); and to identify in advance the source and level of financing.

In order to prepare the Forum, it would be desirable to have a Compendium of Mediterranean NGOs, establish a Preparatory Committee, relative to the countries from the South. Invitations to other non Governmental bodies such as Universities or professional associations interested in environment may be considered.

Agenda Item 6 - Closing of the Meeting

26. The Co-ordinator thanked all participants for their contribution and indicated that the draft report would be circulated for comments. It would subsequently be distributed to the Bureau and the Contracting Parties.

27. After the usual exchange of courtesies the meeting was closed at 16.00 hours on Thursday, 3 May 1990.

Annex

List of Participants

ARAB OFFICE OF YOUTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Khaled El Aziz
President
Arab Office of Youth and Environment
P.O. Box 49 Manial el Roda
Cairo
Egypt

Tlx No.: 20185 AHRAM UN

ASSOCIATION DES ETUDES
INTERNATIONALES (A.E.I.)
TUNISIE

Mr. Rachid Driss
Ambassador
President
Association des Etudes Internationales
B.P. 156 Tunis
Belvedere 1012
Tunisia

Tel. and Fax No.: 216 1 270646

ASSOCIAZIONE AMBIENTALISTA
MAREVIVO

Ms Rosalba Giugni
President
MAREVIVO
Viale G. Cesare 2
00192 Rome
Italia

Tel. No.: 39 6 3602949
Fax No.: 39 6 3217146

Mr. Guido Cerruti
Vice President
MAREVIVO
Viale G. Cesare 2
00192 Rome
Italia

Tel. No.: 39 6 3602949
Fax No.: 39 6 3217146

Ms Carmen Di Penta
Director General
MAREVIVO
Viale G. Cesare 2
00192 Rome
Italia

Tel. No.: 39 6 3602949
Fax No.: 39 6 3217146

CENTRE D'ETUDES ET DE
RECHERCHES INTERNATIONALES
ET COMMUNAUTAIRES
(CERIC)

Mr. Jacques Bourrinet
Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches
Internationales et Communautaires
(CERIC)
Université d'Aix-Marseille III
13100 Aix-en-Provence
France

Tel. No.: 33 42 96 00 89
Fax No.: 33 42 23 09 71

Mr. Christian Joly
Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches
Internationales et Communautaires
(CERIC)
Université d'Aix-Marseille III
13100 Aix-en-Provence
France

Tel. No.: 33 42 96 00 89
Fax No.: 33 42 23 09 71

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL
BUREAU

Mr. Michael Scoulos
President
Greek Company/EEB
36, Voukourestiou Str.
10673 Athens
Greece

Tel. No.: 3605319
Fax No.: 3622535

Ms. Helen Kaberi
Greek Company/EEB
36, Voukourestiou Str.
10673 Athens
Greece

Tel. No.: 3605319
Fax No.: 3622535

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
INTERNATIONAL, Belgium

Ms Patricia Jiménez
Friends of the Earth International (CEAT)
29, rue Blanche
1050 Brussels
Belgium

Tel. No.: 32 2 537 72 28
Fax No.: 32 2 537 55 96

GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL

Ms Domitilla Senni
Treaties and Convention Division
Greenpeace, Italy
V. Le Manlio Gelsomini, 28
00153 Rome
Italy

Tel. No.: 396 - 5780479
Fax No.: 396 - 5783531

UNION REGIONALE DU SUD-EST
POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DE LA
VIE, DE LA NATURE ET DE
L' ENVIRONNEMENT
(U.R.V.N.)

Mr. Pierre Raynaud
Président
Union Régionale du Sud-Est pour la
Sauvegarde de la vie, de la nature
et de l'Environnement (U.R.V.N.)
52, Avenue Marechal Juin
06400 Cannes
France

Tel. No.: 93943468

YUGOSLAV ASSOCIATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. Josip Cicek
Yugoslav Association for
Environmental Protection
Zmaj Jovina 21/III
1100 Belgrade
Yugoslavia

Tel. No.: (38)(41) 426 590
Tlx No.: 62-22120 YU TANZG

CO-ORDINATING UNIT FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
48, Vass. Konstantinou Ave.
P.O. Box 18019
11610 Athens
Greece

Mr. Aldo Manos
Co-ordinator

Mr. Ljubomir Jeftic
Senior Marine Scientist

Mr. Ibrahim Dharat
Programme Officer

Tel.No. 7244536
Tlx No. 22 2611
Fax No. 7291160