

## **Appendix V**

### **Recommendations on MAP/NGO COOPERATION as adopted by the Contracting Parties (Malta 27-30 October 1999)**

#### **Introduction**

1. At their Tenth Meeting, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997), decided to undertake a methodological reflection in relation to NGO participation in MAP® and for this purpose, decided to establish a Working Group composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties® to review this subject and propose the necessary recommendations.
2. At its recent meeting (Tunis, 28 March 1998), the Bureau of the Contracting Parties reviewed the subject, made various comments and requested the Secretariat to convene the meeting of the Working Group and report the results of its deliberation of the Working Group to the next Bureau meeting,
3. In conformity with those decisions, the meeting of the Working Group was convened at MAP premises in Athens on 9 October 1998. The meeting thoroughly reviewed a secretariat report, including draft recommendations on the subject, and made various amendments and modifications thereon. The meeting report was issued as document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.147/3.
4. During its recent meeting held in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 16 and 17 November 1998, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties reviewed the draft recommendations of the Working Group. Various comments were made by the members of the Bureau, including:
  - acknowledgement of the importance of the issue and the role of NGOs in the field of public awareness and participation;
  - support for the networks approach, which should function as focal points for the various NGOs they represent and should ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on MAP activities to other NGOs and the public at large;
  - relevant NGOs and the private sector should be encouraged to become involved in specific environmental and sustainable development issues;
  - the role of NGOs should be complementary to that of governments and NGOs that are genuinely working to protect the Mediterranean environment should be welcomed;
  - the selection of NGOs to be MAP partners should be established on a solid basis. They should not request funds to assume their responsibilities and should offer their contributions to MAP and to the Mediterranean countries;
  - MAP should select environmental and sustainable development themes, on which NGOs can help and contribute.
5. At the end of the Bureau discussion, the Secretariat was requested to continue

its work on the issue and submit a report to the meeting of the MAP National Focal Points.

6. The following draft recommendations have been suggested by the Working Group on MAP/NGO Cooperation for the consideration of the NFPs meeting, taking into account the above mentioned comments of the Bureau:

### **Proposed Recommendations**

The main objectives of MAP/NGO cooperation are:

1. to advance the general purposes of MAP and to promote the policies, strategies and programmes derived from the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and the decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties;
2. to obtain expert information, law and advice, technical cooperation and assistance from international, regional and national NGOs;
3. to enable NGOs which represent important sectors of public opinion in the Mediterranean to express the views of their members on environmental issues, raise public awareness and influence public opinion and action for the benefit of the environment.

With a view to attaining these objectives, the following specific recommendations are suggested for the consideration of the Contracting Parties:

#### **A. At the Contracting Parties level**

1. At the regional level, the Contracting Parties shall endeavour to create the appropriate working conditions for NGOs and to facilitate their involvement and active participation in tasks for which they are specialized, or have expertise, through a capacity-building programme involving financial assistance, legal assistance (such as bringing cases to courts), preparation of environmental projects and techniques of raising public awareness.
2. At the national level, encourage partnership among Contracting Parties, the private sector and relevant NGOs, which could produce positive results in dealing with specific environmental and sustainable development issues.
3. At the national level, encourage NGOs' role in organizing and supporting Apublic hearings@ on particular environmental issues.

#### **B. At the NGO level**

1. NGOs shall fully cooperate with the Mediterranean countries and MAP Secretariat for the furtherance of the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
2. NGOs shall provide the MAP Secretariat regularly with information on their activities and changes in their structures.
3. NGOs shall build and strengthen national and regional networks, with wider representation of Mediterranean NGOs in the Networks.

4. NGOs shall cooperate individually and collectively (Networks) in the implementation of MAP programmes and shall prepare qualitative inputs to policy and research projects of MAP.
5. Sharing of experience and lessons, communication and exchange of information within the various NGOs shall be strengthened
6. Encourage Networks of NGOs to be present in MAP meetings by sending relevant experts.
7. NGO Networks shall guarantee to act as focal points for the various NGOs they represent.
8. NGOs shall disseminate information on MAP activities through their Newsletters, Internet web pages and through other channels in order to make MAP's efforts and importance in the Mediterranean better known to the public at large.
9. NGOs shall be encouraged to invite MAP representatives to participate in their ordinary meetings.

**C. At the Secretariat level**

1. The MAP Secretariat shall strengthen and upgrade its support to NGOs from the Southern and Eastern parts of the Mediterranean region, so as to enhance their capabilities and encourage their active participation in MAP activities.
2. The MAP Secretariat shall play a facilitating and enabling role to help NGOs build on and strengthen existing mechanisms of collaboration and networking.
3. Review and update the MAP/NGOs profile database on a regular basis.
4. Devote one-page in the MAP Bulletin *AMedwaves@*, to NGOs activities.
5. Explore the possibility of a multi-party collaboration of NGOs, international and regional financial institutions, the MAP Secretariat and the Contracting Parties, in the form of joint projects.
6. The MAP Secretariat shall designate a MAP official with overall responsibility for NGOs.
7. The MAP Secretariat shall provide information to NGOs on projects being financed through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) or through joint projects of MAP and regional and international financial institutions.
8. Encourage broad participation by NGOs in MAP activities, not just a selected few.
9. Selection of NGOs to be incorporated in the MAP/NGO List of Partners shall be based on the real profile (competence in the thematic field) of the organization which will be illustrated in a Dossier to be submitted by the NGO in question containing information on:
  - main objectives and field of competence of the organization;
  - NGO constitution, terms of reference, or articles of association;

- activity and financial reports;
  - bulletins and media articles published by the organization.
10. The selection of organizations to be incorporated in the MAP/NGO list of partners is to follow the same criteria used in the selection of the members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), namely selection of organizations representing three categories: Local Authorities, Socio-economic Actors and Environmental NGOs.
  11. The selection process shall start with an official request by the organization, and a proposal by the MAP Secretariat to be reviewed by the meeting of the MAP National Focal Points for subsequent approval by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.