

UNEP/IG.23/INF.6



United Nations
Environment
Programme



Distr.
RESTRICTED

UNEP/IG.20/5
30 October 1980

Original: ENGLISH

Intergovernmental Meeting on
Mediterranean Specially
Protected Areas

Athens, 13-17 October 1980

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON
MEDITERRANEAN SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

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Introduction

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 to consider, with a view to adoption, guidelines and technical principles for the selection, establishment and management of Mediterranean specially protected areas and other related matters; and also to consider the development of a protocol concerning Mediterranean protected areas (UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, page 6, para. 25(ii)).

2. In response to this recommendation, and at the kind invitation of the Government of Greece, the Executive Director of UNEP convened an Intergovernmental Meeting on Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas in Athens from 13 to 17 October 1980.

Attendance

3. Delegations from 12 Mediterranean Coastal States and the European Economic Community participated in the Meeting.

4. Representatives from two United Nations bodies, two specialized agencies and three intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as observers. A complete list of participants is attached as annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting

5. Mr. Marinos Yeroulanos, Vice-President of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols, declared the Meeting open. Whilst welcoming all participants, Mr. Yeroulanos also conveyed to the Meeting the greetings of the President, H.E. Mr. Ridha Bach Baouab, who was unable to preside over the meeting and who had consequently requested Mr. Yeroulanos to assume his duties as President of the Meeting.

6. H.E. Mr. George Plytas, Minister for Town and Country Planning and the Environment, welcomed all delegations to Athens on behalf of the Government of Greece. He expressed the great interest of his Government both in the Action Plan for the Mediterranean and in the specific subject matter of the present Meeting. In recalling progress already achieved in connection with the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its related protocols, he augured success to the Meeting, and expressed the hope that its decisions and recommendations would be eventually implemented. He also recalled the great tasks Mediterranean States had to face in the protection of their common environment, and expressed the wish that mutual co-operation in this essential field would in turn lead to greater peace and understanding among mankind. He also formally re-iterated the offer by the Government of Greece to host the Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan in Athens.

7. Mr. Plytas extended his sympathy, and that of his Government, to the Government of Algeria, on the event of the recent disaster occurring there. As this feeling was common to all States, he expressed his desire that an appropriate message of sympathy should be conveyed by the Meeting in writing to the Government of Algeria. A cable was sent by the President on behalf of all the participants. The representative of Algeria expressed his gratitude for the sympathy expressed to his Government.

8. Mr. Aldo Manos, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba. Mr. Manos reviewed the events and processes leading to the present Meeting, in particular the Meeting of Experts on Mediterranean Marine Parks and Wetlands convened in Tunisia in March 1977, the recommendations of which meeting formed the basis of the present documentation. In this regard, Mr. Manos paid tribute to the valuable contribution of FAO, UNESCO and IUCN, which had prepared the documentation in close co-operation with UNEP, and expressed the hope that the same measure of competent support and constructive co-operation would be forthcoming in the necessary follow-up action.

9. Mr. Manos outlined the scope and purpose of the Meeting, which should define how regional co-operation in specially protected areas could best be achieved. More specifically, it was expected that the Meeting would agree: firstly, on guidelines and criteria for selection, establishment and management of Mediterranean protected areas; secondly, on the establishment of a network of such areas; thirdly, on the preparation of a draft text of a protocol concerning Mediterranean specially protected marine and coastal areas; and fourthly, on recommendations to the Contracting Parties on further steps to be taken by the Secretariat leading to the application of the technical guidelines and criteria and the eventual adoption of a final protocol. Mr. Manos also outlined the relationship of the proposed network and protocol with the other components of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

10. Mr. Manos drew the attention of the Meeting to the financial situation currently existing with regard to the Mediterranean Action Plan, as more than one third of the funds approved by the Contracting Parties for the 1979/1980 biennium still had not been paid into the Mediterranean Trust Fund. Because of this, activities had to be constantly delayed, including the recruitment of staff members for the Co-ordinating Unit. This was causing considerable constraints in the fulfilment by the Secretariat of the tasks entrusted to it by Mediterranean Governments.

11. On behalf of all participants, Mr. Manos expressed his thanks to the Government of Greece for their hospitality in hosting the Meeting and for the excellent facilities they had provided.

Agenda item 2 - Rules of procedure

12. As the Meeting had been convened by the Executive Director of UNEP at the request of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols, the Meeting applied the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties as provided for in rule 1 (UNEP/IG.14/9, annex VII).

Agenda item 3 - Adoption of the agenda

13. The Meeting adopted the agenda contained in annex II to this report.

Agenda item 4 - Organization of work

14. The Meeting agreed to the establishment of two working committees: one to consider agenda item 5 (Review of the principles, criteria and guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas) and the other to consider agenda item 6 (Consideration of guidelines proposed for a protocol concerning Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas). In accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting unanimously elected Mrs. Hedia Baccar (Tunisia) as Chairman of Committee I, to consider agenda item 5, and H.E. Mr. Giovanni Falchi (Italy) as Chairman of Committee II, to consider agenda item 6. It was further agreed by the Meeting that each Committee should elect its own Vice Chairman.

15. The Meeting agreed that all other items should be considered in plenary, in accordance with the suggested time-table contained in document UNEP/IG.20/2.

16. At their first meetings, Committees I and II unanimously elected Mr. B. Janin (France) and Mr. F. Ladjimi (Tunisia) as their respective Vice-Chairmen.

17. During the general debate, one delegation recalled the fact that originally, five protocols were envisaged when the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution was adopted and signed in 1976. Of these five, three had been signed, including two already in force. While acknowledging the importance of the proposed protocol of Mediterranean specially protected areas, it was however equally important to ensure that the procedures leading to eventual adoption of the other two protocols, dealing respectively with pollution resulting from seabed exploration and exploitation, and with pollution from ships, should be taken in hand as early as possible.

Agenda item 5 - Review of the principles, criteria and guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas

18. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) presented various information documents elaborated by these organizations, as well as working document UNEP/IG.20/3 prepared within the framework of a joint project with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNEP.

19. Numerous comments and observations were presented by delegations during the consideration of document UNEP/IG.20/3. Some of them are reflected in a revised version (UNEP/IG.20/C1/CRP.1) while others of a more general nature will have to be taken into consideration on the occasion of a more complete revision at a later stage. The Meeting took note of the fact that annex I of document UNEP/IG.20/3 was concerned mainly with protected land areas and that it would have to be revised to adapt it to the conditions of marine and coastal environment. It addressed to the secretariat a recommendation regarding a complete revision of document UNEP/IG.20/3 set forth in annex VI to this report.

20. The Meeting took into consideration recommendation 25 (i) of document UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, concerning the need to create an association of Mediterranean protected areas. In this regard, the Committee emphasized the need to establish, in a first phase, a regional activity centre for Mediterranean protected areas and welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Tunisia to act as host to such a centre, on the understanding that, during the first years after its establishment, the centre would employ only a limited number of staff. In this connection, the Meeting addressed to the second meeting of the Contracting Parties the recommendation set forth in annex VI.

21. In considering document UNEP/IG.20/INF.4, the Meeting took the view that a directory of Mediterranean protected areas was necessary. The participants proposed a number of improvements, but considered that the proposed format could be used in a first stage and be improved upon, if necessary, in the light of subsequent experience.

22. The Meeting expressed the wish that the draft protocol concerning Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas should leave open the possibility of establishing such areas in the high seas.

23. The Meeting examined the draft criteria and guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas prepared at its request by the IUCN delegation, which could be used as a basis for an annex to the protocol concerning Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas. The participants agreed on the text which appears in annex V to this report.

Agenda item 6 - Consideration of guidelines proposed for a protocol concerning Mediterranean marine and coastal areas

24. The guidelines contained in document UNEP/IG.20/4, as well as "the Survey of National Legislation relevant to Marine and Coastal Protected Areas" set forth in document UNEP/IG.20/INF.3, both of which had been prepared by the Legal Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on the basis of the work of two consultants within the framework of a joint project with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and UNEP were presented to the Committee by the representative of FAO.
25. The guidelines were then thoroughly reviewed, article by article. The text of the draft protocol concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas prepared by the Meeting on the basis of its review is set forth in annex IV to this report.
26. It was considered advisable to draw attention to some specific points or articles that, in the opinion of the delegations, require some additional time for reflection before the draft protocol is considered by Governments for adoption. These comments are noted below.
27. Geographical Coverage (article 2): The Committee agreed that for the purpose of the draft protocol concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas, it was essential to include within the scope of the protocol land areas such as wetlands, coastal areas and estuaries linked to the marine area to be protected. Therefore, in article 2 of the draft Protocol, the geographical coverage includes, in addition to the Mediterranean Sea Area as defined in article 1(1) of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, internal waters as well as certain areas on the landward side of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
28. Protected Measures (article 4): Some delegations were of the view that article 4 (c) should be studied in greater detail by Governments. Those delegations also emphasized that this article should be examined in the light of the relevant provisions of the international law of the sea. However, it was recognised that the main purpose of paragraph (c) was the passage and, specifically, the stopping and anchoring, of pleasure craft in protected areas.
29. Publicity and Notification of Limits and Protective Measures (article 7): During the course of the Committee's work, it was agreed that an annex should be developed, setting forth a format according to which the Parties should submit information to the Organization necessary for the publication and up-dating of a directory of protected areas. However, the Committee did not have sufficient time available to prepare such an annex. It was, therefore, proposed that a draft annex be developed by the secretariat on the basis of the document UNEP/IG.20/4, "Proposed Directory of Mediterranean Protected Areas", taking into account the comments and revisions put forth in Committee I during their review of that document. The same annex is also referred to in the report of the Committee.

30. International Co-operation (article 10): Certain delegations felt that paragraph (b) of article 10 should be studied further by Governments in the light of the relevant provisions of the international law of the sea. The Committee, for its part, stressed that the paragraph was drafted as an expression of an intention to study the possibility of establishing protected areas in the high seas through international agreement, and, therefore, should not be considered as a binding commitment by the Parties to establish such areas.

31. Procedure for Co-operation (article 13): With regard to paragraph 13(a) (ii), the Committee agreed with the view that the use of the word "full" was acceptable on the understanding that a Party would be expected to comply with the article as far as possible, taking into account the resources available to the Party.

32. Meetings of the Parties (article 16): The Committee agreed to the present drafting of paragraph (b) (iii) of article 16 on the understanding that the paragraph did not prejudice the substantive article 10(b) concerning protected areas on the high seas.

33. The Meeting took note that in the annexed draft protocol, the order of articles should be reviewed later to determine whether any improvement could be made in their order. The meeting also noted that a verification should be made concerning terms which could require a definition in the protocol and requested the secretariat to ensure the harmonization of the texts elaborated by the two Committees.

34. After the Meeting had completed its review and revision of the draft protocol, it adopted recommendations concerning future steps to be taken for the adoption of a final protocol. These recommendations are set forth in annex VI to this report.

Agenda item 9 - Adoption of the report

35. The Meeting adopted its report and the recommendations of the Committees concerning agenda items 5 and 6 for incorporation in the final report.

Agenda item 10 - Closure of the Meeting

36. Before closing the Meeting, the Chairman gave the floor to the Director of the Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre, Dr. S. Keckes, who thanked the participants for the work they had done. He pointed out however that due to lack of expected funds, the pace of the activities relating to the Action Plan had slowed down considerably and that unless measures are taken urgently to remedy this situation, the Action Plan will suffer damaging effects.

37. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the Greek authorities for their generous hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made which contributed to the success of the Meeting.

38. The Meeting was closed by the President on 17 October 1980 at 18.00 hours.

Annex I

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Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Rules of procedure
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of work
5. Review of the principles, criteria and guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas
6. Consideration of guidelines proposed for a protocol concerning Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas
7. Recommendations for future activities
8. Other business
9. Adoption of the report
10. Closure of the meeting

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

A. Working Documents

UNEP/IG.20/1	Agenda
UNEP/IG.20/2	Annotated Agenda
UNEP/IG.20/3	Principles, Criteria and Guidelines for the Selection, Establishment and Management of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
UNEP/IG.20/4	Guidelines proposed for a protocol concerning Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

B. Information Documents

UNEP/IG.20/INF.1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/IG.20/INF.2	List of participants
UNEP/IG.20/INF.3	Survey of national legislation relevant to marine and coastal protected areas (English and French only)
UNEP/IG.20/INF.4	Proposed Directory of Mediterranean Protected Areas (English and French only)
UNEP/IG.20/INF.5	Preliminary Annotated Lists of Existing and Potentially Mediterranean Protected Areas (Bilingual English and French)
UNEP/IG.20/INF.6	Mediterranean Marine Species in Possible Need of Protection (English and French only)
UNEP/IG.20/INF.7	Preliminary List of Mediterranean Birds in Need of Special Protection (English only)

- UNEP/IG.20/INF.9 Preliminary List of Amphibians and Reptiles of the Mediterranean Region, Known or Considered to be Threatened (English only)
- UNEP/IG.20/INF.10 List of Rare and Threatened Plants of the States of the Mediterranean Basin (English and French only)
- UNEP/IG.20/INF.11 Workshop on biosphere reserves in the Mediterranean region: Development of a conceptual basis and a plan for the establishment of a regional network (English and French only)
- UNEP/IG.20/INF.12 Regional meeting on integrated ecological research and conservation activities in the northern Mediterranean countries (English and French only)
- UNEP/IG.20/INF.13 Regional meeting on integrated ecological research and training needs in North East Africa and in the Near and Middle East, with emphasis on the ecological effects of irrigation derived from large river basins (English and French only)
- UNEP/IG.20/INF.14 MAB - Mediterranean Scientific Conference: Regional meeting for MAB National Committees of countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea (English and French only)
- UNEP/IG.20/INF.15 Some crucial aspects of the concept of biosphere reserves in the Mediterranean region (English and French only)
- UNEP/IG.20/INF.16 Proposal for the Establishment of a Regional Activity Centre for Mediterranean Protected Areas (English and French only)
- UNEP/IG.20/INF.17 Natural resources and protected areas in the Mediterranean (French only)

Annex IV

Draft Protocol concerning Mediterranean
specially protected areas *

PREAMBLE

The Contracting Parties to the present Protocol,

Being Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, adopted at Barcelona on 16 February 1976,

Conscious of the danger threatening the environment of the Mediterranean Sea Area as a whole due to the increasing human activities in the region,

Taking into account the special hydrographic and ecological characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea Area,

Stressing the importance of protecting and, where appropriate, improving the state of Mediterranean natural resources and sites as well as their cultural heritage in the region, among other things by the establishment of specially protected areas including marine areas and their environment.

Desirous of establishing close co-operation among themselves in order to achieve that end,

Have agreed as follows:

1. GENERAL UNDERTAKING

The Contracting Parties to this Protocol (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties") shall take all appropriate measures to protect those marine areas which are important for the safeguard of the natural resources and sites of Mediterranean Sea Area, as well as of their cultural heritage in the region.

2. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The area to which this Protocol applies shall be the Mediterranean Sea Area as defined in article 1 of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"); it being understood that, for the purposes of the present Protocol it also includes areas on the landward side of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured including wetlands and coastal areas and estuaries subject to the influence of the marine environment.

* The Meeting wishes to draw the special attention of delegates who will be invited to resume the negotiations embarked upon during the present Meeting to paragraphs 6, 8, 10, and 11.2 of the report, which are of considerable concern to certain delegations.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

(a) The Parties shall, wherever possible, establish specially protected areas (hereinafter referred to as "protected areas") and shall make every effort to carry out the work necessary to protect those areas and, where appropriate, to restore them as rapidly as possible.

(b) Such areas shall be established in order to safeguard in particular:

- (i) sites of biological and ecological value, the genetic diversity of species as well as satisfactory population levels, their breeding grounds and habitats, representative samples of ecosystems, as well as ecological processes;
- (ii) sites of particular importance because of their scientific, aesthetic, historical, archaeological, cultural or educational interest.

(c) To that end, the Parties shall take into account the guidelines and general criteria suggested in annex I when establishing, separately, or, where possible, by common consent, such protected areas.

4. PROTECTION MEASURES

Parties shall take the measures required by the purposes attributed to the areas which they establish, notably:

(a) the organization of a planning and management system;

(b) the prohibition of the dumping or discharge of wastes or other matter which may impair the protected area;

(c) the regulation of the passage of ships and the prohibition of any stopping or anchoring except where these are rendered necessary by force majeure or distress or for the purpose of avoiding serious risk to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress;

(d) the regulation or prohibition of fishing, hunting, harvesting and destruction of plant life or any part thereof, and of capture or destruction of animals or any part thereof;

(e) the regulation or prohibition of any act likely to harm or disturb the fauna or flora, including introduction of zoological or botanical species, whether indigenous or imported;

(f) the regulation or prohibition of any activity involving the exploration or exploitation of the sea-bed or its subsoil or the modification of the sea-bed profile;

(g) the regulation or prohibition of any activity involving the modification of the profile of the soil or the exploitation of the subsoil of the land part of a marine protected area;

(h) the regulation or prohibition of any archaeological activity and the removal of any object which may be considered as an archaeological object;

(i) the regulation of the trading, importing and exporting of animals or any part thereof, of plant life or any part thereof, and of archeological objects subject to measures of protection;

(j) any other measure for safeguarding ecological and biological processes essential to the functioning of these areas.

5. RESERVATION OF THE RIGHTS OF LOCAL POPULATIONS

(a) Each Party shall take into account in the protective measures to be established the traditional rights of local populations. Waivers thus accorded shall not, as far as possible, be such as:

(i) to endanger the maintenance of ecosystems protected under the terms of the present Protocol or biological processes contributing to the maintenance of these ecosystems; or

(ii) to cause the extinction of, or any substantial reduction in, the number of individuals making up species or the animal and plant populations within the protected ecosystems, or any ecologically connected species or populations, particularly migratory species and rare, endangered or endemic species;

(b) Parties which waive or ease protective measures shall, accordingly, inform the Organization designated in article 13 of the Convention (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization").

6. INTERMEDIARY AREAS

The Parties may give an area additional protection by establishing one or several intermediary areas in which activities are less severely restricted while remaining compatible with the purposes of the protected area.

7. PUBLICITY AND NOTIFICATION OF LIMITS AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES

(a) The Parties shall give appropriate publicity to the establishment of protected areas, as well as of areas provided for in article 6, their markings and the regulations applying thereto.

(b) The information referred to in paragraph (a) of this article must be transmitted to the Organization which shall compile and keep up-to-date a directory of protected areas in the area covered by this Protocol. The Parties shall supply the Organization with all the information necessary for that purpose in accordance with annex II to this Protocol.

8. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The Parties shall encourage and develop scientific and technical research on Mediterranean protected areas, the ecosystems that they are established to protect and the archaeological heritage that they contain.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Parties shall endeavour to circulate publicly, as widely as possible, information on the significance and interest of the protected areas and the scientific knowledge which may be gained from them from the point of view of both nature conservation and archaeology. Such information should be given adequate coverage in education programmes concerning the environment and history. The Parties should also endeavour to promote the participation of the public and of nature conservation organizations in the territories of the Parties concerned in necessary and appropriate measures for the protection of the areas concerned.

10. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

(a) The Parties shall cooperate, if possible, in co-ordinating the establishment, planning, management and conservation of protected areas, with the aim of creating a network of reserves in the Mediterranean region. Existing regional programmes such as the Biosphere Reserve network in the Mediterranean, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization shall be fully taken into account. There shall be regular exchanges of information concerning the characteristics of the protected areas, experience acquired and problems encountered.

(b) The Parties shall jointly examine the possibility of establishing, through international agreements, protected open sea zones, with due regard to the criteria referred to in article 3, paragraph (c).

11. FRONTIER PROTECTED AREAS

(a) Where a Party intends to establish a protected area contiguous to the frontier or to the limits of the jurisdiction of another Party, the competent authorities of the two Parties shall endeavour to consult each other with a view to reaching agreement on the measures to be taken and shall examine the possibility of the creation, by the other Party concerned, of a corresponding protected area or the adoption of any other appropriate measures.

(b) Where a Party intends to establish a protected area contiguous to the frontier or to the limits of jurisdiction of a State which is not a Party to this Protocol, the Party shall endeavour to work together with the competent authorities of the latter with a view to holding consultations of the nature described above.

(c) Where contiguous protected areas are established by two Parties, or by a State which is not a Party to this Protocol with a Party to this Protocol, the modalities of consultation may be made the subject of special agreements.

(d) If a State which is not a Party to this Protocol intends to establish a protected area contiguous to the frontier or to the limits of the jurisdiction of a Party to this Protocol, the latter shall endeavour to work together with the State concerned with a view to holding consultations and, if possible, concluding agreements of the nature described above.

12. SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION

States shall exchange, in accordance with procedures set forth in article 13, scientific and technical information concerning current or planned research and the results thereof. Parties shall, to the greatest extent possible, co-ordinate their research with that conducted by other Parties. They shall, moreover, endeavour to define jointly or to standardize the scientific methods to be applied in the selection, management and monitoring of protected areas.

13. PROCEDURE FOR CO-OPERATION

(a) In applying the principles of co-operation set forth in articles 10 and 12 above, the Parties shall forward to the Organization, or to a body designated by the Parties:

- (i) comparable information for monitoring the biological development of the Mediterranean environment;
- (ii) reports, publications and information of a scientific, administrative and legal nature, and in particular:
 - full information on the measures taken by the Parties for the protection of the protected areas in pursuance of the Protocol;
 - full information on the species present in the areas in accordance with annex II to this Protocol;
 - full information on any threats to those areas, especially from sources of pollution outside the Parties' control.

(b) The Parties shall designate officials responsible for protected areas established in accordance with article 3 of this Protocol. Those officials shall meet at least every two years to discuss matters of joint interest and especially to make recommendations concerning scientific, administrative and legal information as well as the standardization and processing of such data.

14. TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

(a) The Parties shall, directly or with the assistance of competent regional or other international organizations or bilaterally, co-operate with a view to formulating and, as far as possible, implementing programmes of mutual assistance and of assistance to developing countries in the field of selecting, establishing and managing protected areas.

(b) Such programmes shall include, in particular, the training of scientific and technical personnel, scientific research, and the acquisition, utilization and production by those countries of appropriate equipment on advantageous terms to be agreed upon among the Parties concerned.

15. ALTERATION OF THE LIMITS OF OR WITHDRAWAL OF PROTECTION FROM PROTECTED AREAS

The alteration of the limits of, or the amendment of the legal provisions concerning a protected area or the full or partial withdrawal of protection from it may be undertaken only by application of a procedure at least equivalent to that followed for the original classification.

16. MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES

(a) The ordinary meetings of the Parties shall be held in conjunction with the ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Convention held pursuant to article 14 of the Convention. The Parties may also hold extraordinary meetings in conformity with article 14 of the Convention.

(b) It shall be the function of the meetings of the Parties to this Protocol, in particular:

- (i) to keep under review the implementation of the Protocol, and to consider the efficacy of the measures adopted and the need for other measures, in particular, in the form of annexes pursuant to article 17, paragraph 3, of the Convention;
- (ii) to review and amend as required any annex to the Protocol;
- (iii) to make, when appropriate, recommendations concerning protected areas envisaged in article 10, paragraph (b);
- (iv) to monitor the establishment and development of the system of protected areas provided by article 10, paragraph (a) above, and to adopt guidelines to facilitate the establishment and development of that system and to increase co-operation among the Parties;
- (v) to consider the recommendations made by the meetings of the authorities responsible for the protected areas, as provided by article 13, paragraph (b) above;

- (vi) to consider reports submitted by the Parties to the Organization under article 20 of the Convention and any other information which the Parties may submit to the Organization, or to the meeting of the Parties.

17. FINAL CLAUSES

(a) The provisions of the Convention relating to any protocol shall apply with respect to the present Protocol.

(b) The rules of procedure and the financial rules adopted pursuant to article 18 of the Convention shall apply with respect to this Protocol, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

Annex V

DRAFT

CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION, ESTABLISHMENT AND
MANAGEMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED
AREAS (SUGGESTED DRAFT ANNEX TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING
MEDITERRANEAN MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS)

The following criteria and guidelines could be used by Mediterranean Coastal States in selecting, establishing and managing marine and coastal protected areas.

A. CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF MEDITERRANEAN PROTECTED AREAS

It is suggested to take into consideration the following steps to select high quality representative areas for protection:

1. Identification of critical areas

This involves the collection and synthesis of the following information:

(a) biologically-significant habitats, in particular those important to the survival of species e.g. as breeding, feeding or courtship areas, or as sites along migration routes;

(b) support systems and ecological processes which are important to the survival of species of biological, ecological or economic value;

(c) socio-economic factors affecting the biology or ecology of rare or economically-important species.

2. Selection of areas to be protected

In order to determine the areas to be protected from the critical areas identified under A.1 (above), special attention should be given in particular to the following criteria, in no order of priority and according to circumstances:

(a) Practical criteria:

(i) Urgency: the degree to which immediate action must be taken, lest important natural values be altered or lost.

(ii) Opportunism: the degree to which existing conditions or actions already underway may facilitate further action.

(iii) Ease of protection: the degree to which an area can be effectively safeguarded without difficulty.

(iv) Defensibility: the degree to which an area can be protected by regulation or contractual agreement.

(v) Accessibility: the degree to which the area is accessible to those managing it.

(vi) Restorability: the degree to which the area may be returned to its former natural state.

(b) Ecological criteria:

- (i) Dependency: the degree to which a species or an ecological process depends on an area.
- (ii) Naturalness: the degree to which an area is unaffected by human activities.
- (iii) Representativeness: the degree to which an area is representative of a habitat type, ecological process, biological community, physiographic feature or other natural characteristic.
- (iv) Uniqueness: the degree to which an area is "one-of-a-kind".
- (v) Diversity: the degree of ecosystem, community and species variety or richness.
- (vi) Autonomy: the degree to which an area functions as a self-sustaining ecological entity.
- (vii) Productivity: the degree to which production processes of the area contribute to human welfare or species survival.

(c) Research, educational and training criteria:

- (i) Accessibility: the degree to which an area is accessible for research, education and training.
- (ii) Benchmark: the degree to which an area may serve as a benchmark to measure changes occurring elsewhere.
- (iii) Demonstration: the degree to which an area can exemplify scientific techniques or methods.
- (iv) Scientific interest: the degree to which an area represents ecological characteristics suitable for research and study.

(d) Social and economic benefit criteria:

- (i) Economic benefit: the degree to which protection will benefit the local economy in the long term.
- (ii) Social acceptability: the degree to which support of local people is facilitated by practice, tradition and custom.
- (iii) Public health: the degree to which protection of an area may serve to diminish pollution or disease agents that contribute to public health problems.
- (iv) Recreation: the degree to which an area provides the local population with the opportunity to use it, enjoy it and learn about it.
- (v) Tourism: the degree to which an area may lend itself to forms of tourism which are compatible with conservation aims.

(e) Landscape and cultural criteria:

(i) Landscape: the degree to which a natural area contains features of outstanding natural beauty.

(ii) Cultural: the degree to which a natural area contains important cultural, artistic or historic features.

(f) Regional Criteria:

(i) Representativity: the degree to which an area is characteristic of the Mediterranean, or of significant parts of it.

(ii) Awareness: the degree to which an area can serve for monitoring, research, education, and/or training and can contribute to knowledge and appreciation of regional natural values.

(iii) Demonstration of compatibility: the degree to which an area can be used to show how conflicts between natural resource values and human activities could be resolved and compatibilities between them enhanced.

B. GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN PROTECTED AREAS

The establishment of individual protected areas may involve the following steps:

1. Collection of information about the area, the resources it contains, the human activities affecting it, etc.;
2. Determination of the objectives for the area, and the selection of type of protected area. Protected areas may be of two main types: those in which the objectives are principally nature conservation, education and recreation and those in which multiple resource use, habitat restoration and environmental research and monitoring are the main objectives;
3. Delineation of boundaries and of any core or buffer areas;
4. Creation of the necessary legal and institutional framework to ensure that the protected area can be established and managed effectively;
5. Definition of the management intentions for the area;
6. Consideration of the possible relationship of the area to existing international programmes.

C. GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN PROTECTED AREAS

The management of a protected area could include the following elements:

1. the legal basis for the existence of the protected area, and the extent of the designated area;
2. the objectives for which the area is being protected;
3. the natural resources and ecological processes which the area is intended to protect;
4. the resources which should be deployed in protecting the area, and an explanation of the administrative structure and field staff to be provided;
5. constraints to management, e.g. activities or uses which are likely to conflict with the basic purposes of protection, but which must be accepted in the protected area, at least for a transitional period;
6. the measures which are planned to gain the support of local population and visitors for the protection of the area and its resources;
7. the activities which are to be permitted, controlled or prohibited in the area, along with related regulations;
8. the relationship of the protected area to other protected areas of the Mediterranean region, particularly those which share natural resources, are dependent upon similar ecological processes, or are in other ways interdependent;
9. phasing for the introduction of the various measures needed to achieve protection of the area.

Annex VI

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. The Meeting, having read with interest document UNEP/IG.20/3, and considering the usefulness of this document for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas;

Recommends

(a) that a revised version of document UNEP/IG.20/3 be prepared;

(b) that this revised version be submitted to the Governments of the Mediterranean Coastal States at the second Meeting of the Contracting Parties as a reference document which they could draw upon in the context of their activities related to protected areas.

II. The Meeting having emphasized the need to establish a regional activity centre for Mediterranean protected areas, recommends to the Coastal States of the Mediterranean:

(a) to establish, in order to help promote the development of a network of protected marine and coastal areas and to encourage regional co-operation in this field, a regional activity centre for Mediterranean protected areas within the framework of activities of the secretariat in charge of co-ordinating the Mediterranean Action Plan;

(b) to accept the generous offer of the government of the Tunisian Republic to act as host to the centre in Tunis; 1/

(c) to invite interested international organizations, such as FAO, UNESCO and IUCN, to co-operate with the centre within their respective areas of competence;

(d) to encourage and support the preparation, publication and updating, by the regional activity centre in co-operation with interested international organizations, of a directory of Mediterranean protected areas.

III. With a view to the adoption of a final text of the Protocol, the Meeting:

(a) requests the secretariat to distribute the present draft Protocol to the Mediterranean Coastal States and the European Economic Community with a request for their written comments;

1/ The delegation of Israel entered a reservation with respect to this recommendation.

(b) recommends to the Contracting Parties and the Mediterranean Coastal States that the geographical coverage of the draft protocol, which has been approved by all delegations, should be the subject of a further analysis on their part. In this connection, the secretariat should distribute, with a view to the next intergovernmental meeting, a legal study prepared by a small group of experts designated by the secretariat. Such a study should allow to determine whether such coverage corresponds in every respect to that of the Barcelona Convention, and, if not, whether special procedures should be introduced in order to bring about the adoption of the protocol. At their second ordinary Meeting, the Contracting Parties should:

- (i) request the secretariat to prepare a revised draft based on the comments received in accordance with III (a) above;
- (ii) authorize the convening of a meeting of governmental experts to prepare a final draft which will be submitted to a Conference of Plenipotentiaries;
- (iii) authorize, in accordance with article 15 of the Convention, the convening of a Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the purpose of adopting the Protocol, to be held as soon as practicable.

IV. The Meeting urges the Governments of the Mediterranean Coastal States and the European Economic Community to take the necessary steps to include in the 1981-1983 budget of the Mediterranean Trust Fund, the resources required for the implementation of the above recommendations.