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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME IN 1985

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I BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Dubrovnik, 28 Feb. - 4 March 1983) approved the workplan and budget of the Priority Actions Programme for the 1983-1985 period (UNEP/IG.43 Annex V).
2. A joint meeting of the UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan and PAP/RAC was held on 19-21 November 1983 wherein a draft umbrella project document for the 1984-1985 PAP activities was produced, and at the end of December 1983 approved by UNEP/MTF. *and
not*
3. The Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Athens, 10-13 April 1984) approved the recommendations relative to PAP (UNEP/IG.49/5, page 15) as well as the 1984-1985 budget (UNEP/IG.49/5 Annex VII).
4. The Joint Meeting of National Focal Points for the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme held in Athens on 6-9 May 1985 discussed and took note of the report on the implementation of PAP in 1984 and in the first months of 1985 (UNEP/WG.129/8).

II IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME IN 1985

1. Introduction

In 1985 the PAP intensified and further developed the activities initiated in 1983 and 1984, and launched the remaining ones envisaged by the 1984-1985 workplan and project document. The following was achieved:

(a) The priority actions initiated in 1984 became fully-fledged projects yielding first concrete and usable outputs.

(b) New projects (Soil Protection, Solid and Liquid Waste Management, Tourism Harmonized with the Environment) and specific activities (Environmental Impact Assessment, and Coast-Hinterland Interrelations) were launched.

(c) PAP activities were harmonized with other components of MAP (primarily with the Blue Plan, MEDPOL, and the activities related to the implementation of the LBSP Protocol) as well as with specialized agencies and organizations of the UN system (WHO/EURO, UNDRO, UNCHS, ICCRDM, ICOMOS, FAO and UNESCO), and several joint actions organized (with WHO/EURO, MEDRAP, UNDRO, UNCHS and ICCROM).

(d) Improved and strengthened were contacts with the National Focal Points of almost all States of the region thus increasing the number of participating countries in on-going activities.

(e) Enlarged and strengthened was the network of PAP experts and institutions which was a prerequisite for achieving the desired quality of effort and for the exchange of experience.

(f) Proposals were formulated for co-operative Mediterranean projects in the fields of aquaculture, land-use planning and emergency management in earthquake zones, and soil protection.

(g) Organized were: one conference, 2 seminars, 3 expert missions, 7 expert meetings, 4 ad hoc meetings on specific subjects, and prepared were a number of national reports, synthesis reports, and case (demonstration) studies.

Outputs of the completed activities and exercises were disseminated to all National Focal Points and to a number of interested institutions.

2. A Brief Survey of Achievements per Priority Action

(a) Directories of Mediterranean Institutions and Experts in the Fields of Human Settlements, Tourism and Soil Protection

Lists of institutions and experts were prepared and questionnaires filled in for all the countries of the region. Draft directories were submitted to the National Focal Points on the occasion of the Genoa Contracting Parties Meeting for verification. Supplements and corrections of the text were received from several countries and the final text is now being prepared for printing.

(b) Water Resources Development for Mediterranean Islands and Isolated Coastal Zones (direct participation of 8 countries)

An expert meeting held in January with the representatives of 7 Mediterranean countries and WHO/EURO reviewed and discussed the reports of the mission organized in 1984, and formulated proposals for co-operation with the participating countries in the subsequent stages of the project (Ref.Doc. 1).

Following the conclusions of the expert meeting 2 demonstration studies were produced (Italy - experience in desalination ; and France - environment and water management of small islands); 3 expert missions organized in co-operation with WHO/EURO (Spain - problems relative to re-use of water; Greece - exploration of sites for drilling and aquifers management); and a programme prepared for another 3 missions (Cyprus, Malta, Tunisia) to be carried out together with WHO/EURO in the first half of 1986 (Ref.Doc. 1a).

Also, a programme proposal for 1986-1987 was formulated and preparations for its implementation made (small islands, big islands, re-use of domestic waste water, water management and tourism).

The hitherto development of this priority action has pointed at the following:

- Water supply is and will continue to be one of the acute problems in the majority of small Mediterranean islands.
- The problems of water supply have been aggravated by the development of tourism and intensive agricultural activities (use of pesticides and fertilizers).

- The problems vary from one case to another and since all available knowledge on water supply possibilities and techniques has not been fully used the solution of water supply problems is possible only if a professional expertise and support of national authorities and relevant institutions are secured.
- The action should be focused on: (i) finding out and the best use of insular water resources; (ii) problems relative to large differences in water consumption between the tourist season and other seasons of the year; (iii) sanitary aspects of water use; (iv) re-use of water for agriculture; and (v) improvement of traditional methods of rain-harvesting.
- A rational use of specific technologies (desalination) requires particular consideration.
- Techno-economic aspects of water supply of islands from outside (mainland) sources should be studied in detail.

(c) Integrated Planning and Management of Mediterranean Coastal Zones (direct participation of 12 countries)

National reports from 9 countries and a synthesis report were prepared and an expert meeting convened in February with the participation of 7 countries (Ref.Doc. 2). The meeting reviewed the presented documents, formulated recommendations and proposed the follow-up of the action. In accordance with the recommendations of the expert meeting, terms of reference for the preparation of demonstration studies were produced and the studies commissioned (Spain - Costa Brava; France - Languedoc-Roussillon; Italy - Cinque Terre; Yugoslavia - Rijeka Bay; Greece - Amvrakikos coastal zone; Israel - Caesarea-Netanya; Tunisia - Sahel Nord). Each study was to deal with one specific subject area while all together making a substantive entity. Several of the studies were completed in 1985 and the others (for financial reasons) will be submitted to PAP/RAC at the beginning of 1986. All the demonstration studies will be presented at a seminar to be held in June 1986.

In the frame of this priority action studies on physical and development plans of several Mediterranean islands prepared by UN organizations and other institutions were fully taken account of. Also, on the occasion of various meetings and seminars consultations were made and experiences exchanged, particularly with the Blue Plan (a meeting of experts on methodology issues was jointly organized in 1984 and its results used in the subsequent activities).

Findings arrived at stressed the need for the following issues to be studied in detail:

- monitoring of the state of environment and of the cultural and historic heritage in Mediterranean coastal zones;
- inclusion of seismic risk considerations in the process of integrated planning;
- studying the trends of population influx in the coastal strip (population drain of the hinterland and nearby islands);

- undesirable impact on the environment by large cities, industries and uncontrolled tourism development;
- absence in many zones of adequate systems and management practices of liquid and solid waste collection and treatment;
- impact on sea and river water quality from industries located in river valleys;
- ribbon development along the coastline predetermining either the existing infrastructure or lack of adequate planning and control;
- erosion of soil, coastline and shallow sea bottoms;
- legal acts and their implementation;
- conflicts of interests and conflicts of competences.

Emphasized was the need for the proposed case studies to lead to the development of an uncostly and workable methodology of coastal planning. In selecting the case studies the completed projects were to be favoured.

As it was obvious that a unique methodology had not been applied in this priority domain, it was determined that a detailed discussion on the integrated approach to the coastal zones planning was needed. The seminar planned for June 1986 will be geared to deliberations on this lacking approach. It has thus been felt that the future activity should be concentrated on the work-out of an acceptable, applicable and rational methodology of integrated planning of coastal zones based on good advanced methods which are available; on testing these methods on selected small-scale projects; and on training.

(d) Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Mediterranean Historic Settlements (direct participation of 14 countries)

An expert meeting attended by participants from 6 Mediterranean countries and a seminar attended by the representatives of 12 countries, as well as of ICCROM and ICOMOS, were organized to review the completed national reports, and the synthesis report; to discuss a number of selected topics; and to propose the follow up of the action (Ref.Doc. 3 and 4).

The seminar placed special emphasis on the need for historic settlements to be approached in an integrated way respecting their population, culture, and traditional customs; for numerous small historic settlements of supposedly less important value to be rendered more attention and care; for socio-economic elements of urban degradation, inadequate use of historic cores, overpopulation, inadequate land-use, insufficient or lacking legal instruments of protection and their inadequate implementation, insufficient exchange of experiences and proper training to be thoroughly studied.

The seminar proposed the substantive framework of the case studies which would be the basis for the follow-up of the project. These case studies are: Cyprus - Nicosia, a historic settlement of mixed cultures;

France - Marseille (Panier), a historic urban quarter of the European (Mediterranean) type; Israel - Yaffo, environmental impact assessment on a medium town; Italy - Genoa (socio-economic analysis of the historic core and results of rehabilitation); Morocco - Fès, an integrated approach to a historic core of the Arab type; Spain - Malaga (the Trinidad-Perchel quarter); Tunisia - Tunis (Hafsia, a town quarter) with the emphasis on the integrated plan of rehabilitation; and Yugoslavia - the historic core of Split, an integrated plan of rehabilitation for an European (Mediterranean) town.

The seminar recommended that the following principles be respected in implementing the protection, reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in historic settlements:

- Protection of architectural heritage should be conducted through integrated socio-economic, physical and environmental planning.
- Rehabilitation and reconstruction should respect the fact that a historic settlement is an entity of which its inhabitants and their culture make the most precious part.
- The contemporary doctrine requires a respect of all historic layers including, in addition to cultural and aesthetic values, those of environmental importance as well.
- Rehabilitation and reconstruction sometimes require emphasis to be placed on particular historic layers, provided they are based on the evaluation of the area or building concerned which is the result of a detailed study of the existing state, of historic and spatial development, and of the causes of degradation.
- In the rehabilitation of historic settlements it is essential to apply the integrated approach to the architectural heritage ranging from the research and multidisciplinary study of the existing state, to the rehabilitation plans and designs wherein various methods may be decided on (conservation, restoration, recomposition, reconstruction, infills into the old tissue) following the principle which is to reflect the respect for the cultural values in the first place.
- Compatibility of the new and the old in historic settlements may be achieved if the new structures are adequately incorporated in the fabric respecting the genuine values of the environment.

Some of the proposed demonstration studies were completed in 1985 and they will be presented, together with the action programme for 1986-1987, at a seminar in April 1986.

- (e) Land-Use Planning in Earthquake Zones (direct participation of 11 countries)

National reports from 8 countries, a synthesis report and 3 demonstration studies (Algeria, Italy and Yugoslavia) were prepared and

discussed by an expert meeting and a seminar, the latter enjoying the participation of 9 countries and of the representatives of UNDR0, UNCHS and Co-ordinating Unit of MAP (Ref.Doc. 5 and 6).

The expert meeting pointed at a number of problems and issues, and recommended in particular:

- intensification of the action in seismic risk mitigation;
- initiation of a Mediterranean co-operative project to enable the exchange of experience on the seismic risk mitigation and on emergency management;
- need for organized and detailed geoseismic investigations as the basis for a sound land-use planning in earthquake zones;
- need for regionalization and microzoning methods to be the basis of planning;
- need for a critical evaluation, review and harmonization of relevant methods applied in completed projects;
- exploration of possibilities for computing the seismic conditions, modelling the possible earthquakes and forecasting their effects.

The seminar identified specific problems relative to seismic risk mitigation in the region, agreed on the thematic framework for future activities, and recommended a number of immediate activities to be undertaken, among which:

- development of conceptual framework and definition of terms;
- listing of relevant institutions and projects;
- exchange of information with a view to establishing a common data basis;
- preparation of a limited number of case studies and one synthetic case study, and arrangements for a review of the studies;
- consideration of possible initiatives in the field of technical co-operation, training and the exchange of information.

The seminar also underlined the need for a close co-operation among UNEP, UNCHS, UNDR0 and with other interested agencies and organizations which should be based on their specific expertise and capabilities.

Based on the seminar conclusions and with the approval of the Co-ordinating Unit of MAP, a joint UNDR0/UNCHS/PAP meeting was organized to formulate a project proposal for Mediterranean co-operation in the field (Ref.Doc. 7).

(f) Solid and Liquid Waste Management, Collection and Disposal
(direct participation of 12 countries)

In the first part of this priority action PAP/RAC co-organized and sponsored the Conference on the Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea held in October (approx. 100 participants). Ten lecturers of the Conference were supported by PAP/RAC. The documents of the Conference were presented in Pre-Conference Proceedings which were distributed to all National Focal Points and to a number of interested institutions (Ref.Doc. 8).

In the second part of the action national reports of 7 Mediterranean countries and a synthesis report were produced. An expert meeting wherein the representatives of 7 countries took part was organized jointly with WHO/EURO. The meeting reviewed the national reports and the synthesis report, formulated conclusions and recommendations, and proposed the follow-up of the action (Ref.Doc. 9). It stressed the following problems:

- formulation of national policies and appropriate management at all levels (national, regional, local);
- choice of appropriate technologies for the treatment and disposal of solid and liquid waste;
- treatment and disposal of industrial waste water;
- management of toxic and hazardous wastes;
- application of EIA as a necessary tool in an environmentally sound planning of waste management;
- appropriate design and siting of submarine outfalls;
- appropriate re-use of treated waste water;
- insufficient and unconfirmed monitoring of discharges into the sea and of the quality of the receiving coastal waters;
- collection, processing, disposal and recycling of urban solid waste and its impact on the environment;
- choice and standardization of equipment for liquid and solid waste collection, treatment and disposal;
- laws and by-laws which do not cover the entire domain of solid and liquid waste management;
- improper maintenance of facilities and installations;
- insufficient awareness of decision-makers, and education and training of professionals, personnel and labour;
- inadequate supervision, control and maintenance in the solid and liquid waste management;
- many installed sewage treatment plants which fail to function for the reasons such as improper design, lack of maintenance, and management negligence.

It was recommended that the problems of liquid waste should be dealt with separately from those of solid waste and that priority be given to the exchange of experience in the field of liquid waste management, particularly to issues pertaining to submarine outfalls.

This priority action has been harmonized and is carried out jointly with WHO/EURO.

(g) Promotion of Soil Protection as the Essential Component of the Environmental Protection in Mediterranean Coastal Zones
(direct participation of 13 countries)

A project outline and national reports were prepared and initial consultations with FAO made. The national reports of 10 countries and a synthesis report were reviewed by an expert meeting wherein the representatives of 8 Mediterranean countries, a representative of ACSAD (Damascus) and an observer of FAO took part.

The meeting analysed the state of art and the problems encountered in that priority field, recommended the orientation of further activities, and formulated the basics of a Mediterranean co-operative project on the protection of soils from water run-off erosion (Ref.Doc. 10).

The meeting particularly stressed the following:

- erosion phenomena as a major cause of soil degradation;
- the loss of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses as an acute problem of common importance;
- salinization, sodication and beach erosion as the problems faced by many countries of the region;
- importance of the role of forests in maintaining the ecological equilibrium.

The meeting also suggested that the earlier offered programme of the follow-up be modified to include the preparation of 5 demonstration studies on several selected topics of special interest (monitoring of erosion parameters; soil erosion due to water; salinity and sodicity problems; coastal erosion caused by sea water; causes of deforestation and remedies).

(h) Development of Tourism Harmonized with the Environment
(participation of 10 countries)

This action is lagging behind due to a late response of several Focal Points in nominating national experts. PAP/RAC prepared a project outline (Ref.Doc. 11) and terms of reference for the preparation of national reports. By the end of 1985 only 3 national reports reached the Centre but the remaining ones are expected in early 1986. The follow up of the action envisages an expert meeting and a seminar on selected subjects. This priority action has been harmonized with the timing of the Blue Plan activities.

(i) PAP-MEDRAP Co-operation on Environmental Aspects of Mediterranean Aquaculture

PAP/RAC established a fruitful co-operation with MEDRAP and with a number of Mediterranean experts in the field. The results of this co-operation are the following:

- a synthesis document entitled "Ecological, Social and Economic Aspects of Coastal Aquaculture in the Mediterranean" (Ref.Doc. 12);
- "Aquaculture and Planning of Coastal Zones in the Mediterranean - Environmental Criteria" (Ref.Doc. 13)
- a project proposal: "Definition of Ecological Criteria for the Rational Development and Protection of Aquaculture in Mediterranean Coastal Areas" (Ref.Doc. 14);
- at the invitation of the Maltese Government a PAP-MEDRAP expert mission visited the country with the task to explore into the possibilities of developing aquaculture, and to prepare corresponding proposals.

This joint exercise included several countries of the Region which were not part of MEDRAP; a network of experts was established; and in addition to a satisfactory harmonization of activities of the two programmes, PAP contributed to the Mediterranean aquaculture concept with a genuine environmental approach.

(j) Mediterranean Co-operative Network in Renewable Sources of Energy

Criteria were determined for the selection of potential pilot sites as well as for a Mediterranean solar energy centre. Following the prepared programmes, several demonstration studies were commissioned for application in pilot stations (greenhouses; solar crop drying; photovoltaic conversion of solar energy; use of solar energy for irrigation; solar architecture and its application in tourism).

These studies will be presented at a seminar envisaged in 1986.

(k) Coast-Hinterland Interrelations

It has been planned that the considerations relative to coast-hinterland interrelations be incorporated in several on-going priority actions. That is why only one internal document was prepared in 1985 and an in-depth study produced within the frame of Integrated Planning and Management of Coastal Zones.

(l) Environmental Impact Assessment

Information and background papers were prepared and an ad hoc UNEP/PAP-WHO/EURO joint meeting was organized with the participation of experts invited from 4 Mediterranean countries and the representatives of FAO and MEDU (Ref.Doc. 15).

The objectives of the meeting were to review the papers presented by invited participants, and to prepare the workplan and timetable for the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment in UNEP/PAP-WHO/EURO joint activities.

The meeting proposed that the activity start with the establishment of a network of national EIA contact points; that an analysis of problems in the field be made on the basis of a questionnaire; and that guidelines for the application of EIA in some on-going priority actions be drafted.

(a) Support to PAP

As a support to PAP activities the following was done:

- published and disseminated to approximately 350 addresses were 4 PAP Bulletins in English and French, and negotiations made for the translation and publishing of the Bulletin in Arabic (in 1986);
- in addition to regular reports submitted to MTF, the progress reports and programme proposals for the joint meeting of BP and PAP Focal Points and the Genoa Contracting Parties meeting, prepared were background and information papers for the activities in the field of EIA and Coast-Hinterland Interrelations.

3. Contacts, Participation, Outputs, Implementation Problems

(a) Contacts

PAP/RAC was maintaining intensive contacts with National Focal Points, Co-ordinating Unit of MAP, the Blue Plan and MEDPOL. Convened were 3 consultations with WHO (two of them on the occasion of some other meetings), 3 consultations with UNDR0 and UNCHS (two of them on the occasion of other meetings), and meetings with FAO, MEDRAP, ACSAD, UNESCO and WTO.

Representatives of National Focal Points from 5 countries visited the Centre and got familiar with its organization and work.

(b) Participation of the Contracting Parties in Priority Actions

The PAP programme defined for 1985 envisaged 7 actions which required direct participation of the Contracting Parties. In comparison with the situation in 1984 a marked increase of participating countries was recorded in 1985. However, there have still remained 2-3 countries with which additional contacts need to be made to secure their full involvement.

(c) Outputs

The outputs resulting from the priority actions are contained as a reference documents list in Annex I to this report.

(d) Implementation Problems

Problems related to the further implementation of the Programme are explained and contained in a separate document (UNEP/WG.143/6).

ANNEX I
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS LIST

- Ref.Doc. 1 Notes of the expert meeting on Water Resources Management for Mediterranean Islands and Isolated Coastal Areas.
- Ref.Doc. 1a Water Resources Management for Mediterranean Islands and Isolated Coastal Areas - Information on Country Missions
- Ref.Doc. 2 Notes of the expert meeting on Integrated Planning and Management of Coastal Zones.
- Ref.Doc. 3 Notes of the expert meeting on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Mediterranean Historic Settlements.
- Ref.Doc. 4 Report of the seminar on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Mediterranean Historic Settlements.
- Ref.Doc. 5 Notes of the expert meeting on Land-Use Planning in Earthquake Zones.
- Ref.Doc. 6 Report of the seminar on Land-Use Planning in Mediterranean Earthquake Zones.
- Ref.Doc. 7 Report of the working meeting of UNCHS, UNDRD and PAP representatives on a co-operative programme for seismic risk reduction in the Mediterranean Region.
- Ref.Doc. 8 Conference on the Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea - Pre-Conference Proceedings.
- Ref.Doc. 9 Notes of the joint WHO/EURO-PAP/RAC meeting on Solid and Liquid Waste Management, Collection, Treatment and Disposal in the Mediterranean.
- Ref.Doc. 10 Notes of the working meeting of experts on the priority action entitled "Promotion of Soil Protection as the Essential Component of the Environmental Protection in Mediterranean Coastal Zones".
- Ref.Doc. 11 Tourism Harmonized with the Environment - a project outline.
- Ref.Doc. 12 Ecological, Social and Economic Aspects of Coastal Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Region (a synthesis document).
- Ref.Doc. 13 Aquaculture and planning of Coastal Zones in the Mediterranean - Environmental Criteria.
- Ref.Doc. 14 Definition of Ecological Criteria for the Rational Development and Protection of Aquaculture in Mediterranean Coastal Areas (draft proposal for a joint MEDRAP/UNEP-PAP project).
- Ref.Doc. 15 Notes of the UNEP/PAP-WHO/EURO ad hoc meeting on the Environmental Impact Assessment.