



# United Nations Environment Programme



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## MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

First Meeting of the Scientific  
and Technical Committee

Athens, 23-27 May 1988

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE  
SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS/REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)  
DURING 1987 AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES  
AND BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR 1988/1989

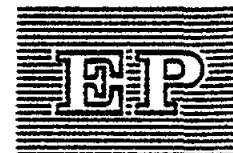
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A.1. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS/REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC) DURING 1987

During 1987, the Centre has carried out the followings activities:

Activity 1: Preparation of a directory of existing protected areas of the Mediterranean

Programme for 1987:

- 1.1. updating of the directory and the maps;
- 1.2. updating of the data base for protected areas, experts, bibliographic references and countries activities;
- 1.3. strenghtening of the Centre's library.

Achievement in 1987:

The draft directory on Mediterranean existing protected areas has been presented during the Fifth Meeting of Contracting Parties (Athens, 7-11, September 1987). The corrections had to be sent by the countries before the 30 September 1987. At the end of the year 1987, some countries were announcing the sent of new corrections. The last version is actually ready for 8 countries. This last version will be completly ended in the first quarter of 1988 and sent to the countries for a last view before editing.

Activity 2: Preparation of a popular booklet on Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas

Programme for 1987:

- 2.1. preparation of a popular booklet on the Centre and the Mediterranean protected areas based on background documents and photographic documentation.

Achievement in 1987:

This document is still under preparation, for it is necessary to have all the available information of the activity 1.

Activity 3: Preparation of Guidelines for selection, creation and management of marine and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean

Programme for 1987:

- 3.1. publishing of the Guidelines and case-studies documents (revised version); translation and distribution.

Achievement in 1987:

The Guidelines were approved during the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention (Athens, 7-11, September 1987). 500 copies of this edition have been printed and their distribution has started. The Case Studies which were used for the preparation of the Guidelines will be published in the course of 1988.

Activity 4: Meetings on protected areas and on the conservation of Monk seal

Programme for 1987:

- 4.1. assistance in the administrative preparation and in the convening of the two meetings;
- 4.2. preparation of the Protected areas meeting report, in co-operation with UNEP, then,
- 4.3. publishing, translation and distribution, in co-operation with UNEP.

Achievement in 1987:

The First Meeting of National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas took place in Athens, 1-4, June 1987. The Expert Meeting on Conservation of Monk seal was postponed to January 1988 (11-12).

Activity 5: Improvement of the Data Bank

Programme for 1987:

- 5.1. revision and further development of the dBase III programme;
- 5.2. preparation of a report concerning the bibliography of Mediterranean protected areas (including endangered ecosystems and species);
- 5.3. preparation of an annual report of the countries' activities related to marine and coastal protected areas and to the protection of marine environment (to be transmitted to the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan Co-ordinating Unit in Athens);
- 5.4. preparation of a report on proposed marine and coastal protected areas on the basis of the Government's questionnaires and available documentation;
- 5.5. approach and tentative development of a computer programme in data base III for the selection of marine and coastal protected areas, in accordance with other international programs;
- 5.6. establishment of a network of experts and preparation of a list of experts in marine and coastal protected areas related fields, in co-operation with the national focal points, the international organizations and the research centers in the Mediterranean region.

Achievement in 1987:

Data are continuously arriving at the Centre. In the absence of a full time documentalist since March 1987, only some of them have been included in the system. In December 1987, we have in the data base descriptions or references for 100 existing protected areas, 240 signalisation of potential protected areas (reports, documents), 350 experts or contacts, 450 bibliographic references.

Activity 6: Assistance to the countries

Programme for 1987:

- 6.1. selection of protected areas: Assistance in surveying and selecting marine and coastal protected areas with the identification of consultants, carrying out of field-studies and preparation of reports;
- 6.2. establishment of protected areas: preparation of a general document on marine and coastal protected areas legislation;
- 6.3. management of protected areas: preparation of model management plans for protected areas, ecosystems, species, cultural resources.

Achievement in 1987:

This activity is carried out by the Centre expert and with the support of experts (institutes or working groups). In 1987, an expert meeting took place in Cyprus on the selection of protected areas (30 September - 4 October 1987). A visit in Turkey has allowed the starting of a programme on protected areas to be developed at the beginning of 1988. Contacts on the same subject have been developed with Malta. In Tunisia, some specific programmes on the management of protected areas are under consideration. A synthesis on Mediterranean protected areas legislation has been initiated in 1987. The first elements on sub-marine archeology have been collected.

Activity 7: Education and training

Programme for 1987:

- 7.1. preparation of technical guides for education and training concerning the study and management of protected areas, ecosystems and species; the methods for the establishment and use of computerized data-bases; etc.;
- 7.2. preliminary evaluation of countries's needs in training for protected areas management personnel; investigation of possibilities for carrying out training courses (place, topics, external funding sources);
- 7.3. strengthening of SPA/RAC capabilities in terms of equipment and personnel.

Achievement in 1987:

A working group on marine flora begins a list of threatened species in the Mediterranean and try to prepare some recommendations for their protection. Preliminary contacts with protected areas can allow to develop in 1988 the possibility of training for managers for protected areas.

Activity 8: Information and dissemination of information

Programme for 1987:

- 8.1. participation to conferences and seminars in order to present the Centre's results and activities, establish contacts and collect data and documents;
- 8.2. assistance in co-ordination of actions promoting the protection of marine and coastal habitats and species (i.e. workshop on Monk seal protection);
- 8.3. improvement of information exchange with national focal points, MAP Regional Activity Centres, international organizations;
- 8.4. provision of data and documents on specific topics (protected areas, experts, bibliographic references, species);
- 8.5. surveying, acquisition and provision of informative material on protected areas (audio-visual material, brochures, stickers, posters).

Achievement in 1987:

Information and documents were received by the Centre on a regular basis and they were transmitted to countries and organizations upon request. The first issue of SPA-NEWS (Newsletter) in December 1987 has proved to be an ideal tool for the diffusion of information.

BUDGET FOR 1987

The SPA budget for 1987 as approved by the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the actual expenditures appear in annex I.



A.2. PROGRAMME, BUDGET AND PROGRESS REPORT FOR 1988-1989

The Specially Protected Areas workplan approved by the Contracting Parties for 1988-1989 during the Fifth Ordinary Meeting (Athens, 7-11 September 1987) is presented below:

1. Within the framework of Objective A: Improvement of the Data Bank, the Centre will carry out the followings activities:
  - 1.a. completion and publication of the Directory of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Mediterranean Region having an ecological and biological value;
  - 1.b. improvment and extension of the programme dBase III;
  - 1.c. preparation of a document concerning the bibliography of the Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (ecosystems, species, etc.);
  - 1.d. preparation of an annual report on the projects of each country concerning protected areas;
  - 1.e. preparation of the second part of the Directory on the Protected Areas of cultural importance as specified in Article 3.2.b of the Protocol;
  - 1.f. preparation of a document on the proposed areas on the basis of available studies;
  - 1.g. preparation of a computer programme to store and treat data on inventorying and selection of marine and coastal protected areas in agreement with others international programmes;
  - 1.f. establishment of a network and preparation of a list of experts on marine and coastal protected areas in connection with National Focal Points, the Research Centres and International Organisations.

Actual achievement in 1988 and programme for 1988-1989:

- 1.a. the final version of the Directory will be completely ended at the end of April. The countries will receive their part for a last view and the edition is programmed for August - September for the English version. The French version will be realised in 1989;
- 1.b.f. all these actions are continuous. The absence of documentalist since March 1987 is a real problem for the complete realisation of this part of the work. In 1988, a Consultant undertook this work for three months, thus achieving part of it.

2. Within the framework of objectives B and C: Co-operation with countries on the application of the guidelines and Assistance to the countries, the Centre will carry out the followings activities:

- 2.a. inventorying and selection: assistance to the countries to inventory and select marine and coastal areas;
- 2.b. establishment: to prepare a document reviewing national legislation and international agreements governing the Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas;
- 2.c. management: to prepare models of planning and management (management programmes of protected areas, ecosystems, species and of cultural resources).

Actual achievement in 1988 and programme for 1988-1989:

- 2.a. an expert meeting is actually programmed for June 1988 in Tunis for the selection of areas for the countries of the Mediterranean. This activity is undertaken with the Commission of Ecology of IUCN;
- 2.b. the preparation of guidelines for the environmental legislation is actually one of the objectives of the Centre for 1989. This is undertaken with the Environmental Law Center of Bonn;
- 2.c. a model of planning and management is under preparation for two protected areas in Tunisia. This model can be extended to other countries.

3. Within the framework of Objective D: training, information, education, the Centre will carry out the followings activities:

- 3.a. preparation of technical guides for training and education, especially on the study and management of the marine and coastal protected areas, ecosystems and species, the creation and utilisation of data banks, etc.;
- 3.b. promote training of personnel by and in the Mediterranean countries for the management of marine and coastal protected areas and study the possibilities to organize training courses (place, subject, availability of fellowships, external financial support);
- 3.c. strengthening of the means of the Regional Activity Centre/Specially Protected Areas in equipment and personnel;
- 3.d. participation in conferences and seminars for the presentation of the work carried out and the results obtained by the Centre, for making contacts and collecting data;
- 3.e. strengthening of activities aiming at protecting marine and coastal areas and species, within the above mentioned objectives;

- 3.f. improvement of dissemination of information, especially in collaboration with the focal points, the other MAP Centres and International Organizations;
- 3.g. making available the data on protected areas (experts, bibliographic lists, special topics, etc.);
- 3.h. acquisition, inventorying and dissemination to the general public of material on marine and coastal protected areas (audiovisual materials, brochures, etc.).

Actual achievement in 1988 and programme for 1988-1989:

- 3.a. the preparation of a technical guide on marine vegetation with the assistance of an expert group will give the first results in June 1988. Another one is almost completed on the creation and utilisation of data banks. Some data sheets for the observation and description of marine species are under preparation. Translation (english, french, arabic) can allow the creation of a regional network of observation;
- 3.b. some contacts have been taken in order to promote training of personnel by and in the Mediterranean countries;
- 3.d. this activity is continuous;
- 3.e. the strengthening of activities aiming at protecting marine and coastal areas and species will be focused in 1988 on monk seal and in 1989 on marine turtles;
- 3.f.g. the dissemination of information will be ameliorated in 1988 and 1989 by at least three new issues of SPA-NEWS, the newsletter of the Centre;
- 3.h. continuous.

4. Within the framework of the objective E: Safeguarding of Mediteranean Monk seal *Monachus monachus*;

- 4.a. UNEP and IUCN will convene a consultative meeting on an action plan for the Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal.

Actual achievement in 1988 and programme for 1988-1989:

- 4.a. this meeting took place in Athens on 11-12 January 1988. Actions of information are developed by the Centre for this purpose during the visit to the countries. The Meeting adopted an Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*) reproduced in annex II to the present report. The Committee is invited to review and endorse the Action Plan.

BUDGET PROPOSED FOR 1989

The budget proposed for the development of the 1989 activities is presented in annex III.

Annex I

The 1987 budget

SECTION II  
CHAPTER 3 - SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

	m/m	Approved	m/m	Actual Expenditures
1. PERSONNEL				
(a) Experts				
- Expert	12	72,400		70,000*
- Documentalist	12	44,490		-
(b) Consultants		15,000		40,000*
(c) Administrative support				
- Secretary	12	15,560		11,000
2. TRAVEL		7,500		15,000*
3. SUB-CONTRACTS (Prior Years' Adjustment)		20,550		4,500* 89,127
4. MEETINGS		-		
5. EQUIPMENT				
- Expendable				5,000
- Non-expendable		2,000		14,000
6. RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES	host country		host country	
7. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT		4,000		7,000
8. REPORTING COSTS		2,000		7,500
9. SUNDRY				21,000
- Communication, postage, freight		7,500		
- Hospitality		2,000		
- Miscellaneous		2,000		
10. UNEP Participation Cost (Meeting of NFP-Athens, 1-4 June 87)				25,000
<b>TOTAL CHAPTER 3 SECTION II</b>		<b>195,000</b>		<b>309,127</b>

\* IUCN Sub-contract

Annex II

Action Plan for the management of the  
Mediterranean monk seal (Monachus monachus)

Introduction

1. The parties to the Barcelona convention included among their priority targets to be achieved by 1995 the protection of the Mediterranean monk seal (Genoa, 9-13 September 1985).
2. The populations of the Mediterranean monk seal have declined rapidly and drastically. Concerted and effective action by all the countries of the Mediterranean concerned is required in order to reverse this trend.
3. Many important aspects of the monk seal's biology and behaviour are too poorly known to plan a complete management strategy for the species, but so few seals are left that research on them has become very difficult. The situation is too critical to put off action any longer. Plans must be made using the best data available, and then adjusted if necessary as more information is obtained. Action must be taken now.
4. Proposals from various sources which could help to save the Mediterranean monk seal from extinction are included. Scientific opinion is divided as to what is appropriate or unwise. Some possible actions are controversial and may involve some risk to the seals involved. The species is known to be sensitive, and its reactions to close observation or capture are uncertain. However, for a species in danger of extinction the risk of doing nothing may be even greater and may justify active intervention as a last resort. Such actions should be undertaken only, after every effort has been made to evaluate and minimize the risks involved.
5. The major threats to the monk seal are deliberate or accidental killings of adults mostly by fishermen; and human disturbance of breeding areas. Both have increased as men and seals compete for increasingly scarce resources (fish and remote coastal areas). The first priority is the preservation of remnant populations of the monk seal. The challenge is then to find that delicate balance between the biological requirements of the monk seal and human uses of the Mediterranean and its resources that will allow the species to recover to a viable population level.
6. This action plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal outlines both immediate and longer-term actions which, if taken together may succeed in reducing pressures on the remaining seal populations enough to permit gradual recovery. No one action by itself is enough. The different components of the management plan are mutually reinforcing and must be taken together to have the chance of success.

Reduction in adult mortality

7. An urgent information campaign among fishermen in all areas where the seal occurs must aim to neutralize their antagonism to the monk seal and win their support for protective measures.
8. Governments should encourage the co-existence of fishermen and monk seals by developing programmes which regulate and control fishing activities and provide additional facilities and opportunities to local fishermen communities.
9. Governments should ensure strict enforcement of regulations prohibiting the use of dynamite for fishing operation, the carrying of firearms in boats and the use of any other illegal fishing techniques endangering the monk seal.
10. Improved fishing nets should be developed which seals cannot damage or become entangled in, and fishermen should receive the assistance necessary to convert to using such nets. Research is needed on techniques for repelling seals from fishing equipment and fishing areas.
11. States that have not yet extended legal protection to the monk seal should do so at once.
12. Governments are strongly urged to ensure that existing protective measures are enforced.

Establishment of a network of marine reserves

13. All countries that still have breeding Monk Seal populations should make immediate efforts for the stringent protection of the remaining seal breeding sites, by isolating seals from incompatible human activities.
14. An inventory of caves all around the Mediterranean is needed to identify breeding caves for inclusion in a network of protected areas for monk seals. Such work has already been carried out for sites like Sardinia, Greece (Northern Sporades), Tunisia (Galite) and should be expanded to cover other areas.
15. A network of marine reserves should be created across the Mediterranean, covering both existing and potential monk seal habitats, so spaced that they can be gradually repopulated as other protective measures take effect and the population recovers. Monk seal reserves should protect suitable caves or other breeding and resting areas, and should be surrounded by a buffer zone of 40 kilometres covering major fishing areas. Fishing with nets or other techniques known to threaten or conflict with the seals should be prohibited or controlled in the buffer zone. Coastal development should be restricted to compatible activities, and intensive tourist development should be avoided in these zones.

16. Tourist visits or other human disturbance of breeding and resting sites should be carefully regulated, it should be completely prohibited during the seal breeding season and while the pups are young.

#### Research, data collection and rehabilitation

17. All countries should encourage an intensive programme of data collection on seal biology and ecology and the interaction of seals with fisheries. The latter research should include economic and sociological aspects. Research should be conducted so as not to increase the threats to any seal population.

18. The establishment of national networks of observers is an extremely effective way of determining which areas are of particular importance for the seals. The exact numbers of seals in these areas can then be determined by intensive study using, for example, "camera traps". Sightings of seals should be reported to appropriate national bodies or focal points.

19. All information obtained on the species should be compiled and evaluated on a regional basis, possibly by an expert group under the auspices of the MAP, UNEP/MEDU, Athens and be distributed through its information exchange network.

20. A small number of rescue centres should be established to receive wounded seals and abandoned pups. When they have recovered these seals should be released in protected areas, preferably in the region where they were originally found. The survival of these animals and the contribution to the wild population should be carefully assessed.

21. If all other attempts to reverse the species' decline fail, the following measures should be considered: captive breeding; translocation of isolated, non-reproducing individuals to better protected groups; and the transfer of pups from healthy colonies to undersized or newly established ones. All appropriate precautions to ensure the adequate welfare of the animals and adherence to international agreements should be taken.

22. A pilot project to determine the practical feasibility of such programmes may be appropriate if it does not increase the risks to the remaining wild population. The value of such a programme for the conservation of the stocks concerned should also be assessed.

#### Information programmes

23. An information programme for fishermen and fishing communities should aim at reducing the killing of seals and encouraging reporting of seal sightings and other observations to the appropriate focal point.

24. Special information activities should be developed for tourists and the tourist industry in areas where tourism threatens seal breeding areas.

25. Information materials should be produced for military authorities, industrial developers and the shipping industry concerning actions they can take for monk seal conservation.

26. A widespread campaign for the protection of the Mediterranean monk seal should encourage public support for conservation measures.

27. Training programmes should be developed for protected area managers responsible for monk seal reserves.

#### Co-ordination, Review and Finance

28. The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Mr. Aldo Manos, agreed that the UNEP/MEDU office, Athens could take responsibility for the coordination of the different activities.

29. The major coordinative functions will be:

- a) collect the data;
- b) create an information network;
- c) develop monk seal protected areas; and
- d) facilitate regional research projects on monk seals.

30. The Consultation suggested that a person be employed through voluntary offers or through projects or contract in order to facilitate coordination of existing and new activities for research, protection and management.

31. The status of the monk seal and the content of this management plan should be reviewed by a regional expert meeting every two years and its report be submitted to the meeting of the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention for endorsement.

32. Governments, whose local monk seal populations have been exterminated, should assist countries with remaining populations in their efforts to protect these in the hope that recovery of the species will permit its eventual reintroduction throughout its original range.



Annex III  
The 1988/1989 budget

SECTION II  
CHAPTER 3 - SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

	m/m	1988	m/m	1989
1. PERSONNEL				
a. Experts/Consultants				
- Expert	12	50,000	12	50,000
- Data-Researcher	12	40,000	12	35,000
- Consultants		60,000		60,000
b. Administrative support				
- Secretary	12	8,000	12	8,000
- Driver	12	5,000	12	5,000
2. TRAVEL		15,000		15,000
3. SUB-CONTRACTS		10,000		7,000
4. MEETINGS (Experts, Focal Points)		15,000		15,000
5. EQUIPMENT				
- Non-expendable		3,000		3,000
- Expendable		2,000		2,000
6. RENTAL & MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES		host country		host country
7. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT		5,000		5,000
8. REPORTING COSTS		15,000		13,000
9. SUNDRY				
- Communication, postage, freight		12,000		13,000
- Hospitality		2,000		2,000
- Miscellaneous		3,000		2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>245,000</b>		<b>245,000</b>