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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the the protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related
protocols

Madrid, 11 September 1986

OPENING OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE
FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

SALAMMBO, TUNIS

UNEP

Athens, 1986

1. At the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States and the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols, held in Geneva from 5 to 10 February 1979, UNEP was invited to convene, in co-operation with UNESCO, FAO and IUCN an Intergovernmental Meeting on Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas. The meeting was held in Athens (13-17 October 1980). It elaborated a draft protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas. It also recommended the creation of a Centre for Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas.
2. The Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution (Cannes, 2-7 March 1981) decided that a Centre for Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas would be established as a national institution with a regional role to play, like the Regional Activity Centres, already in operation as part of MAP (the Blue Plan at Sophia Antipolis, France and the Priority Actions Programme at Split, Yugoslavia) (UNEP/IG.23/11 para. 69). The meeting accepted the offer of Tunisia to host the Centre (para. 68).
3. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries which met in Geneva on 2-3 April 1982 adopted the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas which was signed by the representatives of France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Spain and Tunisia. It was subsequently signed by Egypt, Morocco, Yugoslavia and by the EEC and ratified by Algeria, Egypt, Italy, Tunisia, Yugoslavia and EEC (as at 30 June 1986).
4. At its last meeting (Madrid, 20 March 1986), the Bureau designated H.E. Mr. Abdul Hamid-Munajid of Syria (Vice-President), to represent the Bureau at the official opening of the Centre in Salamambo, Tunis.
5. After consultation with the Director of the Centre and due to the fact that there are few institutional arrangements to be completed, the date of the official opening of the Centre has been fixed at the 16th October 1986.