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Coastal Zones Pilot Projects

COASTAL ZONES PILOT PROJECTS

UNEP Initiatives

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean, convened by the Executive Director of UNEP in Barcelona in January 1975 reached agreement on an Action Plan for the Mediterranean, based on consideration of four main aspects.
2. The first aspect was entitled "Integrated Planning of the development and management of the resources of the Mediterranean Basin". This aspect called for UNEP, in collaboration with the governments of the region, the organizations of the U.N. system and regional organizations concerned, to draw up a co-ordinated programme of concerted activities, aimed at a better utilization of resources in the interest of the countries of the region and of their development, while being in accordance with sound long-term environmental management rules.
3. As examples of such activities, the Action Plan indicated the following:
 - (a) The development and application of rational techniques from the point of view of the economy, ecology and health in various fields such as:
 - (i) treatment, use and safe disposal of organic and industrial waste resulting from various human activities;
 - (ii) restoration of degraded natural communities, in particular the protection, improvement and stabilization of soils, the arrangement of hydrographic basins and the regulation of torrents;
 - (iii) best use and recycling of fresh water;
 - (iv) improvement and better utilization of the living resources of the sea, in particular through aquaculture.
 - (b) The study of the costs and of the economic and social advantages of taking the environment factor into consideration in development projects, such a study being carried out on the basis of environmental assessments of certain projects which are at present being carried out or have already been completed.

- (c) The study of the repercussions of economic development, particularly of the development of tourism and industry, on the environment of the region, taking into account national sovereignty and the level and policies of development in each country.
- (d) The study of a system of vocational training at all levels.
4. At the intergovernmental meeting held in Split in 1977 the socio-economic component was defined in greater detail, as consisting of a Blue Plan and a Priority Actions Programme. For each of these a regional activity centre was subsequently established in Sophia Antipolis and in Split, respectively.
 5. The Blue Plan exercise was completed in 1988 with the presentation of the main report, Executive Summary and Data Base, while the thematic reports will be published in 1989.
 6. The PAP activity on integrated planning and management of Mediterranean coastal zones has established an exchange of experience and knowledge on interrelations of integrated planning protection and enhancement of Mediterranean environment, and assisted Mediterranean states in utilizing existing knowledge for environmentally sound planning, management and development of coastal zones.
 7. Taking into account these developments, the Executive Director submitted to the 5th Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties (Athens, September 1987) a document entitled "Policy Recommendations of the Executive Director" (UNEP/IG.74/3/Add.2). The meeting requested the Bureau to carry out an analytical study of the proposal (UNEP/IG.74/5, Section II, Recommendation A.2).
 8. The Expanded Bureau (Athens, Nov. 1988) had before it a new document entitled "Preliminary Ideas of the Executive Director on the Refocusing of the Mediterranean Action Plan on Environmentally Sound Integrated Planning and Management of the Mediterranean Basin" (UNEP/BUR/33/4). The Expanded Bureau and the Bureau Meeting (Athens, March 1989) offered extensive comments which were recorded by the secretariat and requested any additional written comments communicated by the Governments on the Executive Director's ideas to be reflected in a revised document with a view to its submission to the Contracting Parties at their October 1989 meeting.

Initiatives of other Organizations

9. The general subject of coastal zone planning and management has been attracting the attention of several organizations that have been approaching it from different standpoints and with a variety of objectives.

10. Several Contracting Parties may already be participating in some of these initiatives. As examples, and not as an exhaustive list, the following may be kept in mind.
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Regional strategy for environmental protection and rational use of natural resources (1988) - E/ECE/1171.
 - ECE - Draft Framework Agreement on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context (1988).
 - OECD - Project proposal on integration in coastal zone and estuary management; Environment Directorate, OECD.
 - UNESCO - COMAR: Major international project on research and training leading to the integrated management of coastal systems (Division of Marine Sciences).
 - Council of Europe: Torremolinos Charter on Regional/Spatial Planning (1983).
 - International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study, IFIAS: Program on coastal resource management, 1988.
 - US - NOAA: Series of coastal zone conferences, the next to take place in Charleston, S.C., in July 1989.

MAP contribution to integrated planning through pilot projects

11. It should be clear from this paper that MAP will not undertake economic development planning of coastal areas, which is not within its mandate as described in the Barcelona Convention and related protocols, or within the scope of the budgetary resources likely to be placed at its disposal. Rather, it aims at concentrating on essential activities where it has a comparative advantage by virtue of its truly regional coverage, inter-agency network, country level linkages, and past record.
12. MAP proposes to apply all agreed standards, reference methods and guidelines, develop needed projects up to the funding stage for presentation to funding agencies. Its long-term objective is to strengthen local capabilities for planning and management of coastal areas, to enable continuation of the work in an autonomous way after the completion of the pilot projects.

13. For these reasons full-scale MAP pilot projects should follow a preparatory phase implemented by PAP and MED POL pilot projects when the latter develop to the stage that they require the full participation of all the other MAP components. The participation of the other components and their smooth integration into the project will be responsibility of the Co-ordinating Unit. Some inputs will be charged to the existing component budgets, while additional costs for consultants, review meetings, equipment for data analysis will be financed from a new budget component specifically devoted to MAP pilot projects.
14. The various components of Med Pol - monitoring, quality assurance, research, assistance to laboratories and training-will play a special role in the pilot project areas to ensure the availability of data on marine pollution and pollution sources in the area, and sustained follow-up by local institutions and experts.

Procedure for Acceptance of MAP Pilot Projects

15. MAP Pilot projects shall be accepted as a result of the process described below.

STEP ONE:

Proposal from a Contracting Party; evaluation by the secretariat to ensure that the proposed area is representative of Mediterranean coastal situations, does not duplicate another pilot project already underway, has the support of the central and local authorities, and will be open to other countries (experimental, pilot nature, as opposed to national technical assistance projects).

STEP TWO:

Presentation of project outline to Bureau of Contracting Parties for adoption; project to contain time-frame and budget for approval by the Fund of UNEP and signature by the government.

STEP THREE:

Identification of counterpart team; setting up of data base; on-site missions; graphic presentation.

STEP FOUR:

Recommendations to the government for action required; after government clearance, distribution of the recommendations to all Contracting Parties and potential sources of financing.

Check-list for MAP Pilot Projects

16. Once a MAP Pilot project is identified, the following check-list will be followed. Not all the elements in the check-list may be relevant or applicable to the particular coastal area, but all should be examined and conclusions noted in the Final Report.

- A. Precise delimitation of the pilot project area, possibly to coincide with one or more existing administrative units (municipality, province, ad hoc authority); identification of decision-making bodies and available funding sources.
- B. Implementation of modern tools and techniques for integrated planning applicable in the region;
- C. Training on and implementation of common methodological framework for integrated planning and management process in the region;
- D. Preparation of interim studies of the area, formulation of proposals for immediate recovery actions;
- E. Preparation of programme for an integrated plan of the area.
- F. Appropriate monitoring of coastal waters, sources and reference areas, as part of agreed National Monitoring Programme, covering agreed parameters, using reference methods and agreed reporting formats. This part will identify and cost further needs for laboratory equipment and training.
- G. Implementation of LBS:
 - 1. Bathing water quality
Aquaculture water quality

This part will identify and provide approximate costing for:
 - submarine outfalls
 - sewage treatment plantsrequired for compliance with agreed quality criteria and standards.
 - 2. Emission standards for Mercury

Identify need for alternatives required to comply with agreed emission standards.

3. Other site-specific industrial waste discharge problems

Identify alternative technology that may be available.

4. Urban solid waste, dredging spoils, sludges

Check adequacy of existing disposal methods and propose alternative if so indicated.

H. Ports

Application of MARPOL convention and IMO/UNEP specific recommendations for port reception facilities for oily residues, ship waste (e.g. oil terminals, ferry traffic, tourist cruise vessels).

I. Accidental pollution prevention and combating

Identify risk of accidental pollution; promote national contingency plan, local contingency plan, with minimum requirement for equipment and staffing, training of local personnel, local demonstration by ROCC and promote mapping of particularly sensitive or vulnerable sea areas.

J. Specially Protected Areas and Endangered Species

Application of UNEP/IUCN Guidelines to identify new SPAs; evaluation of effective protection of existing SPAs; proposing and costing special programmes.

K. Protection of Historic Sites

Evaluate effectiveness of ongoing programmes; identify new sites under approved criteria; propose and cost new protection programmes preferably of a co-operative nature.

L. Water resources

Identify problems of water resources; recommendations on water management, reuse and sanitation problems.

M. Tourism

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for tourist projects; Identify special problems (nautical tourism, marinas, tourist health).

N. Renewable energies

Propose uses for renewable energies, offer training at Almeria Centre.

O. Environmental Impact Assessment

Offer training on simplified procedures for EIA.

P. Soil erosion

Identify problems of soil erosion; offer training on soil erosion combating.

Q. Forest Fires

Identify risk of forest fires and adequacy of fire fighting equipment.

R. Earthquake Risk

Assess risk and propose training at Genoa Centre on Seismic Risk Reduction.

Duration, Costing and Follow-up

17. The duration of a pilot project requiring the participation of MAP staff resources is not to exceed three years.
18. The final report and recommendations will contain an analysis of the situation based on the data collected, experts visits and discussions with responsible officials; specific recommendations will be made under each relevant heading including programmes for integrated plans of the concerned zones. After clearance by the national authorities concerned, the report will be circulated to the Contracting Parties.
19. With the concurrence of the country concerned, a review meeting may be organized to obtain an exchange of views of the findings and measures proposed.
20. The annual budget required to cover four pilot projects being conducted in parallel is about \$330,000 annually, exclusive of staff time and office costs. This budget should be matched in local currency by the four countries concerned for local expenses.