



United Nations
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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the National Focal Points
for Specially Protected Areas in the
Mediterranean
Athens, 26-30 October 1992
including joint consultation concerning
the conservation of cetaceans in the
Mediterranean and the Black sea
Athens 26-27 October 1992

Progress Report on RAC/SPA activities.

PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF
THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1991 TO JULY 1992

Supporting Organisation: Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, 15 Rue Ali Ibn Abi Taleb, Cité Jardins 1002 Tunis, Tel: (216).1.795.760, Fax:(216).1.797.349.

Numéro du projet: CP/FP/ME/CA 5101-89-02 Sub-contract 2205 and 2206

Project Title:: 2205 : Measures for Protection of Common Mediterranean Heritage
2206 : Pilot Project on Coastal Zone Management.

I. Implementation of the Agreement between the Tunisian government and the United Nation Programme for Environment related to the Regional Activity Centre For Specially Protected Areas (dated 29th of April 1991).

All the engagements taken by the host country have been fulfilled:

- Appointment of a full time Director.
- Opening of a foreign exchange account.
- Availability of adequate premises.

II. Contribution of the host Country:

In addition, and within counterpart contribution of the host country, there are:

- An expert in Marine Biology.
- Maintenance and guarding personnel.
- A financial Officer.(in hand)

III. Personnel working on the Project

- * Director of the Center Mr. Mohamed SAIED.
- * Tunisian Expert Mr.Chedly RAIS, Marine Biologist
- * International Expert Mr.Marco BARBIERI Marine Biologist.
- * Data Researcher Mme.Yousser ACHICH.
- * Administrative Officer (recrutement in hand).
- * Bilingual Secretary Mme.Fairouz BENIHABET.
- * Driver, Clerk Mr. Hédi SAYEH.
- * Finance Assistant (recrutement in hand).
- * Cleaning (Société GST).
- * Caretaking (Société GPI).

IV LOCALS

The Centre has moved to a new building (located at 15 Rue Ali Ibn Abi Taleb, Cité Jardins 1002 Tunis, Tel: (216).1.795.760, Fax:(216).1.797.349), not too far from the administrative buildings related to the Environment (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, ANPE). The building has three levels and is composed of 8 offices, a large meeting room and a storage room.

V NON EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT:

The Centre is still equipped with WANG computer equipment, non compatible with the other centres of PAM . In addition, this equipment is becoming under dimentionned. The center is now ordering new computer equipment: Consultation with the computer operations officer of MEDU and with local suppliers.

VI STATUS OF ACTIVITIES PROGRESS

VI.1 ASSIST COUNTRIES IN THEIR ENDEAVOUR TO PROMOTE ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO THE CREATION, MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS AND NOTIFICATION WITH INFORMATION RELATING TO PROTECTED AREAS WITH BIOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL INTERESTS:

This activity is developed in conformity with Article 3 and 4 of the Protocole SPA and with point 17(h) of the GENOA Declaration.

* According to the work done in 1989 proposing 55 sites to be created, the Centre has charged the UICN to review this question and the related activities realized by the Mediterranean countries.

* Several activities have been developed by countries: Turkey has created 9 new sites; Italy is mentionning many sites to be protected in the future and has created 4 new sites. Morrocco, Cyprus and Malta have a new site each. All these sites have already been notified to the coordinating Unit.

*Certain countries are looking forward either to creating new protected areas or to improving their management, example: Tunisia (National Park of Zembra-Zembretta (coop.UNDP) and Algeria (National Park of El Kala (coop. World Bank).

* Concerning management, the Center has been closly in touch with the preparation of the MEDWET forum for the management of humid zones and has participated at the MAB UNESCO meeting on the Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean (Oct 91). The Center has also organized in collaboration with MEDPAN a visit of training and information to a group of South countries of the Mediterranean in French Parks: Port Cros, Camargue and Cévennes.

* The notification and the transmission of information related to Protected Areas have been undertaken for the preperation of a second edition of the Directory of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region - Part I: Sites of Biological and Ecological Value, containing in its provisional version 124 sites instead of the 74 initially created (conforming with point 17(h) of the GENOA declaration).

VI.2 ASSIST COUNTRIES IN THEIR ENDEAVOUR TO PROMOTE ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO THE SELECTION, CREATION, MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS AND NOTIFICATION WITH INFORMATION RELATING TO PROTECTED AREAS WITH SCIENTIFIC, AESTHETIC, HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL OR EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS:

This activity has been developed according to Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocole SPA and to the point 17(g) of the GENOA Declaration. Within this activity, the Centre has developed or has participated in the following actions:

- Definition of the respective responsibilities of the SPA Centre, the PAP/RAC Centre and of the Atelier du Patrimoine de Marseille (100 historical sites) relating to this activity.
- Participation to the 2nd Meeting of responsables for the 100 Mediterranean historical sites (Thessalonique , June 1992).
- Preparation of the second part of the Directory on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas with Scientific, Aesthetic, Historical, Archaeological, Cultural or Educational interests. One action has started in cooperation with UICN dealing with definitions of sites and descriptive data sheets that could be included in the Directory.
- A case-study on the Zone of Carthage in Tunisia is in progress.

VI.3 ASSIST THE COUNTRIES TO RECORD AND ANALYSE THE LEGISLATIONS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOLE SPA:

- The Centre has initiated an action on this subject since 1987, in collaboration with UICN (Environmental Law Centre) which conduct to the production of a Directory of Environmental Legislations (Provisional Version). All These documents have been transmitted to countries, in particular their part of Directory and questionnaires for additional information and complementary texts.
- Also, an analytical synthesis of the Legislation (issued in december 1991, in French and in English) is in progress of translation in Arabic.
- In addition, a census of texts concerning the marine species in the Legislation of the Mediterranean countries is in progress in order to conduct an analysis on the efficiency of the SPA Protocole.
- Finally, all these documents were prepared and updated while preparing the Expert Meeting on Legislation due in 1993 and which has for subject Necessary legislations for the implementation of the Protocole and the possibilities of increasing the efficiency of the SPA Protocole. (article 17).

VI.4 ASSIST THE COUNTRIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION OF SPECIES.

VI.4.1 Assist the countries in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Turtles:

- (a) Research: several projects of research or of assistance to research are reviewed or in hand of preparation by the Centre.
 - Study of the potential nesting beaches (Tunisia, Libya, Egypte, Syria)
 - Study of the status of the marine turtles, their growth population and their interaction with fishing.
 - Technical assistance for tagging campaigns of marine turtles by supplying pliers and tags.
- (b) Training: Two actions were undertaken by the Centre.
 - Taking in charge of three Mediterranean participants for a training course in Cyprus (July and August 1992)
 - Preliminary contact with the Greek Authorities for carrying out a second training course in Greece.

(c) Information: Preparation of a Manual of marine turtles nesting beaches for Managers.

(d) Contacts with other organizations relating to marine turtles.
The Coordinating Unit has transmitted to the Centre information on MEDASSET concerning its activities in Syria and in Egypt.

(e) Legislation: The Centre has charged the UICN to realize a synthesis of appropriate legislation in the Mediterranean for marine turtles.

VI.4.2 Assist countries in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Management of Monk seal in the Mediterranean:

The Centre has followed with interest the activities developed in certain countries in this field, notably:

- Turkey which adopted a national strategy for these species, created a national committee and developed pilot projects such as in Foca.

-The protection or better management of sites suitable for monk seals in process of implementation in Zembra -Tunisia, Al Hoceima -Morocco and Sporades-Greece.

-The Centre has conducted:

- . A study on the feasibility and the necessity of a programme of artificial breeding in captivity for the monk seal.
- . An analysis of legislation applicable in the Mediterranean for the monk seal.
- . The Centre has started a project of information documents and an awareness document on the monk seal with the National Park of Port Cros.
- . Finally, managers of South Mediterranean Protected Areas have visited and got informed about the Centre of care for monk seal of the National Park of Port Cros located within the Marineland of Antibes.

VI.4.3 Assistance to countries for the implementation of the Action Plan for Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean:

This Action Plan adopted by the contracting Parties in Cairo must be further elaborated in its implementation in the NFP meeting anticipated from the 26th to the 30th of October 1992 in Athenes, which include a consulting joint meeting of Barcelona Conventions, of Berne and Bonn.

VI.4.4 Assistance to countries in the protection of other species and marine vegetal species:

The Centre has developed certain actions on marine vegetation in the Mediterranean, such as:

- The realisation of the first session of a training course on marine vegetation in the Mediterranean (Tunis , July 6-11).
- A preliminary thought on the species introduced naturally or accidentally in the Mediterranean.
- Synthesis of the Legislations related to marine vegetation in the Mediterranean.

Other species can be subject of study within the activities of the Centre, on the request of countries.

VI.5 TRAINING

The training actions developed for the Centre were described in each of the paragraphs of Chapter VI.4.

To summarize, the Centre organize and sponsorize three actions of training:

- * Course on Marine turtles in Cyprus.
- * Course on Marine vegetation in Tunis
- * Course on the management of protected species in France (Port Cros, Camargue, Cevennes) with the cooperation of the MEDPAN Secretariat.

The Centre is also in progress of establishing a cooperation concerning training:

- * A financial assistance was requested from the French Authorities to help financing different courses of training.
- * A cooperation with MEDPAN for the establishment of a directory of training courses relating Coastal Protected Areas. A provisional Version of MEDPAN is going to be transmitted to the Focal Points of countries to be completed and published.

VI.6 COASTAL AREAS MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME:

The general strategy of CAMPS is reexamined by the Coordinating Unit with the cooperation of all the PAM components.

The activities concerning the CAMPS, developed by the Centre from January to June 1992 are the following:

- Rhodes activation of an expert for the Valley of Papillons.
- Kastela nothing
- Syrie nothing
- Izmir nothing
- Fuka Preparation of programme documents.
- Sfax Preliminary contacts MEDU-Tunisie in collaboration with the Centre.

VI.7 INFORMATION and AWARENESS

Within this activity, the Centre has realized or undertaken:

- The translation of the Directory I in Arabic,
- The translation of the Analytical Study of Legislation in Arabic (in hand),
- A report on the marine vegetation species introduced in the Mediterranean
- Action support for ALECSO, for the environmental specialized institutions in the Mediterranean Arab world..
- A manual for managers of marine turtles nesting beaches in the Mediterranean
- The preparation of a technical document of awareness about the Monk Seal in the Mediterranean.

VI.8 COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

The Centre has made contacts to look for cooperation and international assistance in a first phase with the following countries:

France, Greece, Spain and Italy.

France replied positively and actions are in progress of study according to two major possibilities:

- possibility of assistance of a voluntary person of the National service;
- possibility of additional financing of training actions.