



United Nations
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UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/3/Add.1
15 September 1989

Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the Protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its
related protocols

Athens, 3-6 October 1989

DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MEDITERRANEAN
MARINE TURTLES: TIMETABLE OF ACTIVITIES AND
BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION



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INTRODUCTION

During the expert meeting on Mediterranean Marine Turtles (4-6 July 1989, Nicosia), the experts requested the secretariat (paragraph 38 of the report):

- "to prepare a programme of work and budget for the carrying out of the activities envisaged in the Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles for the biennium 1990-1991. The relevant document should be submitted to the Contracting Parties at their meeting scheduled for October in 1989".

This request was made in accordance with the Draft Action Plan (annex IV, page 5 chapter C, article 32 and 33) dealing with the Co-ordination Structure. The draft Action Plan is contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/3, Annex.

ACTIVITIES

During the meeting and as reflected in the Draft Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles, the experts expressed the necessity of developing activities in various fields that can be grouped under six items:

1. Regional co-ordination
2. Research projects
3. Integrated information campaigns
4. Assistance in the creation of a network of protected areas
5. Training course on marine turtles
6. Meeting on marine turtles
7. Source of finance

1. Regional co-operation

According to the actual activities developed for endangered species by UNEP/MEDU and RAC/SPA, and the available personnel, it is only possible for the next biennium to develop in part the first five items. If we want to have a really successful programme, it is necessary to recruit a part time officer (6 months).

The major function of the co-ordinating mechanism (and part time officer) with regard to marine turtles would be to:

- collect and evaluate the data at the Mediterranean level,
- prepare inventories of existing and potential protected areas for marine turtles,

- contribute to the creation of a Mediterranean network of protected areas for marine turtles,
- prepare a time-table of activities of financing proposals for the Contracting Parties meetings,
- contribute to the dissemination and exchange of information,
- assist in the development and implementation of legislation,
- assist and/or organize expert meetings on specific topics regarding marine turtles, as well as training courses.

Complementary work carried out by other international bodies aiming at the same objectives should be encouraged, ensuring co-ordination and preventing possible overlapping.

Estimated Cost: US\$ 25,000/annum (6 m/m) for the biennium 1990-1991.

2. Research projects

The development of research should cover all the priority fields for the conservation of marine turtle populations and in particular:

- survey for the nesting beaches
- population dynamics, migration and behaviour
- tagging
- mortality due to fishing or pollution
- ecology, biology and physiology

For some countries, there is little or no information on nesting sites and size of population of marine turtles. These countries should be encouraged or assisted in order to undertake research programmes.

Estimated Cost: US\$ 50,000/annum for the biennium 1990-1991

3. Integrated information campaigns

The general public has to be addressed and in particular, depending on specific conditions, the following target groups:

- the local population and tourists in nesting areas
- fishermen,

In order to satisfy this set of priorities:

- emphasis should be given to information media and in particular TV,
- production of Mediterranean information material is considered useful,
- emphasis should be given to national information campaigns.

All this information would deal with particular subjects such as, existing legislation, trade in carapaces, reported sightings of turtles, of tags, participation in the tagging campaign, etc...).

Estimated Cost: US\$ 30,000/annum for the biennium 1990-1991

4. Assistance in the creation of a network of protected areas

A network of marine and coastal protected areas throughout the Mediterranean should be created covering existing areas for reproduction, nesting, feeding, migration and wintering of marine turtles, in order to ensure the survival of the species.

In particular, an inventory of all the nesting areas around the Mediterranean should be prepared urgently, for their inclusion in a network of protected areas for marine turtles. Such an inventory should include the known sites (protected or monitored) and the potential sites and should be regularly reviewed in the light of increased knowledge.

Estimated Cost: US\$ 20,000/annum for the biennium 1990-1991

5. Training course on marine turtles

Training programmes should be developed for countries that have no experts with specialized knowledge of turtles, or for managers of specially protected areas including nesting beaches for turtles.

Estimated Cost: US\$ 15,000/annum for the biennium 1990-1991.

6. Meeting on marine turtles

The status of Mediterranean Marine Turtles and the content of the Action Plan for marine turtles should be reviewed whenever necessary.

Estimated Cost: No estimation for the biennium 1990-1991. It seems necessary to wait for the first implementation of this plan before holding a new meeting on the subject. In the meantime, the meetings of the existing groups on marine turtles could be used in order to evaluate any problems and necessary re-orientation.

ACTIVITIES	BUDGET PROPOSAL (in US \$)	
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
1. Co-ordination	25,000	25,000
2. Research	50,000	50,000
3. Information	30,000	30,000
4. Network	20,000	20,000
5. Training course	15,000	15,000
6. Meeting	-	-
TOTAL	140,000	140,000
<u>TOTAL FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991</u>	280,000 US \$	

7. Source of finance

1. Mediterranean Trust Fund (SPA/RAC budget)
2. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
3. World Bank and others