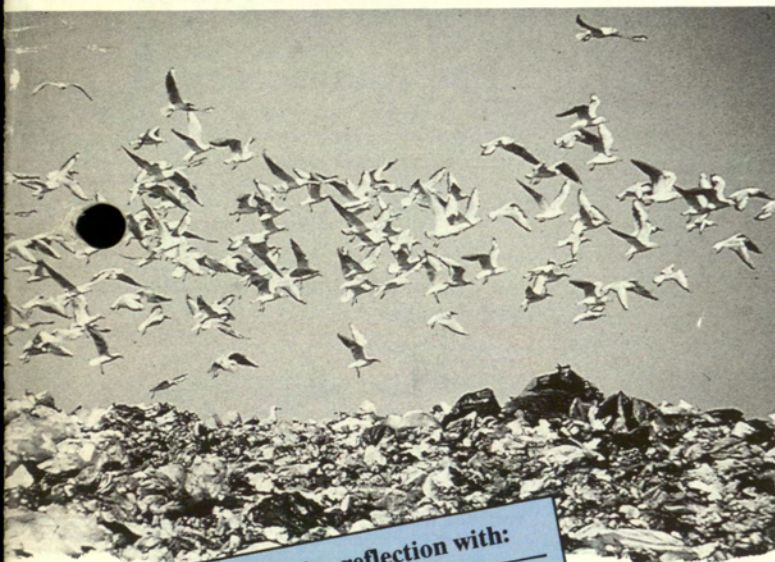


**SPECIAL
ISSUE**



MED WAVES

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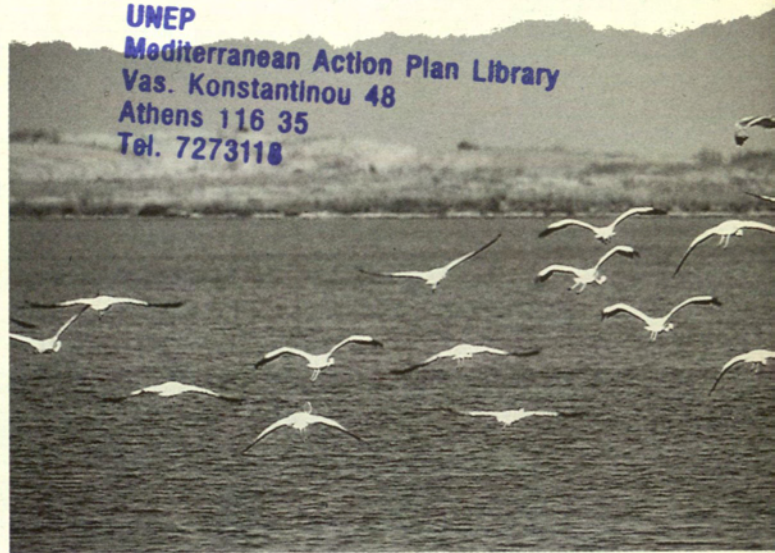
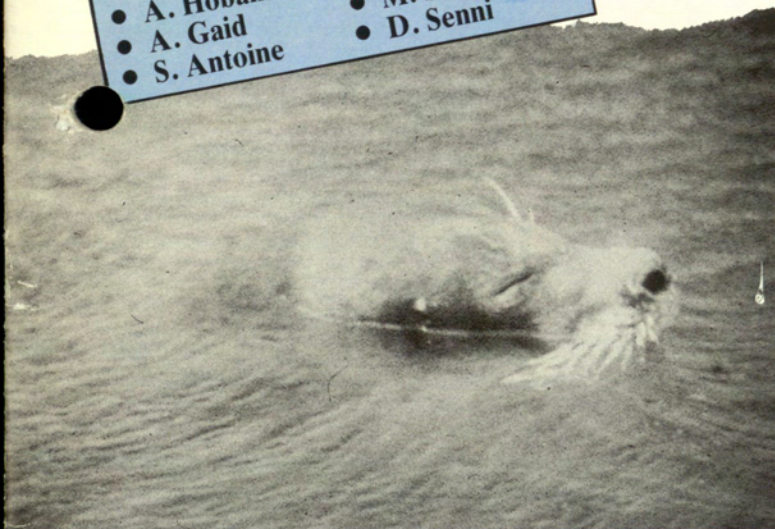
The first collective reflection with:

- S. Busuttil
- M. Batisse
- A. Hoballah
- A. Gaid
- S. Antoine
- A. Mourmouris
- U. Marinov
- F. Briand
- M. Scoullou
- D. Senni



THE MEDITERRANEAN AFTER RIO

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MEDITERRANEAN CETACEANS

summer/fall 1992





A QUALITATIVE CHANGE

This special issue on "Post-Rio in the Mediterranean" was requested by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. It is, in fact, included under the heading "information", in the biannual budget-programme approved at the intergovernmental meeting in Cairo, in October 1991. In this respect, it responds to a specific official wish. In offering this first set of comments to those responsible for the environment in the Mediterranean, it promises a free, open and frank discussion. Each of the contributors presents his or her personal views, without binding the organisation which he or she represent. Rio is an event which can only be envisaged in the very long term, it can only be approached carefully and approximately.

The articles appearing in the present issue do not pretend to be representative of all the Mediterranean. Some countries and organisations sent us contributions which focused on the history of the Summit, including the initiatives and official speeches of their delegates. To include them here would have a repetitive and tiring effect without providing any elements for debate. It is needless to say that MEDWAVES is prepared to continue the collective reflection initiated here. New contributions, wherever they come from - governments, NGOs, organisations - will be welcome in the following issues in which a permanent column on Post-Rio has been foreseen. Others have sent us voluminous official documents analysing and judging each one of the achievements of Rio (that is the case of Spain and the WWF); we were obliged to summarise the most important points, giving special attention to what mainly concerns the Mediterranean. Silence or laconism can in fact reveal a legitimate attitude of reserve or expectation; the fear of judging before the noise in the media dies down and follow-up allows to clarify to what extent the important principles presented in the documents adopted will cease to be pure rhetorics and materialise.

From these first heated reactions, a consensus appears to be reached: irrefutably, the Rio Summit, in itself, constitutes a positive contribution. It is, in fact, symptomatic that the noise created by criticism, pessimistic predictions - or even sarcasm - which preceded the Conference was, gradually, deafened during and after it, giving place to a more moderate and realistic attitude; less arrogant too. Even those who criticised the immediate results most (like Greenpeace, here) avoid pronouncing final judgements concerning the long term, and do not exclude "political intervention" aided by pressure which NGOs and the different opinions which they represent should continue to exert.

Logically, the results of a Conference of this type should be judged according to the objectives which had been set for it. If one refers to the December 1989 resolution (44/228) of the United Nations General Assembly, which set these objectives, and to the four preparatory meetings (Prepcoms 1-4) which, between August 1990 and April 1992, specified them, one clearly realises that, because there was no important scientific agreement on certain major problems of environment and development, the formulation of these objectives was deliberately ambiguous, complex and in parts obscure. These factors could not but weigh on the negotiations and infiltrate the documents and tools adopted. Although one must admit, together with Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the Conference, that the political engagements did not match the intentions, this deviation was inevitable given that the United Nations was, above all, searching for a consensus between the 178 countries present. In other words, for "the lowest common denominator" for contradictory national interests in the planet. However, on this irreducible base, it is henceforth possible to found ... all the rest.

If we rid Rio of its journalistic glamour and its "environmental festival" aspect (very pleasant, one should admit), we are left with its most important result which, however, escapes evaluation: a qualitative improvement, a change of mentality, the development of radical awareness, at the highest political level, concerning planetary issues, their importance and their diversity. Even though Heads of State or Government went to Rio for demagogic reasons, here they are bound today, by the engagements which they made. From now on, no decision-maker can argue that he has no knowledge of the dossiers: through Rio, the entire planet is ready to provide information. It follows that the discussions and processes started by the Conference should be clarified, facilitated and accelerated. It would be particularly desirable to follow the implementation and the functioning of the Commission on sustainable development carefully. If the spirit of Rio is not but a vain word, this Commission should in future constitute an efficient forum for controlling the action of governments and international institutions.

But it is now time to give the word to the Mediterraneans. We will see that they are eager to define, clearly and convincingly in the light of the lessons learnt at Rio, what should be changed, maintained and strengthened in the co-operation between coastal countries. They also all reaffirm their wish to preserve the role of pioneer which MAP has played at the regional level. Opening this debate, Salvino Busuttil, MAP Co-ordinator, reminds us that the forthcoming meetings of the Bureau and the Eighth meeting of the Contracting Parties, to be held in October 1993, should illustrate this wish through the adoption of an "Agenda 21" for the Mediterranean.

Medwaves

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Titles and subtitles of the papers were chosen by Medwaves.

The photographs of parallel events which took place at Rio and which illustrate this panel were kindly supplied by Lily Venizelos, president of Medasset.

Cover pictures: Stathis Yannakopoulos (top left and bottom right), Nicos Petrou (bottom right), Center Rempec (top right).



WHAT WAS AGREED AT RIO

In order to allow the reader to refer to the various documents and conventions, on which the following articles are based, we hereby present summaries of them:

- **The Convention on climate change:** recognising the threat of rapid changes in climate and rising sea levels, resulting from the greenhouse effect, it states that all nations ratifying the Convention should submit reports setting out what they are doing to control emission levels. It invites developed countries to stabilise their emissions at 1990 levels by 2000.
- **The Convention on biodiversity:** nations should preserve the diversity of their fauna and flora within their borders. Industrialised countries should help developing ones,

financially and through the transfer of know-how.

- **The Declaration on forest principles:** a non-binding text on principles for sustainable forest management.
- **The Rio Declaration on environment and development:** consisting of 27 principles, it substitutes the Earth Charter, expresses "the objective of setting up a global partnership" and asserts that human beings are at the centre of issues aiming at sustainable development.
- **Agenda 21:** covering all interrelated topics on environment and development, it is an 800-page action programme which sets out what nations should do to achieve sustainable development.
- **Financial resources:** The UNCED

secretariat had estimated that the total cost of Agenda 21 would amount to about 600 billion US \$ per year. What was pledged at Rio amounts to about 2.5 billion with vague promises of additional resources. The United Nations target of 0.7% of developed countries' GNP in foreign aid "as soon as possible" was restated.

- **The follow-up institution:** agreement was reached to set up a sustainable development commission, with some 50 member countries to examine progress on implementing Agenda 21. The Commission will report to the General Assembly through the economic and social Council (ECOSOC); details are to be elaborated by the United Nations later in the year.

SALVINO BUSUTTIL:

«WE WILL DO EVERYTHING, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF MAP IN ORDER TO FULFILL SUCH AN ENGAGEMENT...»

In the following interview, which introduces this special issue, the MAP Coordinator discusses the prospects of Post-Rio for the Mediterranean

MEDWAVES. - *The Rio Conference had been preceded by important criticism concerning its usefulness, its content and the attitude of certain industrialised countries. However, when we examine the comments submitted for this issue of MEDWAVES, by those responsible for the Mediterranean environment, there appears to be a consensus: Rio was a globally positive meeting, under the condition that it is considered not as an end, but as a point of departure for a long process. Do you share this feeling?*

Salvino Busuttill. I agree entirely with this view because it is clear that Rio is not only a beginning; it is, of course, the continuation of what was started in Stockholm in 1972, with the first United Nations Conference on the environment, where I had the privilege of being present since, at

that time, I was the head of the delegation of my country, Malta. When Stockholm was announced, many people were very skeptical even about the very word "environment". Many had the tendency to say, "but what is that?" as if it was the invention of an obscure current of thought. I think that twenty years later, it is understood; we all know what the environment is and, what in 1972 was considered as a marginal problem is now a priority problem for all nations and for the world community. So, in this sense, Rio has confirmed that commitment; but it is a beginning in so far as sustainable development is concerned. Twenty years after Stockholm, Rio has confirmed that there can be no real environmental protection and environmental conservation unless there is a proper harmoniza-

tion with economic and social development. Despite the relative slowness with which this awareness has developed, I think that the spirit of Rio is a spirit of deep realization of what the problems are at national, regional and international level; and the commitment by the international community, by the nations which were present - and we must remember that for the first time in history practically all Heads of Government or Heads of State were present - to find and apply the remedies and resolutions.

MEDWAVES. - *Stockholm did not benefit, effectively, from such a mobilisation of global opinion. Do you think public opinion constituted a powerful lever for the success - at least partial - of Rio?*

S. B. Definitely. Of course, we must also look at the situation realistically.



Developing countries, in particular, made clear, as they had done, of course, twenty years before, but much more forcefully now, that they could not be expected to carry the burdens of environmental deprivation, which in general are very often caused not by them but by industrialised countries. Equally, they feel that the burdens of the Conventions which have been signed, particularly on biodiversity and climate change, should not be expected to be fulfilled only by the developing world. At the same time we are acutely conscious that in order to carry out the stipulations of the engagements entered into, considerable funds are necessary. What happens after Rio still remains vague; how will these additional funds be identified, and who will control them? We also need to see how the newly established Commission for Sustainable Development will operate.

MEDWAVES. - Let us now come to what concerns us more specifically, the Mediterranean. All Mediterranean countries were represented at Rio and most of them at the highest level. But, did they speak for the region as a whole? Can one say that there was a presence of the Mediterranean as such at Rio?

S. B. - Yes and no. Initially we had hoped that a special session could be devoted to regional Mediterranean issues.

MEDWAVES. - This session had been more or less officially announced...

S. B. - That is so. Mainly for logistic reasons it was not possible to do so. So, what actually happened was that the President (and for the first time the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention) was there as such...

MEDWAVES. - That is the Egyptian minister M. Ebeid.

S. B. - ... and I was there in my capacity as Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan. So what we did was to systematically talk to the heads of State or of Government of Mediterranean countries, sharing with them our concerns and how we proposed to proceed. We did this in close collaboration, of course, with Dr. Mostafa Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP. As a result of these dis-

cussions it became clear that there is a feeling among Mediterranean countries that we should, with urgency, develop an Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean; and this matter will be considered by the Bureau at the Cairo meeting in November this year.

MEDWAVES. - Did you feel that these



parallel discussions were useful? Did Mediterranean countries really want to intervene at a regional level?

S. B. - Evidently I would have been happier if we had had all Mediterranean Heads of State or of Government in the same room but, in the absence of that, I am convinced that through the meetings we have had there is a conviction among Mediterranean countries that they need to act in concert among themselves. One was also happy to learn that they all think that the Barcelona Convention provides the legal framework and institutional setup necessary for the attainment of their aims.

MEDWAVES. - In the light of the results of Rio, do certain aspects of the Mediterranean Action Plan need to be redefined, or is there in a certain way, a confirmation of the path followed until now by MAP? More specifically: does Rio change something for the Mediterranean?

S. B. - I think that the Mediterranean Action Plan has an excellent record. At the same time, we have to take stock of the new emerging situation. I think we need now to ensure that, in

the Mediterranean Action Plan, development concerns are taken into consideration much more closely. We have now established, within the Nicosia Charter, a co-ordinating mechanism made up of the European Community, which initiated the Nicosia Charter, plus the Mediterranean action Plan, with the support of the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

Henceforth, all major development projects in the Mediterranean, funded by donor institutions, will be assessed, right from the word "go", from an environmental standpoint. We have now agreed, within that co-ordinating mechanism, that in the next two years we will operate at two levels. At the regional level so that we can consider major issues, such as energy production, water production and distribution, communications and, of course, marine pollution. At a national level, four countries - Tunisia, Egypt, Albania and Malta - have been chosen for an organic programme of sustainable development within them, in full consultation of course, with the national authorities concerned.

MEDWAVES. - Which steps, henceforth, should coastal countries take? Is MAP an adequate instrument for pursuing activities which answer specifically to the Rio engagements?

S. B. - Evidently that is a matter that the Contracting Parties have to consider and to see to what extent the Barcelona Convention lends itself to further regional activities. My feeling is that there should be no problem at all. Certainly, the Barcelona Convention, in a wider sense, can be considered as covering sustainable development as well, since we now agree that the environment is an integral part of the development process. Naturally, if we are asked to take on these new tasks, we shall need new funds and new resources. We cannot, of course, continue taking on additional responsibilities without the corresponding increases in financial and technical support. But I am sure that once Mediterranean States realize the implications, they will meet the challenge.

MEDWAVES. - Right after the Rio Summit, the first panel of personal-



ities from various Mediterranean countries was held at Genoa, under the auspices of the Aspen Institute, in order to reflect on Post-Rio. On this occasion, you proposed that a special meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention should be held in order to examine the elaboration of an Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean.

S. B. - Let me be precise on this. The initiative for this proposal didn't come from me, it came from the ex-Foreign Minister of Italy who is the President of the Aspen Institute of Italy and in putting it forward he said that he had spoken and agreed on this matter with the President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties. He felt that, in the circumstances, it was necessary to have an Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, either through an enlarged Bureau meeting or through a Special Session, so that these issues can be addressed at the highest possible level. I have, in fact, so informed the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, who will bring it to the attention of the Bureau at their next meeting.

MEDWAVES. - Which are the priorities, linked to Agenda 21, which could be set? Could you give an idea?

S. B. - Yes. It will be quite a heavy agenda for which we have to obviously identify priorities. One of the issues which we have to address is precisely a sustainable development means. Several papers have been written about it but we must translate concepts into appropriate action. We have also to see to what extent we, within the Mediterranean Action Plan, can help the countries concerned, and the region, to provide the solutions. The feeling in the Bureau generally is that we must, as far as possible, concentrate on practical action rather than simply discussions and meetings. The problems, particularly in the southern part of the Mediterranean are acute problems which require real solutions: and since the Mediterranean Action Plan is by definition supposed to be action-oriented, evidently have a correspondingly active policy. One of the pressing points to be discussed by the Bureau Meeting is precisely the action orientation of the plan itself; and how through it we can act as catalysts for environmental action which, as I

have said before, will now henceforth be developmental action. We already have had some experience in this sphere, mostly through what we call coastal area management projects for which many coastal countries have asked for our assistance. There is the particular example of Albania, because here, for the first time, we have a real project of integrated planning and management of a given area. I think, that a most important part of our mandate is to help countries ensure that their development and environmental concerns are harmonized. It is also, I think, important that the Mediterranean countries realize that this approach should not be limited to a national level but has to be activated at a regional level, providing the means to put into practice the appropriate measures.

MEDWAVES. - Do these coastal management projects remain the privileged field of action of MAP, as it was defined in 1989 by the philosophy of refocusing, or are they to be left behind or reexamined following the Rio Summit?

S. B. - Not at all, I think it's now more topical than ever. Of course, now it is not simply the region bordering the coast as such, although that remains within the Mediterranean Action Plan, a primary concern. Indeed, as we know, about three quarters of the peoples of the Mediterranean live within about 50 kilometres of the coast; hence when we speak of coastal management, we are not merely referring to beaches. We encompass a much wider geopolitical reality. Hence, I would like to think that the Mediterranean Action Plan, in reorienting itself, will identify integrated planning and management as its foremost priority.

MEDWAVES. - In sum, are you optimistic after Rio?

S. B. - Exactly. As we started saying in this interview, Rio is, in a sense, a continuation and a beginning. Every beginning is by nature optimistic. Let us hope that in ten years or twenty years from now, we can look back at Rio as a commencement of a successful global endeavour. As far as we are concerned, in the framework of MAP, we will do everything in order to fulfill such an engagement at a regional level.

North and South in the Mediterranean after RIO

MICHEL BATISSE

President of the Blue Plan

Everything and its opposite has been said and written about the Rio Conference. The judgement we make depends on the hopes which we had placed on the general results of this gigantic global gathering, as well as on the priority which we had given to one or the other subject. In this respect, some believe that there is no reason to speak of a success. They stress that the two Conventions signed (climatic change and biodiversity) are drawn up in general terms and are only slightly binding, without quantitative objectives or deadlines. They note that the countries are not willing to take unilateral measures in favour of the environment by fear of commercial competition from their neighbours. Thus, the European Community appears to back away from the idea of a tax on energy, to which actually certain oil producing countries are strongly opposed. They note that "Agenda 21", which constitutes the plan of action approved by the Conference, represents but a list of things to do depending on the good will of governments, without fixing the details of implementation, and that the role of various international organisations is not specified. They realise that supplementary aid funds which have been pointed out as necessary in this document, that is 70 billion dollars per year from today until the year 2000, are far from being available, and that the objective set - to attain "as soon as possible" a global sum of public aid for development equal to 0.7% of the GNP of industrialised countries - had already been set more than twenty years ago without ever being approached. They wonder according to which criteria of efficiency the funds earmarked "Global Environment Facility" will be managed and whether the World Bank

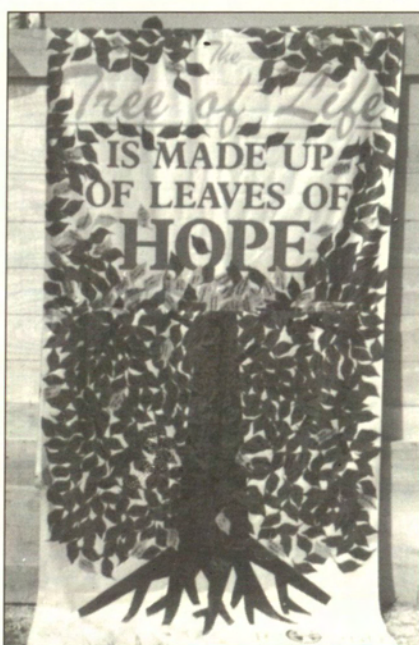


is suitably equipped for this task. They deplore that we are happy with the establishment of a simple Commission for "sustainable development" within ECOSOC, rather than an institution entrusted with greater authority. Many find that we did not know how to hold a sufficiently firm attitude on the problem of excessive demographic growth which persists in certain countries, with the risks of misery and migration which accompany it, and that the frightening questions linked to urbanisation were avoided.

All this is undoubtedly true, but Rio could not solve all the problems of environment and development which are now perceived by all as linked and no longer separable. Rio is but a point of political departure for a long process of change, symbolised by the presence of nearly all the Heads of State or Government of the planet. North and South, East and West, everybody was there, with a common concern: to reach an agreement, whether modest or surrounded by zones of obscurity. The Conference never took the form of a confrontation, as many had feared. In fact, all countries realised, in one way or the other, that they were partly responsible for the degradation of the environment, that everybody was to lose, that nobody had a miracle solution to propose, and that total condemnation was of no avail. Thus, North and South realised more clearly that they had to live together. Furthermore, they reached a common vision of what was to be gained or lost and of the complex nature of the problems of environment and development. They set a framework for pursuing what will be but a long and very difficult negotiation, that of the material management of the planet and its resources. They adopted certain principles which touch on the equity and solidarity between rich and poor nations, such as the "additionality" of financial resources devoted to the environment, or the preferential transfer of clean technologies. Faced with scientific uncertainties, they accepted to resort to the "principle of

precaution". They in fact reached what was politically and financially possible within the current economic context.

Apart from governments, the growing role of NGOs should be underlined. At Rio, they were able to present the most varied recommendations for action and show that today they know how to investigate practical ways for attaining concrete forms of sustainable development, both in industrialised countries and in Southern ones. One must also stress the



new attitude of industry, which not only has understood the importance of the field environment, for its economic activity and its social image, but is also fully conscious of the long term gains - both for the duration of equipment and for the level of investment - in view of satisfying the needs of a world population which will start to double before being able to stabilise itself.

Within this world context, the Mediterranean region, like the other regions of the world, could not be given special attention. However, various Heads of Mediterranean Governments did not fail to underline the originality and the interest of MAP,

which remains one of the most concrete models of regional cooperation between Northern and Southern countries. It is not without thinking of this example that the Conference recommended a regional approach, in order to try and harmonise interactions between environment and development within well defined geographical limits.

In this respect, the Blue Plan, which offers both a systematic and a prospective view of these interactions, represents the type of reflection necessary at a national, regional or even global scale in order to be able to implement progressively and in a realistic way, the numerous recommendations of Agenda 21. A brochure briefly describing the methods and conclusions of the Blue Plan was widely distributed to the participants at the Conference and drew the attention of representatives of numerous non-Mediterranean countries.

We can say that MAP, the result of a very long experiment in the region, reflects, clearly or in a more subtle way, most of the orientations of actions recommended by Agenda 21 and that, therefore, Mediterranean countries, especially, should follow more actively the path which they themselves have partly traced. The Blue Plan constitutes a dynamic instrument which must continue to help them. As far as the implementation of the convention on climate change is concerned, they should remember the subsidiarity which unites them, in the field of energy, and should not hesitate to proceed together. As for the Convention on biodiversity, they should remember the considerable and endangered richness of their ecosystems -species and varieties, both in the sea and on land- and intensify their cooperation in order to ensure effective protection. In a general way, building on their individual and collective interest and on their experience within the framework of MAP, Mediterranean countries should find themselves heading any cooperations entered into after Rio.



SYSTEMIC AND PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF AFTER-RIO: THE "BLUE PLAN" TOOL

A. HOBALLAH

Technical Expert of the Blue Plan

Two notions are essential for the understanding, the definition and the progressive implementation of sustainable development, both at a regional and a national level as well as at the level of a continent or of the planet: the notions of system and prospecting, on which experts and decision-makers have, unfortunately, not sufficiently insisted.

Although systems analysis and prospective approach are not commonly used, especially at the level of local, national or international decision-makers, these two instruments are very useful for the understanding of the situation and the evolution of the world which surrounds us, as well as for its management in a sustainable way. At the service of decision-makers and of the builders of tomorrow's world, these two instruments are essential for the redefinition of development, its transformation from "vicious development" (both in the North and in the South, although of diverse nature and extent) into virtuous or sustainable development.

For some of those responsible for the environment and for experts, interested in the results of the Rio Conference, it is a case of an elephant giving birth to a mouse. But, given the geopolitical, economic and strategic circumstances of our time, the results constitute the premises of a new era of international cooperation, the first step towards viable and sustainable construction for the common well-being. It is only very recently that the world has become conscious of the importance of a rationally managed environment, for the implementation of sustainable development. Thus, this would take the form either of conservation of the level of development and well-being achieved in the North or of attainment of a better economic and social development in the South.

Although it is necessary to review the various models of exploitation of natural resources, and legitimate to call for the development of an awareness and for curative and preventive, constructive and conservationist actions for the environment, and thus development, it is by no means reason-

able to expect the various decision-makers, both in the North and in the South, to act accordingly in the short term.

A period of transition, no matter how long, is necessary. And in order to prepare this transition from "destructive development" to "dynamic protective development" in the best way, the use of a systemic and prospective tool is necessary. In fact, because of the complexity of the international, institutional, economic and social system, and of the interests at stake, a clear and justified analysis appears to be indispensable before any relevant decision is made. This analysis, at any level, should trace the paths for reconciliation between development and environment and identify the necessary actions, in order to be able to sketch the desirable, possible and realistic images of the future.

In this respect, five main dimensions should constitute an object of particular attention. That is, the international economic context, populations, national and international strategies, area management and the consideration of the environment, which will be completed by the studies of the various economic sectors and environmental parameters. These are basic elements which will permit to define the framework of possible futures, thus offering local authorities the possibility to place their national and regional development strategies in a context which will permit to ensure, as much as possible, the conservation of the environment.

Such an exercise has been performed in the Mediterranean Basin by the Blue Plan Centre for Regional Activities.

The method used, the tentative to link simultaneously - quantitatively and qualitatively - the actions of development and the evolution of the environment, the conclusions drawn and the recommendations proposed, do not only concern the Mediterranean but also the entire world. In fact, this work is a pioneer's job, which therefore carries inevitable weaknesses, but should, in due time, be executed more in depth and extended to the global

level.

Assuming it was essential, Summit Earth, showed the necessity of understanding the system and of analysing the interactions between development and environment before considering the actions which would contribute to the construction of possible futures for such or such a region. Systemic and prospective analysis, a delicate exercise which will complete the collection and treatment of data and the development of awareness and continuous training of those responsible, is not less necessary.

Therefore, the Rio Conference, directly or indirectly, showed the importance of the work done by MAP and that of CAR/PB in particular, as well as the necessity of continuing and improving it.

Although defined in 1977 by Mediterranean coastal countries, the objectives of the Blue Plan remain totally up to date, perfectly applicable to other regional areas; these objectives had been formulated as follows:

"to place at the disposal of responsible authorities and planners, in the various countries of the Mediterranean region, information which will permit them to elaborate actual plans in order to ensure optimal sustainable socio-economic development without causing degradation of the environment" and "to help the Governments of coastal states in the Mediterranean region, to deepen their knowledge of the common problems which they must face, both in the Mediterranean sea and in the coastal zones."

In this respect, would it not be preferable to accompany the consideration of "Agenda 21", planetary today, regional and Mediterranean tomorrow, by a "Blue Plan" type systemic and prospective analysis, the aim being to place the list of problems considered within a dynamic and interactive structure.

The issues on the quality of our future are such that patience will certainly be necessary in order to change and improve our ways of thinking and acting. Even more perseverance, lucid and active, is needed in order for it to be translated into a general sustainable well-being.



A VAST PLANETARY BUILDING SITE

Professor ABDEL ELKADER

Director of environmental studies., Algeria

As far as strategies adopted for environment and sustainable development are concerned, the Rio Conference produced a number of results, thus promising the establishment of a process for the implementation of a new global order, based on certain principles; the most important ones are the following:

- National sovereignty
- North-South dialogue
- Partnership
- Sovereignty of nature
- Management of plant and animal species for the survival of humanity.

In fact, it is without doubt that the Rio Conference provided the opportunity for laying the foundations of a process which makes provision for a more promising future where, for example, poverty, the negative aspects of exchange and social injustice would be banished.

The achievements of the Rio Conference are represented by:

- The adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. This text should serve as a basis for the elaboration of an Earth Charter which will be finalised in 1995, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

The principles which stress the sovereignty of States over their natural resources, the right of people to development and to a healthy environment, the vital role played by women and young people in the protection of the environment, international protection, the formulation by States of national plans for the protection of the environment, etc... appear in a very clear way and should constitute the essential elements of the new global order.

- The adoption of Agenda 21, the action programme for the XXIst century, involves all issues related to environment and sustainable development. The problems of health,

water supply, wastes, desertification, protection of the atmosphere, biological diversity, habitat... are well defined and seriously approached so that all States can formulate their national plans in a coherent and homogeneous way.

It is the first time that such a programme is formulated in the field of the environment, the main objective being the protection of humanity.

- The acceptance of the principle of technology transfer from rich countries to poor ones. Although no firm and total commitment was made by industrialised nations, the



agreement in principle by most rich countries allows for some hope in this field which is so vital and promises, in particular, the development of clean technologies within the framework of the new North South dialogue.

- The signature of the two Conven-

tions (climate change, biodiversity) by over 155 countries. Even though the U.S.A. refused to sign the second Convention because of the engagements which it imposes on signatory countries, and especially industrialised ones which exploit the biological resources of third countries, the signing of these Conventions by more than two thirds of the Planet's countries is a large step towards the desired dialogue and North-South cooperation.

- As far as institutions are concerned, the Commission for sustainable development, set up under the auspices of ECOSOC, will be the inter-governmental body entrusted with the follow-up of the Rio agreements and especially the implementation of Agenda 21.

In this respect, the 47th session of the General Assembly was mandated to implement the practical aspects of the organisation of the Commission's work.

- As for financial resources, unfortunately, serious disagreement was noted between rich and poor countries. These resources are necessary for financing Agenda 21's activities. Southern countries insisted that Northern ones restate their intention to devote 0.7% of their GNP to official aid for development, that the rules governing the functioning of the GEF be revised, in order to achieve transparency and democratisation of its management, and that its composition is extended to countries of the South, etc... Even though certain donor countries announced (EC, France, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany) a certain contribution in favour of actions for the protection of the environment, in a general way, this aid remains insufficient because of the enormous efforts which will be necessary for the global implementation of Agenda 21.

- The adoption of a motion, aimed at



impressing the General Assembly during its 47th session, for setting up an intergovernmental committee entrusted with the elaboration of an international convention on the struggle against desertification. The final text should be ready in June 1994. This decision is a great achievement for all countries struck by desertification and drought and we can hope that the solution to this problem will rapidly be to the benefit of countries concerned.

The Rio Conference thus gave birth to a new spirit which should provide the necessary impetus for the implementation of sustainable development.

The adopted action programme could prove to be a vast planetary building site for solving the serious problems which confront humanity today, especially as regards the environment.

Rio was a useful step for the long route which lies ahead, the course of which has just been traced.

Thus the achievements of Rio permitted to:

- Recognise that the Planet is a vast whole in which all elements are interdependent.
- Consider development as a homogeneous entity. In this respect, under-development is just as worrying as over-development. For this reason, the effect of environmental protection should be globally accepted both by Northern countries and by Southern ones.
- Ensure that developing countries use their additional resources rationally.
- Realise that the present economic system is not adequate and that it should be revised. One should think of an ecological economic system based on the principles adopted at the Rio Conference

The most important part of the Rio achievements is aimed at the preparation of the world for future generations. The course is set and everything remains to be done. As Boutros Gali said: "Man is a destroyer, he questions his own life. Man should love the world, after having loved his fellow man. That is the essence of Rio".

AFTER RIO : THE PLANET AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

SERGE ANTOINE

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The global Conference on environment and development, held at Rio de Janeiro is, for some, terminated. That is true; on June 15th, the 110 Heads of State or Government went home to their affairs and the great hall of Rio Centro was handed over to fairs and exhibitions. It was time for evaluation.

But for others (and I place myself among them), the Conference has only just started.

A very concise evaluation

For those who judge the Rio Conference terminated, it is time to evaluate the "finished products". Let us consider them one at a time.

First of all the Declaration of Rio: its 27 articles are added - one must not forget - to the 27 articles of the Stockholm Declaration of 1972; they contain relatively precise innovations: the principle of "precaution", that of the "polluter pays", that of the responsibilities between States, especially in the field of disasters and finally, that of national sovereignty over resources and environmental policies (no to "interference"). The Rio Declaration is not a master piece but it holds the road: that is what is most important.

The two Conventions, the one on climate and the other on biodiversity, as well as the declaration on forests are, of course, very general products, but the weight of 156 signatories makes them real commitments.

"Agenda 21" is the "plat de resistance"; its 800 pages commit, more than one would think, Governments and United Nations institutions. The 135 programmes covered constitute a series of engagements which are stronger than they appear. Even though they are not associated to a Court of Justice or accompanied by sanctions, one cannot say it constitutes legislation without obligation.

The work of the world community is here considerable. Certain programmes - such as desertification one - are real levers.

The follow-up institution, a Council on Sustainable Development placed

within the framework of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and probably based in Geneva, is a good thing in itself: we have fortunately turned our backs to the creation of a new specialised organisation while UNEP, UNCED, UNDP, FAO, WMO, etc., etc... still exist. For environment and development at the same time, it would have been an error to think of an additional specialised organisation. A "diagonal" organisation was the wisest solution.

And what about funding one might ask? Here one should be clear, Rio was a place where the needs were set forth (around 70 billion extra dollars), where the striking inequality between North and South was brought to light; but Rio could not have been the place where financial decisions could have been made. Two billion extra dollars each year were, never the less, announced and, in addition, the "Global Environment Facility" was, undoubtedly, strengthened by an updating of its decision-making tools and greater transparency.

Some regret that this Conference, whose ambition was to make the first opening towards the XXIst century, prospected so little, except on population, and limited its horizon to 2000 - 2010. But the Conference was an immense success because of the number of partners mobilised two years earlier. There is no town or even village in the world which did not, in a way, prepare for Rio. This has never happened before.

That is a very concise review of the official Rio Conference, in terms of "products", a static view. One should add some 35 "treaties" produced by the NGOs during the "Global Forum", which are still little known today but which it would be useful to study.

A garden to cultivate

What is the situation for those who think that the battle of Rio has just begun?

First of all, the fact that the United Nations placed the subject of environment and development on the menu of Heads of State is, in itself, a



major event and a cultural revolution. We will no longer think - and this is fundamental for two thirds of the world - of the environment as a separate matter, coming, in general, after all other priorities (therefore too late). This gain is considerable for the future and not in itself. It is in tomorrow's fruit that one will recognise the seeds of Rio.

As for the two Conventions signed and the text on forests, they are not final documents but the beginning of a process. This process is nothing less than the learning of a global management of the planet. Time will also be necessary in order to forge the organisations and readapt the United Nations system which today needs to be more than dusted, in the light, in any case, of environment and development. It is not certain whether we will proceed towards a global government but, within a few decades, a new way of managing world affairs will be sketched. We will no longer, henceforth, separate the planet from the management of the areas in which we live: towns and regions, companies and associations of all sizes.

Agenda 21 is, also, a product which will be valued with time. Signs of this improvement are already there: several States have translated Agenda 21 and have diffused it; several Prime Ministers have asked their ministers to report on the way in which the decisions and orientations of the Rio Conference should be taken into account. This procedure is absolutely essential. The Rio follow-up organisation is, more than a final product of the Conference, a gamble which the future only will show whether it constitutes a source of new dynamism. Nobody today knows at which political level representatives of States will meet; who will be around the table and what power civil servants and experts will use in order to obtain information from States and draw a real picture of the state of the planet and the measures to be taken.

Funds, we have already mentioned, were not guaranteed at Rio: there are hopes and even promises from the world community. We could have expected more from the declarations of heads of State, in particular concerning their commitment to raise the part of their GNP devoted to foreign aid by 0.7%. Some did it by announcing a precise time-table: they were a minority. Let us at last add that even an idea of a tax or a global debt pro-

gressed: it was mentioned here and there. The European Community could have given the example with its idea of a tax on energy and CO₂: but the idea had not yet ripened. In any case, Rio definitely calls for reflection on the question of funding, which is today highly insufficient, and international actions: that is considerable.

A partnership: towns, regions

The main contribution of Rio has not yet been mentioned: it concerns the collective mobilisation of "civil societies" in favour of the planet: this was not the case in Stockholm in 1972. Companies, NGOs, all professions, towns, regions will henceforth be partners. The environment has asked for this change of scene: sustainable development even more so. States can no longer act alone.

Despite the rules applied for such a United Nations conference which, by definition, brought together States, a place was provided for other partners thanks to Maurice Strong and his UNCED team. Thus, 300 Mayors of large towns came to Curitiba and then to Rio in order to state that they were prepared to commit themselves to "municipal plans for environment and sustainable development" and to organise themselves in order to strengthen international cooperation between municipalities. This is an indication of what "Post-Rio" will do to the action of numerous partners and not only that of States.

As for the regions of the world, numerous national speakers referred to them in order to show that national policies would be easier to trace if various countries in a same region (or "ecoregion") joined forces. These regions take various forms today: subdivisions - often continental -, United Nations organisations, near federations (such as the European Communities which, even before the Single Act of 1987 which amended the Treaty of Rome of 1957, included the environment in their common policy); but also of regions which have, if not identical at least similar, ecologic, economic and even cultural conditions. These regions will, henceforth, be asked to assume part of planetary sovereignty.

That is the case of the Mediterranean basin (and not only of the Mediterranean sea), the Caribbean, the Baltic or the Sahel regions. As early as 15 May 1992, that is a month before the Rio Conference and because of it, 22 African States (and European),

struck by desertification, decided to work together and signed an agreement. This considerably helped these countries unite for Rio and be united at Rio, thus starting the process of a global convention on desertification, which could also open the doors to new funds. This is one of the definite successes of Rio.

The Mediterranean

In the spirit of Rio, what can Mediterranean States, as well as provinces, towns, companies and associations of the basin do?

Let us first talk about States which actively participated at the Rio Conference; in each State, matters should advance and undoubtedly the first step is for those who represented States at Rio to make known what happened there, by asking the United Nations for hundreds of copies of Agenda 21 and the conventions (they will be available in October) and by bringing together the various ministries in order to ask them to change course. Very clearly, all that depends on Prime Ministers, Ministers of the Environment and Ministers responsible for the economy.

States should also review their bilateral agreements and the environment - sustainable development dimension which is so often absent. This is in fact a possibility referred to just before Rio, by the Euromediterranean Conference held in Cairo, in May. It would be good if the MAP coordinating Unit could encourage countries to do this and incite them to organise, together with their partners, an audit for their agreements and the work of their joint commissions regarding sustainable development.

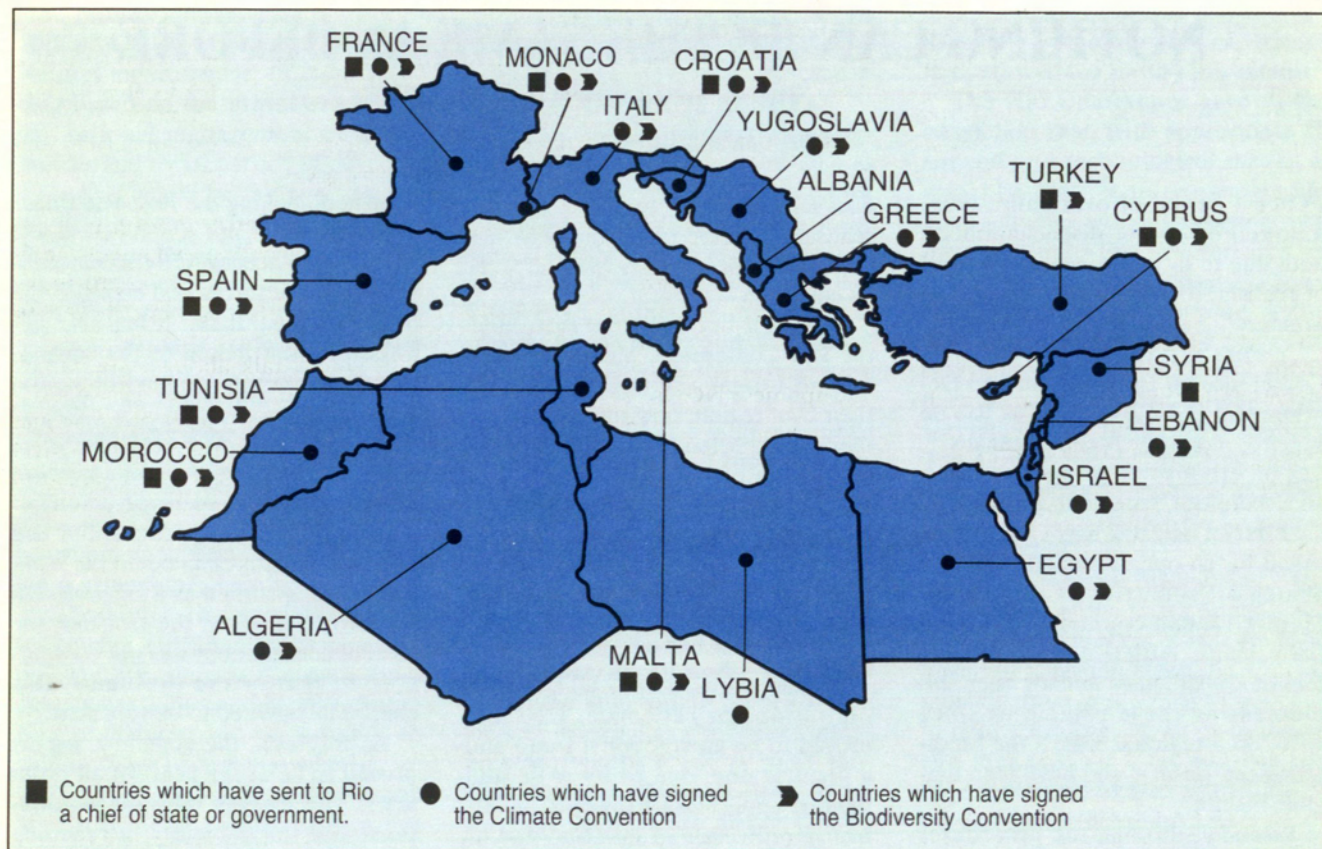
At the multilateral level, that of the Basin as a whole, MAP can feel comforted by the Rio Conference. As early as 20 years ago, in 1975, it had set the foundations for environment-development. It is evident that such satisfaction only has value if one, works on it and, gradually, transforms this weak tool into an efficient one capable of mobilising partners.

The discussions at the Rio Conference permit, in my view, to suggest certain priority areas which are well linked to Agenda 21: I will mention a few of them:

1. to set up a cooperation between North and South on the theme of "capacity building" and, for example, help countries set up their own national industries: water supply, efflu-



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ent treatment, solar technology, solid waste treatment, etc...

2. to create, by Mediterraneans, a system of technology transfer and cooperation as regards clean and appropriate technologies. ASCAME, the Chambers of Commerce network, which is at an arm's length, is ready to do it.

3. to set up a Mediterranean "observatory" which will be well informed concerning the instruments of knowledge on the state of the planet. It appears that by relying on a decision of the Contracting Parties (September 1987) and on a tool such as the Blue Plan, we can now set up an instrument of this type, linked to national centres, the work of the European Community and that of the OECD.

4. the Mediterranean industrial partners, already grouped within and stimulated by the "Business Council", could meet and create, if not a structure, at least a Mediterranean "club" in order to facilitate exchanges and deal with training, a key issue for progress. This was cleverly proposed in July 1992 by Aspen Italy, a good example of work after Rio.

5. to develop technical cooperation - in particular between coastal towns (there are about 120) already grouped since

1991, in a network set up by the World Bank (Hadj Mabrouk); "Med Cities".

6. to launch simultaneous programmes in each country, in order to fight against water or energy wastage and develop, in other regions, an awareness of the scarcity of its resources. Here, water is more vital than elsewhere.

7. to group together those responsible for protected areas in the Mediterranean: national parks, regional parks, nature reserves, MAB reserves. A network, known as MEDPAN, has already been set up; it is desirable to strengthen it, in close cooperation with the Centre for Protected Areas of Tunis. It could be the starting point, in the field, for global work on biodiversity. The Mediterranean could be the experimental chamber. It is thus that the Convention on biodiversity will progress.

8. it will also be necessary to think about funding. First of all, relations between the World Bank METAP and the GEF should be clarified and the relationship between the financial institutions (World Bank and EIB) and MAP should be strengthened. Also, all countries - Southern and Northern - should be helped to review

certain fiscal practices or subsidies which are at the moment dangerous for the environment or sustainable development. It will also be necessary to increase national resources available for water, air, solid wastes, desertification, through demands to public or private companies or agencies. Finally, it should be recommended to Northern countries to increase their solidarity with the South and all together - undoubtedly across Europe - to devote at least 0.7% of their GNP to public aid for developing countries. Some promised this at Rio.

Here are some concrete instructions to follow which I derived from work at Rio de Janeiro. Rio cleared the way and provided an immense service by placing Northern and Southern countries on a common course. It taught Northern and Southern nations that we cannot isolate the environment and that such a thing would represent a caricature and a dead end. The route is open but we will have to walk - at a good pace I hope - along the road of concrete cooperation. It was said at Rio, and I think that it is true, that the Mediterranean Basin could be the best ground for regional experimentation in planetary management.



NOTHING CAN BE THE SAME AS BEFORE

ATHENA MOURMOURIS

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After a period of over-enthusiasm, followed by one of disenchantment, both due to lack of a necessary sense of realism, it is more than natural to wonder:

"What did the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held at Rio de Janeiro, mean for Mediterraneans?" Let us attempt to give some short and, therefore, schematic answers:

First of all, the Rio Conference called for co-operation and solidarity among all countries of the planet. Mediterranean countries, owing to the valuable initiative and contribution of UNEP, have already been implementing these principles since 1976, on a regional scale - the Mediterranean Basin -, and have seen tangible results.

Secondly, through the procedures launched by UNCED, it has become obvious that there is an interdependence between various forms of development and environmental protection. This idea was also integrated into the programmes of the Mediterranean Action Plan from the very beginning: Blue Plan and P.A.P. have been created along this very line. Yet, a much broader field of application has been presented by UNCED.

Thirdly, the creation of new financial mechanisms and the co-ordination of already existing ones, in view of implementing Agenda 21, offer additional possibilities for the realisation of projects within the framework of MAP, provided there is appropriate preparation and planning. For Mediterranean countries - already used to co-operation and, where necessary, launching joint projects - these possibilities are much more than theoretical.

Fourthly, the so called "Rio Spirit" cannot but contribute considerably to the strengthening of political will - expressed without interruptions since 1976 - as well as the increase of environmental awareness and conscious-

ness which are so necessary for the realisation of the plans and activities commonly approved by Mediterranean countries.

Fifthly, it became clear that, after the Rio Conference, Mediterraneans can no longer limit themselves to their own region; now they know that they are expected to contribute to the protection of the entire planet - in any appropriate way, such as experience, technology, financing, research, pilot projects or even the mere fact of reducing their contribution to global environmental pollution or degradation.

In other words, despite all criticism, limitations or reticence, UNCED proved to be an additional step - and a historic one, due to its scale and field of application - towards the effective protection of mankind and its environment on this planet. Yet, a long journey still lies ahead.

The close link, securely forged between planetary development and environmental protection was the new element offered by this Conference. Its major input was related to awareness and mobilisation; this will not necessarily bear fruit in the next few years, but in the distant future. The lack of spectacular results do not, in any way, diminish the real importance of the Rio Conference. Through its procedures, we have obtained, despite their criticism, a number of texts (legally binding, like the two Conventions, or not) commonly approved by 178 countries (154 for the Conventions). It also gave all persons and institutions involved the opportunity to gain sound experience regarding - among other things - technical, organisational, negotiation and political matters.

Nothing can be the same after UNCED; though it takes time for effects to be gauged, nobody can pretend to ignore the problems, their causes and their interdependence. A procedure of change has been

launched, making the Post-Rio phase a time for hope and action - certainly, not of complacency. UNCED has unleashed some forces and changed the balance among them. It has also significantly contributed to the consolidation of world-wide environmental consciousness and played a catalytic role for NGOs. We are therefore, witnessing the beginning of a new era of mobilisation and involvement of all interested social partners. For this reason only, UNCED could be, without doubt, qualified as a gigantic step forward. Yet, given the fact that the level of commitment was not comparable to that of the problems, this change is expected to be very slow.

As foreseen, the economic aspect proved to be at the heart of all problems. The lengthy relevant negotiations and the difficulty in reaching commonly acceptable decisions were often the reason for criticism and pessimism. However, the Rio Conference must be judged within its real framework: from international events and meetings of such incredible dimensions, with numerous groups whose interests differ and problems are multi-fold (economic, social, technical, political), one cannot expect miracles. We have experienced similar difficulties several times on a much smaller scale: the Mediterranean Action Plan.

The "miracle" has to be performed by us alone, since the most important phase of the whole procedure is the follow-up. To this end, in view of implementing UNCED decisions, we Mediterraneans - together with other countries - might wish to reconsider, among other, the following points:

- how the idea of "sustainable development" could be better applied to the specific conditions of our region and countries?

- which would be, in consequence, the most appropriate (re)distribution of development coefficients (on a qualitative and a geographical basis)?



- how could one proceed to a technical reform, aiming at clean production, protection of the biological and cultural environment, through planning based on the preventive principle, rational management of all resources and social participation?

- which would be the new and appropriate administrative structure dealing, in a more effective way, with planetary problems, in conjunction with local and regional ones, also involving, formally from now on, the new "allies" for environmental protection, namely NGOs and all interested social partners?

The Mediterranean could be the ideal setting for the implementation of the UNCED outcome and it could become a significant example of "global partnership". Firstly, the area is equipped with the necessary legal framework (the Barcelona Convention and its annexed Protocols) and already has a long and fruitful experience of dialogue and co-operation in specific fields of common interest.

Furthermore, one can see in the Mediterranean a miniature of the

Earth, characterised at the same time by an immense richness of environmental factors as well as numerous differences and contradictions at several levels.

In this scope, Mediterranean countries might also wish to consider - as part of such a pilot project - the proposal included in the statement of the Greek Prime Minister, circulated as an official document during the Rio Conference, suggesting the extension of MAP to the protection of Mediterranean forests with the preparation of an inventory, the study of the specific features of the Mediterranean forest ecosystems and the establishment of a special force for fighting forest fires at a Mediterranean level.

Additional existing formulas, such as Euro-Mediterranean co-operation could also be used to this end.

We are convinced that many ideas can be presented and considered within the appropriate framework, in view of materialising a Mediterranean set of supplementary pilot projects, along the Rio decisions. If so, the 50th anniversary of the United

Nations in 1995 might be a suitable opportunity for the first presentation of such a Mediterranean experience to the rest of the Earth's inhabitants.

The Rio Conference gave us the conviction that, with appropriate financial and technological means, it would be possible to reorientate human activities without stepping over the many limits that now threaten us. Yet, a new ethic is necessary to solve the problems, based on peace, justice and equity, solidarity and co-operation, planning and development in harmony with nature, saving, conserving and recycling of resources. The already existing precious experience of Mediterranean co-operation constitutes a guarantee for moving in that direction.

As Mr Maurice Strong said, "the real success of the Earth Summit will be defined in what governments, businesses, communities, NGOs and individuals do to take action".

It is, therefore, up to us to define the meaning of UNCED for the Mediterranean and to contribute to turning its decisions into acts.

THE SUCCESS OF MAP IS A GOOD OMEN FOR THE SUCCESS OF RIO

Dr URI MARINOV
Consultant, Israel

Last June, when I was still Director general at the Israeli ministry for the Environment, MEDWAVES asked me, as well as other people responsible for the environment in the Mediterranean, to express my feelings concerning the results of Rio. Today, because I have retired from my official functions, I will give my comments a more personal touch. Summit Earth is, in my view, before all, the confirmation of what we collectively experienced within the framework of MAP during the past 17 years. Promoting the cause of the environment in the region was not painless. It was the result of the progressive and in depth work of experts, politicians and authorities from important international organisations

such as UNEP. Having followed this process on a daily basis, I was able to understand to what extent the necessity of cooperation helps to overcome obstacles - political, economic, cultural - initially judged disuasive.

My involvement with MAP started before it had been officially set up. During the summer of 1973, Maurice Strong (the recent Secretary general of the Rio Conference, executive Director of UNEP at the time) came to Israel in order to discuss the problems of the Mediterranean. He announced the launching of the Regional Seas Programme, the first plan being devoted to the Mediterranean with the participation, on an equal standing, of Israel. I thought to myself: "Is it possible?". My country had

no relations with at least 8 countries in the region. Mr Tolba, who was soon to become executive Director of UNEP, undertook to obtain the agreement of the other countries and he was able to summon, at Barcelona in 1976, 16 out of 18 coastal countries in order to agree on a Plan of action and, a year later, the Convention and the first two Protocols. Few people realise that, until the peace talks on the Middle-East opened in Madrid in 1991, MAP was the only procedure through which Israelis spoke directly, and in friendly terms, with representatives from Arab countries. One of the main results of MAP during all these years, was to serve as a forum for professional relations between countries with different regimes. I



know of no other organisation in the world where this type of cooperation was able to develop within such a delicate context. And, in October 1991, when I was elected to the post of rapporteur for the Bureau of Contracting Parties at the Cairo meeting, as the representative of Israel, it was for me the confirmation of this way of thinking.

Many people, during the past 17 years, have asked me what I thought of MAP. It is a secret to nobody that severe criticism has been expressed, now and then, concerning its efficiency. But if we consider the constraints of a limited budget and the complexity and the importance of the problems, its action and its achievements appear to me to be a real success. I would like to pay tribute here, to two men who have been the craftsmen: Aldo Manos, the first MAP Coordinator (until 1991), who knew how to instigate and lead it adroitly, and Stephan Keckes who was the driving force behind the entire Regional Seas Programme.

This is my judgement of MAP. But what about Rio in all this, one might ask? Well, I believe that we are today faced with a new era. During the preparation of Summit Earth, it became clear that the protection of the planet's natural resources is the most urgent matter and no longer the worry of certain prudent experts. The only thing which is left for us to do, if we want to survive on this Earth, is to follow on a planetary scale, the path which, modestly and with limited means, we were able to invent and trace within MAP, by showing what one can obtain with good will. Withdrawing from my official participation in MAP and its Bureau, I wish to convey all my wishes for success to Mr Busuttil and the great family of the Action Plan, to the personnel of the Co-ordinating Unit and the activity Centres. The agreements of Rio should constitute a new stimulus for all the region. I am convinced that this feeling is shared by all coastal countries.

A reference which can be politically exploited

Spanish Ministry for Public Works and Transport

(extract from official document which summarises the main conclusions)

Rarely has a meeting been prepared at such length and with such laboriousness and is foreseen to have such implications for the future, like the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In contrast, it is not normal that a meeting of this dimension should have caused such limited discussions, both on the side of the defenders and on that of the critics who focused only on the success or the failure of the Conference itself.

Undoubtedly, Rio'92 formalised the terms of reference of the debate opened in 1984 and explained in the report of the Brundland Commission entitled "Our Common Future", published in 1987. This document introduced the concept/objective of "sustainable development" and placed the environment at the centre of the debate on the future, obliging us to transfer or direct all current queries (North-South disequilibrium, progressive degradation and depletion of natural resources) and future predictions to the already indissoluble Environment-Development union.

The formal results of Rio are contained in texts which imply a global political compromise, generally accepted by the 175 countries present ("Declaration of Rio", "Agenda 21" and "Declaration of principles on Forests") and in other legally binding ones, for countries which signed and ratified them ("Convention on climate change", "Convention on Biodiversity"). To these, one should add specific compromises of political nature achieved by certain countries (the case of Spain) or groups of countries (like the E.C.).

The Declaration of Rio implies global recognition of the principles of shared, although different, responsibility of all countries. It also implies that developed countries should accept their environmental debt and that all nations should acknowledge the limits in the exercise of national sovereignty because of possible effects on the environment. More than anything, this implies an optimisation of environmental policies such as those of "the polluter pays", "attention" or "precaution", etc.

The Declaration of Rio is a balanced text which, without totally satisfying anybody, already has direct effects and can be considered as operational, and also constitutes a basis for its progressive development or transformation into a real "Charter for the Earth" which, the Secretariat of the Conference will end up commemorating at the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations in 1994.

As for "Agenda 21", it is a conceptual and basic text whose structured form analyses numerous areas affecting development and environment, from the fight against poverty and the necessary evolution of models of consumption to the strengthening of NGOs, the consideration of sectorial or



specific problems (atmosphere, forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, oceans, wastes,...) and the necessary means or tools of implementation such as financial mechanisms, transfer of technology, institutional development, legal tools, etc.

The future and operational vocation of these programmes could be measured both by the degree of detail which has been achieved for each area and by its possible progressive transformation into binding texts.

The financial resources estimated as necessary for the implementation of "Agenda 21", are proof of its ambitions. They exceed 125 billion dollars/year of external aid, from developed countries, which is much higher than actual Official Development Aid (50.000 million dollars) although close to that available if the objective of 0.7% of GNP was generally reached. This figures in Agenda 21 as the objective to be achieved "as soon as possible".

In sum, the texts of global political compromise, and in particular Agenda 21, are neither binding nor include agreements, as regards financial resources to be provided by developed countries, but represent a reference which can be politically exploited. Furthermore, it permits to specify programmes and activities to be financed or denounced, based on periodical revisions. Neither national policies nor debates or orientations of regional or sectorial global policies, will ever be the same after Rio, because common reference texts now exist.

Among the binding texts, the Convention on Climate Change establishes general compromises as



WE ARE CONDEMNED TO SUCCEED

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regards emission inventories, the winter effects of emissions and the development of plans for the control of emissions. The E.C. and other developed countries, wish to solve this lack of compromise progressively, based on the Protocols foreseen in the Convention. However, the available text already allows for important progress and, as in the case of other recent Conventions (of Geneva, on transfrontier atmospheric pollution; of Vienna, on the protection of the ozone layer), the cementing of compromises based on the Convention is only a question of time. The improvement of the financial mechanisms also remains pending.

The Convention on Biodiversity, is also faulty (lack of resolutions for the establishment of lists of biogeographical zones and important species; inadequate financial mechanisms) but once more, the Convention itself contains mechanisms for its improvement, to which the Community and its Member States have promised to contribute.

As far as Spain is concerned, the compromises attained at the Summit fall within the policy defended by the European Community.

Furthermore, during the intervention of the Spanish Minister of Public Works and Transport, it was confirmed that Seville is offered as headquarters for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity.

In short, the Post-Rio period has begun with a rich agenda: a conceptual framework provided by the Declaration of Rio, although subject to improvement; a programme 21 for the future, which is coherent and extensive, although dependent for its real progress on financial resources or possible changes in economic flows; two binding Conventions, of yet unknown application and perspectives, but which countries are willing to implement rapidly, through the signature of protocols. Finally, a Declaration on Forests, which does not exclude the possibility of becoming the most ambitious binding tool, given its importance for the Conventions mentioned above, for desertification, for the conservation of nature in general and for the protection of natural resources.

As for concrete actions envisaged by Spain at the international and regional level, the following should be mentioned:

- *Mediterranean - Magreb area*

Creation in Spain of a Centre for the Transfer of Technology in the Mediterranean/Magreb area. The idea had already been launched during the informal Council of Ministers for the Environment at Estoril.

- *United Nations*

Proposal concerning the choice of Seville as headquarters for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity. This was already put forward at the meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP in Nairobi in March 1992 and recently, in Nairobi, at the meeting of the Committee for the negotiation of the Convention, as well as during the Rio Conference itself.

Proposal concerning the creation of an Institute for the management of water resources.

In the context of the Rio Conference, the Mediterranean appears to be, at the same time, one of the most exemplary and vulnerable zones of the globe. It is exemplary because of its geographical position - it is surrounded by three continents -, the fact that it is the birthplace of several cultures and has a rich and long history of exchanges between North, South, East and West. It is an outstanding planetary symbol of "successful" millenary coexistence of an ecosystem and humanity. Therefore, it constitutes an example of the possibilities and the real virtues contained in the usually abstract notion of "common natural heritage". But it is also an exceptionally fragile sea, a victim of recent increasing disequilibria which are definitely threatening, at the critical interface between populations, environment and development. It is a region which, because of and despite its political and economic division, needs to negotiate its transition towards sustainable development rapidly. In fact, the Mediterranean concentrates, on only about 1% of the globe, most of the problems discussed at Rio: accelerated environmental degradation - particularly in the coastal zone - transfrontier pollution, demographic and touristic population explosion, important economic disparities, shortage of means for monitoring and managing the environment, lack of information or disinformation. At the regional scale, these points among other ones, perfectly illustrate the formidable challenges which most of the Planet's countries represented at UNCED, agreed to face before the next century. Even though the Rio Conference represented the development of planetary awareness concerning the environment/development interdependence - and whatever disgruntled people may think, that is not a small success - experience and pragmatism indicate that it is at the most human scale of regions that efficient solutions should be implemented. In this perspective, the Mediterranean Sea appears to be particularly suitable as a pilot region for applying the principles brought forward at Rio. At the Rio Summit, the marine environment was generally concealed in the speeches of the Heads of State or Government. The speech delivered by Prince Rainier of Monaco, President of ICSEM, which focused essentially on the preoccupations of our Commission concerning the future of the Mediterranean Sea, was one of the rare exceptions to the rule. Here, it is important to repeat the four pri-

orities which, on the occasion of Rio, our President set for our region:

1. The North-South transfer of methodologies and appropriate technologies, especially in the field of aquaculture, rehabilitation of degraded coastal equilibria, rational management of protected areas, measurement and control of pollution and fundamental knowledge of ecological mechanisms;

2. The setting up of a real time monitoring system for marine pollution, integrating the latest methods of remote sensing by satellite radar. Such a system, which the ICSEM is developing for hydrocarbons (pilot project), would be linked to the means of immediate intervention of specialised agencies and would provide powerful means of dissuading polluters and fighting against them;

3. The elaboration of a framework convention, in view of protecting vulnerable zones situated in international waters. These zones would be identified in relation to their ecological importance and their vulnerability to human activities. It will be less a question of imposing a strict way of protection but rather of adapting to a flexible, integrated management, which would provide for the sustainable coexistence of marine resources and economic activities (fishing, transport, mining, tourism, etc...) based on close cooperation between the various users;

4. The creation of an International Liaison Bureau, in the Principality of Monaco, especially entrusted with the identification of dual uses, deficiencies and most important needs for the implementation of the various conventions which would concern the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. In order to be efficient, such an organisation should have both total independence of action and be in close collaboration with specialised agencies. In conclusion, we are evidently condemned to succeed, here and now. If we do not manage the Mare Nostrum, an ecosystem which is shared by twenty coastal countries (only), which we have been using for such a long time and which we know rather better than others, in an equitable and sustainable way, what reasonable hope have we of managing the environment of the entire planet, in all its complexity? It is urgent that appropriate financial mechanisms, suitable for such an exercise, are rapidly developed. In this sense, I am rather in favour of the establishment of a Regional Bank for the Development of the Mediterranean.



RIO AND THE NGOS

MICHAEL SCOULLOS

President of EEB/MIO:

The "NGO Forum"

The NGO Forum which was held at the Gloria Hotel in Rio, was closely linked to the official Conference and the 92' Global Forum. The NGO Forum included a series of discussions, meetings and the negotiation of NGO Treaties, exclusively between the environment and development NGOs, on most of the subjects discussed at the official UNCED. The NGO Forum was attended by many hundreds of NGO representatives.

However, the discussions of the 92' Global Forum and the NGO Forum had little or no visible impact on the official Conference. On the contrary, the environment and development NGOs which attended the official meeting (about 100 out of the 200 present at the Rio Centro), held regular coordination meetings and informal consultations and managed to affect the discussions through press conferences and systematic lobbying.

The only official meeting between Government representatives and NGOs was the one organised by the EEB which was co-chaired by the Portuguese Minister of Environment (President of the European Council for the Environment) and Prof. M. Scoullous, in his capacity as President of the EEB. During that meeting, at which a large number of NGOs participated, the negotiated Conventions were discussed and a considerable number of questions were put forward by NGOs and answered by the Ministers, with particular emphasis on the EC positions.

At the initiative of MIO and the Arab Office of Youth and Environment, small informal meetings were organised and a letter was drafted and addressed to all heads of States and Governments of Mediterranean Countries. The letter was circulated and was also signed by EDNA Inter-Arab. Unfortunately, that was the only initiative concerning the Mediterranean. With some satisfaction we could identify some of our views in the final speeches of some Mediterranean Political Leaders.

Outcome of the Rio Conference:

The main important results (or no-results) of UNCED were the following:

1. The adoption of Agenda 21, an important document which was exhaustively negotiated and discussed throughout the

Conference. Despite the fact that it is not as strong as NGOs wished it to be, it is to date, the most "far going" World action programme for a sustainable development of the planet, which integrates environmental protection.

2. The adoption of the Convention on Climate Change, which aims at stabilizing carbon dioxide emissions, resulting from fossil fuel combustion (despite the objections of most of the oil producing countries). The Convention provides for important reductions in CO₂ emissions and other "greenhouse" gases in order to prevent the "greenhouse effect". It also makes reference to the appropriate financial instruments for the achievement of the targets.

3. The adoption of the Convention on Biodiversity - despite the initial objections of the USA and some other countries - concerning the conservation and sustainable use of all the earth's species, fauna and flora and their ecosystems.

4. Although no Convention on tropical forests was signed due to the objections of Malaysia and other Third World countries, a Declaration was adopted and it was agreed that a convention should be drafted by next year and followed by a convention on desertification.

5. There was no Convention on the protection of the sea. However, the fact that

the existing Law of the Sea has not so far been ratified was discussed and it was agreed that a convention should be prepared within the next 2 years.

6. The adoption of the "Rio Declaration", a set of 27 principles placing human beings at the centre of concerns for both environmental and development aspects.

7. It was agreed, that in order to guarantee the follow-up of the Rio Conference, a series of financial resources and institutional changes are necessary.

a. Financial resources: Relatively little was placed on the table. The Japanese were the most generous and the USA the meanest. The European Community was in favour of increased funding in order to help developing countries. The 0.7% GNP target, set for 2000 (or "as soon as possible after that date", as amended by the UK with German support) was reconfirmed.

b. Institutional changes: The Conference agreed that a UN "special body" should monitor the implementation of Agenda 21 and the adopted Conventions. In every country a "Special Committee", in which NGOs would participate will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Conventions and Agenda 21 at national level and for drafting an annual report which will be submitted to the UN.





AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FAILURE WITH SOME REASONS FOR HOPE

DOMITILLA SENNI

Greenpeace Italia

WHAT UNCED LEFT UNSAID

Greenpeace participated in the UNCED process from its early preparatory stages, distributing over 50 papers and reports to the four Preparatory Committees (PrepComs) providing our views on what UNCED needed to do (or not to do) to address responsibly the issues on its agenda.

The challenge that faced UNCED was nothing less than to rescue the planet and its capacity to support human life — to seize the moment and set in motion the economic, political and technological transformation that the world plainly requires. When viewed through the lens of the official UNCED process — focused on the five agreements that were on the table in Rio — the Conference was, regrettably, a failure of historic proportions.

Given the severity of the problem that these five agreements are intended to address, the commitments, proposed initiatives and actions are, overall, far too weak or inadequate to respond effectively to the twin crises of environment and development.

UNCED's treatment of such key issues as financial resources and technology threatens to exacerbate the economic and technological problems the Conference was supposed to alleviate.

UNCED helped to strengthen the very institutions, such as the World Bank, which have contributed significantly to our present predicament. UNCED was also unable to address adequately such urgent issues as global warming, the dumping of hazardous wastes in the Southern countries, Northern consumption patterns and nuclear testing.

Finally, it failed to advocate accountability for some of the key protagonists in global environmental destruction — transnational corporations and the world's military forces.

The crucial issues of environment

and development cannot be solved overnight or with simplistic formulas or slogans, and the efforts to rescue the planet — to save the oceans and marine species, to protect the atmosphere, the forests and farmland, to rid the world of toxic and radioactive substances — cannot proceed unless fundamental reform issues are tackled.

UNCED discussion and debate appropriately focused on what the North must do to help the South achieve sustainable development. While these are critical concerns, the focus on them also allowed the North, in important respects, to sidestep or avoid addressing, within UNCED, the urgent need to shift towards ecologically sound development in its own backyard. At the heart of the global environmental crisis lie models and patterns of trade, investment, technological "progress" and consumption, all created, advanced and politically dominated by governments, banks and corporations in the North working with their Southern counterparts. Without change in the North, humanity's environmental hope and fears will remain unsolved.

Without fundamental economic and political changes in both the North and the South, in the longer term the Earth and its people cannot survive. It is the absence of such changes which led Greenpeace to label the official UNCED process a failure. UNCED made far too little progress — and in some cases regressed — when judged against what was both possible and required.

AGENDA 21 AND THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)

It would be an impossible task to summarize, in only a few pages, the Agenda 21 implications for MAP. Therefore, only two main areas of Chapter 17 on oceans will be examined below.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

The oceans chapter fully recognizes the need to enhance ICZM projects, and identifies preventive and precautionary approaches as one of the main priorities in project planning and implementation.

MAP experience in ICZM pilot projects should now be elaborated into a regional ICZM Action Plan, that would integrate Agenda 21 measures with the specific characteristics of the Mediterranean region. Coastal States should then translate the regional guidelines into national action-oriented programmes and create clear mechanisms for their implementation. Efforts in this direction could then be assessed at the ICZM global conference which should be held before 1994.

Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution

By all accounts, LBS pollution is the most serious threat to the health of marine and coastal ecosystems. It incorporates a mixture of pipeline discharges and diffuse sources, including runoff, and atmospheric loadings — a mix that is wreaking havoc on a growing number of coastal ecosystems. While governments participating in the UNCED process appeared to concur as to the severity of the problem, the debate focused on whether national, regional or global approaches were best suited to addressing LBS pollution and what new initiatives, if any, were needed.

The Agenda 21 "activities" called for in the ocean chapter on LBS pollution provide some helpful steps forward.

Firstly, as a basis for action on LBS pollution, Agenda 21 calls for the implementation of the precautionary and preventive approach, which requires, among other things, the adoption of precautionary measures, environmental impact assessment, clean production techniques, recycling, waste audits and minimization.

The implication of the activities agreed in this section are far reaching for the Mediterranean. As one of the few regions with an agreement on LBS pollution, the Mediterranean countries are in an advanced position to start a speedy implementation programme. To begin with, immediate



Some failures of the UNCED process

WWF International,
Gland, Switzerland

The problems facing coastal regions and open seas are complex and require concerted national as well as international efforts if they are to be resolved and the use of the oceans and coastal regions be put on a sustainable path.

Although there is scope for action at the global level, many current problems could best be addressed by substantially increased efforts at the national and regional levels. National governments must put much higher priority on coastal and marine areas - bearing in mind that by the year 2020 roughly 7 billion people will be inhabiting the world's coastal areas.

In the UNCED process, progress was made towards identifying the causes of, and possibly solutions to, some of the problems relating to the destruction of the marine environment by human activities. On other issues - the sustainable management of fisheries, marine mammals, and the polar regions - very little progress was made.

An important shortcoming of the Agenda 21 text on the Oceans is its failure to deal with the need for universal ratification of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Convention on the Law of the Sea establishes for the first time a comprehensive, international legal framework for the marine environment. It includes several important concepts including prevention of transboundary pollution, environmental impact assessment, habitat protection and ecosystem consideration, and integrated pollution control. The Convention is, however, not yet fully in force.

UNCED also failed to recommend the extension of the moratorium on commercial whaling thereby missing the opportunity to provide impetus and direction to the whaling debate.

With respect to other issues within UNCED's mandate on oceans and coastal regions, many were at least addressed but action is now needed at the international and national levels to ensure implementation.

priority should be given to assess the effectiveness of the LBS Protocol and to identify means of strengthening action.

Starting with a revision of agreed Common Measures (in particular those concerning organohalogen compounds) the next Ordinary Meeting of the Barcelona Convention should develop a new regional strategy consistent with the implementation of the precautionary approach. This is not something new within the MAP framework; in 1989, the Contracting Parties fully adopted the precautionary approach and its first application to the Black List of the LBS Protocol began in 1991, when measures were agreed on organophosphorus compounds.

The full implication of an operational precautionary approach should encompass a phase-out plan for all inputs which may pose a threat to the environment. Priority action on those substances that are toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative will be required while phasing in clean production methods.

Accordingly, MEDPOL should evolve from the old "assimilative" approach. This approach is based on the assumption that the environment has a capacity to receive and render harmless a vast quantity, variety and complexity of industrial inputs. This has led to a legacy of environmental degradation which defies national boundaries and severely pollutes soil, air, groundwater, river, coastal areas and the high seas.

To be effective, any regional programme to prevent and eliminate LBS pollution must ensure that new and additional funds from the EC and its Member States are available to compensate the less developed countries of the Mediterranean for the costs of environmental planning, although new resources should not be seen as an end in themselves.

Resources transfer to the South must be accompanied by debt relief, reform in trading patterns while all countries of the region should strive

to cut military budgets by 50% or more and use the dividends to pursue sound development strategies at home and abroad.

One final remark, a disappointing development in the evolution of the



oceans chapter of Agenda 21 was the decision by governments to delete numerous target dates in the various programme areas. Target dates are useful indicators of the level of effort that will be required, be it national or international.

BEYOND UNCED

Despite the failure of the official UNCED process, it is obvious that the Conference contributed significantly to the effort to engage individuals associated with governments, the UN system, the private sector, NGOs and other sectors in the challenge of achieving ecologically sound and socially equitable development for all the planet's inhabitants.

The UNCED experience helped propel most of the participants up to the learning curve that confronts everyone who becomes involved in the collective effort to understand each other's problems, needs, right and responsibilities as we struggle to live in harmony on this inescapably interconnected Earth. The issues were engaged, and that struggle now goes forward.



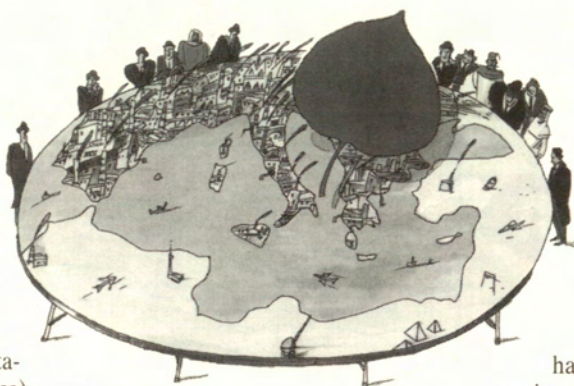
After Rio: environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean

AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE ASPEN INSTITUTE ITALIA, A MINI CONFERENCE-CRUISE

Rarely has the Mediterranean brought together such a panel of personalities. One month after Rio, the Mediterranean inaugurated a series of regional discussions on the results of Summit Earth. From the 3rd to the 5th of July 1992, the Aspen Institute Italia organised a mini conference-cruise on board the "Daphne", from Genoa, in Italy, to Porto-Vecchio, in Corsica (France). Six ministers for the Environment (among which, the Egyptian minister, M.Atef Ebaid, who is also president of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention), the directors of numerous world renowned companies (IBM, Fiat, ENI, etc), Mediterranean and European parliamentarians, Salvino Busuttill, MAP Coordinator, Michel Batisse, president of the Blue Plan, Joseph Wheeler, director of the UNCED "Integration" programme, etc. In total, there were more than a hundred participants. The interest in the discussions was boosted by the important participation of the host country; Carlo Ripa di Meana, the new Italian minister for the environment and former E.C. Commissioner, who had caused a sensation a month earlier by refusing to go to Rio. He repeated his criticisms on board the "Daphne", believing that the results of UNCED "were deceiving both for the Southern countries, which did not obtain any funds and for those of the North who refused to commit themselves". This pessimism was tempered by the dynamism and the volubility of Jani de Michelis, president of the Aspen Institute Italia and former minister for foreign affairs, who strongly contributed to the proposals and ideas for releasing the spirit of Rio from its theoretical frame.

42 years of debates at the highest level

As its name indicates, the Aspen Insti-



tute Italia is an Italian branch of the Aspen Institute founded in Aspen (Colorado, USA) in 1950 by a group of American intellectuals and businessmen. Since then, this organisation has imposed itself on a world scale because of its excellence and the seriousness of the meetings which it organises between economic, political, financial and artistic managers. During these past years, the Aspen Institute Italia has devoted several conferences to the Mediterranean. One of them, held in Cairo in 1989, furnished the material for a report entitled "The Mediterranean: managing environmental matters". The Aspen tries to stress differences because it is convinced that creativity springs from diversity. Special rules - such as "off the record" discussions, secrecy concerning exchanged views, the round-table formula used in order to favour personal interactions, a restricted number of participants - have permitted managers from all over the world to have fruitful discussions enabling them to make decisions. During the "Daphne" discussions, M. de Michelis gave a press conference which was to constitute part of the main conclusions. The presence of a great number of journalists in the corridors during the cruise permitted, through the interviews with the main participants, to obtain an idea of what had been said.

The MAP revalued?

The meeting examined the consequences for the Mediterranean of the important issues considered - or avoided - at Rio: marine pollution, overpopulation, sustainable development and companies, biodiversity, etc. Should new structures have been set up in order to materialise the Rio commitments? This question occupied a good part of the discussions. On the whole, participants felt that it would be desirable to establish an "Agenda 21" for the Mediterranean. Certain participants proposed that MAP assume this role and that an extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties should undertake the evaluation, the Barcelona Convention remaining the legal basis for the new actions envisaged. M. de Michelis himself defended this idea and he also made several other proposals, unequally supported by the participants: a tax "on carbon" in order to reduce the greenhouse effect, the creation of a "Business Council" for the Mediterranean (an idea launched by the president of ENI, Gabriele Cagliari), and a Mediterranean investment bank. A good number of managers believe that one should keep to existing structures, rendering them more operational and rational. The notion of "regional networks" found numerous supporters: it remains to enrich and consolidate the networks, or to create ones between towns, sites of special interest, reserves and even between companies. In a general way, the "Daphne" meeting revealed what we observe elsewhere in the world: those responsible for companies are very sensitive to environmental protection and in this respect prove to have an imagination and a willingness to innovate which many politicians would envy.



THE MEETING OF THE ASPEN INSTITUTE GAVE RISE TO CONSIDERABLE CRITIQUE IN THE PRESS

The international press presented the proposals made at the meeting of the Aspen Institute and the discussions which accompanied them during the mini-cruise. All newspapers stressed that the forum represented a first attempt to lay out a framework for "Post-Rio" in the Mediterranean. The *Financial Times*, under the inspiring title "A case of sink or swim", cites the main figures on pollution in the Mediterranean and notes: "Delegates saw little sign of the chemicals. But, sailing from Genoa, Italy's leading oil port, they had first-hand evidence of one of the biggest pollution hazards afflicting the Mediterranean...Not surprisingly, discussions were long on the problems and short on solutions. However, the Conference brought a range of regional environmental issues into relief...The main focus was on the potential role of European business in helping the Mediterranean's poorer nations continue their industrialisation process; this is essential for providing resources for their growing populations, without destroying their own environments and the common heritage formed by the Mediterranean itself...Few present called for halting industrial development in the poorer parts of the region. Even committed environmentalists accepted that the economic needs, spurred by explosive population growth, meant greater industrialisation was inevitable, and indeed desirable, if political systems were not eventually to collapse under the demographic strain".

"*Le Monde*" accompanied its review of the meeting by a satirical drawing which we hereby reproduce: it sums up the striking difference between a Northern industrialised coastline and a Southern one threatened by poverty. The special envoy of the French paper observed: "In order to help these countries of the South, some propose to tax tourists (1 - 5 dollars per head) who enjoy the sun and the blue sea. Others, such as Umberto Colombo, president of the National Agency for Alternative Energy (NAEE), opt for the creation of a Mediterranean branch of the Business Council, capable of financing EURECA programmes. Serge Antoine, special UNCED consultant,



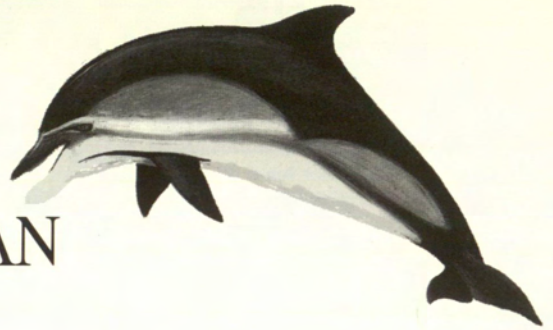
«A little more effort and the North-South junction will be achieved».
Drawing published in "*Le Monde*" newspaper

pointed out that it is useless to create new institutions. "Let us rather create networks, he says, between towns, sites of special interest, reserves, natural parks." And "*Le Monde*" concludes "The Rio Conference did not perhaps result in important decisions but it gave rise to numerous debates in chancelleries, ministerial and entrepreneurial corridors. In this respect, the Aspen meeting perfectly illustrates the difficulty of thinking of global management of the environment and development, even for a small fraction of the planet."

The Italian national press commented extensively on an event which was taking place within its territory and was presided by the Italian former minister for foreign affairs and at which the directors of the main companies or their most important authorities on environmental matters (such as the former E.C. Commissioner for the environment, Ripa di Meana, who had been appointed minister for the environment shortly before the meeting, or Giorgio Ruffolo whom Ripa di Meana had replaced) were participating. "*La Repubblica*" notes that "In the Mediterranean, North and South or, rather, various Northern and Southern models are opposed: from the French am-

bitions of efficiency to the casual rapidity of Spanish development, from the Algerian conflicts to the despair of prolific Egypt who each year sees its fertile soils recede...". And in conclusion, the paper cites the proposals of Ripa di Meana: "Implementation of the Rio engagements means improving the quality of aid by rectifying the limits expressed at Summit Earth. It is necessary to confront the orators of the international conference with their responsibilities. A second Rio should be organised starting from the "taboos" of this Summit, from the great threats avoided such as the demographic question." For the "*Corriere della sera*", "Rio had a double effect: it deceived those who hoped for a materialisation of action, that is, a turn towards sustainable development. Well, the organisers of the forum-cruise underline that the Mediterranean represents the ideal region for starting to apply the principles and the programmes which would otherwise remain a pure theoretical exercise...The Aspen forum proposed an integration of the already operational conventions and environmental initiatives, the approval of a specific "Agenda 21" for the Mediterranean which could benefit from a Mediterranean investment bank or a Mediterranean "Business Council".

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT MEDITERRANEAN CETACEANS



PIERRE-CHRISTIAN BEAUBRUN (*)

It is surprising that many people are unaware of the presence of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean. They are very often amazed to hear that one still encounters Whales in it, and some try to mask their fear when one talks about Sperm Whales. However, nearly all laugh when they are asked to swim next to an "ambassador" Dolphin. And yet!

And yet, Dolphins and Cetaceans were gods for the Greeks and Romans. It is widely acknowledged that Aristotle laid the foundations of world cetology. Later, Pliny the Elder and other authors described how, like nowadays in Mauritania, Dolphins took part in Man's fishing outings at several places along the coastline. Finally, it is difficult to believe that, at the beginning of the century, whaling industries were active in the Straits of Gibraltar.

Thus, in former times, there was both mystification and respect. After a period of oblivion and then of persecution, the power of the mass media has made us dream again about these mammals. However, it is unfortunate that the pictures often presented come from other seas whilst 22 species of cetaceans have to date been recorded in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Four of them are Mysticeti and have baleen, and 18 are Odontoceti and have teeth.

A DIVERSIFIED POPULATION

Seventy seven Cetacean species are known to exist throughout the world, and nearly a quarter of them have been spotted at least once in the Mediterranean. Thus, for such a geographically isolated area, the population is very diversified.

Nine species are rare. Only a few sightings (usually stranded animals) testify to their presence: they occasionally cross the Straits of Gibraltar or the Suez Canal. However, thirteen species are regularly recorded: 8 of them are common or frequent and 5 are more rare.

Diets vary between species and can change according to area, season and food availability. Thus, the Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) feeds on plankton in the summer and on fish and cephalopoda in the winter. But on the whole, diets are not well known because few animals have been examined.

A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN POPULATION

All species recorded (except one) have been sighted in the Western Mediterranean Basin but not as many have been spotted in

the Eastern one. That is because animals coming from the Atlantic very rarely cross the Siculo-Tunisian Straits and, above all, because prospecting efforts are disproportionate: very few publications concern the Eastern Basin or the Black Sea.

General distribution maps were published in 1987 by F.A.O., and the I.C.S.E.M. is preparing a more precise atlas which should be ready by 1993.

As for population size, only two recent estimates are available: in 1987, the total number of Delphinidae (3 species) was estimated at 454,000 animals and, in 1991, 225,000 Striped Dolphins were recorded in the Western Basin.

Finally, the biology of these species is also not well known, in particular their reproduction behaviour, migrations or winter distribution.

A POPULATION WHICH WE ARE BEGINNING TO STUDY

Mediterranean cetology which was essentially French in the 19th century, went through a period of lethargy until His Royal Highness (H.R.H.) Prince Albert the 1st of Monaco gave it a new lease of life by laying the foundations of the I.C.S.E.M.

In 1970, France started investigations in the Ligurian Sea and around Corsica. Since then, other scientific teams have been set up in Spain and Italy and, more recently, in Greece, Morocco and Turkey. Several national or international associations have been created and GREENPEACE is, for the time being, one of the most active ones.

Which have been the results? Six new species (or ones that had not been spotted since the 19th century) have been seen during the last decade and the increasingly regular use of precise methods allows us to hope for the rapid development of common programmes applying to large areas.

A POPULATION UNDER ATTACK

Let us remind the reader that two whaling industries operated sporadically in the Straits of Gibraltar, at least between 1921 and 1954. Since the 60s, although there has been no real fishery in either the Western or the Eastern Basin, Cetacean flesh is sold to restaurant owners and to fishermen as bait for their fishing lines (Italy, Spain) but it is impossible to estimate the number of animals caught for these purposes.

Small Cetaceans are also victims of fishermen (harpooning, firing), who consider them as direct competitors in their fishing

grounds and accuse them of damaging their nets. Let us also mention a direct threat: captures made in order to supply delphinariums, marinelands or research laboratories.

Indirect threats are the most important. The main threat is caused by the development of fisheries, characterized by their presence in both Basins and the multiplicity of fishing methods. The most harmful methods are those used in coastal waters (gill nets and trawls) and in the open sea (long-lines and drift nets). Drift nets are certainly the most destructive but their impact is difficult to estimate.

Water pollution, in general, is another key factor. The noxious elements accumulated by Mediterranean Cetaceans weaken the animals' immune resistance and this might have fostered the onset and propagation of the Morbillivirus epidemic, Delphinid Distemper Virus, in the Striped Dolphin.

Numerous deaths due to the ingestion of non degradable products (plastic, aluminium, etc.) which cause suffocation or intestinal obstruction have been noted. In addition, cases of animals found dead, entangled in pieces of disused nets, have often been mentioned. Finally, the increase in maritime traffic has increased the number of fatal collisions with Cetaceans.

The case of the Black Sea is special: firstly, its waters are very polluted and secondly, its three permanent species of small Delphinidae are victims of illegal slaughters.

A POPULATION WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS PROTECTED

To date, only France and Italy have instituted special regulations to protect Cetaceans in their territorial waters. But most species travel very far and such measures at national level, if they exist, would only ensure partial protection.

As far as international waters are concerned, we must resort to the various conventions which, directly or indirectly, govern the preservation of the environment or species. However, these different regulations present several disadvantages. On the one hand, their role is limited to making suggestions and recommendations and they have

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CETACEANS

no legal means of imposing measures or enforcing them. On the other hand, they usually only concern coastal countries, a fact which raises, once again, the question of foreign fishing fleets operating in the open sea. Only the FAO/G.C.M.F. could take restrictive measures against these but unfortunately, this Council doesn't exercise its privilege.

As for the Black Sea, until recently, it was only protected by the International Convention for Black Sea Resources, which led to the ban on dolphin hunting in 1966.

CONCLUSION

Will we wait until Mediterranean Cetaceans are extinct before we can help them face the prejudices to which we subject them?

Several legislative and protective measures are being prepared. The UN Resolution (December 1991) proposes a ban on the use of drift-nets in the open sea and will be implemented worldwide before December 31st 1992. An Action Plan for the conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean is being elaborated within the framework of UNEP and MAP (see article below) and in May 1992, Black Sea countries laid the first foundations for a similar treaty applying to their waters. The joint PELAGOS project (Italy, France, Monaco) is intended to protect natural ecosystems in the Corsican-Ligurian-Provence basin. Finally, the very recent meeting in Antibes, under the auspices of R.I.M.M.O., produced an extremely innovative recommendation: that of considering the entire Western Basin as a vast E.P.Z. (Ecologically Protected Zone) which will be common to all coastal countries, with limits fixed according to the E.E.Z. (Exclusive Economic Zones) and which will be managed jointly in an ecologically sound way.

On the scientific side, research topics undertaken are diverse but the Western Basin remains the privileged sector of activity. It is necessary and urgent to set up common and concerted programmes involving everyone's participation and, in this respect, the role of international organisations becomes essential. It becomes more obvious every day that the entire Mediterranean constitutes a unique and specific ecosystem. In order to ensure its conservation, during his speech at the Summit in Rio, H.R.H. Prince Rainier III of Monaco, proposed that an independent Bureau be created in the Principality of Monaco. This Bureau would be responsible for consultation on on-going studies in the Mediterranean and co-ordination and follow-up of the Conventions which apply to it. If such an initiative was to take place, there is no doubt that the Mare Nostrum would be grateful and that, perhaps, this region will be declared a "Cetacean sanctuary".

A JOINT CONSULTATION MEETING WAS HELD IN OCTOBER 1992 CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA

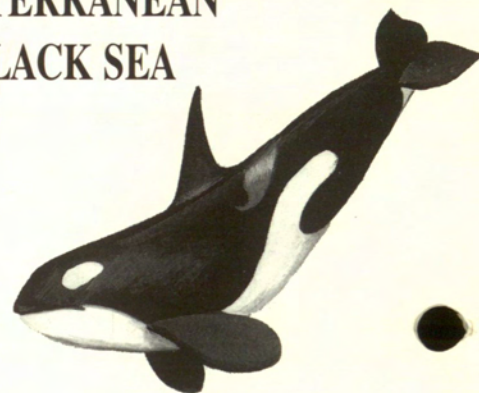
The action plan for the conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea was adopted during the Seventh meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Cairo from 8 to 11 October 1991. However, Mediterranean countries had mandated the meeting of National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas, to elaborate this plan. Thus, the objectives of the joint consultation meeting held in Athens on the 26th and the 27th of October 1992, within the framework of the meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs, were:

- to review and formulate recommendations for the implementation of the Action Plan adopted in Cairo in October 1991;
- to examine the draft agreement on the conservation of small Cetaceans of the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and Contiguous waters which, after extensive discussions within the framework of the Bonn and Berne Conventions, would be implemented within the framework of the Bonn Convention (on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals)

Fourteen Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (that is, 13 Mediterranean countries and the EC) participated in the consultation, as well as representatives of the Convention Secretariats (Barcelona, Berne, Bonn), representatives from Bulgaria, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation as well as representatives of several NGOs (IUCN, Greenpeace, MEDASSET, FoE, WWF).

During the review of the Action Plan adopted in Cairo, it was decided to establish an ad hoc group in order to formulate practical recommendations for the implementation of the Plan. These recommendations were approved by the meeting, which:

- invites range states to assess their national policies concerning Cetaceans and to inform the Secretariat of the results of this assessment within a year;



- proposes to range states to prepare laws, if they have not yet done so, and to enforce them within two years in order to ban the capture of Cetaceans, the use of large-scale drift-nets (larger than 2 Km) and the discharge of fishing gear at sea; it also proposes the safe release of Cetaceans accidentally caught.

The proposed recommendations concern, among other, the creation of protected areas, research, the improvement of technical means and the development of public awareness.

As far as coordination of activities is concerned, the meeting agreed that the Tunis Centre, in consultation with the competent organisation in the field of Cetaceans, was the most appropriate body.

Concerning the draft Agreement on the protection of small Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and Contiguous Waters, all points were carefully examined, especially the geographical limits, and several delegations expressed the need for reviews and modifications. It was suggested that the draft Agreement should be revised by the Bonn Convention Secretariat. In order to achieve this, countries within the area of distribution, the EC and other organisations concerned were invited to submit their comments within three months. The Convention Secretariat will then draft a second version of the agreement and will return it for further comments to all interested parties (countries, the E.C and organisations).

The Activities of MAP



During a MAP mission to Tunisia (3 - 8 May 1992), an Agreement was signed by M. D. Elser, programme Co-ordinator, Coastal and Marine Programme (IUCN) and M. M. Saied, Director of SPA/RAC, concerning a programme of Co-operation for 1992. M. S. Busuttil, MAP Co-ordinator and M. I. Dharat, MAP Senior Programme Officer, attended the signing ceremony which took place at the SPA premises in Tunis on 5 May 1992. The Tunis Centre is now fully operational in its new premises in Tunis. With the support of IUCN, it assists countries in setting up new protected areas. The meeting of SPA Focal Points in Athens (held simultaneously with the consultation meeting on Cetaceans in the Mediterranean, on which we report in this issue) allowed to review the activities of the Centre and to establish a timetable and a programme of future activities (The picture shows the signing of the SPA/IUCN Agreement. From left to right: M.I.Dharat, M.S.Busuttil, M.D.Elser and M.M.Saied).

FAO/IOC/UNEP training workshop on the techniques for monitoring biological effects of pollutants in marine organisms

*Nice/Sophia-Antipolis/France,
14 - 25 September 1992*

This training workshop was organised within the framework of the MED-POL programme. Studies on biological effects cover a large range of methods and considerable work has been done within the framework of MAP concerning marine populations. The workshop was devoted to the studies carried out beyond and at the level of the individual organism and more specifically to biochemical and physiological studies (use of biomarkers, estimating MFO activity, etc.), coupled by practical demonstrations. It was attended by twenty seven participants from 13 Mediterranean countries, Bulgaria and Rumania.

Meeting on implications of climatic changes on Mediterranean coastal areas (island of Rhodes, Kastela Bay, Syrian coast, Malta and Cres/Losinj islands)

Valletta, Malta, 15 - 19 September 1992

The object of this meeting of Mediterranean Task Team representatives was to examine the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the five case studies and to finalise the draft reports. The meeting was opened by M. Stanley Zammit, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment in Malta and M. Salvino Busuttil, MAP Co-ordinator. The meeting was also convened in order to exchange views concerning important climate change impacts in the Mediterranean Basin and to decide on the way in which the work could be presented to governments and other decision-makers. Concluding the presentation of the five studies and the discussions which followed, M. L. Jetic, Co-ordinator for climatic studies in the Mediterranean, who acted as technical secretary for the meeting, stressed that, as

predicted by the University of East Anglia, at least until 2050, the perturbation of the mean climate would have little effect. However, attention was drawn by a number of groups to impacts due to potential changes in the frequency and severity of extreme events.

The report adopted by the meeting includes, in the appendix, "operational scenarios" and the main facts concerning the five areas of study.

Meeting of REMPEC National Focal Points

Malta, 22 - 26 September 1992

As was decided at the Seventh Meeting of Contracting Parties in Cairo, this meeting was included in the meetings of Focal Points for each component of MAP. The meeting was attended by: 18 coastal States as well as the E.C., representatives of IMO and IOPCF, the MAP Co-ordinator and representatives of oil and shipping industry organisations (IPIECA, ITOPE) who were invited as observers.

The meeting approved a "Code of Practice" for the use of dispersants at sea in the Mediterranean region, a proposal for the establishment of a Mediterranean Task Team for Mediterranean intervention which, in the case of major pollution, could provide advice and technical expertise to help national authorities in deciding on the measures to be taken, and a workplan for the period 1994 - 1997.

The meeting expressed the wish that co-operation between the oil and shipping industry and REMPEC be developed, in particular in the field of training and exchange of information.

Finally, the meeting expressed the wish that the 1993 meeting of Contracting Parties (in Antalya, Turkey) would provide REMPEC with the necessary means which will allow, as was decided in Cairo in October 1991, the implementation of the Action Plan concerning the provision of adequate port reception facilities in the Mediterranean Basin.

The report adopted by the meeting includes, in the appendix, the draft proposal for the establishment of a Task Team for assistance in combating accidental marine pollution.

ECHOES OF MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

MEDASSET activities

(Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles)

This non-governmental organisation has published the results of its activities during the past two years. The research projects successfully carried out are:

A comprehensive survey of all potential nesting beaches and sand dunes on the mainland and the islands of the North Aegean Sea, covering over 2,000Km of coastline, which was commissioned by the E.C. The aim of the project was to survey the outstanding stretch of Greek coastline for the incidence of marine turtle nesting and to establish priority zones for conservation. The survey confirms that the island of Zante ("Zakynthos", in the Ionian Sea) and the south-west Peloponnese remain vital to the survival of the sea turtle *Caretta caretta* in the Mediterranean.

The Association also carried out a nesting beach and sand dune assessment in Sardinia, with emphasis on the Gulf of Orosei. This survey showed that tourism has completely overrun the beaches, rendering nesting impossible.

In Syria, MEDASSET carried out the first ever survey of the entire coastline for the occurrence of sea turtles. Signs of sparse nesting were observed, but only one beach was considered of real interest (important predation of nests by humans was also recorded).

An assessment of incidental catching of Loggerhead turtles on swordfish long lines in the Ionian Sea, funded by the Greek Animal Welfare Fund (U.K.) and the British Chelonia Group, was carried out for the third year. Up to 40.0% of fishing trips caught between 1 - 3 turtles each time, the majority being juveniles. This perhaps indicates that adults are trapped selectively by drift nets.

Finally, invited and funded by ZEMELDIKA, MEDASSET further assessed the Lagana Bay (Zante) nesting beaches. ZEMELDIKA is a turtle orientated grouping from Zante communities.

In a general way, MEDASSET believes that the situation of marine turtles has not improved and that very few of the Berne Convention recommendations have been implemented

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tel. 01-3613572, Greece).



MAP PUBLICATIONS

MAP Technical reports series:

Directory of Mediterranean marine environmental centres.

This new directory, compiled by Athena Davaki, Athens Unit librarian, with the help of Adnan Akkel, data treatment specialist, and the support of UNEP's Headquarters in Nairobi, constitutes a useful tool at the disposal of all researchers in the Mediterranean. Is is an updated version, and it is more practical than previous directories published by UNEP and FAO in 1976, 1977 and 1985. It contains up-to-date information on 142 governmental, international and United Nations organisations, and private institutions dealing with the Mediterranean environment, in various fields: research, monitoring, education, training, management. Institutions are listed in alphabetical order within each country together with details of programmes, equipment, names and qualifications of scientific and administrative members of staff, etc. At the end, an alphabetical index per country allows the reader to find all these people and their specialities. This document should be considered, by all partners in Mediterranean cooperation, as a "Who's Who" of the scientific community. Institutions are invited to communicate errors or omissions.

(MAP Technical reports series, n°6, 351 pages, in English and in French for French speaking institutions).

Regional changes in the Mediterranean Basin due to global greenhouse warming

This is the final report of the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom). Some of their conclusions were presented in our previous issue (Medwaves no 25, p.8). The report presents the results of a two-year study to develop scenarios of climate change in the Mediterranean. It is divided into three sections: 1) scenarios developed from general circulation models (GCMs); 2) model validation; 3) precipitation extremes. It is accompanied by 59 figures and 11 tables. In their conclusions, the authors examine the reliability of the scenarios. They also describe some of the implications of the changes for the economies and the ecology of the region and make clear that the scenarios presented should be regularly updated according to improvements in climate models.

(MAP Technical reports series, n°66, 172 pages, in English only).

Blue Plan Fascicules

Water in the Mediterranean Basin: situation and prospects.

This new Blue Plan fascicule, published commercially in France, is the work of Jean Margat, advisor at the Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM), who cooperated with a number of experts from the South and the North of the Mediter-

anean. The richness and the complexity of the water problem in the Mediterranean called for a more specific and technical study than the one contained in the main Blue Plan report which could not go into the details of the problem and the developments in different sectors and areas. This philosophy of "focusing" on the important themes of the Blue Plan justifies the regular publication of this type of fascicules. The fascicule on water is added to those on fishing, forests, ecosystems, industry and islands. After reviewing the hydrological context of the Mediterranean region and the dual role which water plays in the environment, the fascicule analyses the resources and their actual use by the various countries. Then, it lays the foundations for a prospective study of demand and supply and presents the main headings of a real Mediterranean policy on water. In the preface, Michel Batisse, Blue Plan President, stresses the seriousness of the problem indicating that "water is already or will be tomorrow a limiting factor for development in the majority of coastal states".

(The Blue Plan Fascicule, n°6, 196 pages, Economica editors, 49 rue Héricart, 75015 Paris, France. In French only).

Books - Reviews

The Mediterranean "reinvented": realities and hopes of cooperation

Published by the Fondation René Seydoux (France) which, since its creation in 1980, tries to develop an awareness in favour of a "Mediterranean of dialogue", this book contributes to the evaluation of Mediterranean cooperation and its prospects. As Giovanna Tanzarella points out in the preface, "it completes and enriches a monumental work, the Blue Plan". It thus deals with topics which are not extensively covered by the Blue Plan: cultural, intellectual issues, representations. For each subject, the word is given to one author from the South and one from the North of the Mediterranean. The Action Plan for the Mediterranean is presented in a separate chapter by two experts who have been closely associated to its achievements and its implementation: Serge Antoine and Abdelkader Baouendi. Details of the Declaration of Genoa, the Blue Plan and remote sensing are presented in frames. In another chapter, M. Salvino Busuttil, MAP Coordinator, presents the prospects for university cooperation, especially in relation to European policy; he boasts about the launching of a "cultural Eureka programme for the Mediterranean". Because of its relevance and its rich analysis, the book testifies to a regain of interest in the Mediterranean. In their conclusions, Paul Balta, Serge Antoine and Gilles Martinet note that, since about twenty years, there appears to be a "murmur of cooperation" in the Mediterranean and that MAP "gave it the tone" and "created a dynamism".

(La Decouverte Editors/Fondation René Seydoux, 1 place Paul Painlevé, 75005, Paris, France, 393 pages. In French only).



THE MAP CALENDER OF MEETINGS

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties	9 - 10 November Cairo Egypt
Training course on the use of aquifer modelling in the management of water resources	16 - 20 November Malta
Meeting of PAP Focal Points	23 - 25 November Athens Greece
Meeting of experts on historic sites (underwater archeology)	November 1992 Bodrum Turkey
XXVth meeting of the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee (IAAC)	8 - 11 December Athens Greece
Consultation meeting on the programme for the management of MED POL data and orientation of future work.	December Athens Greece

CORRIGENDUM

"THE GLOBAL 500" LAUREATS:

In our previous issue, when we presented the "Global 500" 1992 Mediterranean Laureats, we unfortunately forgot to mention M. Abdullatif K. Youssef. We sincerely apologise. In 1981, the Syrian M. Youssef, Director of his country's Marine Research Institute, conducted a study on air pollution in Kuwait. This was the first in an Arab country. His research determined the high risk source of pollution that the chemical character of recycled oil had on the environment. Most of his recommendations have been adopted by the authorities. Professor Youssef has initiated graduate study programmes on the marine environment.

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