

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE

UNEP/PAP/FPM.1/INF.7

PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME

UNEP - MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

First Meeting of National Focal Points
for the Priority Actions Programme

FPM.1/INF.7

Split, 6-8 December 1982

DRAFT PROJECT OUTLINE

for preparatory activities leading to a Mediterranean
co-operative inter-country project
on soil protection

Split, May 1981

DRAFT PROJECT OUTLINE
for preparatory activities leading to a Mediterranean
co-operative inter-country project
on soil protection

I BACKGROUND

1. Ever increasing production of material goods in all Mediterranean countries has necessitated an excessive use of areas for human settlements, industries, communication systems and infrastructure facilities. In particular areas, this has resulted in a substantial decrease of fertile agricultural areas and woodlands and, consequently, in disturbed traditional state of eco-systems, vegetation cover, hydrology, landscape, etc. On the other end, intensive utilization and exploitation of high-quality agricultural areas and woodlands has stimulated erosion processes that directly imperil water resources, communication systems and settlements disturbing the balance and stability of environment.
2. Unplanned and uncontrolled utilization of land for agricultural production have stimulated erosion processes in watersheds and accelerated the wash-away of the most fertile top soil which has in turn /as river talus/ choked up the watercourses and basins disabling agricultural areas for cultivation and reducing their capacity for food production.
3. Heavier use of chemicals and biochemicals in agriculture, industries and settlements increasing their concentrations in soil, rivers, streams, lakes and the sea negatively affect the biological balance and the quality of environment.
4. All human activities, particularly the utilization of soil for agricultural production, are conditioned by adequate watersupply. The provision of long-range development plans related to water resources and multipurpose watersupply systems is therefore substantial for

the following objectives to be met. A reasonable watersupply and water management should also cover the problem of karstification and desertification of affected areas in order to improve their state.

II OBJECTIVES

5. The goal of this action is to identify and recommend the methods and measures which would encourage the ongoing efforts and enable a more intensive development of all Mediterranean countries, but without adverse or by-effects this development could generate in the field of soil-protection and preservation. Therefore, it is necessary to establish the balance between the needs and demands of development on the one hand; and the capacity and potentials of environment on the other, keeping in mind a possible regeneration of soil and vegetation on abandoned agricultural areas.

6. The overall goal of this proposal contained in this document is to identify the elements for a co-operative inter-country project /or for several projects/ related to the problems of soil protection from all possible forms of degradation.

Specific objectives leading to the achievement of this goal envisage:

- i identification of the major factors that have an impact on the protection and the quality of soil;
- ii identification of problems, including training of personnel and exchange of experience, which could be considered as elements for a co-operative project;
- iii identification of specific areas which could be used as pilot-areas;
- iv formulation of a project document for regional co-operation on problems related to soil protection;

III WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE

7. The proposed workplan and timetable is presented according to the goals identified in Chapter II and is summarized in Table 1.

8. The identification of the major factors that have impact on soil protection and environment /see 6.i/ will be prepared by PAP/RAC in consultation with relevant specialized parts of the UN system, in particular UNEP and FAO.

9. The identification of problems which could be considered as elements for a co-operative project /see 6.ii/ and the type of areas which could be used as pilot areas /see 6.iii/ will be done by PAP/RAC in consultation with national PAP Focal Points and the relevant specialized parts of the UN system, in particular FAO. A preliminary scheme of the problems to be addressed is attached as the Annex.

10. Based on the preparatory work described in paragraphs 8 and 9, a draft project document for regional co-operation on problems related to soil protection /see 6.iv/ will be prepared by PAP/RAC. This draft, together with the supporting documentation /see 6.i, 6.ii and 6.iii/ will be submitted to a government designated expert meeting. This meeting would be called to:

- i advise on the feasibility of the proposed co-operative project;
- ii identify pilot areas in which the project could be implemented;
- iii advise on the institutional and financial arrangements needed for the implementation of the project.

Table 1. WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE /summary/

Goal /reference to para. of this document	Activity	Responsible organization	Co-operating organization	Timetable
6.i	- identification of the major factors that have impact on soil protection and environment	PAP/RAC	UNEP, FAO and National PAP Focal Points	July - November 1981
6.ii and 6.iii	- identification of the elements for a co-operative project and the type of areas which could be used as pilot areas with the assistance of the same or other consultants	PAP/RAC	FAO, UNEP and National PAP Focal Points	December 1981 - January 1982
6.iv	- preparation of a draft project document	PAP/RAC	FAO, UNEP, National Focal PAP Points	February 1982
	- organization of government expert meeting	PAP/RAC	FAO, UNEP, and National PAP Focal Points	April 1982

IV INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

11. The project will be developed by PAP/RAC:

- a/ in the framework and as part of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
- b/ under the supervision and guidance of UNEP and FAO;
- c/ in co-operation with the relevant specialized organizations of the UN system, in particular with FAO;
- d/ in consultation and with the support of National Focal Points for PAP, national institutions designated as participants in PAP and other regional structures relevant to the project.

V BUDGET

12. The cost of this project proposal will be shared by PAP/RAC, MTF and UNEP according to the following scheme /all figures in thousands of US \$/:

1,000 \$

COMPONENT	PAP/RAC		MTF/UNEP	
	1981	1982	1981	1982
Personnel:				
- professional staff	20	15		
- supporting staff				
/8+8 man months/	10	10		
Experts /7+6 man months/	3	2	25	5
Travel			10	5
Meeting /including travel and DSA of experts from developing countries/		5		40
Administrative expenses /other than personnel/	4	4	2	1
Reporting	1	2	2	5
Sundry /including rental costs and costs of telecommunications/	4	5	2	2
TOTAL	42	41	41	58

PRELIMINARY SCHEME OF THE ELEMENTS
FOR A CO-OPERATIVE INTER-COUNTRY PROJECT ON
SOIL PROTECTION

/Annex/

PRELIMINARY SCHEME OF THE ELEMENTS
FOR A CO-OPERATIVE INTER-COUNTRY PROJECT
ON SOIL PROTECTION

1. IMPACT FACTORS

- 1.1 Socio-economic changes and abandoning of villages
- 1.2 Expansion of towns; construction of infrastructure systems; quarrying, mining and felling
- 1.3 Rainwater, currents, wind and the sea
- 1.4 Advancement of contemporary agricultural technology

2. PROBLEMS FOR STUDY

- 2.1 - Reuse of abandoned agricultural areas
 - Soil management including preservation of eco-systems and protection of landscape
 - Regeneration of soil and vegetation
- 2.2 - Soil degradation caused by human activity
 - Optimum use of land
- 2.3 - Desertification and karstification
 - Erosion-exposed areas, torrents and the coast /pluvial and wind erosion; shore erosion/
- 2.4 - Intensive utilization of agricultural areas and woodlands
 - Appropriate use of water resources
 - Consequences resulting from the use of biochemicals

3. PILOT AREAS

- 3.1 Abandoned agricultural area typical of Mediterranean Region /sloping terrain, barren rock and deserts/:
 - Causes of reduced agricultural areas
 - Improvement of agricultural production and forestry

through application of new technologies

3.2 Settlement with developed industry on erosion-inflicted area of characteristic climate:

- Exploitation of soil
- Arable areas and woodlands occupied by other uses
- Production of industries and their waste disposal

3.3 Erosion areas:

3.3.1 Erosion-exposed area with developed surface hydrography, characterized by specific climate:

- erosion of agricultural areas and woodlands;
- choking-up of streams, rivers and watersupply systems.

3.3.2 Karst area:

- subsoil /vertical/ erosion;
- typical karst phenomena;
- subsoil water circulation and its utilization for the improvement of soil productivity.

3.3.3 Desert area:

- impact of climate;
- wind erosion;
- desertification and regeneration of soil;
- reclamation.

3.3.4 Sea-eroded area:

- sea dynamics;
- chemical impact of sea water;
- vegetation adaptable to sea influence.

3.4 Area of characteristic Mediterranean soil and climate:

- Soil management policy
- Long-range procurement of water by multipurpose supply systems
- Intensification of soil productivity