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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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

Athens, 28-30 April 1986

IMPLEMENTATION OF 1986-1987
PAP ACTIVITIES

UNEP

Athens, 1986

I BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The proposed workplan and budget of the Priority Actions Programme for 1986-1987 biennium was presented as document UNEP/WG.129/7 to the Joint Meeting of National Focal Points for the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme held in Athens in May 1985.

Having discussed the proposal the meeting approved the budget and suggested some alterations in the proposed programme which were taken note of in the meeting report (UNEP/WG.129/8).

2. The Fourth Ordinary Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols held in Genoa in September 1985 discussed the workplan and budget of the PAP which was presented in accordance with the provisions of the Joint BP-PAP National Focal Points Meeting. The Conference adopted the workplan and budget of the PAP (UNEP/IG.56/5).

II PAP WORKPLAN FOR 1986

The objectives, ways of implementation, selection of topics for in-depth studies, and the 1986-1987 workplan are explained in detail in the document quoted under I/1.

In comparison with the proposal discussed in Athens in 1985, some minor changes were made and, for budgetary reasons, submitted to and approved by the Genoa Conference.

The selection of topics and areas of demonstration studies respected the conclusions and recommendations of the expert meetings held in the fourth quarter of 1985 (see Reference Documents List annexed to document UNEP/WG.143/5).

The following is a brief survey of the activities planned in 1986:

1. Directories of Mediterranean Institutions and Experts in the Fields of Human Settlements, Soil Protection and Tourism
Text of the directories has been finalized for printing (500 copies each) and dissemination.
2. Water Resources Management of Mediterranean Islands and Isolated Coastal Zones (a joint action with WHO/EURO)
 - (a) Three missions will be organized (karstic-gypsum aquifers; re-use of domestic waste water for industries; improvement of traditional methods of rain-harvesting). Two demonstration studies will be prepared, a summarized report on past activities produced; and a seminar organized in Spain in September 1986.
 - (b) Problems pertaining to water resources management of big Mediterranean islands and isolated coastal areas will be dealt with (particularly with regard to tourism development) and discussed at a workshop to be held in Malta in December 1986.

- (c) Several subjects of common Mediterranean interest will be included in the programme dedicated to re-use of water for irrigation, multipurpose use of water, and problems relative to seasonal increase of water demand caused by tourism activities.

3. Integrated Planning and Management of Mediterranean Coastal Zones

The commissioned demonstration studies will be completed, a synthesis report prepared, and a seminar organized in Athens in June 1986. The activities after the seminar will be geared to the preparation of a proposal for the development of a global common methodology of coastal zones integrated planning, and to the preparation of supporting documents for a detailed work-out of selected topics in this priority field (solution of the most critical conflicts through integrated planning).

4. Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Mediterranean Historic Settlements

Several in-depth studies will be completed, a summarized presentation of all past activities prepared, and a seminar organized in Split in April 1986. Together with ICCROM and UNESCO, criteria for the selection of at least 100 Mediterranean historic settlements of common interest will be formulated (one of the targets of the Genoa Declaration). A workshop on the methodology and practices of architectural surveying will be organized in Split in November 1986.

Also, a video presentation of selected Mediterranean historic settlements will be prepared with a view to strengthening the awareness of the importance of Mediterranean historic heritage and its protection.

5. Land-Use Planning in Earthquake Zones

This project has been carried out together with UNCHS and UNDR0. Several selected in-depth studies will be prepared on the subjects specified in the thematic framework adopted by the 1985 seminar (Cetinje, Yugoslavia). Finalized will be the formulation of the project proposal for Mediterranean co-operation in the field of seismic risk mitigation and preparedness. A seminar will be organized in Italy in May 1986, and preparatory activities completed for the implementation of the co-operative project.

6. Solid and Liquid Waste Management, Collection, Treatment and Disposal (a joint action with WHO/EURO)

Following the conclusions of the Genoa Conference and the provisions of the LBSP Protocol, this action will be focused on the management and disposal of urban liquid wastes into the sea. Four or five submarine outfalls which discharge urban waste waters into the sea will be selected, and preparatory activities undertaken together with selected national institutions for monitoring with a view to determining the impact of the waste water on the receiving environment. A meeting of experts on the monitoring of selected submarine outfall structures will be organized in March 1986, and another meeting to review the draft guidelines for solid and liquid waste management in October 1986.

7. Promotion of Soil Protection as the Essential Component of the Environmental Protection in the Mediterranean Coastal Zones

Demonstration studies dealing with several specific topics will be prepared, a co-operative project proposal formulated in the field of soil protection from water run-off erosion, a synthesis report produced, and a seminar organized in Split in October 1986. Further activities will be geared to the issues of water erosion and desertification. Efforts will be made to secure co-operation and joint activities with FAO and with relevant professional institutions (ACSAD).

8. Development of Mediterranean Tourism Harmonized with the Environment

National reports from all participating Mediterranean countries will be completed, a draft synthesis report prepared, and an expert meeting convened (tentatively in April 1986). On the basis of conclusions to be produced by the meeting a seminar will be prepared and organized in Split in December 1986. Further activities will be concentrated on selected subjects wherein the emphasis will be placed on the environmental approach. It has been expected that these activities will be harmonized and hopefully organized together with WTO, and that the subjects to be studied will be selected upon consultations with the Blue Plan.

9. PAP-MEDRAP Co-operative Project on the Environmental Aspects of Mediterranean Aquaculture

Documents produced in 1985 will be reproduced and distributed, the co-operative project proposal on monitoring and modelling of the systems for environmental management of Mediterranean aquaculture finalized, and preparatory steps taken for the implementation of the project. PAP/RAC will participate in a MEDRAP seminar envisaged for April 1986 (Patras, Greece). PAP/RAC will also take part in the preparation of a conference on Mediterranean aquaculture planned for 1987.

10. Mediterranean Co-operative Network in Renewable Sources of Energy

The selected demonstration studies will be completed, and a seminar organized in Cyprus in November 1986. In consistency with the recommendations of the seminar the activities to be pursued in 1987 will be decided on (possibilities for the economical application of solar energy in human settlements, particularly in tourist resorts, historic cores and isolated communities). Preparatory steps will be taken with a view to procuring necessary finances for the establishment of a Mediterranean co-operative network in the field.

11. Activities Related to the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment, and to the Coast-Hinterland Interrelations

The incorporation of the EIA in on-going PAP activities will be made in accordance with the conclusions of the ad hoc meeting of experts convened in Split in December 1985. Information on the experiences gained and problems encountered in the application of the EIA in the planning process will be compiled, a proposal for the rational and usable methodology prepared, an expert meeting on the subject organized in Split

in July 1986, and a workshop convened for government officials interested in and responsible for the application of the EIA in their respective countries. Also, several EIA case studies linked to the priority actions on integrated planning of coastal zones, historic settlements, and tourism will be commissioned and completed.

The exchange of experience on the coast-hinterland interrelations will be initiated through the preparation of several introductory papers which will be discussed at an expert meeting planned for the beginning of 1987.

12. Co-operation with Other Components of MAP, with UN Agencies and International Organizations

Already established co-operation and joint activities launched in 1985 will be pursued and strengthened with the Blue Plan, MEDPOL, WHO/EURO, UNDRD, UNCHS, MEDRAP, ICCROM and ICOMOS.

Efforts will be made with a view to harmonizing the programmes and, hopefully, to undertaking joint activities with UNESCO, FAO, WTO and several specific international institutions. Initiatives will be taken for the incorporation of relevant PAP projects in the UNDP and UNIDO programmes.

13. Other Activities

As was the practice in the previous years, four quarterly bulletins (in English, French, and from now on in Arabic) will be produced and disseminated, documents for submission to the second joint meeting of BP and PAP National Focal Points prepared, and regular quarterly and annual reports submitted to UNEP/MTF.

III A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PAP, AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SET UP GOALS

Implementation of the Programme in 1985 and in the first months of 1986 has created necessary conditions for the achievement of the set up goals of PAP and for the use of findings and results arrived at in the past period. PAP is expected to stay action-oriented and to yield reliable results which are to contribute (mostly through the selection and utilization of the best available experience, and through securing their exchange) to the solution or at least alleviation of selected priority problems of common interest.

In meeting the requirements of so oriented programme, PAP/RAC has been facing several crucial problems which need to be discussed by this meeting. For the purpose, the following is stated:

1. The Scope of PAP Activities

The present Programme includes 10 priority actions and 2 special activities each covering a large field. It therefore seems reasonable (this being confirmed by almost all past expert meetings) to restrict the activities to less broad areas which are of special common interest and within which tangible results should be sought to achieve.

The experience gained in some priority actions points at some issues of special importance for the environment-development interaction which should be dealt with through combined actions rather than within a single one.

In some other priority actions a need has been felt for establishing specific forms of co-operation among the States of the region, this requiring longer and thorough preparations and a financial support which could only partially be secured from PAP budget.

Needless to say, the above arrived at needs will be taken into account when formulating the programme for the 1988-1989 biennium.

2. The Action-oriented PAP

The exchange of experience has until now been materialized through various forms such as the preparation of substantive documents and their dissemination; meetings, seminars and conferences; the preparation of conclusions and recommendations and their dissemination; and expert missions co-operating with local experts and institutions. In the 1986-1987 biennium these established forms of the experience exchange will be added some new ones, such as the preparation of guidelines and manuals; organization of workshops and round-table discussions for selected groups of (government) experts and officials; training; and the implementation of earlier agreed upon co-operative projects.

It can be assumed that after 1987 PAP will enter the implementation stage either independently for small-scale projects or jointly with other components of MAP and/or UN agencies for large scale projects. These projects will be expected to enable a practical application of compiled knowledge and testing of the earlier developed and offered "Mediterranean" methodologies and approaches.

3. The Environmental Approach

The selected priority fields and subjects which are the basis of PAP activities are simultaneously covered by numerous other organizations and particularly by specialized agencies of the UN system.

It has been confirmed through the harmonization and linking of the actions that the best results are achieved if a specialized agency involved provides its professional approach consistent with its specific expertise and capabilities while PAP provides the environmental approach, or, in other words, if PAP contribution is concentrated on resources-environment-development issues.

4. Users of PAP Outputs

Each priority action has to produce outputs which are prepared for and directed to 3 different levels of users:

- decision-makers;
- experts and institutions; and
- general public.

The outputs of PAP activities have so far been prevailingly directed to relevant experts and institutions.

In the following biennium the conditions will mature for the outputs to be prepared and presented for decision-makers who will then review and appraise them at the 1987 National Focal Points meeting.

As to the delicate domain of the public awareness promotion, the 1986 workplan and budget, and the structure of PAP/RAC cannot at the moment secure the relevant outputs of desired quality. Since this seems to be the problem of common importance for all the components of MAP we maintain that its solutions should be considered at the level of MAP.

5. Distribution and Proper Use of PAP Outputs

Respecting the standard MAP procedure, all PAP outputs are distributed to the National Focal Points of the Contracting Parties. Once the documents reach their destination, PAP/RAC has no knowledge of their further destiny. Obviously, measures should be taken to secure that the documents come into right hands and that they are appropriately used which, in addition to a direct involvement of the National Focal Points, incurs additional costs to national governments.

6. Quality of Actions and Outputs

In order to launch and develop a meaningful and applicable project and to secure that its outputs are used, a wide representation of the countries is necessary as well as the involvement of competent and fully responsible national experts and institutions. Therefore, far from trying to diminish the ultimate responsibility of PAP/RAC, we wish to remind the meeting that the National Focal Points are indeed in the position to contribute to the quality of the Programme by designating the best national experts and by securing favourable conditions for their full professional involvement. In this, permanent contacts with PAP/RAC and the representation of the National Focal Points (not always but temporary) in PAP meetings may be largely beneficial.

7. Large-scale Projects and their Financing

Co-operative projects definitely require larger finances than those which can be secured by PAP or MAP (for example: in the field of seismic risk mitigation, environmental management of aquaculture, protection of soils from water run-off erosion, integrated projects of coastal zones management, protection of selected historic settlements, etc.). This is certainly one of the most delicate problems, and its solution should be sought not only within but also outside MAP and UNEP trying primarily to attract and consolidate the financial support of potential donors, and to combine it with the resources of the co-operating specialized agencies.

As the answers to this pending question should be arrived at in good time, it is suggested that they are carefully prepared for consideration by the next National Focal Points meeting and by the Contracting Parties conference in 1987.

IV PROPOSALS OF SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

Without any pretence of offering foregone conclusions nor predetermining discussion on the problems stated in chapter III of this report, the meeting is requested to take judgement on the following draft recommendations:

- A concept should be prepared for the next National Focal Points meeting offering a proposal of interlinking and merging the experiences obtained through individual priority actions and their gearing to selected specific topics.
- Due to the complexity of issues dealt with in the Programme and the intensity of involvement required, the function of the National Focal Points for PAP should not be shared with other components of MAP.
- The National Focal Points for PAP should permanently and actively monitor the involvement of their national experts and institutions and make sure that the selection of subjects to be dealt with in the frame of PAP continues to be of interest for the majority of or all the Contracting Parties.
- The Contracting Parties, their authorized Ministries, and particularly National Focal Points for PAP are called to make sure that PAP outputs reach the appropriate specialized users and that favourable conditions are created for the use of these outputs in the countries of the region.
- The problems relative to (a) the co-operative projects and their financing; (b) the promotion of public awareness about the results of all MAP components; and (c) the most rational ways of carrying out training in the MAP and PAP programmes should be considered in 1986 at the level of the entire MAP.