



United Nations
Environment
Programme



UNEP/BUR/28
Working paper 7
15 February 1987

Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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

Istanbul, 25-26 March 1987

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE
FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

SALAMMBO, TUNIS

UNEP

Athens, 1987

Official Opening of the Regional Activity Centre
for Specially Protected Areas

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, France, Italy, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia and EEC (as at 31 December 1986).
4. At its last meetings in Madrid (March and September 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 and requested him to avail himself of this opportunity to discuss with Tunisian authorities the need for solving the administrative and legal problems inhibiting the smooth operation of the Centre.
5. A joint UNEP/MAP mission was organized and sent at the end of September 1986 to review the situation, but had to be cancelled due to unfortunate circumstances on the Tunisian side.
6. The Co-ordinator paid a visit to the SPA/RAC in November 1986 (during the course of his attendance at the Symposium on marine co-operation in the Mediterranean held in Tunis). Various administrative, legal and substantive issues were discussed. The date for the official opening of the Centre was agreed upon (13 February 1987).
7. H.E. Mr. Abdul-Hamid Munajid, Vice-President of the Bureau, and Mr. A. Manos, Co-ordinator of MAP, attended the official opening of the Centre in Salamambo, Tunis, on 13 February 1987.