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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting
Parties to the Convention for the Protection
of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution
and its Protocols

Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995

**PRIORITY FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN**

(1996-2005)

Preface

This document (Non-paper) had initially been prepared by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau at the request of the Bureau, in order that a practical programme for the future activities arising from MAP Phase II might be drawn up ahead of time for submission to the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

A first draft of the document had been sent to the Contracting Parties for review: in light of their comments, a second draft has been prepared for consideration by the Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee.

At its last meeting (Athens, 3-8 April 1995), the Joint Meeting of the two committees reviewed and amended the second version of the document which would serve as a useful platform for the future work of MAP Phase II, and offer a valuable set of practical guidelines of those areas of the Action Plan where efforts should be concentrated in coming years, and in encouraging donors to support the specific activities described in the document.

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The Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995) approved, and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (9-10 June 1995) adopted the following Priority Fields of Activities for the forthcoming decade (1996-2005) which take into account Agenda MED 21.

1. INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

- i) Formulation of national strategies for sustainable development.
- ii) Development of appropriate instruments for monitoring and assessment of the environment and development in the Mediterranean basin.

2. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2.1 Integrated water management

- i) To promote the preparation in each country of instruments for integrated water management based, as far as possible, on hydrographic basins.
- ii) To promote water resources protection and anti-drought measures.
- iii) To promote rational water demand management tools.
- iv) To propose measures and techniques on sustainable utilization of water for various uses.
- v) To promote the establishment of national water resources quality and quantity monitoring systems.
- vi) To promote appropriate treatment and reuse of waste water and saline water.
- vii) To encourage the installation of infrastructures for the treatment of urban sewage of 100 Mediterranean coastal cities corresponding to a pollutant load of approximately 10 million people.

2.2 Soil management

- i) To evaluate and monitor the vulnerability of soil resources.
- ii) To protect and preserve soils by implementing preventive measures.
- iii) To promote rehabilitation of degraded land and restoration of plant cover.

2.3 The fight against erosion and desertification

- i) To promote measures against erosion and desertification.
- ii) To promote implementation of the Convention on desertification.

2.4 Management of forests and plant cover

- i) To promote rational management of forest resources and participate in the international Programme in this domain.
- ii) To enhance national capability and prepare national or regional emergency plans against fire hazard and promote appropriate techniques and means.

2.5 Management of genetic resources

To promote the creation of a bank of genes and the rational use of genetic resources at country level.

3. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AREAS

- i) To develop appropriate measures and techniques for integrated management of coastal areas and coastline protection.
- ii) To develop the capabilities of each country in this field through training.
- iii) To formulate and implement programmes on management of coastal areas, particularly in pilot zones.

4. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- i) To prepare and adopt national programmes on reduction and environmental management of hazardous wastes on the basis of methodology guidelines for rational environmental management.
- ii) To prepare and adopt national programmes on the environmental management of urban wastes on the basis of methodology guidelines for rational environmental management.
- iii) To encourage the installation of controlled discharges or treatment plants in coastal towns of over 100,000 inhabitants.
- iv) To encourage the installation of at least one secure depot and, where necessary, a treatment plant for hazardous wastes in each Mediterranean country.

- v) To ban export by OECD member countries of toxic wastes and other residues including radioactive materials to Mediterranean countries not members of the European Union.

5. AGRICULTURE

- i) To participate in the programmes and activities of international organisations, especially FAO, on sustainable agricultural and rural development in the Mediterranean.
- ii) To encourage the preparation of national and regional strategies in the Mediterranean based on controlled, appropriate and rational use of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, including improvement of seeds.
- iii) To develop the use of irrigation techniques contributing to water saving.
- iv) To identify pilot areas for developing the application and exchange of experience on sustainable agricultural development.

6. INDUSTRY AND ENERGY

- i) To identify the best environment-friendly techniques, prioritizing the aspects of availability, accessibility, cost and effectiveness, especially in the production and use of energy, paper, tanneries and derivatives, cement works, metallurgy and agro-industries.
- ii) To promote the development and application of programmes for the transfer, and adaptation of and expertise in appropriate technology, prioritizing clean and safe technologies and taking into account the additional costs involved.
- iii) To develop and implement programmes to reduce polluting emissions and monitor industrial residues.
- iv) To promote and facilitate the use of new and renewable sources of energy in the domestic, public and private sectors.

7. TRANSPORT

- i) To promote the installation, in accordance with the MARPOL Convention, of port reception facilities for the collection of solid and liquid wastes generated by ships.

- ii) To encourage the installation of navigational aids and monitoring systems.
- iii) To promote regional cooperation for the control of the implementation by ships of the relevant international Conventions on the protection of the marine environment from pollution by ships.

8. TOURISM

- i) To develop activities for rational management of coastal tourism.
- ii) To prepare and implement national programmes for the diversification of tourism.
- iii) To encourage the development of tourism that respects the environment and the cultural heritage.

9. URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- i) To encourage town decision-makers to apply sustainable development policies in compliance with Agenda 21 and keeping in mind the United Nations Conference "Habitat II".
- ii) To promote active urban policies for energy control, non-polluting transport, waste management, sustainable use of water, and the creation of urban amenities, paying greater attention to under-privileged districts.
- iii) To develop and implement programmes for the rehabilitation of zones affected by recent hostilities.

10. INFORMATION

- i) To encourage the development of methodology for applying the participation approach in the process of decision making related to sustainable development at national and local level.
- ii) To increase the flow of information on the environment and the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II to governments and national and international institutions and promote greater public awareness in these matters.
- iii) To prepare public information on the scientific and technical data and information produced by MAP Phase II and promote and encourage production at national level of public information to back up information and awareness campaigns on the environment and sustainable development.

11. ASSESSMENT, PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF MARINE POLLUTION

- i) To assess, on the basis of agreed methodologies, the inputs of pollutants in the sea from water courses, the atmosphere and diffuse sources, and to evaluate in each country the major sources of marine pollution.
- ii) To prepare evaluations, at national and regional level, on the quality of the marine environment.
- iii) To promote the reduction of the amount of pollution carried into the marine environment, particularly by strengthening capabilities for implementing the 13 specific measures adopted.
- iv) To prepare and adopt guidelines on the dumping of dredging spoils.
- v) To promote the establishment of national, bilateral and/or sub-regional systems for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution.

12. CONSERVATION OF NATURE, LANDSCAPE AND SITES

- i) To prepare and approve national strategies for the conservation of biodiversity.
- ii) To draw up inventories of the elements of Mediterranean biological diversity, lists of threatened species and of sites of natural or cultural value.
- iii) To draft and approve the annexes to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.
- iv) To enhance conservation and rational management of Mediterranean wetlands.
- v) To encourage the establishment of national inspection mechanisms and land use policy tools allowing protection of the coastal areas to be safeguarded which take into account the specific conditions in each country.
- vi) To apply, in cooperation with other organisations involved, action plans on the monk seal, marine turtles and marine mammals.