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Expert Consultation on Mediterranean Marine Parks and Wetlands Tunis, 12 - 14 January 1977

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the Consultation (Documents: UNEP/WG.6/INF.2, UNEP/WG.6/INF.3)

At a meeting of experts to advise the Executive Director of UNEP on Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands, the Consultation will be opened and chaired by a representative of the Executive Director. In his opening statement, the chairman will outline the activities of UNEP under the comprehensive Action Plan for the protection and development of the Mediterranean Sea Area and the relationship between the consultation and these activities.

Agenda Item 2 - Significance of Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands
(Documents: UNEP/WG.6/INF.4, UNEP/WG.6/INF.5, UNEP/WG.6/INF.6, UNEP/WG.6/INF.7, UNEP/WG.6/INF.8, UNEP/WG.6/INF.9)

Under this item, participants will be asked to discuss the particular importance of marine parks and wetlands for the ecological balance of the Mediterranean region as well as their significance for ecoregions beyond the Mediterranean Sea Area.

Agenda Item 3 - Review and updating of existing information on Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands (Documents: UNEP/WG.6/INF.6, UNEP/WG.6/INF.10, UNEP/WG.6/4)

Participants will be asked to review and comment upon documents UNEP/WG.6/INF.6 and UNEP/WG.6/INF.10. The country report, which each participant has been requested to prepare, should provide useful additional information for the overall review of Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands. The draft outline for a Directory of Mediterranean national parks, including marine parks and wetlands, (UNEP/WG.6/4) will also be discussed under this item.

Agenda Item 4 - Principles and Guidelines for the establishment and management of Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands (Documents: UNEP/WG.6/3, UNEP/WG.6/INF.4, UNEP/WG.6/INF.10)

One of the main tasks of the Consultation will be to agree on a set of principles and guidelines for the establishment and management of Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands. Document UNEP/WG.6/3 presents a draft set of guidelines, and participants are requested to review and revise these guidelines in light of their practical experience in and knowledge of the region.

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Agenda Item 5 - Recommendations

The Executive Director would like the Consultation to advise him on a future plan of action in the Mediterranean with regard to marine parks and wetlands. This plan of action may call for:

- the organization of an association of Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands, with one marine park acting as a co-ordinator;
- regular periodic meetings of representatives of Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands to review experiences and difficulties;
- an intensification of research on the ecological problems of marine parks and wetlands particularly in areas threatened by pollution and other human activities;
- the publication and continuous review of a Directory of Mediterranean National Parks, including Marine Parks and Wetlands;
- the consideration by participants at the Intergovernmental Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the "Blue Plan" (Split, Yugoslavia, 31 January 4 February 1977) and the Intergovernmental Consultation concerning a draft Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (Athens, Greece, 7 11 February 1977) of the recommendations and guidelines adopted by the experts! Consultation in Tunis.

Agenda Item 6 - Closing of the Consultation

Procedural.