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PROGRESS REPORT  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME  
IN 1983

## REPORT

### ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME IN 1983

The Priority Actions Programme entered the year 1983 with only one approved activity, that is, the signed project document and approved budget of US \$ 48,000 for the preparation of Directories of Institutions and Experts in the Field of Water Resources, Aquaculture and Renewable Sources of Energy.

The reason of such a modest activity of PAP were insufficient financial resources of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the fact that was unfavourably reflected mainly on the financing of the Priority Actions Programme.

Having faced and considered the situation, the Third Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention held in Dubrovnik on 28 February - 4 March 1983 underlined the need for strengthening the PAP and approved the 1983 budget of US \$ 380,000 (UNEP/IG/43 Annex V) which covered 11 projects based on the 1983-1985 PAP Programme which had been submitted to the Meeting by PAP/RAC.

Following the approved budget, the major part of the Centre's activity throughout 1983 went to the preparation of project documents for the approved PAP projects, and in the course of the year 8 project documents were drafted:

- Directory of institutions and experts in the field of human settlements, tourism and soil protection.
- Support to PAP activities.
- Workshop on housing hygiene.
- Water resources development - Mediterranean islands and isolated coastal areas.
- Solid & liquid waste collection and disposal.
- Land-use planning in earthquake zones.
- Integrated planning of coastal zones.
- Soil protection.

whereas for the remaining 3 activities (tourism, renewable sources of energy and aquaculture) initial steps and discussions for their drafting were taken.

Among other things, this exercise required from the start contacts with the National Focal Points to be made, as well as consultations with relevant bodies and agencies of the UN system with a view to identifying their interest in the implementation of the PAP Programme.

However, as in earlier periods, efforts made in establishing contacts with the Focal Points for PAP in Mediterranean countries were not fully successful. The explanation may be sought in the fact that the majority of Focal Points happen to be governmental

bodies to whom the activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan make only one among numerous issues they are bound to deal with.

We feel the Contracting Parties should renew their appeal to the member-states for future prompt and timely reactions to the proposals and letters addressed by PAP/RAC, and maybe recommend that the nomination of national institutions directly connected to the issues of environment and development as National Focal Points should be considered.

The Contracting Parties Meeting in Dubrovnik accentuated the need for the PAP activities to be co-ordinated with similar activities carried out by international organizations, in order to avoid duplication of effort and enhance the work's efficiency (UNEP/IG/43/(, para. 31). Therefore, with the assistance of Co-ordinating Unit for MAP PAP/RAC came into contact with a number of UN agencies and bodies. However, some of them deemed necessary that the scope and mode of their co-operation in PAP projects be fully reflected and defined in the project documents. It was felt this would have absorbed much time for mutual negotiations and correspondence and thus resulted in an undesirably slow activation of allocated budgetary resources.

On the other hand, the preparation of project documents and signing procedure is in itself a longlasting job, because starting from the first drafts it takes several months before a document is signed.

All this led to the conclusion that the entire PAP activities should be embraced by a single project document which would enable implementation of the Programme on a wide plane, that is, a simultaneous work on several projects.

That is why a joint meeting of the Regional Seas Programme, Co-ordinating Unit for MAP and PAP/RAC representatives was held on 19-21 November 1983 wherein a draft umbrella project of PAP activities for 1984 and part of 1985 was produced. Upon clearance, the document was approved by UNEP/MTF at the end of December 1983.

The document envisages the implementation of 11 projects in 1984 and the beginning of 1985 with the total budget of US \$ 380,000 for 1984 and the contribution of US \$ 223,700 in kind by Yugoslav Government. The projects were determined to be oriented towards concrete actions and direct assistance to Mediterranean countries in solving the problems they are struggling with.

After a period of legging behind, the PAP was thereby given a good chance for development and intensified work.

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Within the frame of the allocated resources in 1983, the Programme's work was dedicated to 2 projects ("Directory of Mediterranean Institutions and Experts in the Field of Aquaculture, Water Resources Management and Renewable Sources of Energy"; and "Workshop on Housing Hygiene in Mediterranean Countries"). Both have been accomplished. Also, necessary preparatory steps were taken with respect to a number of other activities.

For the Directory of Institutions and Experts (I phase) the project document was signed in May 1982 and revised in July 1983, with the total budget of US \$ 48,000. In accordance with this project document relevant data on Mediterranean institutions and experts dealing with the issues of aquaculture, renewable sources of energy and water resources were compiled, sorted out and published in February 1984 in 3 separate books (400 copies each). Although considerable effort was made, PAP/RAC did not fully succeed in arousing the interest of all Mediterranean countries to provide the requested data, so that some countries of the Region are not adequately represented in the published Directories.

Workshop on Housing Hygiene in Mediterranean Countries was also envisaged in the framework of the approved PAP Programme and budget of US \$ 10,000 for the participation of experts from those Mediterranean countries which did not fall within the activity of WHO/EURO. The Workshop was jointly organized by WHO/EURO and PAP/RAC and with the assistance of Yugoslav Government. It was held in the premises of PAP/RAC on 9-13 May 1983 and attended by 42 representatives from 12 Southern European and Mediterranean countries. The summary report, conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop were published immediately after the Workshop while the final report will be produced by WHO/EURO in the course of 1984.

In addition to these 2 projects supported by project documents, PAP/RAC had accomplished necessary preliminary work for the preparation of several projects which were later incorporated in the umbrella project.

Wishing to speed up the implementation of PAP Programme and to draw the attention of all relevant factors, PAP/RAC established good contacts in 1983 with PAP National Focal Points in many Mediterranean countries, various UN agencies and bodies, international organizations and other components of MAP.

The PAP/RAC staff or its consultants visited Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Spain with the task of informing the National Focal Points in detail about the activities of PAP and about the need for intensive mutual co-operation.

A meeting was held with the European Community intended to a better mutual familiarization with the activities of interest for PAP and finding out possible ways of future co-operation.

Direct contacts were established with WHO/EURO and UN/DTCO and identified fields of possible co-operation, whereas with UNESCO, FAO, WTO, ILO, IMO, etc. PAP/RAC discussed the possibilities and scope of their eventual participation in particular PAP activities.

However, in order to materialize the co-operation with international organizations on envisaged PAP activities, certain flexibility and modification of conventional forms of co-operation in international projects will have to be considered in order to meet specific conditions and modes of work bound to be exercised in the frame of the new approach to the Priority Actions Programme.

Particularly successful was the co-operation with a group of Mediterranean towns on the problems of revitalization and reconstruction of historic settlements and centres. At the initiative of Director of MEDEAS, two informal expert meetings were organized with the participation of experts from several Mediterranean towns who exchanged their theoretical and practical experiences which will largely contribute in defining the PAP project on the revitalization and reconstruction of historic towns and their centres in the Mediterranean.

The co-operation of PAP/RAC with the Centres which co-ordinate other components of MAP (namely, Oil Combating Centre, RS/PAC, BP/RAC) should become more intensive to avoid duplication of effort; to point at the need for initiating some new activities which may shape up in the course of development of individual programmes; to define their subject matters; and to jointly propose the Centre among themselves which will be responsible for these eventual new activities.

At the initiative of the MAP Co-ordinator, the co-operation between the components of MAP was discussed in November 1983, at the meeting convened in Athens wherein future steps were defined and agreed upon.

Concluding this brief report, it could be stated that the implementation of the Priority Actions Programme in 1983 was satisfactory because two essential things were achieved: (a) it was realized that the PAP should be taken as a whole and covered by a single project document, which would enable a higher degree of flexibility in work and adaptability of actions to the needs of Mediterranean countries; and (b) more intensive and direct contacts were established with the National Focal Points, which will help the projects defined by the Programme to be steered towards the alleviation of those problems which have been most acutely felt in the Mediterranean.

ANNEX I

CONTACTS OF PAP/RAC IN 1983 WITH THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS,  
INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF UN SYSTEM, AND  
WITH THE OTHER COMPONENTS OF MAP

- 14-15 March Consultations in Split with the UN/DTCD representative on the concept of the priority action on Water Resources Management
- 21-22 March Meeting with RS/PAC representative in Split on the preparation of Directory of Institutions and Experts
- 24-25 March Discussions in Athens with the Co-ordinator of MAP on the preparation of project documents
- 9-13 May Workshop on Housing Hygiene in Mediterranean Countries, held in Split
- 20 May -  
13 June Visit by PAP/RAC consultants to the National Focal points and institutions in Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Spain
- 6-10 June Director of PAP/RAC visited the NFP and various institutions in Egypt
- 21-22 June Meeting in Split with the representatives of MEDEAS and the town of Marseille on activities relative to Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Historic Settlements
- 5-8 July PAP/RAC representative participated in the Seminar on environmental aspects of tourism organized in Madrid by WTO
- 30 September -  
7 October Visit of PAP/RAC consultant to the NFP and some institutions in Syria, as well as to RS/PAC in Geneva with reference to the preparation of Directory of Institutions and Experts.
- 4-7 October PAP/RAC representative participated in the Advisory Committee of MEDRAP in Tunis
- 17-20 October PAP/RAC representative participated in the International Meeting on Methods for Interdisciplinary Research on Minor Island Ecosystems in the Mediterranean, organized in Malta by UNESCO
- 19-21 October Meeting in Split with Director of RS/PAC and Co-ordinator of MAP: drafting the umbrella project for PAP activities in 1984-1985

- 2-4 November Director of PAP/RAC attended the meeting of Director of MAP Centres and the Bureau in Athens
- 10-11 December Contacts of PAP/RAC Director with a number of institutions in Turkey
- 20 December Contacts of PAP/RAC with WHO/EURO about the future co-operation on the PAP.