



# MED WAVES

MAP COORDINATING UNIT • NEWS BULLETIN IN ENGLISH/FRENCH/ARABIC • No 32

## 2005 A MEDITERRANEAN ODYSSEY

**T**

ry to imagine how the Mediterranean Basin would look like if there hadn't been a Mediterranean Action Plan since 1975. It is not an easy exercise - by no means: the main political events that have shaped the world since 1989/90 would surely have happened anyway. The trends in the economy, the industrialization of more areas, the urbanization, the introduction of new technologies, would have gone on just as they do today, there's no question about it

And yet...

Yet, things might have gone awry. The environmental degradation would, most certainly, have continued, probably faster

than now. Governments would have been less well informed, so they would have taken lesser steps, or less bold ones, in order to face some of the problems.

Other problems would have carried on unnoticed until they would have progressed too far - and it might have been too late to do anything. Public opinions would have been in the dark. NGOs would have had less data to present, both to the public and to the governments.

If MAP had never existed, the Med would not just be in the state it was 20 years ago, only worse; it might have been twenty years in the future compared to its current situation - and in a much worse shape.

### THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS

All this might seem self-congratulatory. But, even if it were, -which is not the case- it wouldn't be less true.

The Mediterranean

governments (and most NGOs) admitted that much in their declarations in Barcelona. Both texts refer to MAP's evolution - and make pledges (or ask, as the case may be) for more.

And there is much more to come. If we know anything for sure, after 20 years of monitoring the changes in the Basin, this is that just trying to control pollution, on a case-by-case base, is not enough: what we need is integrated coastal zone planning and management, in other words a holistic, multidisciplinary approach.

This would use knowledge from such diverse disciplines as biology, architecture, biochemistry, history, computer science, economics, engineering and cultural anthropology, to name but just a few, in order to plan, in a wise and sustainable way (i.e. in a way that will not drain natural and human resources in a short while but allow for continuous development for a long period of time - preferably "forever"), the evolution and development of human activities and habitation of the whole area.

In order to do this, more



monitoring, analysis and evaluation is needed.

Or, to put it in a nutshell, more understanding of what makes the Med what it is: a vast network of inter-dependent natural, ecological, climatic, economic, cultural and political subregions; a net of neighbourhoods that form a large city.

**POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Or, to use a better metaphor, a large Metropolitan Area, where "local authorities" are coordinated by a "supra-national" committee that takes into account the different zones' life-styles, cultures (or sub-cultures), religions and churches, incomes and economic structures.

Because the economy plays a very important role in the protection and safeguarding of the environment. Especially in the Mediterranean, where East and West, North and South, meet.

The Basin is home to 410 million

expected to be between 170 m and 340 m!

Yet it is precisely those assets that attract the tourists, namely beaches, cultural heritage, nature in general, that suffer the most and that are in most need of support and preservation. Hence the new, in the Med as well as globally, concept of sustainable development. It integrates different views and policies on development, the structure of local economies, the use of natural resources, -but of human and secondary ones, too- with the general target of preservation of the environment, of keeping the ecological equilibrium as undisturbed as possible, while making sure that the people's incomes will increase and that, consequently, they will not desert the area. And, as many point out, while we more or less know today how a specific ecosystem works, or how a man-induced change of

environmental NGOs, tried to look in that direction, and to help shape such a future. They decided that the Convention's geographical coverage may be extended to include coastal areas, as these are defined by each member-state within its own territory.

They also declared that lack of full scientific certainty in cases of environmental catastrophes would not be used as an excuse to postpone measures to face these crises. They also said that they will promote cooperation between themselves in environmental impact assessment in activities that might affect the marine environment of other countries, in areas beyond the limits of each one's national jurisdiction.

They committed themselves to prevent, abate and, to the fullest extent possible, eliminate pollution of

\* the environment, caused by transboundary movements and by disposal of toxic wastes

**THE NEW BUREAU**

In the Barcelona Meeting the new Bureau for the next biennium (1995-1997) was elected.

The Bureau's composition is as follows:

<b>President</b>	Mr. Nourdine Benomar Alami	Morocco	Minister of Environment
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mrs Elissavet Papazoi	Greece	Deputy Minister of the Environment
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mr. Salah Hafez	Egypt	Chairman of the Environmental Affairs Agency
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mr Israel Peleg	Israel	Director General, Ministry of the Environment
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mr. Sliman Zaouche	Algeria	Director General, Ministry of the Environment
<b>Rapporteur</b>	Mr Joaquin Ros	Spain	Ministry of the Environment

people. One hundred million more visit it every year in what amounts to the Mediterranean Zone's most important activity and prime bread-winner, tourism.

Demography and statistics tell us that in thirty years' time, by the year 2025, the population could be as high as 550 m, while the tourist business will explode, leading to an influx of visitors that is

parameters could affect a zone, we know preciously little about how to make better use of our energy resources, or how to benignly intervene to change local agricultural practices.

**THE BARCELONA "BET"**

In the Catalan capital the Mediterranean states, with the support, in most cases of the

\* the Mediterranean Sea Area in particular, resulting from exploration or exploitation of the continental shelf or caused by dumping from ships, aircraft, incineration at sea and land-based sources (in which case they will also draw up and implement plans for the reduction and phasing out of substances that are toxic, persistent and liable to

## THE 1996 TOP MAP MEETINGS

The Barcelona Meeting decided that several meetings would be convened during 1996. Among them:

- ✓ Meeting of experts and a Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the LBS Protocol (Italy)
- ✓ Meeting of MED-POL Coordinators (Athens)
- ✓ Meeting of experts and a Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Hazardous Wastes Protocol (Turkey)
- ✓ Meeting of MAP National Focal Points (Athens)
- ✓ Meeting of experts on the Preparation of Guidelines for the Handling of Sewage Sludge and Dredging Spoils (Spain)
- ✓ Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (France)
- ✓ First Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (France)
- ✓ Meeting of experts to review a draft Protocol on Liability and Compensation for damages from pollution of marine environment (Greece)

bioaccumulate).

The Mediterranean states also engaged themselves to take all necessary measures in order to protect and preserve biological diversity, rare or fragile ecosystems and species of animals and plants that are rare, depleted, threatened or endangered - as well as their habitats.

Finally the coastal states decided to eventually formulate and adopt rules determining liability and compensation for damage that results from pollution of the marine environment.

### A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

Driven by their anxiety to be effective in the face of what challenges the future holds the 20 Mediterranean countries signed another document, dubbed "MAP phase II", in which they lay down their general objectives and targets. Attached to this document is a list of specific priority actions for the next decade (1996-2005). It is to parts of this proposal that some NGOs disagreed and voicing their criticism caused, thence, the irritation of some governments. The five-page document is

detailed and covers 12 chapters. It is available from MAP HQ (ref. UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16, Annex X)

Among other targets it includes decisions to:

- \* develop a regional framework and a programme for environmental health action plan
- \* promote the preparation in each country of instruments for integrated water management
- \* protect and preserve soils by implementing preventive measures
- \* promote implementation of the Convention on Desertification
- \* promote sustainable management of forest resources
- \* prepare appropriate measures of in-situ protection of genetic resources
- \* promote the creation of gene banks
- \* implement international conventions concerning fisheries
- \* formulate and implement programmes on management of coastal areas
- \* ban export by OECD member countries of toxic wastes and radioactive materials to Mediterranean countries not members

of the EU

\* prioritize availability, accessibility, cost and effectiveness in the production and use of energy, paper, tanneries and derivatives, cement works, metallurgy, agro-industries and organic and inorganic chemical industry

\* promote the installation of port reception facilities for the collection of solid and liquid wastes generated by ships

\* encourage the development of tourism that respects the environment and the cultural heritage and, finally,

\* develop and implement programmes for the rehabilitation of zones affected by recent hostilities.

By undertaking this last pledge the countries around the Med showed that the environment cannot be disassociated from the wider picture, and that measures to safeguard nature do not make any sense when people suffer, go hungry or fall sick. ■

Spyros Vretos

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Spyros Vretos, Editor **MEDWAVES**,  
Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan,  
48 Vas. Konstantinou Avenue,  
116 35 Athens, Greece.

**Telephone** (+) 301/725 3190-5  
**Telex** 222611 MEDU-GR

**Fax** (+) 301/725 3196 -7  
**E-mail** Unepmedu@compulink.gr

Design & Production: Lefteris Malagaris

# From now on MAP will be judged by its own achievements



**W**as Barcelona really a change in MAP's evolution, or was it just a big exercise in Public Relations?

Considering the fact that I was only recently appointed, the only thing I can do is to appreciate the situation according to my impressions. I think that in Barcelona we had a **relaunching of MAP**.

It was a political re-launch, because many ministers came, and they agreed on the important texts, that had a great environmental and political value, they agreed to increase the budget, which is also a sign of political will (since the budget had not been increased for a long time), and they manifested, in the **Barcelona Resolution** an obvious political will.

We can also talk about a structural re-launch, since there is also a widening of the Plan's objectives, expanding in the area of sustainable development in the coastal areas. This is proof of goodwill from the part of the countries, since the issue is delicate as far as its implementation is concerned: the Sea is a common good, it is evident, but the terrestrial and coastal zones are national possessions, they are zones of national sovereignty, and, thus, this enlargement implies even more cooperation between the states.

The Mediterranean Action Plan is twenty years old. What happened during this first period of its existence?

**Barcelona II was the new Coordinator's first Contracting Parties' Meeting. What were his impressions? What policies does he plan to implement during his tenure? How does he plan to guide MAP into the 21st century?**

This organization adopted, first of all, a coherent action programme, and was given juridical instruments referring to the protection of the sea: the **Barcelona Convention** and the **Protocols**. After that, the contracting parties asked the **Secretariat**, as a priority, to follow the evolution of the marine environment, which has been the centre of the activities of the Barcelona Convention.

So the **MED POL Programme** was inaugurated, a programme that had as an objective the knowledge and monitoring of the evolution of the sea. But, also, it allowed the countries to apply these new international rules.

A second type of activities, that was very important, was the scenarios called "**the Blue Plan**". It projected into the future the actual tendencies and to have a vision of the future of the sea and coastal zones. I think it was an extremely important activity, because it allowed countries and public opinion to become conscious of the risks that the

Mediterranean Basin was facing.

We also have had a third activity with the countries' attempts to engage themselves in an integrated planning of the coastal areas. In that programme they started to engage themselves in activities of environmental management of the coastal zones.

And, of course, there has been a series of activities affecting the protection of nature, the most remarkable sites and the most endangered species.

During that period there has been positive side effects, a development of cooperation between administrations, ministries, beyond political differences. All **Regional Activity Centres** were involved in these achievements. Often, in the multilateral cooperation, the side effects are at least as important as basic issues.

Has there been things that have not been done during these twenty years, things that could have been done and haven't, or that haven't been done as well as possible?

If we are to discuss about gaps in MAP's record, I would identify three:

The first is that the combating of

pollution in the Med does not advance with the necessary pace in particular because of the increasing pollution originating from land-based sources.

Second, the degradation of the coastal zones is extremely important, and that has not been controlled because of inadequate coastal management and, especially, because of lack of efficient planning.

And, finally, the protection of the special sites is not sufficiently assured.

**Is it a gap in the legal framework, or a gap in the will on the part of the countries?**

It is certainly a question regarding the legal texts, but also the existing economic problems, the state of public awareness and, finally, the fact that the Convention was more focused on the marine



**Representatives from all the Mediterranean countries were present in Barcelona when the Environment Ministers signed the Barcelona Resolution and the amendments to the Convention and the Protocols.**

environment than on the coastal zones.

There are those critics that say that some governments prefer to do little or nothing, because, at least in the short term, that is more economical (i.e. they will spend less money than by taking action).

I don't believe this is still the case in the Med. The battle against pollution is affected by the law of decreasing returns. When one is in a situation of important pollution one can do a lot with reasonable amounts of money; then, when the environmental policies are developed and become mature, it becomes increasingly more expensive with lesser yields, paybacks.

In the Med we can expect high

environmental efficiency at a moderate enough cost, and I believe this is an encouraging situation.

**So, two decades later, you came together at Barcelona once more; the 20th anniversary. A new Plan was launched. What was decided in Barcelona II?**

I think that we have taken into account the balance-sheet of the first period, we noted the new ideas and the new principles that emerged in the world since the **Bruntland Report** and the **Rio Summit**.

First we extended the area where the Mediterranean Action Plan is applied, bearing in mind that we can not deal with the marine environment without being preoccupied by the question of overall development.

Second, we cannot formulate

rules affecting the pollution if we don't get into the question of the type of development we adopt. So we engaged ourselves in a programme of sustainable development.

These were the two big changes. We adapted the Convention to these new axes.

**Some NGOs were critical of Barcelona II, saying that the countries did not go as far as they could have gone.**

I believe that the principle question was not the Convention (were I feel that a consensus was reached) but the pollution-combating objectives.

On the 1996-2005 time-table we managed to find a compromise formula that appears to me to be satisfactory, in which one can see

very clearly the direction things are taking: gradual elimination or reduction of certain pollutants until the year 2005.

Both the objective and the methods will be studied in a conference on industry and environment that will be held next year.

In MAP, as in all other international organizations, the problem is not only to take decisions but also to implement them. So I, personally, prefer to set targets that can be reached to texts that are written on paper but do not represent a genuine political commitment.

**Do you think that the cooperation between the U.N., the member countries and the NGOs is working well?**

At least the environment is one of the sectors where the NGOs are the most present, with the right to intervene, to express themselves during the meetings - which is very important. For the time being, and this is going to last, we have a system according to which the NGOs participate extremely openly...

**...but are the NGOs saying things that make sense, or are they just expressing inapplicable views?**

I think that most of the NGOs are in the process of becoming more and more professional and consequently respected. There are excellent specialists in some of the NGOs: we saw that, for instance, when we were discussing the Specially Protected Areas Protocol.

**Let's, now, take a look into the future, the next twenty years, so to speak. What are the objectives for each of the five big "Themes" in MAP. We can start with the Coastal Areas.**

There are three types of activities. The first is the juridical activity. It seems to me to be indispensable that the countries give themselves a legal system that would allow them to manage the coastal zones.

A **MAP seminar** will be held in April, on the island of Santorini, on that issue. It is going to be organized jointly with the Greek Ministry of the Environment and Public Works, with the financial

► assistance of the French Government.

The idea behind that is that there should be guidelines on coastal areas management for the whole of the Mediterranean Basin.

Secondly we are going to pursue the CAMPs' activities - but we are going to improve them. We will make them more effective, less academic, more concrete. We are going to have an evaluation of the "First Generation CAMPs", and we will propose to the member-states, in 1996, to adopt a mode of elaborating the CAMPs, anchored in reality.

And, thirdly, it is indispensable to assure the protection of the sites of exceptional interest and to manage better the historical sites, in the spirit of a sustainable tourist development. These are a very good opportunities to show what sustainable tourism really is.

**And what about pollution from ships and aircraft?**

The most spectacular thing that has happened until now is the control of the risks of accidents of ships that carry hydrocarbons and dangerous substances. On that there has been a real progress, and the **REMPEC** has done a very good job.

But there is a lot more to do about pollution, especially when it concerns the cleaning of the ships' tanks. Then we have all the marine pollution that is connected to the activities in the harbours, the ports' capacity to treat the ships' wastes (**MARPOL Convention**).

There we have to deal with a much more diffused pollution, and this issue is tied with education and information, and with investments, as well. I would like to point out, here, the excellent example of **HELMPEPA**, the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association, in Greece,

that makes a wonderful job of informing its members, the Greek seamen, and assures their discipline.

What is needed is investments, in the harbours, so that they can receive the wastes. Same thing for the Navies.

I believe that we need an Action Plan in each country, for the reduction of pollution.

**The Land-Based Sources is MAP's third big "Theme"; what is envisaged for LBS in the years to come?**

To start with, I hope that we are going to have a **new Protocol** that will be signed in Syracuse, that will modernize the existing Protocol, it is going to concretize it: we are going to introduce the permitting system and the concept of national inspectorates.

Secondly we are going to have the conference about industrial pollutants that is going to permit us to have a wide base of knowledge about the problem. Currently the knowledge we have is very limited.

Thirdly I would like that we work with the **World Bank** and the **European Investment Bank** and the other regional investment banks in order to prepare and implement a programme for the financial support of investments aiming at combating pollution.

**As far as the Specially Protected Areas are concerned, we can talk about three categories: zones of ecological importance, zones of natural beauty and historical zones.**

We have the Tunis Centre, dealing with the Specially Protected Areas, including a new category, created by the Mediterranean countries the **SPAMIs**, the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance. The Tunis Centre's priority is to prepare guidelines for the establishment of these sites by the contracting parties, as well

as an indicative list of **SPAMIs**, hopefully in 1996.

Next, the **SPA/RAC** must get engaged in the elaboration of inventories of natural heritage in the whole of the Mediterranean Basin.

As far as the historical sites are concerned, in many countries the archeological authorities have done a remarkable job of updating their data on ruins, of restoring and of promoting the legal framework for their protection. But there is still the question of the big number of visitors and of the sites' integration in the local tourist policy and their participation in the economic development of the Basin. This is at the same time a gamble and a risk.

**Finally, sustainable development is the new grand "Theme". It is a rather new idea for MAP, isn't it?**

It is a new idea for everyone. It is a new policy, that we approach gradually. The environmental policy we know very well: for twenty or thirty years, in every country, we have build environmental policies, we have a certain experience on that issue. That is not the case for sustainable development, and especially for its integration of the environment in development: we have much less experience.

It is not enough to make declarations; we have to inaugurate projects in the different areas, like energy, transports, agriculture, tourism.

In my view we should proceed by establishing the **Commission on Sustainable Development** and work on two or three subjects that are important for the Mediterranean Basin. And we should concentrate on identifying the problems and fixing objectives.

And to obtain this we need the works of the **Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory** that is in the process of being created by the Blue Plan.

**Do you consider the Mediterranean Action Plan a success?**

I think "success" is too strong a

word. I would say that the Barcelona Meeting was a success, no question about that. But MAP's results have been uneven.

**What must be done, on the level of general policy, to insure that it will be a success in the 21st century?**

To begin with there are many conditions for that: on a national, local, and regional level.

On the regional level we need an active Secretariat, and well organized Regional Activity Centres and a very good coordination, so that we create synergy effects, with the other international institutions such as the World Bank, the **European Union**, the regional banks etc., as well as a capacity to intervene in the financial matters. And we also need to communicate with the public and inform it - because MAP is still not very well known.

On the national level, the ministries involved must be strengthened and the coordination between the different ministries and departments must be more assured - problems that are delicate.

And, finally, we need a better involvement of local, decentralized authorities and socio-economic actors.

**Is that a thing for the governments to do, or is it a responsibility of the banks and the Mediterranean Action Plan?**

It is a matter for all three, governments, MAP and the relevant international organizations.

**One last question: if one looks at the Mediterranean Action Plan's map, one notices that all the RACs are concentrated in the west (with the exception of the HQ) and the north (with the notable exception of the SPA/RAC). Even the newest centre will be in Barcelona. What about the east and the south?**

The creation of centres depends on the governments' initiative, because it is up to the governments to propose. But I wish that we have a centre in the eastern part of the Basin. We should go in that direction, that is certain. ■

Meeting	Date	Place
Seminar on Systemic and Prospective Methodologies and Tools in the Mediterranean Basin	February	Sophia Antipolis
Meeting of Experts on LBS Protocol	3-4 March	Siracusa
Conference of Plenipotentiaries on LBS Protocol	7-8 March	Siracusa
Meeting of MEDPOL Coordinators	18-22 March	Athens
Meeting of the Bureau	1-2 April	Cairo
Meeting of Experts on Hazardous Wastes Protocol	<i>to be decided</i>	Izmir
Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Hazardous Wastes Protocol	<i>to be decided</i>	Izmir
Meeting of Mediterranean Experts on Coastal Policy	26-27 April	Santorini
Meeting of MAP National Focal Points	6-10 May	Athens
Meeting of the Bureau	20-24 May	Vallencia
Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties	June/July	Montpellier
Final Presentation Conference for Fuka-Matrouh CAMP	June/July	Matrouh
Meeting of Experts on Liability and Compensation	8-11 October	Athens
Meeting on Industrial Pollution	October	Marseilles
Meeting of Experts on the Presentation of Guidelines for the Handling of Sewage Sludge and Dredging Spoils	October/ November	Spain
First Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development	Autumn	—

*Most dates and places are tentative;  
(—) means that no place has been decided yet.*

## CORRIGENDUM

Meeting	Date	Place
Meeting of Experts on LBS Protocol	3-4 March	Siracusa
Conference of Plenipotentiaries on LBS Protocol	6-7 March	Siracusa
Meeting of MEDPOL Coordinators	18-22 March	Athens
Meeting of the Bureau	1-2 April	Cairo
Meeting of Mediterranean Experts on Coastal Policy	26-27 April	Santorini
Meeting of MAP Focal Points	6-10 May	Athens
Meeting of Experts on the Preparation of Guidelines for Management of Dredging Spoils	20-23 May	Valencia
Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties	1-5 July	Montpellier
Final Presentation Conference for Fuka-Matrouh CAMP	June/July	Matrouh
Meeting on Industrial Pollution	2-4 October	Marseilles
Meeting of Experts on Liability and Compensation	8-11 October	Athens
Seminar on the Management of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region	October	Malta
First Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development	Autumn	<i>to be decided</i>
Meeting of Experts on Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Autumn	Izmir
Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Autumn	Izmir





**C. R. P. M.**

\* In their Final Declaration the parties to the 6th session of the Intermediterranean

Commission express their satisfaction for the creation of a

scientific network for marine research that was decided in Marseilles and that unites the Mediterranean Regions with the large national organizations like IFREMER, ICRAM, IEO, NCMR IPIMAR etc. [source: CPMR/Intermediterranean Commission, Final Declaration]

\* A special group of experts on Biosafety was convened in Madrid in July. The meeting, held by the Spanish Government, took place in the framework of the debate on biosafety that has been initiated by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Conference of Parties had decided that a special ad hoc group would examine the actual knowledge, experience and legislation regarding biosafety. The meeting analysed the modes of evolution of the risks and the appropriate management of the impact of modified living organisms. [source: Informacion de Medio Ambiente, no. 37/Sept 1995]

\* Ministers and other government representatives from over 100 countries assembled in Geneva in September for the third meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

One of the amendments to the Convention bans exports of hazardous wastes from OECD to non-OECD countries. The Conference decided to create regional or subregional centres for training and technology transfers regarding the management of hazardous wastes. The first three centres will be for Latin America and The Caribbean, Asia and The Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe. [source: UNEP News Release 55/1995]

\* Important nesting areas for Caretta caretta sea turtles were discovered in Libya, in July, between Syrte (on the Gulf of Sidra coastline) and the border with Egypt.

Numerous nests were reported. The survey was organized by MEDASSET (the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles) and the Specially Protected Areas RAC. The research team included Libyan researchers as well as experts from France and Tunisia. WWF International also participated. The Libyan Technical Centre for Environmental Protection in Tripoli, as well as the Marine Research Centre in Tajura, played a pivotal role for the success of the survey. [source: UNEP/MAP Press Release, 19/7/95]

\* In the framework of the 5th Action Programme for the Environment "Towards sustainable development" the 11th General Directorate (DG XI) of the European Union invited the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) to contribute to the definition of a second phase (1996-2000) on the basis of its acquired experience in this field. This consultation could lead the Commission to revise the objectives and priorities of the programme in order to achieve a more pragmatic implementation between now and the year 2000.

CPMR was created in 1973 (in Saint-Malo, France) and covers the maritime regions of the European Union (but also invites regions from other European countries as observers). It comprises of four Commissions: Islands, Atlantic Arc, Intermediterranean and North Sea. [source: CPMR Bulletin, XII/94]

\* In July the Spanish Cabinet named Jose Ramon Gonzalez Lastra and Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri heads of the General Direction of environmental information and evaluation and of the General Direction of environmental policy, respectively.

Jose Ramon Gonzalez Lastra, a geologist, became, in 1994, Director General of

Within the MAP programme for Coastal Areas Management (CAMP), a pilot project is being implemented in the Fuka-Matrouh region of Egypt. The project started at the beginning of 1993 with the participation of MED Unit, RAC Centres, international national and local institutions and experts. The objectives of the projects were to tackle the environment and development problems of the area in an integrated manner, i.e. a coastal area is approached from all its aspects and their mutual interdependence, in order to protect, rationally utilise and ensure sustainable management of the natural coastal and marine resources and resolve existing environment conflicts. Also to set up the optimum paths of the future dynamic development of the region.

In this connection, a first presentation meeting was convened in Matrouh on 18-20 September 1995, with a view to presenting the main results of the various activities achieved so far. The meeting was opened by Mr. S. Hafez, Chief Executive of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and Mr. Z. Abdel-Rahman, Governor of the Governorate of Matrouh. Mr. I. Dharat made an introductory welcome statement on behalf of UNEP/MAP. The meeting reviewed progress achieved and problems encountered and agreed at the end of its deliberations on a set of general recommendations.

The sad news of the untimely death of Dr. N. Al-Fishawi, the UNEP/MAP Consultant on Climatic Changes within the framework of the Fuka-Matrouh CAMP project, was a great shock to all MED Unit staff, RAC Centres, and other national and international experts involved in the project. Dr. Al-Fishawi was a prominent expert due to his expertise and his charming personal character. His death, due to a car accident on returning back from the Matrouh meeting on the Fuka CAMP, will be felt by all of us and he will always be remembered.

God bless his soul.

*I. Dharat*

environmental policy, after having served as General Director of environmental resources and water management next to the Vice-Councillor on Environment of the Basque Government.

Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri, a PhD in chemistry, was named in 1991 Director General of Youth and in 1993 Director General of the Environment in the Madrid

**\* Environmental Conventions: Who Joined What? New Parties (latest convention ratifications)**

@ Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989): Guatemala, Iceland, Quatar (Total: 90)

@ The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985): Latvia (Total: 151)

@ The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987): Latvia (Total: 149)

@ The London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (1990): Turkey (Total: 103)

@ The Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (1992): Argentina, Israel, Spain (Total: 47)

@ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1975): Belarus, Dominica (Total: 130)

@ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979): Guinea-Bissau (Total: 47)

@ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992): Niger (Total: 138)

@ Convention on Biological Diversity (1992): Algeria, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Niger, Uzbekistan (Total: 124)

[source: UNEP Update, Volume 10, August 1995]

Municipality. [source: *Informacion de Medio Ambiente*, no. 37/Sept 1995]

\* The first ten turtles that were brought to Sea Turtle Rescue Centre in Glyfada, Greece, managed by the Society for the Protection of the Sea Turtle, were all *Caretta caretta*. Unfortunately five of them died (Odysseus, Penelope, Sky, Josef and Theano). But the rest (Eleftheria, Euterpe, Triantafyllenia, Pissa and Persefone) survived after being treated by the Centre. These turtles came from different parts of Greece: Astakos, Nauplion, Corfu (2), Hydra, Salonica, Lagonissi, Rethymnon, Halkis and Porto Rafi.

[source: "ARCHELON", No 23, Apr-Jun '95]

\* The United Nations Environment Programme invites the global citizens to nominate individuals, or young peoples' groups for the Global 500 Youth Environment Award and individuals or groups for the Global 500 Roll of Honour for Environmental Achievement.

Nominations should be followed by a 250-word summary describing the nominee's activities, updated literature, press stories and two references other than the nominator. (No self-nominations). For more information contact: Global 500 Award, UNEP, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel (254-2) 62.34.01, Fax (254-2) 62.36.92, 62.39.27 [source: UNEP brochure]



\* In its attempt to overcome the depletion of *Posidonia oceanica* sea-grasses in the Mediterranean, Marevivo, an Italian organization, developed a technique by means of which small plants have been reproduced in vitro starting from a single cell. This technique is based on the isolation and culture of protoplasts obtained from wild adult plants.

Marevivo's scientific team, then, started, in July, to transplant the reproduced plants into the natural environment, opposite the ENEL Spa thermal electric plant of Civitavecchia on the Lazio coast, near Rome. It was expected that in the first phase of this project a total of 12,000 cultivated and 250 laboratory reproduced plants would be transplanted. [source: communication of Marevivo, 6/9/95]

\* Ten years after its enactment, the French law on the Littoral of 1986 is being evaluated. Mr. Yves Bonnot, mayor of Perros-Guirrec, handed the French Prime Minister Mr. Alan Juppe a report called "Pour une politique global et coherente du littoral en France". He gave an interview in the French publication "Le Moniteur". Excerpts: Q: What is your opinion on the Law of the Littoral?

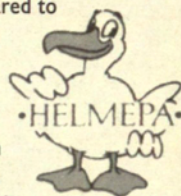
A: I think it is not a question of re-doing the law or to eliminate it. I believe we have to make it more precise. The fact that it is not clear in certain of the notions it refers to might turn it against its own objectives. [...] There is a great risk to arrive sometimes to contradictory jurisprudence." [source: *Le Moniteur*, 18/8/95]

\* The Northern Africa Regional Committee for START (Global change system for analysis, research and training) workshop on desertification and vegetation change in Africa was held in the city of Yamoussoukro in the Ivory Coast. Its purpose was to develop a research agenda and implementation plans for the study of desertification, deforestation and vegetation change.

The future direction of atmospheric deposition research in Africa includes biannual science meetings to present the results and review the status of the project. [source: *Global Change NewsLetter*, No 22 June 1995. Published by the International Geosphere - Biosphere Programme]

\* HELMEPA member vessels climbed to an all-time high, 554, in 1994, compared to 533 in 1993 and 346 in 1982, first year of the organization's activity (representing an increase by 60% in 13 years). The seafarer members reached 8,703 (of which 3,925 were desk officers, 2,478 engineer officers and 2,300 Hellenic Coast Guard, Hellenic Navy, Land-based etc).

The Association's total operational cost for 1994 was US\$ 570,000. Of these monies 59% was spent on seafarer training and 41% on public awareness campaigns. HELMEPA's expenditure for the period 1983-1994 reached US\$ 4,376,000. [source: Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association, HELMEPA, 1994 Annual Report]



## books

European Environment Agency 1994  
**European Rivers and Lakes: Assessment of their Environmental State**

P. Kristensen and H. O. Hansen (eds.)  
EEA, Copenhagen, Denmark. 122pp.

This report is one of the first to attempt an all-European assessment of the environmental state and trends of inland and surface waters. It provides a general overview which may be used as a basis for implementing general measures to improve water quality and physical conditions of rivers and lakes and to identify areas with environmental problems.

IUCN 1995

**The Law of the Sea: Priorities and Responsibilities in Implementing the Convention.**

Part I. L. A. Kimball, *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: A Framework for Marine Conservation.*

Part II. D. M. Johnston et al. *Conservation and Management of the Marine Environment. A Marine Conservation and Development Report.*

IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. 155pp.

The book is divided into two parts, each designed to complement the other. Part I, written by Lee Kimball, is a detailed analysis of the

Convention on the Law of the Sea and its relationship to specific marine conservation issues. It includes a series of recommendations and priorities for future actions. Part II is a chart developed by Douglas M. Johnston, Phillip Saunders and Prof. Peter Payoyo, which identifies required initiatives arising out of each obligation of the Convention related to environmental conservation. It also lists actors who could be instrumental in carrying out these initiatives.

Demetropoulos, A and Hadjichristophorou, M. 1995

**Manual on Marine Turtle Conservation in the Mediterranean.**  
UNEP (MAP) SPA/IUCN/CWS/Fisheries Department, MANRE (Cyprus). 114pp, 24 plates, 77 photos

The manual attempts to give practical information that may be useful, under Mediterranean conditions, for marine turtle conservation work. It is seen as a supplement to practical training in turtle conservation techniques. The present edition is a revised, illustrated and somewhat extended version of the 1992 edition.

Water Solidarity Network 1995.

**Water in the Mediterranean: Perspectives on Cooperation. Proposals for New Concepts of Solidarity.**

Water Solidarity Network/Ministère de l' Environnement, direction de l'eau, Paris. 24pp.

► A study on the current state of cooperation on water in the Mediterranean, and on the perspectives of its reinforcement. Without claiming to be a comprehensive survey, this document shows the abundance and wealth of the initiatives taken and suggests a number of areas for reflection.

**Greenpeace, Inc. 1993.**

**Freedom for the Seas in the 21st Century: Ocean Governance and Environmental Harmony.**

Jon M. Van Dyke, et al (eds.)

#### A MAP/AOYE Brochure

With a view to disseminating environmental information in the Arab World, a brochure on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean will be launched soon in Arabic. The project is sponsored by UNEP/MAP and the Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE - Cairo, Egypt). The aim of the project is to foster Environmental and Sustainable Development responsibility throughout Egypt and the Arab World, and to promote awareness of environmental issues and active stewardship for the Mediterranean environment.

It is expected that the first issue of the brochure will come out in late 1995.

*I. Dharat*

#### "World Agriculture towards 2010"

**An FAO study edited by Nikos Alexandratos**

The book updates, amplifies and extends to the year 2010 the FAO global study which was last issued in 1987. It assesses the prospects, worldwide, for food and agriculture, including fisheries and forestry, over the years to 2010.

The two most important themes of the book concern the prospects for enhanced food security and nutrition and for improved sustainability of agricultural and rural development which includes natural resources and the environment. It focuses mainly, but not only, on developing countries analysing and evaluating the agricultural potential of land resources and their use.

*G. Gabrielides*

**Island Press, Washington, DC. 504pp**

This book is about ideas and their power to change reality, in this case to change the way the oceans are used and abused, to change the current freedom of the seas into freedom for the seas. It is also, implicitly, about people and their ability to conceive ideas, to encourage change, and ultimately, to act. And it is about the pull of history and convention on our ability to think and act creatively.

*A. Davaki*

**Marine Mucilages, with Special Reference to Mucilage Events in the Northern Adriatic Sea, the Tyrrhenian Sea and the North Sea. Proceedings of an International Workshop on Marine Mucilage Phenomena, Cesenatico, Forli, Italy, 10-12 September 1992.**

**R.A. Vollenweider and A. Rinaldi (eds.) (The Science of the Total Environment, vol. 165, 1995, Special issue, 235 pp.)**

This interesting and for certain aspects unique volume gathers the deliberations and manuscripts of a workshop on the worldwide phenomenon of the marine mucilages held at Cesenatico, September 10-12, 1992, promoted by the Department of Environment of Emilia-Romagna and the Centre of Marine Research, Cesenatico, Forli. Some 25 participants from Italy, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Norway, UK, USA and UNEP/MAP were convened to review the present knowledge about marine mucilages in general and to assess the particular case of the Northern Adriatic Sea. The discussion, articulated in 19 papers orally presented, covered the definition of the phenomenon and the trigger mechanisms; in addition, its biology, biochemistry, structure, identification and possible effects on human health; finally, the research needs, monitoring and predictability and the possible remedial interventions.

The physiological role of mucilage production is still unclear. It may be originated by algae and bacteria as byproduct with no direct function, but more likely, the production represents a metabolic alteration with functional role, adopted as strategy to benefit the cell. Experimental evidence has shown that the nutrient status may influence the amount of mucilage produced; especially phosphorus limitation, as a high N/P ratio, but also conditions of nitrogen and silicon limitation are implicated. Thus, the floc formation might be a strategy to benefit the algal component of the aggregate, since mucilages contain higher concentrations of

inorganic nutrients than the surrounding water.

It appears that the process of formation of organic aggregates does not always lead to marine snow and subsequent agglomeration as in the Adriatic Sea, but can occur in facies as different as cobweb-like coverage on benthic organisms, as in the Tyrrhenian Sea, or as foam accumulating on shore, as in the North Sea. A direct relation with eutrophication is possible—especially in the North Sea—, but is definitely not evident in the whole Mediterranean. Surfacing of mucilages in the Adriatic Sea, and its dispersion, instead, largely depend on the physical environment and meteorological conditions, factors that in their co-action are particularly unfavourable in the Northern Adriatic basin.

While there is now a large amount of scientific literature on the basic processes of mucilage formation, the practical experience of controlling the phenomenon is instead still insufficient. Mechanical devices, such as booms that have been tried to physically contain mucilages, have proven economically prohibitive and often unfit to resist the dynamic forces of the sea. Other potential means of control considered, such as chemical and physical dispersants (e.g., sonar) and biological agents, are either environmentally questionable (e.g., chemicals) or inappropriate considering the scale needed for their use. In any case, none has been examined *in situ* yet.

The volume also stressed the importance recalled by the participants at the workshop of an appropriate public information, based on real scientific facts and knowledge. This has become evident—and to some degree was a bitter lesson learned—during and after the recent mucilages events. The public asks for culprits even if it is difficult to identify them and, because of lack of concrete answers, wrong conclusions are often reached with some possible unpredictable effects.

*S. Civili*

# Italy finances and supports a project for MED POL data processing

In the summer of 1994, an agreement was signed between the **United Nations Environment Programme, Mediterranean Action Plan** (UNEP/MAP) and the Government of Italy for the implementation of Project CP/ME/0401-94-14, "**Enhancement of Data Processing Facilities for Environmental Data at the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MEDU)**".

The **Italian Government** undertook to provide full funding of this Project, the duration of which was set for a period of 18 months (from **1 July 1994 to 31 December 1995**).

The **Laboratory of Marine Biology (LMB)** of the **University of Trieste (UT)** was designated as the supporting and cooperating organization. In addition, the LMB would provide the scientific expertise and advice necessary for the implementation and completion of the technical element of the Project related to the Mediterranean marine pollution data.

Within the framework of **MED POL (Long-term Programme for Pollution Monitoring and Research in the Mediterranean Sea)**, the Mediterranean countries have been submitting pollution data to UNEP/MAP since 1975. Focus of the Project was set at improving the computerization, reprocessing, analysis, and presentation of these MED POL datasets. Another equally important task was set as dissemination of all know-how and experience accumulated within the work of the Project to the region, mainly to the developing countries. In July 1994, a marine biologist was seconded to Athens from the LMB as Data Analyst for the duration of the Project to study and evaluate the quality of MED POL data, as well as to provide an improved formula for the

overall computerization and validation of pollution data received from the region.

From its start, the Project gradually produced results. All available Mediterranean MED POL raw pollution data on heavy metals and halogenated hydrocarbons in biota and sediment, and micro organisms in sea water were computerized. This was followed by the analysis and compilation of yearly data statistics. Existing data computerization guidelines were reviewed and followed by a number of new ones. A member of workshops and meetings related to the MED POL monitoring were attended and lectures were given on the computerization and the validation of the marine pollution data. The training and capacity building aspect of the Project was given even more momentum towards the end of the Project (*see below*).

The Project also aimed at enhancing the presentation of Mediterranean marine pollution data through the utilization of advanced computer technology aiming at high quality maps, charts, assessment documents, country profiles, reports and demos. In this line, a multitude of new computer hardware and software (such as geographic information system and desktop publishing tools) were utilized for the creation and compilation of the Project output. A **Project Review Meeting** was held in Rome on 9-10 May 1995, attended by officials from the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy** and from the University of Trieste. In this meeting, participants were briefed on the progress made within the Project during the first eight months of its implementation, to which they expressed their satisfaction.

A multimedia presentation featuring MED POL and UNEP/MAP and their roles in the Mediterranean region, was displayed during the **Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties**, which was held in Barcelona in June 1995.

In December 1995, a five day training course on the handling, processing, interpretation and presentation of Mediterranean marine pollution data was held in Trieste, Italy. This, the final activity of the Project, was organized jointly by the LMB/UT and UNEP/MAP, and was attended by twenty one technical officers and scientists from fifteen Mediterranean countries, those involved in the management of marine pollution data, or who use such data daily in their work.

A number of hardcopy products planned within the implementation of the Project will soon be disseminated to the marine pollution community in the Mediterranean region. Among these are marine pollution data codes, MED POL data transfer formats for regional data exchange on magnetic media; pollution data computerization guidelines; data verification and validation guidelines; objectives and effectiveness of a monitoring programme (trend monitoring); MED POL data inventory on selected datasets; production of case studies relevant to marine pollution trends in certain coastal areas; the report of the training course; and utilization of geographic information system, desktop publishing tools and Internet relevant to the marine pollution data handling.

by Joaquin Ros Vicent,  
Rapporteur of the Bureau  
of the Contracting Parties(\*)

# The spirit of Barcelona lives on



Mr Joaquin Ros (right) the Minister of Environment of Spain Mr Jose Borrell (centre) and the MAP Coordinator Mr Lucien Chabason (left).

**T**he Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention, adopted by the Barcelona Conferences of 1975 and 1976, had as their origin the **First U.N. Conference on the Environment** (Stockholm, 1972). The **Second U.N. Conference on the Environment and Development** (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) decided that in order to achieve a sustainable development, the protection of the environment has to become an integral part of the development process.

After the Rio Conference, many Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention thought that the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Convention and the Protocols had to be revised in order to be adapted to the principles adopted in Rio.

The **eighth Ordinary Meeting** of Antalya, in 1993, decided to follow this revision, but a certain apprehension was voiced that too drastic a revision could lead to failure. It was decided to adopt a rule of consensus on the subject and so only the passages on which all Parties agreed would be modified.

During the Antalya Meeting three delegations - those of Spain, Malta and Tunisia - declared their countries' candidacy for the 9th ordinary meeting. The representatives of Malta and Tunisia were open to the arguments advanced by the Spanish delegation, to hold the ordinary meeting in Barcelona because it coincided with the **20th anniversary** of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the meeting to be followed by a **Conference of Plenipotentiaries** who would adopt the revised texts; so they withdrew their propositions in favour of the Spanish one that was adopted unanimously.

The Meeting adopted the invitation by Tunisia to organize a "**Mediterranean 21**" meeting in order to examine in depth the relation between the environment and sustainable development. The ministerial Conference in Tunis, in 1994, that was preceded by two meetings of experts, was a success. Four very important resolutions were adopted, referring to the creation of a **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD)** in the framework of MAP and based on the "Action MED 21" document.

The **9th Ordinary Meeting** was held in Barcelona between the 3rd and the 8th of June 1995, preceded by two preparatory meetings of experts. This meeting revised the texts; consensus on all points was sought after. The documents were formally adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries that

took place on the 9th and 10th of June.

The representatives of the **19 contracting parties**, among which fourteen ministers, the representatives of **9 institutions and special organizations of the United Nations System** and of **37 governmental and non-governmental organizations** were present at the meeting.

The representatives of all the Parties that were present adopted and signed the following documents:

**I. The Barcelona Resolution** on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin and its two annexes, the Action Plan on the protection of the marine environment and the sustainable development of the coastal areas of the Mediterranean ("MAP-Phase II") and the document on the priority fields of activities for the environment and the development of the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005).

**II. The amendments to the Barcelona Convention** and the amendments to the dumping protocol.

**III. The new Protocol** concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean

On the importance of this meeting we need only to remark that never, in MAP's 20 years of existence, the ministers responsible for the environment of the coastal states of the Mediterranean had met in such big numbers.

Of the adopted documents, the Barcelona Resolution represents the political document by which the ministers representing the Parties approve of MAP and indicate the objectives; adopt the document on the priority fields of action and decide on the creation of the MCSDD; ask UNEP to convene **two conferences in 1996**, one to adopt the new Protocol on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, the other to adopt a new version of the LBS Protocol; engage themselves to preserve the biodiversity of the species, the habitats and the sites of ecological interest; decide to reduce, until **the year 2005**, the wastes and

emissions of toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative (tpb) substances - especially the organohalogenes - so that they reach levels that will not be harmful neither to humans nor to nature, with a view to their gradual elimination; and, finally, decide to meet again in Tunis in 1997.

The question of the tpb substances proved to be a reason for strong discussions during the conference that probably will not come to an end soon. The NGOs and Greenpeace, on their side, demand the elimination of wastes and emissions by the year 2005.

From this new phase one can evoke the following:

**a) The sustainable development** of the region and the sustainable management of its resources are MAP's principle objectives; the creation of the MCSDD is a fact of great importance for the future.

**b) Given the fact that MAP is based on a purely maritime convention**, the door is opened for the **inclusion of the territory**, and especially the coastal zones, in order for them to become a central preoccupation and obligation of the Plan and the Convention.

**c) We have passed from the first phase of the Plan**, where the prime objective was the pollution of the sea, to **the second phase**, the protection of the environment, the conservation of nature, species, sites and landscapes of ecological or cultural interest.

The **consent** on the intention to revise MAP and the Convention has marked the beginning of a process of transformation of MAP's activities, a process that will not stop at the Barcelona Convention.

The **Euro-Mediterranean Conference**, convened by the European Union Summit and held in Barcelona on the 27th and 28th of November 1995, will certainly identify an important qualitative and quantitative change of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and the definition of a **common space of peace and stability**.

(\*) Mr Ros is Executive Councillor of the Ministry of Environment and Housing in Madrid, Spain.