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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

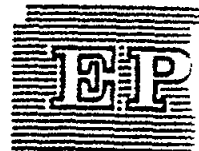
First Meeting of the
Socio-Economic Committee

Athens, 27-29 September 1988

Report of the Tenth Meeting of the
Steering Committee of the Blue Plan

UNEP

Athens, 1988



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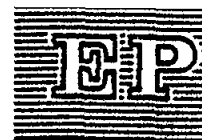
Sophia Antipolis, 21-22 June 1988

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Sophia Antipolis, 21-22 June 1988

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REPORT OF THE BLUE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Sophia Antipolis, 21-22 June, 1988

INTRODUCTION

1. The Tenth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Blue Plan was held in Sophia Antipolis in the premises of BP/RAC on 21 and 22 June 1988.

PARTICIPATION

2. The Meeting was attended by:

Mrs. Hedia BACCAR	Tunisia	President
Mr. Serge ANTOINE	France	Vice-President
Mr. Youssef ELMEHRIK	Libya	
Mr. Elias MAALOUF	Lebanon	
Mr. Patrick VAN KLAVEREN	Monaco	

The following members were unable to attend the meeting:

Mr. Hamza REDOUANE	Algeria
Mr. Antonis ANTONIOU	Cyprus

The meeting was also attended by:

Mr. Aldo MANOS, MAP Co-ordinator, UNEP
Mr. Ibrahim DHARAT, Programme Officer, MAP, UNEP
Mr. Michel BATISSE, President BP/RAC
Mr. Michel GRENON, Scientific Director BP/RAC

3. A complete list of participants is attached as an Annex I to the present report.

Agenda Item 1. Status of Blue Plan work

4. The chairperson welcomed the participants and expressed her apologies for not having been able to attend the previous meeting of the Steering Committee (Dec. 1987).

5. Mr. Aldo Manos congratulated Mr. Michel Batisse on his designation to UNEP's Global 500 which was for his contribution to the protection of the Environment.

6. He briefed the meeting on the financial difficulties of MAP due to the delay in payments of contributions to MTF which has negative effect on the programme implementation. The expanded meeting of the Bureau (Athens, 1-2 November 1988) will have the task of approving the detailed budget composition of 1989 and undertaking an analytical review of the Executive Director's recommendations concerning the reorientation of the Mediterranean Action Plan to be focused on an integrated planning and management of Mediterranean marine and coastal areas. Three pilot projects have been developed so far in Yugoslavia (Kastela Bay), Turkey (Izmir) and Syria (the coastal area). Three more proposals are under review in Cyprus, Greece and Tunisia.

7. The Co-ordinator informed the meeting on recent development concerning the World Bank initiative on the Mediterranean environment as well as the EEC MEDSPA programme and the Greek presidency of EEC for the second half of 1988 to be followed by Spain during the first half of 1989. It is hoped that MAP will receive increased attention during the presidency of these two Contracting Parties.

8. During the discussion on the World Bank initiative, various points were mentioned to the effect that there is a need to have a kind of "Code of conduct" in dealing with the Bank, to provide the Bank with reports and documents which were published only, that not all Mediterranean countries would be covered by the Bank's activities, that the Bank has no regional structure which can assist in direct dialogue with all Mediterranean countries, that the Bank can assist in the form of loans, but not grants; and it has a ceiling for lending to each country and that the Co-ordinating Unit can help in directing the assistance of the Bank in a more rational manner.

9. Then the meeting turned its discussions on the main outputs of the Blue Plan exercise, namely, the main report, the executive summary and the fascicules reports:

The main report

10. The Scientific Director and the President of the BP/RAC informed the Committee on developments concerning the finalization of the report which was delayed due to the financial and administrative problems encountered by MAP in general and the Blue Plan Centre in particular. Nevertheless the process of finalizing the report is progressing well. It was restructured, modified and shortened with less repetition. One problem is still pending relating to illustrations (charts, graphs) in the report.

11. The representative of France stressed two important elements to be taken into consideration, one relates to trade which was not adequately reflected in the report and second relates to new technology which may cause changes in the environment. It was stated during the discussion that trade was introduced in the report and there was a mention of new technology in each part of the report.

12. The President of BP/RAC raised the possibility of printing the Report for commercial purposes with slightly different version from the one distributed to the Socio-Economic Committee. One speaker pointed out that this commercial transaction may entail some legal questions. It was agreed by the meeting that this matter be raised at the meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee.

13. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed on the following points:

- a. The report should be ready in French version on 15 July 1988 and in French and English versions for submission to the forthcoming meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee (Athens, 27-29 September 1988) with the understanding that the report will not be subject to any changes by the Socio-Economic Committee.
- b. To overcome the illustration problem, the Scientific Director should submit all information needed for these illustrations to Mr. Serge Antoine on the 1st of July 1988 who in turn will ensure the completion of the various illustrations for inclusion in the report.
- c. It was agreed to change the order of chapters in section 5 of the report and to look again to the title of section 5 to reflect exactly the contents of this section.

The Executive Summary

14. The Committee exchanged views on the draft Executive Summary during which few remarks were made to the effect that the Executive Summary should be a true reflection of the main report, that it could be shortened and illustrated with diagrams in order to carry the message effectively to policy-makers, that the environmental implications should be clearly expressed. In particular, the Committee reviewed the whole of section IV concerning "Inter-Mediterranean Cooperation" and agreed on a few changes to be inserted in this part and requested participants to communicate in writing to the Scientific Director their comments on this point.

15. The Committee decided that the final version of the Executive Summary should be presented to the first meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee in English and French versions.

The fascicules

16. The President of BP/RAC summarized the total picture of the 18 thematical brochures which suffered delay due to administrative and communication reasons. The situation was as follows:

- Development of the coast and the coastal regions : It was the least advanced brochure.
- Urbanization: incomplete first draft

- Agriculture : good report under finalization
- Hinterland : good report under finalization
- Conservation : good report under finalization
- Forest : practically finished in English and French
- Water : good draft, about 200 pages needs to be finalized
- Islands : draft being finalized
- Pollution of the sea : consultations meeting was held in Athens on 12 April 1988 during which the draft brochure was reviewed
- Marine resources : in advanced form
- Industry : not yet completed
- Energy is being finalized
- Tourism : in advanced form but needs to be harmonized with the main report
- Transport : being finalized
- Natural and technological hazards : no draft prepared
- Health : no draft prepared
- Perception and behaviour : draft to be finalized.

17. The Committee reviewed the Forest brochure which was ready in final form both in English and French versions as a model for other brochures. The draft was written three times and commented by experts from Mediterranean countries, EEC and FAO. One of the main reasons for the delay in finalizing the brochures is attributed to the long process of consultation with various national and international experts. However, the President of the BP/RAC pointed out that by the middle of 1989 all drafts, which were financed mainly from French counterpart contribution and some assistance from EEC, will be ready for submission to the Contracting Parties.

Furthermore, he explained that the brochures will mention the names of the participated experts but they will not be the product of one man work.

18. During the discussion, the representative of Libya requested that the Committee should be furnished with a list of experts, authors, and countries participated in the whole process of the fascicules preparations.

19. At the end of the discussion on this part, the Committee took note of the fact that the process of completing the brochures will continue till the end of the first half of 1989, and that only one brochure (Forest) will be submitted to the first meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee.

Agenda Item 2. Status of data base transfer

20. The Scientific Director of the BP/RAC introduced the report, requested by the last meeting of the Steering Committee, on the transfer of Blue Plan Data Base to the Co-ordinating Unit jointly prepared by:

Mr. A. Aksel, Computer Operations Officer, MAP, UNEP, Athens, and
Mr. J.P. Giraud, Computer Expert, BP/RAC.

21. He pointed out that the transfer of the Blue Plan Data Base (BPDB) to MEDU consists in the transfer of the BPDB from the Vax mainframe on a PC system.

A first try of the transfer has been done before the visit of Mr. A. Aksel (25-27/04/88), but after discussion, it has been agreed to re-organize the data according to a new classification. So the work to do consists in:

- a. re-organization of the data on the PC
 - b. the data base operations, and query/reporting
 - c. applications regarding the use of data.
- a. The re-organization of the Data has been done on the Vax and transferred on the PC. Up to now the french part of this work is done. Remains to be done the english translation of the classification.
 - b. The database operations procedures will be finished at the end of July.
 - c. Applications regarding the use of Data consist in :
 1. statistical analysis, projections
 2. graphical presentations
 3. on-map presentations.

For these applications, during the visit of Mr. A. Aksel, it was decided to use commercial softwares :

1. "SPSS" for statistical analysis, projections
2. "Chart" for Graphical Presentations
3. for mapping softwares we are searching for an available software, up to now, we have found only one software "Geo-Graphique 2" and some relied softwares (for the moment available in french language only).

After this transfer of the Blue Plan Data base on PC, the way to update, and the on-line communication between BP/RAC and MEDU will have to be discussed.

Finally, he pointed out that the process of the transfer to Athens was on time as scheduled.

22. The Co-ordinator expressed his satisfaction on the work done by the two experts and the spirit of co-operation between BP/RAC and the Co-ordinating Unit.

23. The Committee briefly exchanged views on this issue, during which a proposal was introduced to the effect that a diskette on the database should be distributed during the first meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee as a demonstration on how to use and benefit from the available data.

24. At the end of the discussion, the Committee expressed its satisfaction on the excellent work being done by the two experts on the question of the transfer of BP database to the Co-ordinating Unit.

Agenda Item 3. Proposals for work programme and budget for 1989

25. The Co-ordinator introduced this item by pointing out that the Executive Director of UNEP had proposed to the last meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, September 1987) the budget for the Blue Plan for 1989 which had an amount of 350,000 US dollars. However, there was no precise workplan for the activities of BP during 1989. As was the case of other MAP Components, the first meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee (September 1988) is to review a Blue Plan draft workplan and budget for the Year 1989 for recommendation to the Meeting of the Expanded Bureau (Athens, 1-2 November 1988).

As for future status and activities of the Blue Plan, the Co-ordinator pointed out that the secretariat has no precise views on that issue which is the prerogative of the Contracting Parties. However, continuity of the BP exercise has been recommended by the Executive Director.

26. The President of BP/RAC pointed out that many activities still to be carried during 1989 in the form of the final publication and distribution of the outputs of the BP exercise, the training of nationals, assistance to Contracting Parties and possible visits of the Scientific Director to Mediterranean countries. These activities may justify the maintaining at Sophia Antipolis of a kind of observatory body. The Socio-Economic Committee should address this issue during its next meeting.

27. The representative of France pointed out that his country is ready to assist in the continuation of a useful exercise beyond 1989.

28. The views were also expressed that the 1989 budget should be structured in accordance with priorities, stressing more on training, publication of outputs in various languages and how to assist developing countries to strengthen their capabilities.

29. At the end of the discussion on this item, the Committee pointed out that the first meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee should consider seriously the need for maintaining at least a minimum structure of the BP network for the sake of the continuity of the process and not to lose the momentum of the whole exercise.

30. The Committee was of the view that the year 1989 will be a transition year between the termination of the Blue Plan as previously planned and the development of the tool which could be needed by the Mediterranean countries, for monitoring the evolution of environment/development relationships and for preparing prospective studies for the integrated management of their coastal areas aiming at maintaining the quality of the Mediterranean environment (including the sea itself).

For this purpose, the first requirement is to fully complete the current work, which implies final editing, publication and translation of the report on scenarios (achieved in 1988) and of the fascicules (to be achieved by mid 1989). It also implies organizing a training seminar which could not take place in 1988 due to lack of funds, to familiarize mediterranean specialists with the scenario methods, to be held early in 1989, as well as missions and consultations with individual countries at their request for discussion of national or regional scenarios.

At the same time, it seems necessary to maintain in operational conditions a minimal facility for updating and improving information and data on Mediterranean socio-economic and environmental factors, placing special emphasis on data relating to the coastal regions which are of particular relevance to the implementation of the land based protocol and other elements of the MAP.

31. For such a work, the tentative budget for 1989 was proposed as it appears in Annex II to this report.

Agenda Item 4 - National Activities

32. The Scientific Director informed the meeting on the status of national requests for assistance in the field of building national scenarios, information, training and visits by the Scientific Director.

33. During the brief discussion on this issue, views were pointed out that priority for assistance should be given to countries that have not yet done their national scenarios in order to help them catch up with the rest of the Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 5 - Training Session

34. The Scientific Director pointed out that the training course envisaged to be convened in 1988 was postponed to Spring of 1989. The objectives of the course would be to convene a short meeting of all experts who are responsible for the national scenarios with a view of exchanging ideas and experience on national scenarios and on Mediterranean scenarios and the second part of the course will be devoted to a training on methodology of building scenarios.

Agenda Item 6 - Miscellaneous

35. The chairperson raised the issue of the future status of the Steering Committee which should continue functioning in order to review and steer the future work of BP/RAC.

36. The views of the President of the BP/RAC as well as those of the secretariat were pointed out to the effect that the Contracting Parties have decided during their last meeting (Athens, September 1987) that the Steering Committee would perform its activities until the meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee in 1988, to follow the completion of the work of the Blue Plan. Therefore, as the final products of the whole BP exercise will be submitted to the first meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee (Athens, 27-29 September 1988), the mandate of the Steering Committee will be considered completed by that date.

37. After a brief discussion, the Committee was of the view that the first meeting of the Socio-Economic Committee should address this issue during its deliberation.

38. As concerns the financial problem encountered by MAP, the meeting expressed its deep concern over the delay of the transfer of contributions to the MTF and expressed the hope that all Contracting Parties should pay on time their contributions.

39. At the end of the work, the chairperson expressed on behalf of the members of the Committee, her thanks and appreciation to the Scientific Director for his tireless work to finalize the main products of the BP exercise, and expressed her thanks to all members of the Committee, the BP/RAC and to MEDU secretariat for their co-operation.

40. The chairperson declared the meeting closed on Wednesday, 22 June 1988, at 13.30 hours.

ANNEXE I
ANNEX I

DIXIEME REUNION DU COMITE D'ORIENTATION
TENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Sophia Antipolis, 21-22 juin 1988
Sophia Antipolis, 21-22 June 1988

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

1989 Proposed Budget for the BP

in U.S. Dollars

	<u>MTF</u>	<u>Host Country</u>
Scientific Adviser (part time)	50 000	-
Technical expert (full time)	70 000	-
Technical support		
- statistician (half time)	20 000	Half time
- secretary (full time)	<u>30 000</u>	-
Staff component (total)	<u>170 000</u>	
Consultants for training and country visits	35 000	
Travel on mission to countries and meetings	30 000	
Training course on scenarios techniques	60 000	
Data collection	25 000	
Translations, publications and reports	<u>30 000</u>	
Total	350 000	<u>1/</u>

1/ The contribution of the host country will be maintained at the level of 1988.

- Contributions from other partners will be sought.