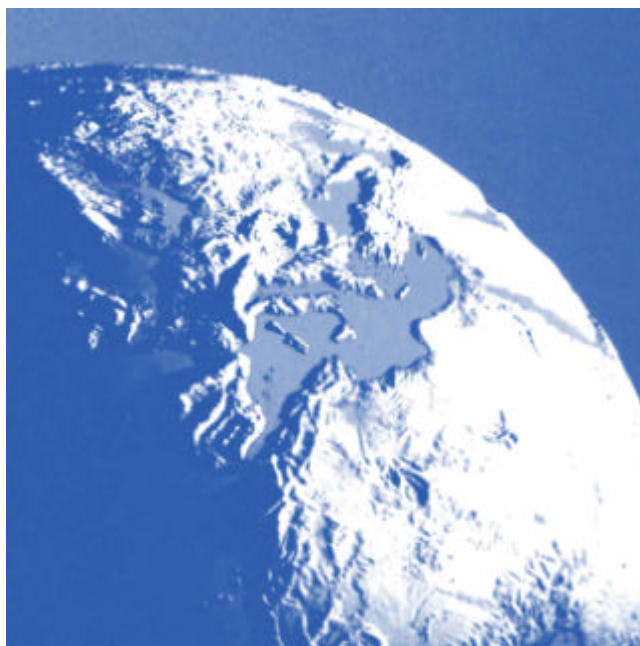




## **REPORT BY BP/RAC (activities 1991-2001 and orientations) FOR THE BP/ERS/PAP RACs JOINT FOCAL POINTS MEETING**

Palermo, 12-16 June 2001



Blue Plan  
Regional Activity  
Centre

Sophia Antipolis,  
May 2001



# Blue Plan Activity and Orientation Report

## Table of Contents

<b>I</b>	<b>ACTIVITY REPORT .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1	FROM THE 1977 ASSIGNMENT TO ACTIVITIES IN THE 1990S DECADE.....	1
2	BLUE PLAN "TOPICAL" WORKS.....	3
2.1	<i>Publishing books ("fascicles") Setting Out the Conclusions of Prospective Studies on Economic or Geographic Issues.....</i>	3
2.2	<i>Work on Water .....</i>	4
2.3	<i>Agriculture and Rural Development, Land, Forests and Biodiversity.....</i>	6
2.4	<i>Urbanisation, Towns, Urban Waste and Natural Risks.....</i>	7
2.5	<i>Tourism and Sustainable Development.....</i>	7
2.6	<i>Trade and the Environment.....</i>	8
2.7	<i>Other Topics .....</i>	9
3	ADAPTING THE PROSPECTIVE APPROACH AND APPLYING IT TO SOME COASTAL REGIONS AND COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES (CAMPS).....	9
4	STRENGTHENING THE OBSERVATION FUNCTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT .....	10
4.1	<i>Objectives and orientation .....</i>	10
4.2	<i>Production of documents to guide réflexion and action on observing Environment and Development, Observatories; Indicators.....</i>	11
4.3	<i>Policies and Institutions for the Environment and Sustainable Development.....</i>	13
4.4	<i>Statistical, Geographic and Documentary Data.....</i>	13
5	PREPARING A NEW OVERALL REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.....	14
6	SETTING UP A WEBSITE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES.....	15
7	CHANGES IN RESOURCES .....	16
<b>II</b>	<b>PROPOSALS FOR BIENNUM REPORT 2002-2003.....</b>	<b>17</b>
1	GENERAL OBSERVATION AND PROSPECTIVE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: MONITORING ISSUES TO BE OVERCOME AND PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.....	17
2	SPECIFIC WORK ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES .....	20
2.1	<i>Tourism and Sustainable Development.....</i>	20
2.2	<i>Towns and the Urban Environment.....</i>	21
2.3	<i>Rural development and Natural Resources.....</i>	22
3	BLUE PLAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL REGIONS.....	23
4	PROPOSED BUDGET.....	24
4.1	<i>Staff Budget.....</i>	24
4.2	<i>Activities Budget.....</i>	25
<b>III</b>	<b>BLUE PLAN AND MEDIUM TERM CHANGES .....</b>	<b>26</b>



# Blue Plan Activity and Orientation Report

## 1991 – 2001

### I. ACTIVITY REPORT

#### 1 From the 1977 Assignment to Activities in the 1990s Decade

On setting up the “Mediterranean Action Plan” (MAP) in 1975, as a support mechanism for the Convention on Protecting the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, riparian States and the European Community were conscious that most of the issues of marine pollution they intended to settle would arise through land based activities and that, faced with demographic economic and social trends in the Mediterranean, it was appropriate to start prospective considerations and exercises to highlight the causes of pollution and harm, to identify the problems that had to be overcome together and to contribute to promoting sustainable development in the region.

In this way the idea of a “**Blue Plan**” was born, whose assignment and scope (see annex page 28) was to form the subject of several preparatory meetings and which was officially launched by an inter-governmental conference at Split in 1977. This idea was highly innovative for the time; the concept of sustainable development had not yet been defined and it was the first time that all the countries in a large region were to decide to explore together the dynamic relationship between their development and the environment that brought them together, from the common sea that surrounded them, to the shorelines, the coastal regions and inland areas.

The assignment defined in this way led to a “Blue Plan” based around three complementary goals: **building knowledge, explore future and make proposals.**

- The initiative in **building knowledge** was consciously “**systemic**”, that is to say, it was based on the cross-referenced study of the major relationships between populations, the main economic activities (tourism, industry, agriculture, energy, and transport) and territorial and environmental factors (water, land, vegetation, coastline and the sea). It covered the Mediterranean riparian countries, with stress being placed upon their coastal regions in addition to their catchment areas.
- **Exploring possible futures:** the **prospective** approach was led to various trend or alternative scenarios over varied time horizons (15 and 40 years) which represented a kind of compromise between the rhythms in demographic, socio-economic and ecological changes.
- The work in **making proposals** relied above all on highlighting the “non sustainable” nature of some changes and alternative pathways.

This “Blue Plan” exercise was run from the outset by a centre located in the South of France (in Sophia Antipolis, near Nice) which carries out the functions of a Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for MAP. Blue Plan is run by a director made available by the French government in the context of an association under French law called “Plan Bleu pour l’environnement et le développement en Méditerranée” [Blue Plan for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean] which has been presided over since 1985 by Michel BATISSE. This ensures the Centre operations on French territories, contributes to mobilising top level experts, often

on a voluntary basis, and the interest and support of public authorities and several national and international institutions.

The first exercise, which lasted from the date of actual creation of the Centre in 1979 until 1989, resulted in the publication and distribution of a **reference work in English, Arabic, Spanish, French and Turkish with summaries in Italian and Croatian: "The Blue Plan: Futures for the Mediterranean Basin"**. This work, which mobilised a very large number of experts from the North and South of the Mediterranean enabled some major stakes that are particular to the region be highlighted and especially:

- The nature and **scope of Mediterranean changes** (demographic growth, urbanisation and coastalisation, growth of tourism, ...) and their often non "sustainable" features: damage to natural resources, vulnerability of water resources, excessive artificialisation of the coastline, the need for development in the South and the possibility of a widening gap with regard to the North ....
- **The special importance of the coastline and coastal regions**, a specially precious and vulnerable area subject to all kinds of pressures.
- **The need to move from reference trend scenarios to alternative scenarios for sustainable development** which especially presupposes better integration of the environment and development through:
  - Setting up appropriate policies and institutions in countries, that are suited to the environment, land-use management and sustainable development, and,
  - Building up North-South and South-South co-operation integrating this concern.

This work has allowed improved awareness to be raised of the stakes in the Mediterranean and the need for more sustainable development. It has led to a certain mobilisation in the countries involved and has awakened the interest of the international community (especially the Rio Conference) and of personalities at a high level. It has clearly contributed in this way to the changes in MAP (MAP phase II, and the set-up of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) in 1995), the review of the Barcelona Convention, the adoption of a Med 21 Agenda, and the setting up of other regional programmes (METAP by the World Bank, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership by the European Union...).

This exercise has also shown its limitations, especially bound up with:

- A **lack of data** and information on environmental and territorial issues, which remains a major restriction in the area;
- A **lack of support from "sectoral" decision takers** (especially in technical and economic spheres) who are still too little aware of the stakes and terms of sustainable development;
- A **lack of analysis which would allow more practical proposals to be devised** for the various actors involved.

The activities carried out by Blue Plan since 1991 are in direct line with the observations made during the first stage and take into account changes in the geo-political and institutional context that has marked the region during the 1990s. In answer to decisions by the Contracting Parties, they have led to efforts being made in various complementary areas:

- In-depth study of some **priority issues** (publishing monographs and technical notes, assistance with the MCSD's topical work: water, tourism, towns, ...). The goal of this topical work consists especially of reaching a wider public than just environmentalists or long term experts.
- **Adapting the prospective approach and applying it to some coastal regions** both in order to provide input for regional consideration on ground truth, testing the validity of Blue Plan methods at this scale and to contribute in this way to MAP and national efforts for planning and sustainable development in these highly sensitive regions;
- **Organising the “observation of the environment and development” functions** with a contribution to strengthening capacities in the countries: working on indicators, observatories, environmental statistics, considering policies and institutions for the environment and sustainable development... ;
- **Special supporting efforts** for the work of the MCSD.

Arising from this varied work and changes in the Mediterranean, Blue Plan was also asked to prepare a **new overall report** on the relationship between the environment-development to update and add to the understanding of the Mediterranean region seen from sustainable development point of view as it had been sketched out in the 1989 report. In fact this is justified by:

- The scope of recent changes: environmental changes such as climatic changes, geo-political and socio-economic changes such as globalisation and the demographic changes that are marking the region; and
- The achievements of the work in the Mediterranean and especially those on a common set of indicators.

## 2 Blue Plan “Topical” Works

### 2.1 Publishing books (“fascicles”) Setting Out the Conclusions of Prospective Studies on Economic or Geographic Issues

From 1990 to 2001, 13 monographs were drawn up and published in French edited by major authors and with the back-up of Mediterranean experts considered as authorities in their respective disciplines and which have been distributed by Economica:

- Pêche et aquaculture en Méditerranée [Fishing and Fish-Farming in the Mediterranean] (Daniel Charbonnier et al. 1990)
- Les forêts méditerranéennes : enjeux et perspectives [Mediterranean Forests: Stakes and Outlooks] (Henri Marchand et al. 1990)
- Conservation des écosystèmes méditerranéens : enjeux et perspectives [Conserving Mediterranean Ecosystems: Stakes and Outlooks] (François Ramade et al. 1991) completely reviewed, updated and re-written in 1997
- Industrie et environnement en Méditerranée : évolution et perspectives [Industry and the Environment in the Mediterranean: Changes and Outlooks] (Jacques Giri et al. 1991)

- Les îles en Méditerranée ; enjeux et perspectives [Mediterranean Islands: Stakes and Outlooks] (Louis Brigand et al. 1992)
- L'eau dans le bassin méditerranéen : situation et prospective [Water in the Mediterranean Basin: Situation and Prospective] (Jean Margat et al. 1992), also published in Arabic
- Energie et environnement en Méditerranée : enjeux et prospective [Energy and the Environment in the Mediterranean: Stakes and Prospective] (Michel Grenon et al. 1993)
- Tourisme et environnement en Méditerranée : enjeux et prospective [Tourism and the Environment in the Mediterranean: Stakes and Prospective] (Robert Lanquar et al. 1995)
- Transports et environnement en Méditerranée : enjeux et prospective [Transport and the Environment in the Mediterranean: Stakes and Forecasts] (Christian Reynaud et al. 1996)
- Risques naturels en Méditerranée : situation et perspectives [Natural Risks and the Environment in the Mediterranean: Situation and Outlooks] (Adelin Villeveille et al. 1997)
- Projection démographique à 2025 [Demographic Projections to 2025] (2001), forthcoming shortly
- Forêts et espaces boisés [Forests and Wooded Areas] (2001), forthcoming shortly
- Water, due in a new French version (2001) and in English (2002).

This series of reference documents represents a summary of precious information and analyses for the region. However, it requires updating (e.g. Conserving Ecosystems, and Water) and it would have been worthwhile to arrange for systematic translation into English, which has not been possible on budgetary grounds. One can also notice the lack of monographs on some major topics such as land, agriculture (where the project has not succeeded to date, because of the too largely divergent viewpoints and analyses between agriculture specialists and environmentalists), towns and their environmental problems (waste, air pollution), or the relationship between trade and the environment.

Work currently in progress or expected (especially for the MCSD) on urbanisation, towns and waste, free trade, agriculture and rural development rural will contribute to gradually filling these gaps.

## 2.2 Work on Water

Water has been the issue studied the most at Blue Plan for about ten years. In addition to the publication of an initial monograph in 1992 and preparing a new work, Blue Plan has carried out the following work in particular:

- A report on “Water Economy Indicators: Resources and Use” (with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory) – 1996 ;
- Publishing “Water in the Mediterranean Region: Situation, Prospects and Strategies for Sustainable Resource Management” for the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on local water management (Marseilles, 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> November 1996) ;



- Support for the “water” group work by MCSD and especially organising the **Fréjus Regional Workshop (1997)** resulting in proposed **recommendations for water demand management adopted by the Contracting Parties (Tunis, 1997)** ;
- Drawing up, after widespread consultation, the “**Mediterranean Vision on Water, Population and the Environment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**” (2000), presented at the Hague World Conference in the context of the Global Vision (GWP-CME), and a widely distributed 4 page report ( bilingual documents);
- Various in-depth work further to MCSD workings (national studies in Tunisia and the Lebanon, and case studies) for preparing the new monograph (deepening understanding of water policies in the countries) or in the context of the EU PolagWat programme – DG XII (prospective work in some countries, noting positions of major international donors ...)
- Contributing to several conferences and symposiums especially Euro-Mediterranean conferences on water (Marseilles, Turin), global ones (Paris, The Hague, Mediterranean ones (Medtac Conference in Athens ..) and publishing several articles to increase knowledge and to share results of Mediterranean work;
- Publishing a general detailed anthology “Ressources en eau et utilisations dans les pays méditerranéens : repères et statistiques” [Water Resources and Use in Mediterranean Countries: Milestones and Statistics] (1999) ;
- Various works on indicators and statistics (see § 3) with a shared selection of priority indicators and strengthened capacities in the field of statistics (training, assignments ...).

In particular this multiple activity has allowed:

- A **widespread mobilisation of water stakeholders to take better account of the long term** being triggered in the Mediterranean: water Directors during the Fréjus MCSD workshop, several networks brought together in the context of Medtac, statistics institutes and mobilising experts ...
- **An initial common vision of the current situation** and of future issues to be developed and inviting, based on shared observations, **a priority to be granted to “demand management”** in order to avoid increasing crises in the Mediterranean at the cost of the environment and future generations;
- **Contributions to global and European work** to be made to show the interest of prospective approaches (the exercise of the global “Vision” that mobilised more than 3000 people at the Hague was partly inspired by the réflexion carried out by the Blue Plan in the Mediterranean) and making the findings of Mediterranean work known;
- Contributions to be made to Euro-Mediterranean process and for EMWIS (Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System on Know-how) to be set up and accommodated within Blue Plan premises.

However, nothing ensures that the countries will apply the MCSD recommendations, adopted by the Contracting Parties as appropriate. The changeover from policies for mobilising resources to policies that give priority to demand management in fact presuppose strong political will and new ways of working, that are difficult to apply even if they are economically and ecologically justifiable. This priority for demand management should also include the

stake of **water quality**, which is a much less well-documented issue than that of quantity, but which is equally worrying in the terms of sustainable development.

In this context, it is appropriate to monitor the effort commitment in the countries and to incite the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (which has made it into a priority issue) and major donors facilitating desirable changes.

### 2.3 Agriculture and Rural Development, Land, Forests and Biodiversity

The main contribution by Blue Plan has been the publishing of reference **monographs** on **ecosystem conservation and on biodiversity** (in 1991 and in 1997) and on **forests and woodland areas** (in 1990 and 2001). These have contributed to improving awareness of the size of the stakes (The Mediterranean is one of the global "hot spots" for land biodiversity) and of the socio-economic and ecological dynamic features that denote the region with its differences from the North to the South of the Basin.

The general work by Blue Plan has also highlighted how significant is the **soil** issue (desertification, losses through urbanisation) which is as worrying as that of water but less well known, less perceived and less rallying. A working document on lands ("des problématiques aux indicateurs : l'exemple des sols" [From Issues to Indicators: the Example of Soils]) was drawn up and published in 1996 and a summary report is being prepared in 2001. This topic is also one of the priority topics in the MEDSTAT-Environment programme which should gradually contribute to filling some of the general lack of information and data.

The central **issue**, in terms of sustainable development, is that of the **future for agriculture and rural society** (still very widespread to the South and East of the Basin) **and the relationship with territories and the environment**. The stakes bound up with the multiple functions of agriculture (good management of water, land, biodiversity and landscapes; socio-economic stakes, the territorial balance between inland and coastal areas and the consequences in terms of the artificialisation of the coastline and pollution) are indeed of considerable importance and should be better catered for in trade negotiations and in economic and territorial policies.

This deserves shared analyses between agricultural and environmental experts in an attempt to make out a shared view of the stakes, to highlight a some number of examples of good practices and to identify pathways for action that should be favoured. After drafting a working document on farming intensification, mobilising the MCSD on these stakes could be an opportunity for useful progress. Blue Plan has contributed in 2000 and 2001 to this dynamic current:

- By carrying out a **preliminary feasibility study for MCSD**, preceded by a regional experts' workshop,
- By having a study of the **possible impact** of the free trade area carried out, as if it were to be extended to farm produce,
- By approaching major Mediterranean agricultural bodies, especially the **ICAMS**<sup>1</sup> which wishes to take part in prospective exercises of this type and has expressed full interest in a **joint approach**.

---

<sup>1</sup> International Centre for Mediterranean Advanced Agronomic Studies

## 2.4 Urbanisation, Towns, Urban Waste and Natural Risks

The MCSD had made the “**urban-rural**” issue one of its priority topics before limiting itself to the aspect of “**Towns and Sustainable Development**” only, (the rural issue being due to form the topic for a special working group). Blue Plan has contributed to the work especially by:

- A **general study of urbanisation** in the countries and the coastal regions with a retrospective analysis and drawing up regional maps and maps by country (using the Géopolis database). This work started in 1998, with added analyses on Greece and Turkey, will be published in 2001;
- A wide-ranging analysis of available documentation on the topic of towns and sustainable development and drafting an initial summary report on the topic (in 2000);
- Mobilising European Commission funds and experts from the North and South of the Mediterranean to contribute to shared observations fed by **sub-regional analyses** (groups of countries) and a contribution, with PAP/RAC, to the MCSD group activities which will form the topic of a regional workshop in July 2001 in Barcelona. A major amount of information on the topic has already been gathered.

The topic of **urban waste** has also been the subject of significant work in the last two years: carrying out national analyses (with CEDARE), organising a regional meeting of experts (September 2000) and a feasibility study for the MSCD, selecting indicators (in the context of the METAP programme) and strengthening capacities in the field of statistics (in the context of the MEDSTAT-Environment programme). All this work has allowed for substantial progress in gathering information and analyses, and in follow-up proposals.

Lastly, after publishing the “**Natural Risks**” monograph (in 1997), Blue Plan carried out a feasibility study for MCSD and sustained the dynamics for creating a Mediterranean network which could be developed around the “Stop Disasters” centre in the city of Naples.

## 2.5 Tourism and Sustainable Development

This issue, which is considered as a priority for sustainable development in the Mediterranean has been the subject in particular, of:

- The writing and publication of a monograph (1995);
- Participation in various international meetings on tourism and the environment (Hyères Les Palmiers, Lanzarote, Calvià Casablanca, Prot-Cros ...);
- **Support to the MCSD**: drafting reports on issues, awareness raising for States, professionals, NGOs, local authorities and experts, and carrying out case studies, organising the **Antalya regional workshop** with Turkey (1998) minutes of which have been published in MAP technical reports, and drafting **strategic proposals adopted by the Contracting Parties** (Malta 1999);
- Initiatives made following MCSD recommendations: contributions to UNEP (Tour Operator Initiative) and WTO work (programme on islands and sustainable development), mobilising countries and preparing a three year regional programme on sustainable development in tourist coastal areas (TANDEM programme put in October 2000 before the European Commission SMAP-MEDA), data updating and

analyses at regional and sub-regional scales (in progress in 2001) and preparing a WhiteBook).

The targets set for TANDEM are to contribute to identifying, based on selected indicators, the changes that have been observed and which remain possible (and especially the environmental and territorial impact of tourism) and the tools, especially the economic tools, for improved integration between tourism-the environment and the sustainable management of coastal tourist areas. The stake also involves contributing if possible to starting up Mediterranean co-operation for more sustainable tourism.

## 2.6 Trade and the Environment

This work was entrusted to the Blue Plan following the MCSD decision to make "Free trade and the Environment in the Euro-Mediterranean Context" one of its priority topics. In order to prepare a work schedule, adopted in 1999 by MCSD, Blue Plan assisted group working by:

- Organising meetings for experts (Geneva, Marseilles) and taking part in the global dialogue on regional free trade experience (Geneva, 1999) ;
- Mobilising a top level consultant; and
- Supporting the organisation of group meetings in 1998 (Beirut) and 1999 (Barcelona).

The work schedule adopted in 1999 has above all focused on highlighting the possible impact of free trade on the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context and on starting considerations on the terms for improved integration of environment concerns. The set up of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area by the 2010 time horizon between the European Union and each of the 12 partner states to the South and East of the Mediterranean is in fact one of the fundamental decisions of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership commitments in Barcelona in 1995. Now the dismantling of tariff barriers could have very significant effects in some countries in North Africa and Mashreq bearing in mind the gap in development and the still very high levels of customs protection.

The schedule, drawn with the financial backing of the European Union, France and the Lebanon, has led to 17 studies being made in 2000 covering:

- Changes in the trading/environmental context in the world and changes in internal trade within the Mediterranean;
- Lessons to be learnt for the Mediterranean from some regional experiences (NAFTA, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Poland joining the European Union);
- Prospective considerations in the spheres of industry and agriculture;
- Studies in countries on building-in the environmental dimension into the partnership agreements signed with the European Union and sectoral analyses on some consumption patterns and production sectors.

A **first summary report** was drafted by the Blue Plan and a **regional workshop, held in Montpellier and Mèze in October 2000**, allowed the main results of studies to be presented and participants to discuss the observations and the initial proposal outlines. The workshop report will form the subject of a publication in 2001 within the collection of MAP technical reports. A reviewed summary report was disseminated in early 2001.

A meeting will be organised in summer 2001 to discuss follow-up and especially the proposals to be made to the MCSD.

## 2.7 Other Topics

Ad-hoc analysis work has been carried out on Mediterranean **islands** (monograph published in 1992, participation in seminars on the future of islands: Minorca, Capri, Santorini ...), on **mountains** (prospective approach in 1994 and 95), and the **coastline** (study on defining the coastline in 1991, work on coastal erosion in 1996, analysing changes in land use in French, Spanish and Italian coastal areas based on Lacoast data in 2001, ...).

Blue Plan has also carried out:

- Summary notes on various topics in the context of the European Environment Agency's work (EEA) in 1998,
- Preliminary feasibility studies for MCSD in 2000 on various topics (energy, natural risks and poverty), in addition to the studies on waste and agriculture – rural development referred to above.

In the sphere of **industry**, in addition to the 1991 monograph, a regional prospective study and several local studies have been carried out in the context of the "free trade zone and the environment" MCSD programme.

In the sphere of **energy**, in addition to the 1993 monograph, co-operation has been developed with the OME for drafting a feasibility study for the MCSD.

Lastly updating work on Blue Plan **prospective framework** were built out in 2000 and 2001 in the economic and demographic spheres (see. I, §5).

## 3 Adapting the Prospective Approach and Applying it to Some Coastal Regions and Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs)

Following a request from the Contracting Parties to follow up the prospective approach and to apply it to coastal regions, Blue Plan carried out a range of practical and methodological work:

- Devising a "Methodological Approach for **Coastal Scenarios**" (in 1991) and a "Study – Design for a Methodological Compendium for Systemic and Prospective Approaches on a Very Large Scale Adapted to the Mediterranean Coastline" (in 1992);
- Organising a "Discussion Workshop on Prospective in the Mediterranean" (1992, MAP technical report n° 127) ;
- An attempted application to the **Bay of Iskenderun** (Turkey, 1992) in co-operation with local and national authorities, which resulted in practical recommendations partly put into practise, but restricted as a result of the closure of the pipeline to Iraq, with the publication of technical reports;
- Contributing to devising several MAP **Coastal Area Management Programmes**: Kastela Bay (Croatia), Rhodes (1990/92) (Greece), Syrian coast, Albania (mid 1993-end of 1997), Fuka-Matruh (Egypt), Israel, Sfax (Tunisia), Malta (on going), Lebanon (starting phase) and Algiers (project);

- Publishing a technical report on the “Methods and Tools for Systemic and Prospective Studies in the Mediterranean” and organising a seminar on “Territorial Prospective in the Mediterranean and the Player Approach” (1996), both of which were published in MAP technical reports.

The main merit of these approaches is contributing to a better awareness of the situation in the region involved (especially of the significance of environmental deterioration) by the local decision takers and stakeholders and above all of the possible changes in the long term, thanks first of all to retrospective assessments and then to common consideration of all probable and desirable futures.

Significant changes have been given in terms of method to favour less burdensome, more efficient and more participative approaches, especially during:

- The **Sfax CAMP** (1994-1997): organising a regional forum on methods, innovation efforts with a search for tools and the application of prospective considerations by local teams themselves;
- The current **Malta CAMP** (2000-2001) which, on the one hand relies directly on the work based on **indicators** selected by local teams in accordance with previously identified priority issues, and, on the other hand, favours a **highly participative approach** (mobilising various ministries, local authorities, professionals and NGOs). This approach, summarised under the name of “systemic and prospective sustainability analysis” also has the great advantage of serving as a link and of permitting joint consideration by the various topical teams in the CAMP.

Lastly Blue Plan has assisted the Algerian authorities in drawing up the draft for **Algiers CAMP**, which should be initiated shortly.

## 4 Strengthening the Observation Functions for the Environment and Sustainable Development

### 4.1 Objectives and orientation

Monitoring the state of the environment and progress towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean region requires gathering together a range of information useful for analysis and comparable with one another as far as possible. Bearing in mind, on the one hand the low capacities and the very large gaps still observed at the level of environmental data and in terms of relevant analyses for sustainable development, and on the other hand the interest in promoting shared initiatives at Mediterranean scale, major efforts have been undertaken by the countries and by Blue Plan since 1993. This effort at regional scale has especially benefited from the **support of the European Commission** (Life Third-Countries and MEDSTAT-Environment Programmes) and from synergy with the work of the MCSD and METAP.

Effort has been put on various complementary orientations:

- Producing documents on “observing the environment and development”;
- Steering a network of national observatories and supporting the drafting of feasibility studies in some countries;
- Organising an indicator system for sustainable development and promoting it both at Mediterranean level and within countries;

- Informating work on environmental and sustainable development institutions and policies;
- Gathering basic statistical data and strengthening the capacities of statistical institutes in the field of the environment (MEDSTAT programme);
- Constituting documentary and map resources.

The goal of this overall work must be producing or assisting in the production of analyses and of reports that are able to feed the required two-sided debates and to make public action move towards more sustainable development.

#### 4.2 Production of documents to guide réflexion and action on observing Environment and Development, Observatories; Indicators

Various Blue Plan documents have contributed to highlighting the Mediterranean issues with sustainable development, for example "Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean: Blue Plan Contribution to the Tunis Conference" (where Agenda Med 21 was drawn up) – 1994. A general report on "Observations and Changes in the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (Preparatory Phase)" made up of 5 booklets and presented in 1995 in Barcelona also played an important role in showing the methods and tools and especially the **interest of an "indicator" process**. This was actually put to work at regional level following a request from countries and with the **support of the MCSD, the European Commission and the METAP programme - World Bank**.

Work on **Environmental Performance Indicators (EPI)** entrusted to Blue Plan by METAP led to the organisation of several workshops and group work which allowed for major achievements which mobilised several Mediterranean experts:

- **The Damascus regional workshop** (11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> January 1996),
- **The Beirut regional workshop** (15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> December 1997),
- Publishing a framework document (1998),
- Organising three sub-regional workshops for **selecting EPIs** in the spheres of **water**, of **waste**, and **air pollution: Rabat** (24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September 1998), **Cairo** (8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> November 1998), and **Split** (26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> November 1998),
- Pilot tests for calculating indicators in Egypt, Turkey and in the Palestinian Territories (1999-2000).

At the same time work was undertaken on **sustainable development indicators (SDI)** in the context of MCSD which had made it one of its priority activities in full compliance with the conclusions of the Rio Conference:

- A meeting was held in Sophia Antipolis in July 1997 with the major competent international institutions (EU, EEA and EUROSTAT, OECD, UN-CSD, UNEP, GRID, SCOPE), and IFEN and the Moroccan and Tunisian observatories to assist Blue Plan in calibrating its work on the region;
- **Tunis** (9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> June 1998) and **Sophia Antipolis workshops** (10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> May 1999) held to result in the selection of a common set of 130 indicators, and the formulation of proposals for applying a system of indicators in the Mediterranean, and especially

the actual calculation of the selected indicators. At the same time a national test was carried out in **Slovenia** in order to assess their feasibility.

- **Adoption of MCSD proposals (Malta October 1999) by the Contracting Parties and of the common set of 130 indicators;**
- Devising a **set of 50 illustrated Mediterranean sheets** with comments, using international data sources which latest version was published in January 2001;
- Creating a **“glossary”** setting out definitions and calculation methods, finalised in 2000;
- Starting **implementation of the adopted recommendations in all Mediterranean countries** from June 2000 with the presentation of initial results in **December 2000 in Sophia Antipolis** at a regional workshop.

At the same time, in application of the recommendations of the United Nations-CSD, a **national test** was carried out in **Tunisia** based on the 134 United Nations indicators in co-operation with IFEN and Blue Plan. This test, which mobilised several Tunisian institutions, contributed to regional working and was the subject of approval by the National Commission for Sustainable Development in 2000. A similar test relying on the Mediterranean set of 130 indicators is being undertaken in **Morocco** in 2001 with the support of France and Blue Plan. At the same time, Greece has undertaken a support programme for the work of observation in 6 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries.

This dynamic around indicators has allowed environment Mediterranean stakeholders and their partners to become familiar with the “indicator” process, and with the interest of promoting widespread use as appropriate in various national, local and sectoral situations. As of now, SDIs are acknowledged as being a central tool for observatories and observation systems and are used and promoted in the context of CAMPs, topical programmes and environmental reporting programmes as for example in the “strategic review” carried out in 2000 by MCSD.

At the same time **national “observatories” or equivalent environmental and sustainable development observation systems**, for which Blue Plan has been asked to play the role of network manager, have been set up in some countries. Two regional meetings have thus been organised in **Rabat** from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1994 during the creation of the Moroccan Environment Observatory (International Conference: “Environment and Development Observatories: a Tool for Information and Assistance with Decision Taking”) and in **Tunis** from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1999. They allowed international institutions to be brought together with several Mediterranean countries and have contributed to this new dynamic. The one in Tunis was especially useful for better specifying the “role” of these national systems which must above all favour the production of analyses and reports on major issues (based around indicators and thanks to outside partnerships) rather than the construction of heavy and often rather impractical information systems.

The **results** of the efforts undertaken during these last years for creating national observatories in some Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries are still very **shaky and uneven**. After **Morocco** and **Tunisia** which decided to institutionalise structures, which were originally projects supported by major donors, the **Lebanon** has set up an observatory which has already enabled excellent national mobilisation (LEDO). The feasibility study had been carried out by Blue Plan and the project has been funded by the European Union (Life). The same arrangement in Turkey has not, to date, enabled the same dynamic to be created and the study in Syria has not yet been followed up. In 2000, two feasibility studies were



carried out in Algeria (which has decided to follow through) and in Albania where larger support will be required.

Overall, few Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries today have capacities that can allow them, as in the European Union, to produce analyses and reports able to assist in debates and in taking public decisions. A greater priority deserves to be given by countries and at regional level to developing these capacities. At a time when the Life and METAP programmes, which have greatly contributed to this dynamic, are coming to an end, it would be desirable for this target to be acknowledged and supported as it deserves, especially in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

### 4.3 Policies and Institutions for the Environment and Sustainable Development

An effort has also been made towards a better understanding of the policies and institutions for the environment and sustainable development in various Mediterranean countries. Analyses have already been made in several countries and have led, whenever possible, to publishing "country profiles".

After an initial series that was mainly descriptive ("Institutions – Environment – Development" series) including the publication of country profiles for **Albania** (1995), **Morocco** (1995), **Tunisia** (1995), **Turkey** (1995), **Egypt** (1996) and **Algeria** (1998), a second more analytical series ("Environment and Sustainable Development Issues and Policies" series) was undertaken in 1998-1999 with the publication of profiles on **Lebanon** (English version: 1999, French version: 2000) and **Tunisia** (French version: 2000, English version: 2001).

In 2001, a table comparing the various policies and institutions for the environment and sustainable development in various Mediterranean countries will be drawn up to take advantage of the various contributions available (OECD environmental assessments, Blue Plan country profiles, MCSD strategic review questionnaires, MEDPOL work, work on "Acquis communautaires"...). This will stress especially the main historic changes, with focus on policies combating pollution on one hand, and on economic tools for integrating the environment-development on the other hand.

### 4.4 Statistical, Geographic and Documentary Data

From the outset in its work, Blue Plan has regularly brought together the main basic **data on the Mediterranean Basin**, and the latest version was prior to publishing the indicator sheets dating from 1996.

**The lack of statistical data on the environment** has been regularly highlighted. In order to better assess the situation, a brief "Summary Report on Status and Requirements" was drawn up in 1996 in collaboration with EUROSTAT and after enquiries in several countries.

This has facilitated the launch of the **MEDSTAT-Environment project** funded by MEDA in the framework of the **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership** and which was entrusted to Blue Plan under the aegis of **EUROSTAT**. This three and a half year project started in May 1999. It aims to **strengthen capacities in statistics institutes in the 12 Mediterranean partner countries of the European Union in the field of the environment**. Heavy to manage and run, this programme requires a very large number of assignments for Blue Plan study officers, organising several training sessions and the set up of computer equipment in the countries. However, it facilitates the consolidation of the required foundation for the regular production of reliable and comparable data in the field of the environment.

Two general training sessions were organised in October 1999 and in January 2000 and then three topical training sessions: on **water (July 2000 in Cannes)**, on **land (January**

**2001 in Malta) and on waste (due in July 2001 in Turkey).** They have already enabled useful progress to be made: clarifying definitions, concepts and issues, the tools to be promoted to assist these dimensions being taken into account by statistics instruments, the interest of harmonising nomenclatures with international standards, joint consideration of the European peculiarities to be catered for ... Support assignments have also been organised to assist countries with implementation.

Capacities and levels of mobilisation in the various countries are unequal, but **very significant progress** has already been achieved in the more motivated countries: gathering a significant quantity of data (especially in Cyprus, Malta, Algeria, Morocco, and Israel), strengthening or **setting up “environment” departments** in the statistics offices in several countries, and setting up institutional partnerships ...

Efforts have also been made by Blue Plan to create and make available a database (“ECHEMS”) whose Mediterranean dimension will allow a contribution to be made to the efforts in harmonising and gathering data. This database has been designed to include other data (demographic, and socio-economic data) used by Blue Plan.

Lastly, significant efforts have been undertaken for several years to enrich the documentary and map assets at Blue Plan. To date, there are more than **3600 documents available** on all the major topics involving the Mediterranean and/or Sustainable Development.

## 5 Preparing a New Overall Report on the Environment and Development

12 years after publishing the “Blue Plan: Futures for the Mediterranean Basin” , a new overall work seems necessary bearing in mind:

- The major changes that have marked the region and which must be taken into account;
- The achievements of the Mediterranean work, especially the MCSD activities; and
- The needs to have the Mediterranean work better known and shared.

This is why, after the activities on indicators, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention asked for a new report to be prepared that “would highlight the similarities and differences in situations, current efforts towards sustainable development and the difficulties encountered, and the medium and long term goals stated by the countries...”. This report should be published in 2003. It will allow to update and to develop "Blue Plan" some issues, which have formed the subject of more in depth work over the last few years (such as water, tourism and urbanisation...).

In order to carry out this process, Blue Plan is relying on expert groups (an initial meeting was held in February 2001) and on all recent and current work. As far as possible it wishes to associate countries to this reflexion and to contribute at the same time to strengthening their capacities in the field of environmental “reporting”. To this end, a common project (“**MEDREP**”) has been put forward for funding to the European Commission (Life Third - Country programme). It will also rely on the work of other MAP centres, which are already partners in the indicator activity.

In order to contribute to preparing this future report, Blue Plan has carried out in 2000-2001 several prospective framework studies for 2025:

- **A demographic frame of reference**, carried out in 2000, will be published in 2001 in a series of monographs. Extra analyses on internal migration (rural migration...)

are due in 2001 bearing in mind their size in some countries and the inadequate knowledge we have of them;

- A **macro-economic frame of reference** is currently being finalised; and
- Summary work on the possible effects of climatic change is also being carried out.

This prospective work will allow better assessment of the situation in the Mediterranean in 2000 by comparing it with what had been envisaged for that date in the first Blue Plan. They will also allow the major changes possible by 2025 to be calibrated and to be taken into account in the future report.

The latter, which will rely especially on the **130 MCSD indicators**, should include four major parts:

- A **retrospective analysis** to allow changes to be placed in relation to other major world regions and in relation to the scenarios in the first Blue Plan in 1989 which was based on statistics from 1985;
- The hypotheses selected for the **reference trends scenario for 2025**;
- Possible changes by 2025 and their environmental impact on **a few major issues** and highlighting current efforts to promote more sustainable development;
- A **summary** part on possible global impact by 2025 and the conditions for a more “sustainable” pathway.

## 6 Setting up a Website and Other Communications Initiatives

A very detailed **Website** making several documents and information available has been set up and put on-line in French (end 2000) and in English (early 2001). This site, which currently receives more than 1000 hits per month, seems to be appreciated by the public which has been able to discover it and has received several appreciation reports.

Additionally, efforts have been undertaken to improve Blue Plan **publications**: a new series of country profiles (in the same format as the monographs) with translation, publication and widespread distribution of an initial “4 page leaflet” (on water, with n° 2 due in 2001 on the topic of population and urbanisation), indicator sheets, MCSD recommendations (water tourism, and indicators ...), and various works (e.g. Vision on water), and the execution (in 1997) of a new brochure.

The Bureau members of the Blue Plan Association for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean and the Centre team have also actively participated in several outside events and especially worldwide, Euro-Mediterranean and Mediterranean **conferences**. Besides those referred to above covering water, islands and tourism, we can also mention in particular the United Nations Rio Conference, the Tunis one on sustainable development, the one in Fontevault on the environment and others on various topics which are so many opportunities to make the Blue Plan work known and to make exchanges since our contributions are in general the subject of communications and often of publications. It is not however possible to respond to all outside requests, which are very numerous, bearing in mind available time and resources.

Lastly Blue Plan has carried out some number of training initiatives for the benefit of Mediterranean countries in its areas of skill (prospective, statistics, indicators, systemic analysis...) and contributes to **training** organised by other institutions.

## 7 Changes in Resources

### *Financial Resources*

Faced with limited financial resources with regard to the geographic perimeter, the complexity of the issues handled and the weaknesses of the basic data, Blue Plan has resorted to several sources of additional funding in relation to its regular MAP budget. These allow MAP financing to be roughly doubled, with an increasing share from the European Commission.

Nevertheless this brings about an extra complication connected with the multiplicity of funding partners each of which has its own demands in terms of targets, of geographical area, of financial and technical reporting, and of assessment. This may also result in a certain difficulty in assessing cost-efficiency ratios bearing in mind possible synergies sought out amongst the various projects.

This also results in ever greater efforts to mobilise this funding and a difficulty in organising observation functions over the long term using erratic budgets and "project" type financing over a maximum of 2 to 3 years.

Most of this funding (Medstat, METAP, and Life Third Country) involves action in partnership with countries deriving direct benefits from it.

### *Staff*

The RAC/BP team brings together experts of various nationalities and skills (agronomists + foresters, geographic experts, economists, sociologists, environmentalists, statisticians, mathematicians, computer experts...). It has been able to be gradually strengthened thanks to outside financing and the French government making 3 high level managers available since 1998.

### *Premises*

Since 1997, RAC/BP has had the benefit of modern and functional premises on the Sophia-Antipolis site (Science Park close to Nice) made available by France (Conseil Général des Alpes-Maritimes).

Additionally, UNESCO makes an office available in Paris to the Blue Plan President.

## II. PROPOSALS FOR BIENNUM REPORT 2002-2003

As in the last biennium, report organisation is proposed in accordance with the three main spheres of activity:

- Integrating development and the environment: general observation and prospective for the environment and development, monitoring issues to be overcome and progress made towards sustainable development;
- Integrating development and the environment: specific work on possible sustainable development issues;
- Contribution of the Blue Plan to the sustainable development of coastal areas.

### 1 General Observation and Prospective for the Environment and Development: Monitoring Issues to be Overcome and Progress Made Towards Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

- Stakes
  - a) The initial Blue Plan scenarios highlighted the hardly “sustainable” nature of certain Mediterranean changes that are continually causing greater damage to the environment and are not allowing any closing of the gap in development levels to the North and South of the Basin.
  - b) The Mediterranean therefore faces the following challenge: finding out how to go from one trend scenario to alternative scenarios that are more in harmony with the principles of sustainable development.
  - c) In order to contribute to these changes, the production of reliable and relevant information to allow support to the necessary debate and public decision taking represents a major stake, which presupposes a strengthening of Mediterranean capacities at national and regional levels.
- Meeting the stakes
  - a) The adoption of the Med 21 programme in 1994, the widening of the MAP remit in 1995 and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in 1996 show a certain will for Mediterranean regional co-operation to face up to the challenge of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.
  - b) The launch in 1995 of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership constitutes a prime example of a structured attempt to set up political and economic co-operation between North and South, which at this stage involves the 15 countries of the European Union and only 12 Southern and Mediterranean Countries. The main economic decision aimed at the creation of a regional area of shared prosperity is the creation by the 2010 time horizon of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area benefiting from support policies using MEDA funding. At regional level, statistics, water and the environment have been singled out as priorities for action. In the context of this partnership, a short and medium term action plan for the environment (SMAP) has thus been adopted. The regional programme on statistics (MEDSTAT) aimed at countries’ national statistics institutes, includes besides an environmental component (“MEDSTAT-Environment”) whose implementation has been entrusted to Blue Plan, and is starting to produce

significant results. Lastly the Commission, with its "LIFE Third Country" programme has helped BP/RAC to develop activity on indicators (project financed up to the end of 2000).

- c) Major work has been undertaken on sustainable development indicators. After adopting a common set of SDI and recommended actions, all riparian countries have committed on a voluntary basis to promote the use and to contribute to the calculation of the selected indicators. BP/RAC has drawn up a glossary of definitions, published a collection of documented sheets and contributed to mobilising countries and other MAP centres. Certain countries have also made efforts to strengthen their institutional capacities for observing the environment and sustainable development.
  - d) The "strategic review" drawn up by the MCSD witnesses to current efforts in several countries and at regional level to strengthen institutional systems aimed at environmental protection, to more balanced development of territories and to promoting the sustainable development concept and policies.
  - e) Mediterranean NGOs are also deploying significant efforts to strengthen their capacities and to call Mediterranean states and the need for environmental and social assessments and for structural reforms for an improved integration of the environment and development to the attention of decision takers.
- Gaps
    - a) The lack of reliable and comparable data that is relevant and available or the ability to gather them remains a very major restriction in the region, especially in countries outside the European Union. This comment applies especially to:
      - Environmental statistics that are still far from satisfactory in several countries and in essential areas (soil and coastal deterioration, water and air quality...);
      - Data involving coastal regions: changes in land use, unfolding of socio-economic and environmental data at this level (e.g.: tourism)...;
      - Economic aspects and tools for the environment; and
      - The assessment of the social and environmental impact of public policies.
    - b) In several countries to the South and East and also to the North, institutional capacities for the environment and sustainable development remain very weak: weakness in consideration and economic tools, in assessment analysis and reporting capabilities, and weakness in the capability to impact trading and sectoral policies to make them comply more with the principles of sustainable development, ...
    - c) Since publication in 1989 of "Blue Plan: Futures for the Mediterranean Basin", its translation into several languages and its widespread sales distribution, there have been no more reference works of this type published calling attention to the Mediterranean stake in improved integration of the environment/development. In addition, even now few countries to the South and East are able to produce reports stimulating bilateral debate and to assist with the policy changes required.
    - d) Work carried out for the MCSD on the topic of "free trade and the environment in the Mediterranean context" has shown the scale of possible social and environmental impact from trading and economic liberalisation and the need for monitoring future impact and strong anticipatory policies. It also stresses the lack

of integration of environmental issues into the partnership agreements and the supporting programmes, and the lack or inadequacy at this stage, of any organised arrangements for continually assessing the impact of the free trade area in terms of sustainability and for ensuring the correct integration of environmental stakes.

e) There is a great need for regional programmes to strengthen capacities in countries in the sphere of observing and prospective for the environment and development, for producing analyses and reports that are useful to public decision taking and in the sphere of the environmental economy. But MAP resources are limited and the synergy with other available funds, especially those from the European Commission, is not easy and does not seem strong enough:

- The Life and METAP programmes mobilised in the last few years are limited in time and volume and are unreliable;
- To date, SMAP favours a topical approach above all which makes it difficult to finance cross-initiatives to strengthen environmental capacities;
- The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Life Third Country and METAP programmes only cover part of the riparian countries (different for each programme). This does not allow an overall Mediterranean approach which the environmental stakes nevertheless justify;
- In these programmes, priority is given to action at the cost of assessment and analysing impact which is not financed despite their strategic importance;
- Setting up sustainable observation and analysis systems requires constant effort over time to permit sustainable capitalising on expertise, which is hardly compatible with ad hoc funding.

- Recommendations

a) Recommendations Made to the Contracting Parties

- Inviting the Contracting Parties to continue and extend efforts to apply the MCSD's recommendations on:
  - Sustainable development indicators (SDIs); by improving gathering and analysis levels for SDIs, especially at coastal levels;
  - Strengthening capacities for observing and prospective the environment and development; and
  - Producing analyses and reports on the environment and sustainable development at coastal, national and regional levels;

Invite the Contracting Parties to mobilise institutions and qualified persons for contributing to the regional "environment and development" report and equivalent national reports.

- Inviting the Contracting Parties to strengthen their capacities in the sphere of the environmental economy, assessing the social territorial and environmental impact of the free trade area and developing anticipatory and supporting policies to allow social and environmental Challenges to be better catered for, especially by applying appropriate economic and environmental tools.

## b) Recommendations Made to the Secretariat

- Inviting the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to draw up a regional report on the environment and development in the Mediterranean including retrospective and prospective analysis of the main Mediterranean changes and based especially on SDIs;
- Inviting the Co-ordination Unit, the other RACs and MAP programmes to contribute to this work;
- Inviting the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to assist the Contracting Parties in applying the recommendations on indicators and especially in the context of drawing up the regional and coastal report, and to stimulate the regional network of national observatories and equivalent systems;
- Inviting the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to continue efforts to strengthen capacities in the sphere of environmental statistics, to continue the Medstat-Environment programme and to extend, as far as possible, certain activities to non benefiting countries in the South and East;
- Inviting the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to continue analysis work on the topic of free trade and the environment and economic tools for the environment; and
- Inviting the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to extend its communication, publishing and training efforts, and its role as a forum for considering and discussing Mediterranean prospects and sustainable development.

## 2 Specific Work on Sustainable Development Issues

### 2.1 Tourism and Sustainable Development

- Stakes

Because of its current and future economic, social, environmental and territorial impact, tourism represents a considerable stake for the Mediterranean. However controlling tourism's development and steering it towards sustainability require highly voluntarist policies.

- Meeting the Stakes

MCSDD had produced major analysis work and the Contracting Parties have adopted its proposals. Certain countries and economic actors have committed efforts for improving control or for diversifying their tourist development and MAP (BP/RAC) has put together a regional project for strengthening capacities towards more sustainable management of tourist coastal areas, put before the European Commission (SMAP/MEDA). This project has been assembled together with France and Spain and in partnership with several countries from around the Basin and various institutions including RAC/PAP.

- Gaps

The logic for development and tourist policies in the Mediterranean today remains more marked by competition (between countries and local destinations) and the search for short-term profit than concerns for balanced and controlled long-term development. Current efforts for a better reconciliation between tourism and sustainable development, for disseminating the approaches and tools for action required and for sharing experience amongst Mediterranean countries are still largely inadequate.



- Recommendations Made to the Contracting Parties
  - Inviting the Contracting Parties to apply the recommendations they adopted following the work of the MCSD.
- Recommendations Made to the Secretariat
  - Inviting the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to contribute to the application of the recommendations adopted and particularly the data collection on tourism and sustainable development relations.

## 2.2 Towns and the Urban Environment

- Stakes

Changes in consumer modes, poorly controlled urban sprawl (to the North and to the South), very fast urban growth to the South without any equivalent economic development, are the source of considerable environmental, spatial and socio-economic impact, and especially: the loss of farmland and precious landscapes and eco-systems, urban congestion through the fact of increased resorting to all kinds of motor vehicles and the inadequacy of public transport, the increase of the volume of waste and pollution, increased vulnerability to natural risks, the chronic proliferation of improvised housing and the various social and health issues brought about by this poor development.

- Meeting the Stakes

Current work by the MCSD and MAP are contributing alongside other to highlighting the situation and current changes, the difficulties to be overcome and the proposals to be formulated for improved sustainability in urban development. A range of useful information has thus been able to be gathered both on the phenomenon of urbanisation and on the issue of towns and certain environmental aspects (urban waste...).

Faced with the size of these challenges, only the most developed countries have been able to create strong local capacities and to gather together the financial resources required to upgrade certain basic infrastructures (major efforts under way on public transport on own lands) whilst in less developed countries, the current privatisation processes can only bring very limited solutions to the needs identified.

- Gaps

Despite strong local capacities and significant available resources, the more developed countries do not as a rule manage to control urban sprawl. Environmental impact increases instead of reducing under the effect of hardly sustainable modes of consumption in particular, and to a lack of a prospective vision, of political will and operational tools. For example, few towns have committed to Agenda 21 exercises.

Less developed countries are faced with considerable urban (socio-economic and environmental) problems and with a lack of organisational and funding resources, which make suitable responses very difficult.

Both to the North and to the South of the Basin, responses made to the issue of urban waste, which is becoming more and more vital, remain largely inadequate and problematical. Considering the strategies to be promoted has still largely to be carried out.

In general terms, regional co-operation remains hardly structured whereas the setting up of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area could have, in several countries, a high environmental impact (accelerating towards changes in consumption and distribution modes with high

impact on motor vehicles and packaging, and therefore on waste, pollution and the framework of urban life if measures are not taken...).

- Recommendations Made to the Contracting Parties
  - Inviting the Contracting Parties to contribute to the work of the MCSD and to ensuring their follow-up.
- Recommendations Made to the Secretariat
  - Inviting the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to enhance and follow up the work carried out on urbanisation and towns, to continue the work of analysis in the sphere of waste and to contribute to the development and follow-up of the MCSD in these spheres.

## 2.3 Rural development and Natural Resources

- Stakes

Water, land and bio-diversity are especially valuable natural resources, which are at risk and under threat in the Mediterranean. Their deterioration, beyond the irreversible loss of natural heritage it involves, also becomes a more and more restrictive factor for economic growth. Now rural and farming activities – handling these natural resources - are of major economic significance to the north and to the South and still represent most jobs in several countries to the South and East of the Mediterranean. Current changes (demographic growth, globalisation and regionalisation, rural migration, ...), the multiple stakes involved and the size of the possible impact, both direct (desertification, water shortages ...) and indirect (coastalisation, urbanisation, coastal pollution ...), invite deep strategic consideration of the pathways and terms for more sustainable rural and farm development and for more relevant policies for handling natural resources. Carrying this out is all the more important since the MCSD work on free trade has shown that risks of very major impact on the environment and rural society exist from the extension of free trade to farm products.

- Meeting the Stakes

MCSD together with BP/RAC has carried out work in depth on the issue of water and the Contracting Parties have adopted recommendations on water demand management. This work has partly been input for the work of Medtac-GWP (devising the "Vision" for water) and Euro-Mediterranean considerations on this topic which has been judged to be a priority.

Several countries are making major efforts towards improved handling of their natural resources (water, land, forests and bio-diversity) and towards more sustainable farm and rural development. For example, efforts are in progress in certain countries to improve public services in rural areas and to develop more participative methods for integrated rural development. In the European Union, the multifunctional aspect of agriculture and agri-environmental assistance are increasingly being acknowledged as being important. At regional level, BP/RAC has started considering sustainable rural development for the MCSD especially in liaison with ICAMS. The latter, which is a tool at the disposal of several Mediterranean agriculture ministries, is currently mobilising in this direction (prospective considerations, and launching regional programmes).

- Gaps

With few exceptions, water policies do not give priority to demand management and nothing can ensure that the recommendations adopted and the regional programmes applied will allow the necessary changes to the scenarios. In general terms, positive or negative outside effects of social and economic practises on natural resources (water, land, and bio-diversity) are not taken into account and the policies developed are often inadequate or inappropriate.

Whilst taking account of the social and environmental stakes is acknowledged more and more as being important in the agricultural sphere, and whilst sustainable rural development appears to be a major goal, the work of common consideration amongst agricultural and environmental specialists is still very limited.

In several countries, the persistence of strong restrictions (the lack of land-owning and financial stability, the lack of basic infrastructures, training and social dynamics, ...) and inadequate economic diversification remain major handicaps for sustainable rural and farm development.

- Recommendations Made to the Contracting Parties
  - Inviting the Contracting Parties to follow up more effectively on the recommendations adopted on water, to carry out an initial assessment of the efforts undertaken and the difficulties to be overcome and to contribute to the effort in regional consideration of the pathways and terms towards more sustainable farm and rural development.
- Recommendations Made to the Secretariat
  - Inviting the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to support the MCSD activities and their outcome by organising a forum on the consequences of the recommendations adopted on water and to continue work of considering the terms for more sustainable rural development integrating the objectives for preservation and management of soils, woodland and terrestrial biodiversity, especially in partnership with ICAMS.

### **3 Blue Plan Contribution to the Sustainable Management of Coastal Regions**

- Stakes, Meeting the Stakes and Gaps

Bearing in mind the speed of change, the stakes involved and the size of current and future impact, systemic and prospective sustainability analyses are especially useful in assisting with management and development policies for coastal regions. Efforts have been undertaken by BP/RAC and the countries to develop this type of approach and to make it more participative and operational especially by relying on the selection of a restricted number of priority indicators. However, the approach followed to date has not allowed an adequate exchange of experience between Mediterranean regions whilst the latter are faced with issues that are largely shared. More generally, there is a lack of analysis and co-operation on the issue of land use planning in these sensitive regions.

Amongst the significant economic activities for the coastal areas, tourism holds a more special position since it largely conditions the development of a significant part of these areas and it can form the subject of application of specific tools for action (see § II, 2).

- Recommendations Made to the Contracting Parties
  - Inviting the Contracting Parties to develop the use of indicators, systemic and prospective approaches on coastal regions and to follow up on the recommendations adopted.
- Recommendations Made to the Secretariat
  - Inviting the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to assist national and local authorities and other actors to anticipate changes by developing sustainability systemic and prospective approaches, especially in the context of CAMPs and the use of indicators on coastal regions.

## 4 Proposed Budget

4.1 Staff Budget	m/m	Approved Budget (in \$ EU) MTF	Proposed Budget (in \$ EU)		
		2001	2002	2003	
<b>Professional Staff</b>					
Chairman	12				
Director	12	*	*	*	
Scientific Director	12	*	*	*	
Environmental Economist	12	100.000	82.000**	84.000**	
Scientific Expert : Territories and Prospective Officer	12	83.500	74.000**	75.000**	
Computer and Data Bases Officer	12	55.000**	45.000**	46.000**	
Environmental Officer	12	***	***	***	
Institutional studies and Environment Officer	12	***	45.000**	46.000**	
GIS and Data base	Officer 12	***	***	***	
Environment Officer	12	*	*	*	
Administration and Financial Officer	12	57.000	58.000	59.000	
Senior Statistician, Project Manager	12	*** (1)	***	***	
<b>TOTAL Professional staff</b>		<b>295.500</b>	<b>304.000</b>	<b>310.000</b>	
<b>Administrative support</b>					
Data Collection Assistant/Senior Secretary	12	51.000	51.000	51.000	
Bilingual Secretary	12	51.000	51.000	51.000	
Secretary	12	****	****	****	
Documentation assistant		****	****	****	
Project Secretary		**** (1)	****	****	
Temporary Assistant		15.000**	17.000**	18.000**	
<b>TOTAL Administrative support</b>		<b>117.000</b>	<b>119.000</b>	<b>120.000</b>	
Travel on official business		33.000	34.000	34.000	
Office and Operating Costs		45.000	45.000	45.000	
<b>TOTAL Expenses and Operating Costs</b>		<b>490.500</b>	<b>502.000</b>	<b>509.000</b>	

\* Seconded by the French Government

\*\* Supplemented by other projects and funds

\*\*\* Covered by other projects for 2002 and 2003

\*\*\*\* Paid under the operating costs budget of the French Government and from external projects

(1) Recruited in 1999 for the Medstat Project

4.2 Activities Budget	Proposed budget (in \$ EU)			
	2002		2003	
	MTF + UE	EXT	MTF + UE	EXT
Contribution to CAMPs, concerning systemic and prospective sustainability analyses and related information systems	30 000		30 000	
Observation and Prospective of the Environment and Development:				
– Strengthening of environmental statistics more particularly in the Medstat project	10.000	400.000		***
– Support to follow-up on Free-Trade and the Environment	10.000	****	10.000	****
– Preparation of the environment/development report with follow-up on indicators with the countries	90.000	*	95.000	*
Specific work on some sustainable development issues:				
– Tourism and coastal zones sustainable development: support and follow-up of the MCS D work	35.000	**	35.000	**
– Agriculture, rural development and natural resources:				
• Water: support to the MCS D recommendations follow-up, Regional Workshop organisation	10.000	98.000		
• Sustainable rural development: Data collection, analyses work, support to the MCS D activity	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000
– Cities and urban environment problems:				
• Work enhancement on urbanisation and cities, follow-up of the MCS D work	10.000		10.000	
• urban waste : data collection, strategic analysis and support to the CMDD work	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000
BP/RAC Focal Points Meeting			20.000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>235.000</b>	<b>538.000</b> +	<b>240.000</b>	<b>40.000</b> +

\* According to positive or negative answer to MEDREP and MEDPROCOAST projects

\*\* According to positive or negative answer to TANDEM project

\*\*\* According to positive or negative answer to MEDSTAT project

\*\*\*\* According to future potential projects

### III. BLUE PLAN AND MEDIUM TERM CHANGES

1. Over some twenty years, BP/RAC has gathered together an invaluable capital of information, going from global to local levels, based on three areas that deserve continuous upgrading and enhancement:
  - Knowledge of the Mediterranean system enriched by the very recent development of indicator procedures and environmental statistics capacities,
  - Forecasting research, at varying geographical scales and with reference both to environmental components and economic and social activity, and
  - The field of transverse proposals which allows going beyond merely sectoral approaches.
2. Short and medium term efforts will focus on:
  - Continuing improvements to this capitalized information on the observation and prospective of the relationship between the environment and development whilst favouring networking (with countries and certain international institutions);
  - More in-depth analyses of whatever can be useful for applying sustainable development policies: cost/benefit analysis, identifying tools suited to Mediterranean realities, assessing the progress made and the obstructions to be overcome. It is especially appropriate to monitor the recommendations adopted (for example on water, tourism, ...), to measure the remaining difficulties to be mastered, the tools to be favoured ..., and to gradually widen this work of analysis - proposal - assessment to other important issues. A close relationship with the work of the MCSD will be ensured.
  - Enhancing this capitalized information by:
    - Periodic publication (every 5 years) of a reference work on the environment/development (new "Blue Plan") showing major Mediterranean changes, and warning of current and future impact and illustrating certain priority issues;
    - A dissemination policy for other Blue Plan publications (monographs, "profiles", dossiers, leaflets), with an increased effort in translation, illustration and dissemination;
    - Progressive enrichment of the Website; and
    - Taking part in "international forums".
  - Strengthening partnerships with countries and networks, (other MAP Centres, certain European or international institutions such as the European Environment Agency, EUROSTAT, Mediterranean networks ...) by favouring the sharing of experience and strengthening capacities (statistics and indicators, prospective, analysis and report production ...).

3. With this goal, Blue Plan will especially focus upon:
  - Reinforcing its internal skills (multi-disciplinary approach, developing methods, the capability of playing the role of a "facilitator", of "bearer" of communications, etc...);
  - Mobilising outside funding in addition to that from MAP and required for the application of activities acknowledged as being a priority; and
  - Reinforcing and widening its network of outside experts and building partnerships with countries and other institutions.
4. In order to facilitate these medium term changes at Blue Plan, the Contracting Parties may in particular:
  - Seek out the pathways towards improved synergy between the work of MAP-MCSD and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (and, as appropriate, other international donors) in order to organise, over the medium term, the mobilisation of the resources required for the co-ordinated application of the orientation adopted;
  - Widen mobilisation to cover the main partners and institutions in charge of the various issues touched upon (land use planning, sectoral planning and policies); and
  - Ensure improved distribution of the results of work and publications in riparian countries and the European Community.
1. In the light of the above, it can be considered that the original Blue Plan remit is as topical as ever. It can be recalled and summarised as follows: Blue Plan is responsible for contributing to a continuing process of co-operation between riparian along the Mediterranean Sea for the promotion of sustainable development. It organises and runs a shared knowledge bank in order to facilitate the emergence of strategies for anticipating and resolving common issues, especially in coastal regions.

## Annex I

- Extract of the Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Blue Plan, Split (31 January – 4 February 1977) (see document in annex)



**EXTRACT OF THE REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF  
MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL STATES ON THE BLUE PLAN,****Split (31 January – 4 February 1977)**Agenda Item 8.1 : OBJECTIVESLong-term objectives

29. The Meeting approved the following statement of long-term objectives of the "Blue Plan":

- 29.1 The fundamental long-term objective of the "Blue Plan" is to initiate a continuous process of concerted co-operation among the Mediterranean coastal States. The term "Plan" should not, therefore, give rise to misunderstandings: the objectives of the "Blue Plan" are not to concentrate the decision-making process or to promote the establishment of a body that would define in technical terms what should be the rational management of natural resources and optimum socio-economic development for all the Mediterranean countries. By ensuring exchange of experiences in all relevant fields among the Mediterranean countries, the "Blue Plan" should create a pool of knowledge to which each of the countries concerned would have immediate access.
- 29.2 More specifically, the objective of the "Blue Plan" is to place at the disposal of decision-makers and planners in the different countries of the Mediterranean region information enabling them to formulate plans for optimum socio-economic development on a sustainable basis without environmental degradation.
- 29.3 The "Blue Plan", while promoting co-operative efforts to solve common problems, would take existing socio-economic development styles into consideration and facilitate the formulation of alternative environmentally sound development styles by each country in accordance with its own options and conditions.
- 29.4 The other long-term objectives of the Blue Plan are:
- a. To assist the Governments of the coastal States of the Mediterranean to gain a more accurate insight into the common problems they face both in the Mediterranean Sea and in its coastal zones;
  - b. To assist these Governments in reaching appropriate decisions that would promote rational management of resources and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

30. Furthermore:

- 30.1 From the operational point of view, the "Blue Plan" would comprise three phases, each of which would make provision for sets of successive or simultaneous studies. These studies may cover fields as varied as soils protection, water resources, food and agriculture, industrialization and urbanization processes, energy production and consumption, tourism, coastal zone management, and education and training with choices to be made by Governments concerned at intergovernmental meetings. The studies would be interdisciplinary, intersectoral and integrated, and would take into account the social and cultural characteristics and diversities of the countries concerned.

In each of the fields to be examined, long-term trends would be identified and their effects on the environment analysed. In the lights of that analysis, alternative development strategies and policies would be formulated wherever possible and brought to the attention of Governments for their consideration.

- 30.2 The "Blue Plan" should lead to a continuous increase of co-operation among various countries in the Mediterranean region. It is through such co-operation, and mutual assistance, with full respect for national sovereignty, that economic imbalances within the region might be progressively eradicated. One of the essentials conditions to reach these ends is a due appreciation of the socio-economic situation of the Mediterranean region. It is hoped that insight into the social and economic factors underlying development will lead to a progressive strengthening of international co-operation and to sectoral and general agreements, as well as appropriate juridical provisions on environmental matters. It is also hoped that activities under the "Blue Plan" will contribute to the consolidation of peace, which is a basic condition for the development and protection of the Mediterranean environment.
- 30.3 To sum up, the programme envisaged under the "Blue Plan" should contribute to the promotion of economic and social development of the whole Mediterranean region in a manner which will safeguard the natural systems on which sustained development depend.

Plan Bleu - Centre d'activités régionales / Blue Plan – Regional Activity Centre  
PNUE-Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée – UNEP – Mediterranean Action Plan  
15, rue L. Van Beethoven - Sophia Antipolis - F-06560 Valbonne - FRANCE  
Tel. : +33 4 92 38 71 30 - Fax : +33 4 92 38 71 31  
E-mail : [planbleu@planbleu.org](mailto:planbleu@planbleu.org)  
Site web : [www.planbleu.org](http://www.planbleu.org)