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PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME

Information Paper

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1. The purpose of this information paper is to describe the current status of activities under the Priority Actions Programme (PAP) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). This programme was identified by the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States in Split in February 1977 and was subsequently endorsed at successive intergovernmental meetings in Monaco in January 1978 and in Geneva in February 1979.

2. While the overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the PAP rests with UNEP acting as the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, the daily co-ordination and supervision of PAP related activities is in the hands of the joint UNDP/UNEP unit established in Geneva. This unit, in close co-operation with UNEP's Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre (RS/PAC) and in particular with the unit co-ordinating the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan, maintains contacts on PAP related activities with a number of UN specialized agencies. The contacts with the PAP focal points in the Mediterranean States and the European Economic Community (EEC) are handled by RS/PAC. At present twelve specific PAP focal points have been designated by the Mediterranean Governments and the EEC (ten are identical with the Blue Plan focal points). In States where no specific PAP focal points have been designated the contacts on PAP related activities are with the general focal points for the MAP.

3. The conceptual and operational relationship between the Blue Plan and PAP is described in detail in paragraph 1.3.1 of document UNEP/WG.29/3 (Proposals for the early implementation of the first phase of the Blue Plan).

4. The following descriptive commentary covers the progress in the six principal sectors which were identified at the Split meeting namely: renewable sources of energy, marine living resources (aquaculture), tourism, human settlements, water resources management and soil conservation.

Renewable sources of energy

5. Several fact finding missions undertaken in most Mediterranean countries over the last year were recently completed. To follow-up on the encouraging results of these missions, UNDP has recently agreed to finance a preliminary project activity in this sector to develop Mediterranean Co-operative Networks in renewable sources of energy. The project will be implemented by UNDP's Office of Project Execution in collaboration with UN specialized agencies, as appropriate. The project will provide twelve man/months of consultancy services which are expected to be delivered in a period not exceeding six months. Operations are expected to start shortly.

6. The purpose of the project is to establish a framework of collaboration among Mediterranean countries for further research, development and generalized application of renewable sources of energy. It will review the technical material which has been assembled by UNDP and UNEP in the past year. The project will assist in preparing detailed technical descriptions of the main components which may be required in order to develop one or more networks in this field. At the conclusion of the preparatory project it is expected that a large scale activity will have been prepared for consideration by Mediterranean governments and for review by UNDP, UNEP and other interested organizations.

#### Marine living resources (aquaculture)

7. UNDP approved in mid 1978 a preparatory assistance project for a regional Mediterranean aquaculture development project. This project, in which UNDP, UNEP and FAO were associated, has recently been completed with the assistance of FAO as the participating and executing agency.

8. The purpose of the project was to undertake a systematic analysis of the present status of research and development in aquaculture in the Mediterranean, and to identify elements of a possible regional programme in this sector. FAO has recently forwarded a detailed report and a draft project document for a Mediterranean regional aquaculture project.

9. The draft regional project document is under intensive review by UNDP, UNEP and WHO and is expected to be circulated to Mediterranean governments shortly. As a result of this review process it is expected that this first draft will be further elaborated, taking into account the views of all interested parties.

#### Tourism

10. Consultations for the development of a preparatory project in socially integrated tourism are underway between UNDP, UNEP, ILO and WTC. This project, which is expected to be the first phase of a three stage programme, is under review with ILO while consultations will continue to be held with WTC on this sector.

11. Subject to further appraisal it is expected that the project will become operational shortly with UNEP's financial assistance, and with involvement of the interested governments of the Region in its execution.

#### Human settlements

12. Extensive discussions have been held with the PAP Regional Activity Centre in Split and WHO in this sector and a draft project has been developed, entitled "Feasibility study of a Mediterranean co-operative project on Habitat and Human Settlements." The intention is that the project would be undertaken, with WHO's assistance, by the Split Centre which should have the substantive and managerial responsibility for it.

13. The objective of the project would be to assess the existing problems in coastal human settlements, to determine the feasibility of implementing improvements based on an exchange of existing knowledge, experience, technology and methods, to advise on the organization of pilot project(s) and to identify research, training and environmental monitoring activities of interest to the Governments of the Region. UNEP's financial assistance to the project is envisaged.

#### Water resources management

14. In April 1978 UNEP and CEFIGRE organized a technical consultation in water resources management in Cannes at the suggestion of the French authorities, with the expectation that it would provide a point of departure in the development of regional co-operative programmes in fresh water resources. Since that time the technical views of a number of UN agencies have been solicited so as to assemble the elements on which a sound approach to this sector could be formulated.

15. The contributions which have been received are now being reviewed and a small meeting of technical experts from the relevant UN agencies is planned in order to develop a programme which would be submitted to the governments of the Region and the EEC for their further consideration.

#### Soil conservation

16. Consultations with agencies such as FAO are still underway on the methodological approach to this sector. In addition the technical views of private consulting firms with special capabilities in soil conservation have been sought. It is expected that by January 1980 a suitable methodology for this sector will have been developed and the next step will be decided in consultation with the Governments of the Region and the EEC.

#### Summary

17. Preparatory assistance operations in renewable sources of energy, tourism and human settlements are expected to be fully operational in the near future. In the field of aquaculture, a large scale regional project has been formulated and it is hoped that it will soon be put into a form whereby the support of all Mediterranean governments and financing institutions such as UNDP may be secured. Proposals for project activities in soil conservation and water resources are at the formulation stage.