

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE

PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME  
UNEP - MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

First Meeting of National Focal Points  
for the Priority Actions Programme

FPM.1/1

Split, 6-8 December 1982

IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PAP

Split, November 1982

## I INTRODUCTION

The Priority Actions Programme, being one of the aspects of the Integrated Planning component of MAP, has been until now carried out in very complex circumstances which have largely affected its range and pace of implementation.

In the first place, difficulties have been encountered in determining the character of the Programme /domains and modes of activity/; then, in making contacts with National Focal Points, and most of all, in very modest participation of MTF in financing the Programme.

Irrespective of the difficulties, the results reached so far, although not large in number, confirmed that the Mediterranean countries have accepted the Priority Actions Programme as an important component of MAP and as an offered assistance in resolving acute problems of Mediterranean environment. This has also been confirmed on all the meetings of Contracting Parties since 1977 up till now.

Bearing in mind the reality, as well as the past difficulties in implementing the PAP, this Meeting of National Focal Points is expected to:

- determine the basic approach in drawing up, carrying out and in the implementation of the priority actions;
- recommend those actions /projects/ which should be developed through PAP in the next period;
- assess in which countries there are projects which may be used as the basis for the development of individual priority actions;
- identify interest of Mediterranean countries in participating in a particular action;

and, thus, help The Priority Actions Programme to develop more intensively in the immediate future.

## II BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Intergovernmental Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Blue Plan held in Split from 31 January to 4 February 1977 accepted the proposal of the Executive Director of UNEP for the Integrated Planning component to be implemented in two lines of approach:

1. The Blue Plan.
2. The Priority Actions Programme.

The objective of the Blue Plan, as the Meeting stated: ".....is to place at the disposal of decision-makers and planners in different countries of the Mediterranean Region information enabling them to formulate plans for optimum socio-economic development on a sustainable basis without environmental degradation".

The main objective of the Priority Actions Programme is the initiation of co-operative activities by the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region with respect to appropriate environmental management practices on the basis of available knowledge in selected priority areas.

At the meeting in Split six priority fields were recommended by a majority of delegations to the Executive Director for immediate action:

- protection of soil;
- management of water resources;
- marine living resources;
- human settlements;
- tourism; and
- soft technologies for energy including solar energy.

Additionally, the following subjects were discussed as the possible fields of priority actions: fisheries, food, health, natural disasters.

At the same meeting it was agreed that the objective of the PAP should be establishing a permanent network of continuous cooperation among

Mediterranean Coastal States concerning practical actions for progressive intersectoral planning.

### III PAST WORK ON THE PRIORITY ACTIONS

Soon after the 1977 meeting in Split, the development of PAP was initiated. A special UNDP/UNEP Co-ordinating Unit established as the support to MAP started undertaking the activities in the field of aquaculture, renewable sources of energy and water resources management, whereas the Regional Activity Centre for PAP established in Split initiated activities in the field of human settlements, tourism and protection of soil. Meanwhile, the Co-ordination Unit for MAP /within the frame of the UNEP's Regional Seas Programme/ established in Geneva was entrusted with the overall co-ordination of all activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

#### Renewable Sources of Energy

The joint UNDP/UNEP programme unit in Geneva followed up the work of the Meeting of Government Experts in Malta /1978/ with a series of fact-finding missions to Mediterranean countries. UNDP subsequently financed a preparatory assistance project which resulted in the formulation of a large scale regional programme on renewable sources of energy at an estimated cost of \$ 6.75 million. The main components were to concern testing and demonstration of equipment linked to the generation of electricity by wind power, water pumping using energy generated by photovoltaic conversion, and desalination of sea-water and inland brackish waters. Supplementary studies were identified in an economic and financial analysis of the systems under test conditions, environmental impact assessment and consumer adaptation tests. A substantial training component involving seminars and workshops was also built into the proposed project. UNDP reviewed that programme in order to decide upon its eventual financing from regional funds, and from other funding sources which might become available.

### Aquaculture

A joint UNDP/FAO/UNEP mission conducted from October 1978 until May 1979, as preparatory assistance, resulted in the identification of a large-scale regional project in aquaculture. Project Co-ordinator was recruited for one year starting from mid-June 1980, who made a round of technical visits to the Coastal States in order to secure their detailed reaction to the proposals contained in the project document. The total cost of the project was estimated at \$ 2.66 million.

UNDP formally submitted the draft project document to the Governments for a review, and for their formal expression of financial support should the Governments so decide. That was followed by the UNDP's assessment of the extent of firm support from the Governments which was to condition its decision on financing the project as a whole.

### Water Resources Management

At the instigation of UNEP and the UNDP/UNEP Co-ordination Unit, the activities concerning water resources management which had been initiated earlier, continued with the Inter-agency Consultation Meeting in Paris /7-10 July 1980/ wherein the PAP/RAC took active part. The meeting developed a list of projects to be regarded as an integrated package. It was suggested that individual components within the package could be worked up and operated separately but that the total delivery effort had to take account of the basic homogeneity of the programme. The internal coherence were to be assured, in particular, by the proposed supporting activities, such as transfer and exchange of technology and information, as well as by extensive training programmes.

UNDP sent to Mediterranean Governments the report from the Paris consultation meeting together with eight project proposals prepared by individual specialized UN agencies and one prepared by PAP/RAC /sea transport of fresh water/.

### Human Settlements

On the basis of the project document No.FP/ME/0104-80-01 /2155/ signed on 12 February 1980 with UNEP, the PAP/RAC prepared two position papers which gave a review of problems in Mediterranean human settlements, and identified those which could be the subject of a regional co-operation. These papers were presented to and discussed by the Government Expert Meeting on Mediterranean Coastal Settlements held in Split in September 1980. The meeting accepted the suggestions stated in the position papers, and gave proposals for the following pilot projects:

- Impact of migration on human settlements.
- Comprehensive environmental health planning.
- Development of harbours and sea transport.
- Disposal and treatment of liquid and solid wastes.
- Coastal zone planning.
- Rehabilitation, renewal and restoration of historic settlements and their centres.

Immediately after the Meeting, PAP/RAC came into contact with four agencies of the UN system /UN/DTCD, UNESCO, ILO and WHO/ with a view to preparing draft project documents for the afore-mentioned pilot projects. The agencies responded to the appeal and prepared the following draft project documents:

- UN/DTCD and UNESCO: "Human settlements and integrated planning and management of coastal zones in the Mediterranean Basin".
- ILO: "Evaluation of Government policies dealing with hinterland-coastal migration in the Mediterranean Region".
- WHO: /a/ "Appropriate technology for liquid and solid wastes collection and disposal in Mediterranean human settlements"  
/b/ "Comprehensive environmental health planning in Mediterranean metropolitan areas".

These draft project documents were disseminated to all Coastal States as the basic material for this, the first meeting of National Focal Points. What they have in common, are relatively high financial requirements envisaged for implementation, since they were drawn up as independent projects which is in accordance with the forms and ways of carrying out projects by individual agencies.

For the future of all the afore-mentioned activities it has been felt that the possibilities of their financing is decisive. However, the expected contribution of MTF to PAP would not be sufficient to meet the figures indicated by the agencies in their proposals.

#### Soil Protection

A draft project outline for preparatory activities leading to an inter-country project on soil protection was prepared by PAP/RAC in May 1981 with the overall goal to identify the elements for possible project /or projects/ related to the problems of soil protection from all possible forms of degradation.

This project outline was sent to FAO for their comments and views.

#### Tourism

A meeting convened by UNEP and attended by representatives of WTO, UNEP/UNDP Unit and PAP/RAC, as well as by specialists serving in a consultant capacity to the Co-ordinating Unit of MAP, was held in Geneva in November 1980 to identify possible elements for the development of a cooperative project on tourism and impact of tourism on the Mediterranean environment. The meeting also prepared an outline for a three-year programme in tourism.

#### IV PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER WORK

Aware of the financial situation and having in mind that the basic concept of PAP, as of all other activities of MAP, should be activation of national institutions and orientation towards co-operation in the protection and development of the Mediterranean, it is felt that the only possible solution for PAP is to continue developing on the basis of existing national and international projects /recently accomplished projects, projects under way or planned/. These projects and activities related to them could be used, with an additional co-ordination and minimum additional finances, as the basis for individual priority actions.

Specialized agencies of the UN system could participate therein with their experience on those projects which they have been carrying out and/or financing /as suggested by WHO with reference to the Athens Project which has recently been accomplished/.

Each priority action would, therefore, be based on the existing /completed or on-going/ national, regional and international projects relative to the PAP, with the maximum reliance on national and international resources, thus reducing the support of MTF to minimum.

With a view to adjusting the priority actions to this new approach, the UNEP Co-ordinator of MAP convened a meeting in Geneva at the beginning of November last year, which was participated by the representatives of UNEP's Department of Industry and Environment, UNDP Regional Office for Europe, Yugoslav PAP Focal Point and by PAP/RAC.

The meeting considered financial possibilities and came to the conclusion that the further activity of PAP should be developed on the basis of the following principles:

1. PAP is a permanent activity of co-operation between Mediterranean countries, their institutions and experts, which directly contribute to a harmonious development and protection of the Mediterranean environment. This co-operation should, therefore, be promoted and activated as much as possible.



2. Agencies and bodies of the UN system and other international and regional organizations should contribute with as large technical, organizational and financial assistance as possible, but it could hardly be expected that they would be able to cover the substantial part of the activity by their financial contributions.
3. Thus, the full co-operation of Mediterranean countries is needed, that is, a larger involvement of PAP National Focal Points, of PAP/RAC and of UNEP Co-ordination Unit of MAP, as well as maximum use of national, bilateral, multilateral and international projects in the fields of aquaculture, renewable sources of energy, water resources management, tourism, human settlements and soil protection, as the basis for the further development of the priority actions.

The meeting also reached the conclusion that for the effectuation of so conceived co-operation basic documentation containing the following should be prepared:

- /a/ Directory of on-going international, bilateral, multilateral and national projects in the fields relative to PAP.
- /b/ Analysis of identified projects for each of the six priority fields.
- /c/ Directory of national institutions and experts which could be included in the implementation of PAP.
- /d/ Programme of the priority actions, based on the afore-stated principles, which would take into account realistic national and international financial support.

Following this conclusion, PAP/RAC submitted to the Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention /Geneva, 29 March - 1 April 1982/ the programme of PAP activities for the 1982-1983 period together with the total estimated budget of US \$ 650,000 containing the following items:

PAP - General:

- /i/ Compilation, sorting out and systematization of data on existing and on-going projects in the field of aquaculture, renewable sources of energy, human settlements, soil protection, water resources and tourism, as well as of data relative to institutions and experts in Mediterranean countries dealing with these fields.
- /ii/ Meeting of PAP Focal Points to review the past work on the PAP and to agree in detail upon the Programme in the subsequent periods.
- /iii/ Issuing of PAP Bulletin.

Water Resources Management:

- /i/ Sea transport of fresh water /evaluation of information and experiences and technological problems; comparative economic and technical analysis of different modes of transport and desalination practices.
  - Seminar: Evaluation of results.

Human Settlements

- /i/ Review and analysis of existing integrated planning and management methods and tools on the basis of expert, agency and national reports.
  - Workshop: Analysis of existing methods and tools; evaluation of various planning and management practices.
- /ii/ Consultant support.
  - Participation in 3 on-going projects by consultants and experts.
  - Compilation and processing of results obtained through the on-going projects to become applicable to similar situations in the Mediterranean.
  - Seminar: Evaluation of results.

/iii/ Earthquake areas.

- Survey and analysis of experiences on earthquake consequences in human settlements.
- Identification of the existing state documents necessary for efficient intervention in human settlements in case of catastrophes.
- Preparation of recommendations for interventions and organization of life in human settlements after an earthquake.
- Systematization of planning and reconstruction principles for settlements under earthquake risk, using experiences of specialized institutions.
- Seminar: Evaluation of principles and recommendations.

/iv/ Comprehensive environmental health planning in Mediterranean metropolitan areas.

- Preparation of guidelines /on the basis of the WHO Athens Project/.
- Seminar on environmental health planning.

Soil Protection

- Survey and analysis of current methods of protection; existing and planned use of soils /Ecoteque Méditerranéenne and similar systems/.
- Identification of major factors that have an impact on the protection and quality of soils.
- Identification of problems which could be considered as elements of a co-operative project; formulation of project document.
- Expert Meeting to consider and accept the project document.

Tourism

- Comparison of current tourist demand and supply in space and time in Mediterranean tourist regions.
- System analyses survey of the effects of tourism from the economic, socio-cultural and environmental points of view.

- Determination of tourist carrying capacity.
- Identification of elements for integrated tourism planning.
- Strategy for optimum tourism policy.

Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which was held in Geneva in 1982, accepted the budget for all the priority actions. It totals to US \$ 320,000 for 1982, and US \$ 380,000 for 1983.

On the basis of this programme PAP/RAC prepared the project document for the "Compendium of projects and institutions concerned with aquaculture, energy and human settlements in Mediterranean countries", which was signed by UNEP and by the Centre. The first part of the work is under way, that is compilation of data on institutions and projects in the Mediterranean Region dealing with the indicated subjects, to be followed by the preparation and publishing of the Compendium. The abstract from the project document was disseminated, together with other proposals for co-operative programmes, for this meeting.

Also based on the programme of priority actions, PAP/RAC started with its bulletin at the beginning of 1982, and has until now issued six numbers. Meanwhile, several proposals for other projects within the programme were prepared and also distributed for this meeting. These are:

- A Possible Approach to the Development of the Priority Action on Tourism.
- Draft Project Outline for Preparatory Activities Leading to a Mediterranean Co-operative Inter-country Project on Soil Protection.
- Draft Project Document for Review and Analysis of Methods and Tools Used in Current Projects on Integrated Planning and Management of Mediterranean Coastal Zones.
- Draft Project Document for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Coastal Historic Settlements and Centres.
- A Possible Approach to the Priority Action on Physical Planning in Earthquake Zones.
- Draft Project Outline for the Technical and Economic Evaluation and Comparative Analysis of Water Supply Systems of Mediterranean Islands and Water Deficiency Coastal Areas.

In addition, the Programme for priority actions could be extended to include several more activities, such as a Seminar on housing hygiene, those in the domain of renewable sources of energy, food production, aquaculture, and some others. The relevant proposals which are, as all the others, based on existing projects, will be distributed in course of the meeting.

What is common to all these proposals is the possibility of using existing knowledge and experiences obtained through various projects in the Mediterranean, and of their implementation within the financial means available to PAP in near future.

The consultative meeting on the Priority Actions Programme, which was held in Split on 20-21 September 1982 with the participation of representatives of the Co-ordination Unit of MAP, Yugoslav Focal Point and PAP/RAC, considered all the seven project proposals and determined they were acceptable both in terms of methodology and envisaged budgets. The meeting also agreed that the Meeting of PAP National Focal Points would be expected to consider and discuss the proposals and to define the future work of the Priority Actions Programme.