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

Athens, 6 - 9 May 1985

HARMONIZATION AND COORDINATION  
OF B.P. AND P.A.P. ACTIVITIES IN  
THE 1985 - 1987 PERIOD

## I BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The Mediterranean Action Plan lists as the first of its four major components integrated planning of the development and management of the resources of the Mediterranean Basin.

The Intergovernmental meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Blue Plan (Split, 31 January ~ 4 February 1977) defined the Priority Actions Programme (PAP) and the Blue Plan (BP) as the two independent but mutually supportive activities through which the objectives of the integrated planning and management component would be achieved (UNEP/IG.5/7).

For the Blue Plan, among others, the following specific objectives were set forth :

- to initiate a continuous process of concerted co-operation among the Mediterranean Coastal States ;
- to place at the disposal of decision makers and planners information enabling to formulate plans for optimum socioeconomic development on a sustainable basis without environmental degradation.

As the long-term objectives of the Blue Plan, the following was defined :

- to assist the Governments of the coastal States of the Mediterranean to gain a more accurate insight into the common problems they face both in the Mediterranean Sea and in its coastal zones ;
- to assist these Governments in reaching appropriate decisions that would promote rational management of resources and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

For the Priority Actions Programme :

- Six priority fields were selected as requiring immediate action : protection of soil, management of water resources, marine living resources, human settlements, tourism and soft technologies for energy. This list has not been considered as exhaustive, with clear linkage between them to be observed.
- It was agreed that the objectives of the PAP should be to establish a permanent network of continuous co-operation among the Mediterranean coastal States concerning practical actions for progressive, inter-sectoral planning. The PAP should initiate this process by selecting specific actions in the priority fields. Activities in other fields may be developed at a later stage as agreed by the Governments of the region. These activities should take account of the long-term prospective studies that are to be undertaken within the Blue Plan.

- The need was emphasized that the Programme should secure that duplication between studies be avoided and that the Blue Plan prospective studies gave clear indications, as soon as possible, regarding the concrete actions that were to be undertaken by PAP.

2. The Third Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Dubrovnik, 28 February - 4 March 1983) in reviewing the implementation and progress of the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme recommended, among others (UNEP/IG.43/6, para.24), that as a result of the development of MEDPOL and the Blue Plan a number of problems which had emerged could be dealt with within the framework of PAP. Thus the co-operation between these components of the Mediterranean Action Plan should become much more direct and permanent.

3. The Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties (Athens, 10-13 April 1984) took several decisions affecting the Blue Plan and PAP, and their interrelationship.

In particular, it considered that the role of Focal Points should be strengthened in the Phase two of the Blue Plan ; decided to set up a Steering Committee to monitor activities and steer work content recording to the guidelines defined by Focal Points and the Contracting Parties, cooperate in the preparation of the next meeting of Focal Points and assist the permanent team in their work ; welcome the relations already existing between the various components of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and requested the secretariat to organize a joint meeting of PAP and Blue Plan Focal Points to be held in the course of 1984 to review the progress of those two activities and to advise on their future development, as well as on their interrelationship (UNEP/WG.49/5).

4. It is obvious that harmonizing the activities of BP and PAP became needful in the moment when the conditions were created for an intensified activity of PAP (since the end of 1983). That is why a steady practice of maintaining BP-PAP Co-ordination meetings was established (regularly on the occasion of the participation of both BP and PAP in some other meetings). In the course of 1984, five such meetings were convened.

## II OBJECTIVES OF CO-OPERATION AND CRITERIA FOR DIVISION OF ACTIVITIES

Goals which have to be met through co-operation and harmonization of the BP and PAP activities are the following :

- rational and efficient implementation of the respective programmes and recommendations set forth by the meetings of the Contracting Parties ;
- promotion of a rational use of resources of the Mediterranean Basin through complemented programmes, by avoiding overlapping of activities, by combining objectives within individual activities and, when necessary or appropriate, by associating finances for carrying them out.

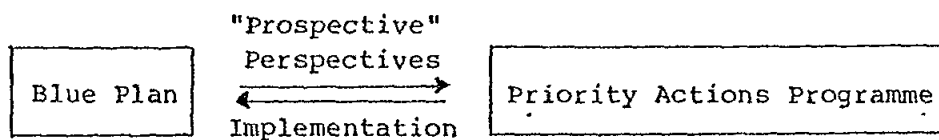
In dividing the activities of the BP from those of the PAP, the following major criteria ought to be respected :

- The Blue Plan is a long-term research activity grounded on scientific methods and scenarios, and steered to the anticipation of the resources-environment-development interaction within a determined period of time (up to the year 2000 and 2025).

It was always agreed that in addition to its normal outputs (essentially, the results of the various scenarios), the Blue Plan must be able to answer and/or give information and views on specific prospective questions. These questions could be raised by the countries, or by any of the MAP components, especially PAP.

- The priority Actions Programme is an activity steered to selected priority fields (human settlements, water resources management, renewable sources of energy, soil protection, aquaculture, and tourism) and to the solution of immediate and concrete problems either of all or of some Mediterranean countries, through exchange of experience, knowledge and technologies, and by various forms of co-operation and assistance.

This rather simplified division can be illustrated as the input of one component into the other in the following scheme :



### III WAYS OF EFFECTUATING CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION

The necessary prerequisites for developing the co-ordination of the two Programme and co-operation in implementing envisaged activities ought to be secured through detailed familiarization with each other's programme of work, progress achieved, and results of one Programme which may be of interest for the other.

To effectuate co-ordination and co-operation use should be made of the available modes, such as co-ordination meetings on joint participation in individual events ; exchange of working documents and papers ; participation in the preparatory stage of activities ; discussions on specific or converging issues ; close co-operation in the stage of formulating the annual programmes ; as well as planning and organization of joint activities (meetings, seminars, workshops).

Such a mode of co-ordination and co-operation should secure avoiding of duplication or overlapping of activities and enable the use of one programme's outputs for the needs of the other programme, and vice versa.

## IV SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RESPECTIVE PROGRAMMES

Having exchanged information on the work completed in 1984 and on the programmes envisaged for the 1985-1987 period, the issues which will be of interest for one or the other Programme have been determined :

1. Activities of PAP which are of interest for the Blue Plan

In the course of implementing every single priority action the Blue Plan has expressed its interest in exploring the significance of the problems dealt with on a national scale ; and, during the preparation of synthesis reports and summaries, in identifying their significance on a global scale.

For the subjects of general interest, the Blue Plan will use general outputs of PAP-related actions. For the subjects of special interest the following issues (agreed to be included in the PAP's 1985-1987 programme, as appropriate) have been identified :

Historic Settlements : socio-economic aspects of the rehabilitation and reconstruction ; methodology and criteria for the selection of sites for protection ; theory and doctrine of protection ; relationship between the role of historic settlements and the development of tourism.

Land-Use Planning in Earthquake Zones : protection of historic settlements in earthquake zones ; general rehabilitation of imperilled coastal areas.

Solid and Liquid Waste : methods of management relative to wastes in large Mediterranean towns ; transnational pollution ; importance and impact of heavy polluters (industry, tourism, etc.).

Soil Protection : socioeconomic aspects ; economic assessment of soil erosion in coastal zones and of the loss of arable land.

Tourism : identification of national policies relative to the development of tourism and within a global frame ; changes of tourists' behaviour ; interrelation tourism-environment-development ; balance of domestic and foreign tourism flows ; methods of estimating the carrying capacity of an area ; coastal versus hinterland tourism ; nautical tourism ; tourism in relation to culture (cultural tourism).

Aquaculture : methodology of assessing the potential capacity of food production through aquaculture in coastal zones ; economic aspects of aquaculture development ; production forecasts for the year 2000 ; outputs of the documents on the selection and protection of sites, and on the aquaculture-environment interaction.

Renewable Sources of Energy : identification of interest and potentials of Mediterranean countries in the increased participation of solar energy in the overall energy balance of a country ; problems, possibilities and perspectives of transportation and storage of energy.

As an extension of the action "renewable sources of energy", and because of its growing importance for the development of Mediterranean basin, it has been agreed to explore jointly the possibility to initiate research on natural gas utilization and network. Prospective relates closely to BP interest and impacts on the Coast and land-use relates closely to PAP.

Integrated Planning of Coastal Zones : utilization of results stemming from the activities of PAP envisaged for 1985 ; participation of BP representatives in seminars ; (for a later stage) planning of tourist zones, islands, estuaries of large rivers.

For this particular field the Blue Plan proposes the following as fields of joint specific interest (long-range themes) : coastal zones - gravity hinterland interaction ; evolution of planning from centralized to decentralized schemes ; study of interrelations starting from a global-level scenarios down to the integrated planning of coastal zones, which would be the basis for PAP to proceed with the application on selected areas ; identification of and discussion on the problems of the conflict of uses in joint meetings.

It has been agreed that in formulating the terms of reference for the case studies of joint specific interests, the Blue Plan will propose list of quantitative indicators with the format so as to be easy processed. If possible these indicators will cover the Mediterranean as a whole.

## 2. Activities of the Blue Plan which are of interest for the PAP

In formulating its workplan and in implementing its activities, the PAP will use the hitherto completed and the future activities of the BP, and particularly :

- sectorial studies of the I phase of the Blue Plan ;
- synthesis report of the I phase of the BP ;
- background documents and data basis of the I phase ; and
- scenarios and documents of the II phase of the Blue Plan.

In the frame of priority fields of activity within which the PAP is operating on the basis of recommendations of the Contracting Parties meetings, PAP has expressed its special interest for the outputs of the BP activities which relate to the following :

Global interest : development tendencies ; possible and optimum variants of the overall development as well as the development of major sectors of economy ; impact of neighbouring regions on the Mediterranean development in general and on the development of its separate sectors (industry, tourism, transportation) ; global forecasts of demographic and socio-economic trends ; general influence and consequences of the future development of technology on the rational use of Mediterranean resources ; tendencies which may be decisive for future changes (assessment of possibilities for encouraging the positive and checking the negative seeds of change).

Human settlements : demographic trends and tendencies (towns-hinterland migrations) ; alternative estimates of growth for large coastal towns ; estimates of the development of management technologies for coastal towns and communal systems.

Water Resources : global estimates on water demand, this being the essential condition of development ; sub-regional aspects of water supply and consumption ; identification of zones where limited development is expected due to water shortage.

Soil Protection : tendencies and estimates relative to the management and protection of arable land, desertification, loss or agricultural land due to erosion, growth of settlements, forest fires, and changed use.

Tourism : growth tendencies of demand generated in the major Mediterranean emission areas ; growth estimates for various sectors of tourism ; impacts of contemporary technologies, transportation, increased spare time on tourism in general and on its separate sectors in particular.

Aquaculture : global estimates of needs relative to food production in the Mediterranean basin, and of the share of aquaculture in it.

Renewable Sources of Energy : expected changes in the structure of energy sources and consumption ; development of new technologies.

### 3. Integrated Planning and Management of Coastal Zones - A contact field

Capitalising on the various studies which have already been made for the first phase (i.e. Expertise 1, on "Land/Sea Systems) or during 1984 (analysis of dynamical methods of coastal inventory, comparison of coastal tourism development processes, inventory of hydrocarbon transportation and terminals, etc), and willing to propose practical application methods for its scenarios, Blue Plan has proposed a pilot study of dynamical coastal inventory (this activity corresponds to the Sea/Coastal level in the Blue Plan Phase II programme).

As mentioned in the Blue Plan document for 1986-1987, it is proposed that this activity will be developed by closely associating PAP. In addition, at the end of 1987 when this activity will produce a guide on "prospective method of coastal management", it is suggested that this product will become a PAP method for further use on a broader scale.

It is understood that the future implementation of integrated planning remains within the framework of PAP as has been decided by the Contracting Parties.