



United Nations
Environment
Programme



Distr.
RESTRICTED

UNEP/WG.129/3
25 March 1985

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

Joint Meeting of National Focal
Points for the Blue Plan and
the Priority Actions Programme

Athens, 6 - 9 May 1985

REPORT ON BLUE PLAN ACTIVITIES
in 1984

The year 1984 can be considered, for the Blue Plan, as a transitory period between Phase I and Phase II. For a few reasons beyond our control, such transition turned out to be slower than initially forecast. Yet, many activities have been able to progress satisfactorily and the most important scenarios activity was able to be launched.

A. INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The proposals for the Programme and Structures for the second phase of the Blue Plan were examined and thoroughly discussed in the course of the fifth meeting of the Focal Points which took place in Sophia Antipolis from January 24 to January 27 (refer to the document "Proposals for Phase II").

Following a very positive debate and a few alterations, it was agreed upon that the programme and the structures be proposed by the Focal Points to the intergovernmental meeting in Athens in April 1984 (refer to the minutes of the meeting of the Focal Points). The essential contents of it were :

- programme : the division into five main activities shared out on three levels (global, sectorial and Sea/Littoral), as it was widely agreed upon that the studies had to be conducted on different levels. The system of these five main activities which are closely linked and interdependant is summarized in figure 1 hereafter, as the base for all the studies to come (figure 2 of the document Phase II) ;
- structures : an agreement was reached on the following. A permanent Mediterranean team (Scientific Manager plus three high level searchers) were to be hired to ensure the consistency of all the studies and lead the working out of scenarios ; the team was to be backed up by a Mediterranean Institutions Network which would bring its cooperation, among other activities, to the main sectorial studies.

The extraordinary intergovernmental meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Athens (10-13 April) gave its agreement to the Second Phase's programme and to the principles of a permanent team and a Mediterranean Institutions Network as seen above. Besides, the meeting decided that a Steering Committee for the Blue Plan would be set up, originating from the Focal Points, and nominated the first participating countries (Italy for the Presidency, Spain, Morocco, Syria, Turkey, Yugoslavia).

This Steering Committee held two meetings in 1984, on 16-17 May and on 7-8 September in Sophia Antipolis, with the participation of Mr. MANOS, co-ordinator of the M.A.P.

As reported in the minutes of the meeting, such exchanges of views were fully positive and most valuable for the progress of the Blue Plan's studies despite a difficult situation.

Unfortunately due to the slow setting up of the new structure of assistance of the hosting country for the Second Phase, the contract between U.N.E.P. and the French Government could not be signed in 1984. Such a delay prevented us from setting up the scientific structures of the Blue Plan, that is to say, the permanent team and the Mediterranean Institutions Network. On the budget point of view, the budget effectively spent remained slightly inferior to 70 % of the initial amount forecast which was of \$ 500 000.

B. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

The small team in place worked to its maximum capability, despite difficult conditions at time - let us mention the loss of data-processing operating means in the last term- and progressively concentrated on the priority task of working out Mediterranean scenarios.

I. THE ACTIVITY MEDITERRANEAN SCENARIOS

In 1984, this major activity can be divided into two parts : the setting up of an open study group which held its first meeting on 22-23 November in Nice and a certain amount of supporting studies conducted by the Blue Plan's small team and consultants.(UNEP/WG.129/INF.3) Some fifteen experts participated to the first Scenarios Meeting (refer to the Minutes). It is worth stressing how enriching these contacts were and most of all how successful the meeting was. We were not sure at all, to begin with, to be able to reach an agreement on the choice of the "dimensions" of the scenarios and on the main hypotheses. Incidentally, and this is most encouraging, the spirit of cooperation, the true enthusiasm of all the participants, clearly demonstrate how strongly the "exercice" of the Blue Plan can summon up everyone's strength...

During this meeting it was planned to share out over an average of two years the working out scenarios proceeding as hereafter :

1. "framing" of scenarios : 6 months ; working out of figures for the framing out of the various scenarios, launching the reference scenario as soon as possible and starting from 4 to 5 countries judiciously selected and from which the maximum cooperation will be sought ;
2. working out of scenarios : one year ;
3. synthesis and preparation of the results : six months.

Among the supporting activities conducted by the Blue Plan's small team and/or by the consultants, one can quote :

- starting to gather a "Planning Library" or to collect developing plans of the main Mediterranean countries ;
- making a report on the part played by the Mediterranean in models and global studies (the report is available) ;
- working out econometric data base in current local currency and in constant currency, on the Mediterranean countries and on the main countries of the "Crown" main bordering countries, save for Socialist countries. This very important tool which is relatively unique of its kind, will be most helpful for economical correlations and trend extrapolations which are absolutely necessary for working out scenarios ;
- examining the interesting suggestions for the scenarios made by Israël, Yugoslavia, and so on...

II. SECTORIAL ACTIVITIES

These are the activities that suffered especially from the delay of the effective full start of the second phase and of the setting up of the permanent team.

Discussions with a certain number of institutions which start in a very positive way, especially in France and in Yugoslavia, just after the meeting of Athens, could not be continued.

Population dynamics

The Blue Plan's small team has perfected a micro-model on the evolution of the pyramid of the ages, taking into consideration a certain number of hypotheses (birth and death ratios, etc.). These simulations are one of the basic inputs for working out scenarios.

Interesting relations have been established with a few institutions : the University of Economics in Split for migrations problems, the National Institute for Demography in France, the Universities in Nice and Paris for urbanization problems, etc.) but work meetings could not be arranged owing to the slowing down of the programme during the second half-year of 1984.

Food and agriculture industry

A survey launched in 1983 was completed in the course of 1984 with IIASA, dealing with Mediterranean food and agriculture industry concern as it can be found in the F.A.O.'s outstanding report "Agriculture, Horizon 2000". This report is available.

Industrialization / Energy / Transportation

A survey launched in 1983 was completed at the end of 1984 by a Consultant, on the transportation of hydrocarbons (oil and natural gas) in the Mediterranean. It recorded the main loading and unloading facilities, including the facilities to prevent pollution or fight against it. An important work of data-processes charts of the flows between the countries has been completed and it represents a valuable acquired knowledge gained by the Blue Plan.

III. SEA / LITTORAL ACTIVITY

As was explained when drawing up the programme of the second phase of the Blue Plan, early in 1984, it is essential to complete the studies of global level scenarios with a certain number of studies at the sea/littoral level. It is precisely at this level that will be effected the connections between the Blue Plan and nearly all the other activities of the M.A.P. and especially the MEDPOL, Specially Protected Areas and Priority Actions Programme. It is obvious that it is through this level that the Blue Plan can and must keep in touch with reality. Finally the pollution in the Mediterranean is driven through the osmotic wall that is the coastline.

Quite a few major activities were led in the course of 1984, bettering the acquired knowledge gained during the first phase (more particularly through the expert report n°1 on the "Earth/Sea System", dedicated to industrial and port complexes, by the means of the case studies of Alexandria and of Marseille-Fos. The survey on the transportation of hydrocarbons in the Mediterranean, mentioned above, concerned equally and partially the littoral with its loading and unloading facilities.

Among the studies conducted in 1984, one can also quote :

- a methodological comparison of the development mechanisms of the varied touristic littorals, the French Riviera and the Languedoc, the Roussillon first of all, the Ligurian coast, the coasts of Corsica and Aquitaine, etc. If observed over a long period, one can notice very different development mechanisms, ranging from "left without interference" to voluntarist attitude. The study is still underway. There will be a conclusive report about it as part of that forecast for the Genoa meeting and it should lead ultimately to recommendations for the touristic development of the Mediterranean coastline.
- A first comparison of some methods of inventory of the littoral, oriented towards the methods of "dynamic inventory", that is to say through digitalized geographical information, where a certain number of parameters can be concentrated by means of future-oriented scenarios, hence providing a very interesting link between global scenarios and the planning and development of the littoral. In addition to the proper studies of the Blue Plan's small team, a meeting of experts was organized in Sophia Antipolis on 13 and 14 June, jointly by the Blue Plan and the P.A.P. (refer to the Minutes of the meeting).
- A seminar on the prospects of nautical tourism in the Mediterranean Basin, on 27 and 28 September 1984 in Cannes, jointly organized by the Blue Plan and the P.A.P., attended by Mr. MANOS and having benefited by the financial support of the French Ministry of Environment and of the French Under Ministry of the Sea. This semi-nary was a real success. Some 60 persons attended, whereas only 20 were initially planned. This showed the considerable development of this touristic activity in many Mediterranean countries, development which has a significant impact on the littoral as far as the building of pleasure harbours and marinas is concerned (refer to the Minutes of the meeting). UNEP/WG.129/INF.4.
- Thanks to the external financing of the Research Common Center of the E.E.C. but of the utmost interest for the prospects of the planning and the development of the littoral, a survey about the possibility to use teledetection for the national planning and development has been completed.

IV CONFERENCE OF ROMA

An important Conference was organized by the Blue Plan and La Cassa per il Mezzogiorno in Roma, followed by technical visits in the region of Napoli, from 21 to 24 May. During this conference, widely and very generously taken in charge by La Cassa per il Mezzogiorno, attended by 35 Mediterranean experts from 13 countries and more than two hundred Italian specialists representing various organizations, the Blue Plan was presented to a very large audience and La Cassa per il Mezzogiorno was able to present a selection of Mediterranean experts with a large amount of remarkable realizations in the water, agriculture, urbanism, industrial development sectors of Southern Italy (refer to the Minutes of the meeting). Profitable contacts were established between the various experts attending. UNEP/WG.129/INF.5.

V DATA-PROCESSING

The first three terms of 1984 were full of activity and important progress was made, insomuch as for the macroeconomical and thematic data base of the Blue Plan, as for the diversified means of digitalized diagrammatic, including the automatic marking of the flows across the Mediterranean.

Part of these studies were made possible thanks to the help of the French Ministry of Environment by means of a research contract that validly completed our own means.

These results constitute a valuable acquired knowledge both for the Blue Plan and the whole of the M.A.P.

To conclude, and despite growing difficulties at the end of the year, important progress was made in 1984, from the adoption of the programme of the Second Phase to the launching of the Mediterranean scenarios, from encouraging studies at the sea/littoral level to the perfecting of data-processing means.

The cooperation with the P.A.P. equally showed constant progress and the whole programme of activities benefited by the assistance and the recommendations of the Steering Committee.