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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Joint Meeting of National Focal Points
for the Blue Plan and the Priority
Actions Programme

Athens, 28-30 April 1986

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
BLUE PLAN IN 1985

UNEP

Athens, 1986

1985 can be considered as the year in which the second phase of the Blue Plan was really launched. The proposed programme and budget were approved (with a 5 % reduction of the latter). The scenario Activity, started at the end of 1984, was widely developed.

Michel GRENON

A. INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee met twice in 1985, before its composition was changed during the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Genoa (September 1985).
2. During the third meeting in Sophia Antipolis, 22-23 February 1985, the Steering Committee, at the proposal of the Scientific Director, decided to give top priority to the formulation of Mediterranean Scenarios within the programme for the second phase of the Blue Plan, and second rank to support of Integrated Planning of Coastal Zones. The three sectoral activities (Population, Food and Agriculture, and Industrialization/Energy) will mainly serve to connect these two main activities at the global level, and the Sea/Coast level.
3. During its fourth meeting in Sophia Antipolis, 3-4 July 1985, the Steering Committee studied the files of national candidates for the permanent team, and discussed ways to ensure that countries participate fully in the Scenario Activity.
4. As anticipated at the Special Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Athens (10-13 April 1984) the fourth regular Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Genoa (9-13 September 1985) changed the composition of the Steering Committee until the end of the second phase. The composition is as follows : Italy (chairmanship, unchanged) EEC, Egypt, Greece, Israel and Malta.

Meeting of Focal Points

5. A joint meeting of Blue Plan National Focal Points and the Priority Actions Programme was held in Athens from 6 to 9 May 1985.
6. The working programme and budget 1986 and 1987 proposed by the Blue Plan Scientific Director were approved, for recommendation at the Genoa meeting. A number of participants requested that the schedule proposed be rigorously respected, i.e. presentation of scenarios in April-May 1987 -this date thus corresponds to the end of the second phase of the Blue Plan and the beginning of the third phase- and completion of the Blue Plan in its three-phase concept by the end of 1987. The Blue Plan representatives gave their assurance that they would do every thing possible to keep to this timetable.
7. In order to achieve the objectives of the Blue Plan i.e. to provide all the Contracting Parties with an image of the future and with useful data for attaining optimum economic, social and cultural development while respecting the environment and harmonising the quantitative and qualitative aspects of development, and to ensure that the scenarios are constructive on the basis of the realities of the different sovereign states involved, the meeting felt it necessary :
 - "- to create and circulate as soon as possible a document for use by the States, describing in detail the procedure of the scenarios, the baseline hypotheses, data and sources, and the goals to be

achieved. They should also set out clearly the data to be collected by the States and a methodology to establish national scenarios in harmony with and consistent with the scenarios as a whole ;

- to develop and maintain this process in interaction between the States and the Blue Plan Unit throughout Phases II and III and to take into account the comments and requirement of the Contracting Parties and to try to achieve agreement should any major difficulties arise."

Genoa meeting

8. The fourth regular Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Genoa, 9-13 September 1985 approved the working programme for the second and third phases, i.e. for 1986 and 1987, with a 5 % reduction of the Blue Plan budget for the 86-87 period (a measure not specifically aimed at the Blue Plan, which affected all the MAP programmes).

It also confirm the need to prepare a document intended for the use of the States, and to maintain the interaction process between the States and the Blue Plan unit throughout the two phases.

Blue Plan Regional Activity Center (BP-RAC)

9. The 1985 contract between UNEP and the French Government for the second phase of the Blue Plan was signed in Nairobi in March 1985.

The BP-RAC structure was satisfactorily established, and the BP-RAC President, Mr. Michel Batisse, gradually mobilized a number of French Institutions in order to broaden the scope of the scientific contributions made to the Blue Plan.

10. Mr. Abdel Rahman, from Egypt, was appointed as a high-level Special Adviser to the Blue Plan.

Country participation in the national scenarios

11. Following the decision taken at the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee, a letter was sent by Mr. Manos at the beginning of August 1985 to all the MAP Focal Points, requesting them to appoint a technical correspondent for the formulation of national scenarios.

12. By 31 December 1985, twelve countries, plus the EEC, had in fact appointed a technical correspondent, in the form of either an individual or an institution, and four other countries were about to do so.

13. The background paper on the Blue Plan Mediterranean scenarios, entitled "Guide for the Formulation of National Scenarios", was sent to all the appointed correspondents, at the beginning of December 1985 in French , and in mid-December in English.

Permanent Team

14. Three candidates were selected, in accordance with the recommendations of the Steering Committee. Mr. Lahmidi, from Morocco, joined

the Blue Plan team in Sophia Antipolis at the beginning of November 1985. In keeping with the profiles sent by the countries, he is responsible in particular for population problems (demography, future population levels and migrations). The two other researchers, from Egypt and Greece, will be responsible for food and agriculture and the use of Mediterranean areas (inter alia, urbanization problems).

Blue Plan - PAP coordination

15. Activities aimed at coordination and cooperation between the Blue Plan and the PAP were actively pursued during 1985. They are the subject of a separate report for this second joint meeting of the Focal Points (28-30 April 1985).

Various meetings

16. The scientific Director of the Blue Plan and members of the Sophia Antipolis team attended a certain number of meetings and/or conferences at which the Blue Plan state of progress was presented :

17. During the Meeting on Data Bases, organized by the Coordination Unit in Athens from 12-15 March 1985, it was recognized that the Blue Plan had specific information requirements, linked to the scientific needs of its activities. Following the visit of an expert appointed by the MAP, it seemed that the solution chosen for 1985 (link-up to a local VAX-730) was the only possible one for the 1986-87 period, bearing in mind both the budget and the performance required. The Blue Plan team, in conjunction with the Coordination Unit, will be responsible for ensuring that all the computerised data can be safely transferred to Athens or UNEP at the end of the activity.

18. A detailed presentation of the Blue Plan was given at the meeting of Directors of United Nations Information Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan, 23-25 April 1985.

19. The Blue Plan was also presented at several other meetings or conferences :

- . Institut Français de la Mer (Nice, 5 January)
- . Conference of the Mediterranean Basin Countries, organized by the Council of Europe (Marseilles, 27-28 March)
- . Association Marocaine de Prospective (Rabat, 27-28 March)
- . Conference on Transborder Pollution, organized by the International Institute for Environmental Engineering and Management (Aix-les-Bains, 20-25 April)
- . International Symposium on Medical Oceanography (session on Oceanography and Economics, Nice, 12 October)
- . and at various seminars.

20. The scientific Director of the Blue Plan attended the experts' meeting on the technical application of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (Athens, 9-13 December, 1985). He again insisted on the urgency and importance for the Blue Plan scenarios of updating MEDPOL X.

B. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Study Group on Mediterranean Scenarios

21. Most of the scientific activities were devoted to the development of the scenarios and were discussed and specified during the second and third meetings of the Study Group on Mediterranean Scenarios.

The five main "dimensions" for the formulation of scenarios had been selected during the first meeting of the Group :

- national development/environment strategies
- international exchanges (goods, finances, information)
- migrations
- use of mediterranean areas (and resources)
- protection of the environment.

22. At the second meeting of the Study Group on Mediterranean Scenarios (Sophia Antipolis, 1-2 July 1985) five basic scenarios* were selected, i.e.

- T1 : reference trend scenario (extrapolation of major trends identified during the first phase)
- T2 : worsened trend scenario
- T3 : moderated trend scenario
- A1 : alternative reference scenario (stronger Mediterranean identity, self-reliant development)
- A2 : alternative aggregated scenario (study of effects of country groupings).

23. It seemed useful to include a T2 "worsened" trend scenario (of the kind sometimes called a "foil" scenario) to estimate what would happen in the event of a worsening of current trends, which could result, for instance, from a deterioration of the world economic crisis.

24. As the Mediterranean is closely linked to the world economy, the Study Group discussed the international environment hypotheses which would provide the general framework for the scenarios : growth rates of the most important economies, possible date of the end of the crisis/economic revival, growth rates of the European economies, the debt problem, etc. Although the results of the scenarios naturally concern Mediterranean areas, resources and environment, it was necessary to start from well-reasoned macroeconomic hypotheses on international and regional economic development in order to ensure coherence.

25. For information only, and to ensure better understanding of how to tackle these kinds of scenario, two participants presented preliminary scenarios for their countries to the year 2000.

* As a reminder, it is possible, on the basis of five "dimensions", to construct 32 scenarios by taking two positions per dimension, and 243 with three positions per dimension!

26. The third meeting of the Study Group on Mediterranean Scenarios (Sophia Antipolis, 6-7 December 1985) after a review of the project's state of progress, was devoted to the food and agriculture issue and its role in the scenarios, to the Development/Environment linkage, and to the organization of work in 1986.

27. With respect to the food and agriculture issue, the meeting discussed two papers prepared by Mr Labonne on the Mediterranean food and agriculture problem in general and on the main lines of the two food and agriculture subscenarios, which correspond to the two global scenarios : T2, the worsened trend scenario, and A2, the alternative scenario with regional aggregation. The discussion stressed the importance of a better appreciation of irrigation potential and the critical dependence that exists with respect to water resources (in quantity and quality).

28. The very fruitful discussion on the Economy-Space-Environment took place at three levels :

- . upstream from the linkages (and even partly upstream from the scenario activity as such), on the concept of a "questioning", a set of questions to which the Blue Plan should try to reply ;
- . on the methodology of the scenario activity, and the framework in which the Economy-Space-Environment linkages should be established ;
- . on the linkages themselves, of which a first sample had been prepared as an example. One major obstacle concerning these linkages is that no data or statistical series for the environment exist similar to those available for the economy.

Guide for the formulation of national scenarios

29. The drafting of this Guide was an important task for the Blue Plan team. Additional information concerning more particularly the data to be gathered and to be obtained as a result of the scenarios is being prepared.

As mentioned above, this guide was sent to all the correspondents appointed for the formulation of national scenarios. Discussions have begun with several countries for the implementation of these guidelines.

Working parties and meetings

30. A certain number of small working parties and/or meetings were set up as "satellites" of the central team.

31. First, there is the working party set up under the guidance of J. Royer on macroeconomics and international exchanges. This group has developed an important working tool, and Economic Data Bank, in the form of ten brochures.

These brochures are now available, inter alia for the teams that will work on the national scenarios in the countries.

32. Since the beginning of December 1985, this group has started to coordinate with a second small working party on food and agriculture issues (and water resources for irrigation).

33. A third working party was established on tourism, and has met twice (Sophia Antipolis, 22-23 November ; Madrid, 16-17 December). Steps are being taken to explore the possibilities of cooperation with the World Tourist Organization in Madrid.

34. A working meeting was held in Sophia Antipolis from 2-3 May on the problems of migration, attended by a member of the macroeconomics group.

35. A working meeting was organized in cooperation with the French Ministry of the Environment on the two "dimensions" of the scenarios : Use of Mediterranean areas and resources, and Protection of the Environment. The typology of the Mediterranean areas to be considered, and knowledge about the zero state of the Mediterranean environment (clearly a challenge) were among the subjects discussed. It was also stressed that there should be no preconceived idea that the alternative scenarios would necessarily be "better" for the environment than the trend scenarios, for example in the case of the exploitation of poorer quality local resources.

Matrix of interests

36. A contract was signed at the end of October 1985 with the Belgrade Institute for International Politics and Economics to carry out a study on a Matrix of Interests concerning all the Mediterranean countries. This project had already aroused great interest during the first meeting of the Study Group. Both a working meeting held at Sophia Antipolis 29 and 30 October and the third meeting on the scenarios discussed the questionnaire upon which this study would be partly based, together with a list of the most suitable recipients.

Scenario activity on coastal zones

37. This activity was defined more precisely in 1985 in order to move into the operational phase. As a reminder, its objectives is to prepare a decision-making tool for local planners by means of the transference between the global level and the local/coastal level.

38. Several small meetings helped to improve understanding of the way in which local officials tackle the scenario problématique, and to compare available tools. A working meeting with the representatives of a country to the south of the basin (Sophia Antipolis, 29-30 April) who were faced with a problem of long-term coastal planning provided the opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views on the interest and applicability of the method under consideration.

39. A contract was signed at the beginning of December 1985 with the Association Armines to study the design of integrated methods for formulating Development/Environment scenarios and to prove their operationality on a Mediterranean coastal zone (activation of geocoded multithematic data bases).

Blue Plan Data Bank at Sophia Antipolis

40. In addition to the Economic Data Bank developed at Geneva, the Sophia Antipolis team, during the first quarter of 1985, was able to resume computerized work on both linkages and statistical data. Duplication of data was naturally avoided, the Sophia Antipolis Data Bank dealing almost exclusively with physical data. As from the second half of 1985, a particular effort was made to gather and include environmental data with, regrefully, somewhat uneven results.