

MAP COOPERATION WITH NGOS

GUIDELINES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It is the general policy of UNEP/MAP to encourage relevant international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the Mediterranean region to cooperate with and participate in the work of UNEP/MAP in carrying out environmental protection and sustainable development activities.

The Rules of Procedure of MAP were amended in 1989 to cover this policy:

"The Executive Director shall, with the tacit consent of the Contracting Parties, invite to send representatives to observe any public sitting of any meeting or conference, including the meetings of technical committees, any international non-governmental organisation which has direct concern in the protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution".
(Rule 8).

- 1.2 The objectives of MAP' s collaboration with NGOs are to advance the general purposes of MAP and to promote the policies, strategies and programmes derived from the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols and the decisions of the Contracting Parties and in particular, in training and mobilising public attention to critical environmental issues, in creating a favourable climate for environmental actions, public support and monitoring, and in promoting the policies of their own organisations in support of UNEP' s goals.

Moreover, the purposes of such collaboration are to secure expert information and advice and technical cooperation and assistance from international NGOs and to enable organisations which represent important sections of public opinion in the Mediterranean to express the views of their members.

- 1.3 MAP shall, in relation to NGOs, act in conformity with the various decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

2. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

2.1 Any Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) which is concerned primarily with environmental issues and sustainable development in the Mediterranean or a part of the Mediterranean area and is free from concerns of commercial or profit making nature may exchange information with MAP and receive information from it.

2.2 This exchange is carried out on the basis of correspondence sent by the NGO in which it makes clear:

- the relevance of its aims and activities to the MAP goals stipulated in the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols;
- the existence of a Constitution or terms of reference approved by an Assembly and a programme of activities, a Board of Directors (or equivalent) and a Bureau or a Committee elected at regular intervals;
- the establishment of its headquarters or one of its offices in a Mediterranean country (since at least two years);
- the indication of the assistance (activities, training programme, raising of public awareness) that the NGO can provide in furtherance of MAP' s policies.

2.3 Any NGO which has thus become a MAP partner shall receive free of charge:

- MEDWAVES and
- public documents prepared by MAP on such activities as are likely to be of interest to the Organisation. This shall not entitle the Organisation to receive any financial support. Furthermore, it shall not automatically entitle the organisation to attend either general or specialised meetings.

3. POSSIBILITY FOR NGOS TO ATTEND MAP MEETINGS

3.1 In order for NGOs to be represented and more importantly to contribute to the dialogue within the framework of MAP concerning its goals, aims and programmes, the Coordinating Unit may invite them to attend general and/or more specialised meetings in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties.

3.2 The Coordinating Unit shall keep an updated (public) list of NGOs that have come into contact with it. Prior to the Ordinary Meetings of the Contracting Parties this list shall be circulated - along with the invitation letters, to the Contracting Parties for their clearance, in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of MAP.

3.3 The Bureau of the Contracting Parties shall review collaboration with NGO's listed on the MAP List, every two years and shall determine the desirability of maintaining or if not, discontinuing official relations.

3.4 Priority shall be given, for general meetings to:

- NGOs of international scope and multidisciplinary interest recognised in their statutes, multinational representation in their governing boards as well as their activities, especially those contributing to Mediterranean cooperation, be concerned with matters covering a substantial portion of MAP' s field of activity.

The dossier to be submitted by an NGO shall contain information illustrating the above mentioned points and especially:

- a. the NOGs' s Constitution or terms of reference and its rules of procedure, as well as a list of the Board of Directors (or equivalent) and Bureau;
 - b. its programme of activities for the coming biennium;
 - c. the report of activities of years past and most especially of the previous year which shall shed light on successes and difficulties;
 - d. the organisation's own proposals for improving Mediterranean cooperation and the commitments it intends to undertake in order to contribute to such cooperation;
 - e. the budget for the current year and for the coming year.
- a rotating representation (e.g. every two years) of some national organisations which are equitably selected among the North, the South, the East and the West of the Mediterranean Region, if possible through agreement among such organisations;
- 3.5 For specialised meetings, priority shall be given to organisations covering more than one country or the whole Mediterranean area if possible. They shall be invited to specialised meetings on the basis of their particular interest. They shall be concerned with matters covering a portion of MAP' s field of activity.

- 3.6 No organisation shall take advantage of its presence at a given meeting to express political, philosophical or religious view. It shall treat information emanating from the meetings as confidential for a reasonable amount of time.
- 3.7 When a Contracting Party organises or is a host to a MAP meeting, it shall be given authority to authorise the exceptional participation of a reasonable number of national or sub-regional organisations for the general meetings. The list of such organisations shall be sent in writing at least one month before the meeting to the Coordinating Unit or to the relevant Regional Activity Centre (RAC).
- 3.8 Regional Activity Centres (RAC) shall have a certain margin of manoeuvre, in respect of the meetings they organise, to complete the list with NGOs interested in the problems to be discussed or in those dealt with specifically by the Regional Activity Centres.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF INVITED NGOs IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH MAP

- 4.1 NGOs shall cooperate fully with MAP for the furtherance of the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols and shall be responsible for implementing the mutually agreed programme of collaboration.
- 4.2 NGOs shall utilise the opportunities available to them through their normal work to disseminate information on MAP policies and programmes.
- 4.3 NGOs shall collaborate individually or collectively in the implementation of MAP programmes.
- 4.4 NGOs shall individually or collectively collaborate with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the area of implementation of national/regional strategies for the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the implementation of sustainable development projects.
- 4.5 NGOs shall send to MAP their reports and publications on an exchange basis.
- 4.6 NGOs shall keep MAP informed of changes in their structure and/or interested public, as well as of important changes in their secretariat.

List of Non-Governmental Organisations, MAP partners in the field of environment and development and entitled, in principle, to participate with observer status in MAP meetings

- Arab Office for Youth and Environment (Egypt)
- Friends of the Earth International (Belgium)
- ENDA - Inter-Arab Environment and Development (Tunisia)
- FIS - Foundation for International Studies (Malta)
- EEB - European Environmental Bureau (Brussels)
- MIO - Mediterranean Information Office (Greece)
- ASCAME - Association of Chambers of Commerce of the Mediterranean
- IUCN - International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Switzerland)
- Greenpeace International (Italy)
- WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature (Italy)
- IJO - International Juridical Organisation for Environment and Development (Italy)
- CIIRC - International Centre for Coastal Resources Research (Spain)
- ICCOPS - International Centre for Coastal and Ocean Policy Studies (Italy)

NGOs shall sign (if they have not done so already) with the Coordinating Unit a working Agreement which can be revoked. Furthermore six NGOs from the South of the Mediterranean proposed by the states shall be entitled to attend meetings for a two-year period (on a rotating basis).

**List of more specialised Non-Governmental Organisations
which can be associated with MAP specialised meetings
or activities, as the case may be**

International

- E & P Forum - The Oil Industry International Exploration and Production Forum (England)
- CEFIC/EUROCHLOR - European Chemical Industry Council (Belgium)
- ACOPS - Advisory Committee on Pollution of the Sea (England)
- Mediterranean Water Institute
- MEDWAN (Water)
- MEDCOAST (Turkey)
- MEDPAN - Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (France)
- MEDWET (Italy)
- MEDCOM - START Planning Committee for the Mediterranean (France)
- CILS (Desertification)
- MEDMARAVIS - Mediterranean Marine Bird Association (France)
- ICOMOS - International Council on Monuments and Sites (France)
- CIHEAM - Centre of Studies on Food and Agriculture
- ICAMAS - International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomics Studies (France)
- HELMEPA - Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (Greece)
- ICBP - International Council for Bird Preservation (England)
- RAMSAR - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Switzerland)
- BCSD - Business Council for Sustainable Development (Switzerland)
- CUM - Council of Universities of Mediterranean Countries (Italy)
- EUROCOAST - European Coastal Zone Association for Science and Technology (France)
- ICED - International Centre for Environment and Development
- CEDIP - International Park Documentation Centre (Italy)
- MEDCITIES (France)
- The Centre for Field Research (Earthwatch) (U.S.A)
- CETIMA - Centre d'études Internationales du Maghreb et de la Méditerranée (Tunisia)

National

- MAREVIVO - Associazione Ambientalista (Italy)
- MEDASSET - Mediterranean Association to save the Sea Turtles (Greece)
- Amigos del Mediterraneo (Spain)
- Mediterranean 2000 (France)
- RIMMO - Réserve Internationale Maritime en Méditerranée Occidentale (France)

**List of more specialised Non-Governmental Organisations
which can be associated with MAP specialised meetings
or activities, as the case may be**

National (cont.)

- IME - Mediterranean Water Institute (France)
- La Facolla' dell' Arte e della Scienza (Italy)
- International Water Office (France)
- APNEK - Association de protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan (Tunisia)
- ECO Mediterrania (Spain)
- CYMEPA - Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association (Cyprus)
- DHKD - The Society for the Protection of Nature (Turkey)
- JCI - Joycees Ankara (Turkey)
- LINE - The Libyan Nature Environment Association (Lebanon)
- Station Biologique de la tour du Valat (France)
- Association de Jeunes pour la Protection de l'Environnement (Algeria)
- Forêt Méditerranée (France)
- Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment (Albania)
- IMC - International Marine Centre (Italy)
- Instituto Universitario de Ciencias Ambientales (Spain)