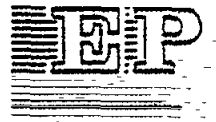




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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting on the Contribution of Mediterranean  
bilateral and multilateral programmes to the  
objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan

Madrid, 25-27 May 1987

THE CONTRIBUTION OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMMES  
TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Report of the Executive Director

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U N E P

Athens, 1987

### Introduction

1. The Fourth Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties approved the Executive Director's proposal to convene a meeting on bilateral and multilateral aid programmes in 1986, with the relevant budget provision (document UNEP/IG.56/5, Annex VIII, Chapter 2 - Meetings).
2. The present meeting is being convened in pursuance of that decision and is being hosted by the Government of Spain.
3. It should be recalled that this matter has been on the work programme of the secretariat since 1983, when a questionnaire was distributed to the Contracting Parties in order to identify the contribution of bilateral and multilateral programmes to the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan. A very limited number of replies to the questionnaire were received, on the basis of which it had not been possible to present a complete picture of the situation.
4. In 1984, at the invitation of the EEC, a meeting was held in Brussels attended by participants from Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libya, Monaco, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia and the EEC. The meeting noted that the resources of bilateral programmes were seldom used to promote the objectives of the Action Plan and made proposals for a better flow of information on the basis of an approved check-list of sixteen major items (document UNEP/WG.104/5).
5. No appreciable improvement has been apparent since that meeting, probably because the participants did not represent, nor were they connected with, the Government departments responsible for negotiating and approving technical cooperation programmes.

#### I. Mediterranean cooperation and solidarity

6. A new development has taken place with the unanimous adoption of the Genoa Declaration which identified ten specific targets to be reached by all Mediterranean Coastal states not later than the year 1995. The adoption of the Declaration by a high level meeting, attended by eleven cabinet ministers and other senior officials, constituted a renewed dedication to the objectives and spirit of the Action Plan.
7. Paragraph 4 of the Genoa Declaration states:  
"The Contracting Parties further consider that the political will and solidarity of all countries concerned are already in place and that the foundation is already established for more concrete action to protect their common heritage."
8. The critical importance of the contribution of bilateral and multilateral sources to the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan was repeatedly recognized by the Contracting Parties in the Genoa Declaration. In paragraph 9 the Contracting Parties "Decide to use the budget of the Action Plan in a catalytic way in projects with organizations willing to contribute their own resources". In paragraph 12 they "Further recognize that the support of the international, regional and non-governmental organizations is essential for the full achievement of the goals of the Mediterranean Action Plan".

9. The present meeting is intended to examine the role of bilateral and multilateral aid programmes in expressing that "solidarity" through "more concrete action" that will assist interested coastal States to achieve the ten common targets adopted at Genoa.

10. The Barcelona Convention realized fully the need for close cooperation among the States and international organizations concerned in a coordinated and comprehensive regional approach for the protection and enhancement of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea area.

11. While the common objective of protecting the Mediterranean can not be achieved without cooperation, cooperation among States having different levels of economic and scientific capacity cannot be achieved without a strong sense of solidarity. Such solidarity has been embodied in every legal instrument adopted by the Parties:

"The Contracting Parties undertake to cooperate in the provision of technical and other possible assistance in fields relating to marine pollution, with priority to be given to the special needs of developing countries in the Mediterranean region " (Convention, Article 11, 3.);

"The Parties pledge themselves to assist one another in a critical situation of an exceptional nature" (Dumping Protocol, Article 9);

"The Parties shall endeavour to maintain and promote, individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, contingency plans and means for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, including equipment, ships, aircraft and manpower, prepared for operations in cases of emergency" (Emergency Protocol, Article 3);

"The Parties shall, directly or with the assistance of competent regional or other international organizations or bilaterally, cooperate with a view to formulating and, as far as possible, implementing programmes of assistance to developing countries, particularly in the fields of science, education and technology, with a view to preventing pollution from land-based sources and its harmful effects in the marine environment. Technical assistance would include, in particular, the training of scientific and technical personnel, as well as the acquisition, utilization and production by those countries of appropriate equipment on advantageous terms to be agreed upon among the Parties concerned." (Land-based Sources Protocol, Article 10).

"The Parties shall, directly or with the assistance of competent regional or other international organizations or bilaterally, cooperate, on the entry into force of this Protocol, in formulating and implementing programmes of mutual assistance and of assistance to those developing countries which express a need for it in the selection, establishment and management of protected areas.

The programmes contemplated in the preceding paragraph should relate, in particular, to the training of scientific and technical personnel, scientific research, and the acquisition, utilization and production by those countries of appropriate equipment on advantageous terms to be agreed among the Parties concerned." (Specially Protected Areas Protocol, Article 15).

12. The General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution 41/89 adopted on 4 December 1986, while recognizing the importance of promoting peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region and of strengthening further the economic, commercial and cultural links in the region, and the necessity of intensifying these efforts, decided to encourage once again efforts to intensify existing forms and to promote new forms of co-operation in various fields in the Mediterranean region.

13. The provisions on co-operation quoted from the Convention and its related protocols, through their repetition and consistency, reflect a strong regional solidarity that is in the common interest of all the coastal States. The promise they hold can not be considered to be fulfilled by the assistance component included at the present time in the operational budget of the Mediterranean Action Plan. The provision of equipment and supplies to laboratories, the limited number of fellowships and training courses, are far from adequate in assisting developing coastal States to reach the costly targets of the Genoa Declaration.

14. The setting up of comprehensive monitoring programmes, the building of port reception facilities, of treatment plants and suitable outfalls for liquid waste, the reduction of solid waste, and especially the elimination of pollution by substances listed in Annex I, and control of pollution by substances listed in Annex II of the Land-based Sources Protocol, are targets requiring substantial commitment of funds.

15. Unless bilateral and multilateral sources are prepared to supplement the already important efforts made by the developing coastal States, the long-term objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan will not be met and the failure will affect equally developed and developing coastal States.

16. It should also be noted that the provision of technical and financial assistance often carries indirect benefits for the donor countries whenever their technology and equipment are used. It also ensures a greater compatibility of equipment and methodologies at the level of the Mediterranean basin, than would result when countries have to rely on assistance from a variety of distant donors and, above all, it will promote co-operation, peace and security.

17. It is the view of the secretariat that all sources of bilateral and multilateral aid share the Action Plan's objectives of a sustainable, environmentally sound, development. They should welcome cooperation with Mediterranean programmes which are of a high technical standard, are always developed in cooperation with the relevant Specialized Agencies of the United Nations system and for which many coastal States have officially expressed their support.

18. The following section presents the main types of activities to which assistance could be channeled. Section III will suggest modalities for cooperation.

## II. MAP-related activities and their assistance requirements

19. The following subject areas, arranged in accordance with the Mediterranean Action Plan structure, were recommended as suitable for bilateral and multilateral assistance by the meeting on cooperation mentioned in para. 4 above.

20. It is understood that co-operation can only be provided at the express request of a country and that existing channels and procedures of donor countries or agencies will be used, as appropriate.

21. Information on co-operation should be included in the annual report of the Contracting Parties to be transmitted to the secretariat in pursuance of article 20 of the Convention.

### Item 1 - Legal aspects of the protection of the marine and coastal environment

**Experts:**

to advise on drafting of national legislation and regulations to implement international agreements.

**Fellowships:**

to train legal officials in areas related to environmental law.

E.g. Expert advice provided to Morocco in connection with the drafting of Book three (Protection of the Environment) of the Maritime Code, and its relevant regulations.

### Item 2 - Monitoring and marine research

In the framework of existing National Monitoring Agreements, and in consultation with the official National Med Pol Co-ordinator:

**Experts:**

to advise on specific aspects and techniques of monitoring (sampling, laboratory work).

**Fellowships:**

for marine scientists to acquire or perfect research and monitoring abilities in order to assist countries in the discharge of their monitoring obligations.

Laboratory equipment and supplies.

**Cruise time:**

participation of foreign scientists in oceanographic cruises. Marine research vessels and equipment.

E.g. Assistance provided through the National Monitoring Agreements to participating laboratories. Such assistance is extremely limited and does not meet the full needs of an expanding network of national and local laboratories engaged in monitoring and research. Assistance in the purchase of a marine research vessel was provided to one Contracting Party by a non-Mediterranean State. Arrangements for participation of scientists in scientific cruises are generally made directly between interested laboratories.

Item 3 - Combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergencies

Experts:

to advise in cases of emergencies.

Fellowships:

to train specialists in the use of appropriate equipment.

Supplies and equipment to be placed at the disposal of developing countries at their request in case of emergency.

Naval and aerial means of intervention.

E.g. Advice is provided by the Regional Oil Combating Centre or arranged through it.

Operational intervention to salvage the ship is available through costly private companies, not on a country-to-country basis as foreseen by the Protocol on Emergencies.

Item 4 - Port reception facilities for wastes from ships

Equipment:

shore and floating reception facilities, for ballast waters and oily residues from ships.

Detailed recommendations covering 56 ports in the Mediterranean have been made by UNEP in collaboration with IMO and EEC.

E.g. A policy decision to re-fit and make operational all its fixed port reception facilities was made by Algeria in 1986.

The EEC supports and co-finances pilot projects involving floating reception facilities, following a resolution adopted by the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Genoa. Pilot projects in Rijeka, Yugoslavia, and Patras, Greece have already been approved.

Item 5 - Training in environmental management

Fellowships:

in the use of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), coastal planning, use of satellite and other remote sensing data for coastal management.

E.g. The substantive work on a simplified methodology of EIA has been carried out by the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC) in co-operation with UNEP Headquarters.

Item 6 - Data banks on the marine and coastal environment

Technical data, bibliographies and libraries on the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.

Fellowships on the use and updating of such data.

E.g. The development of a regional co-operation programme on remote sensing has been approved by the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties.

Item 7 - Public information programmes for the protection of the marine and coastal environment

Exchange of television material.  
Joint production of films on the marine and coastal environment.  
Fellowships on production techniques.

E.g. The opportunity for such exchanges is provided by the Mediterranean Environment Week, which the Contracting Parties agreed to observe annually, and by the European Year of the Environment.

Item 8- Water resource management for islands and water deficient coastal areas

Fellowships;  
Financing of water pipelines to islands.

Item 9- Regional planning of coastal areas

Fellowships.  
Co-operation in carrying out regional planning of coastal areas taking into account all the components of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

E.g. A specific aspect of coastal planning concerns the Earthquake Zones. A regional project, developed by PAP/RAC in collaboration with UNDRO, HABITAT and UNESCO, has been submitted to UNDP for financing.

Item 10- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of historic settlements

Upon the adoption of 100 historic centres of Mediterranean interest:  
co-financing of rehabilitation work;  
fellowships and experts.

E.g. The criteria and proposed list are being prepared for the secretariat by the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and will be presented to the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for approval.

Item 11- Liquid and solid waste collection and disposal in coastal towns

Fellowships on the management and maintenance of treatment plants and solid waste collection programmes.  
Co-financing (grants and loans) of liquid waste treatment plants and underwater outfalls.  
Experts on solid waste collection and disposal.

E.g. An inventory of treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities, carried out in 1985 by the Intermunicipal Secretariat for the protection of the Mediterranean, Barcelona, is available.

Item 12- Aquaculture projects

Fellowships.  
Co-financing of aquaculture projects.  
Joint ventures involving aquaculture projects.

E.g. The regional aquaculture project (MEDRAP) developed in the framework of the Action Plan has been financed by UNDP. Italy has contributed generously to its training component.

Item 13- Soil protection in coastal areas

Fellowships.  
Equipment for early warning of forest fires and fire-fighting.

Item 14- Impact of tourism on coastal areas

Fellowships.

Item 15- Renewable sources of energy

Fellowships.  
Co-financing of pilot projects on solar and wind energy.

E.g. A regional programme proposal developed by the Action Plan in co-operation with UNDP, Mediterranean national experts and a firm of consultants is available.

Item 16- Protection of marine animals and plants

Fellowships.  
Co-financing of costs for newly established marine protected areas.

E.g. The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas in Tunis is developing criteria and a list of potential protected areas in the Mediterranean.  
The Genoa Declaration requires by 1995 fifty new protected areas as well as specific programmes for Mediterranean monk seals and sea turtles.

The following additional items were included in the Genoa Declaration adopted in 1985.

Item 17- Improved safety of maritime navigation

Fellowships.  
Equipment for the establishment of traffic services centres.

E.g. The EEC is developing the pilot phase of this action (COST 301) for which the Contracting Parties expressed unanimous support in a resolution adopted at Genoa.



Item 18- Prevention of soil loss and desertification

Co-financing of programmes.

Item 19- Reduction of industrial pollution

Transfer of technology.

Co-financing of measures required by the implementation of the Land-based Sources Protocol.

Item 20- Reduction of air pollution

Transfer of technology.

Co-financing measures for reduction of air pollution in densely populated coastal cities.

### III. Modalities of Cooperation

22. As indicated earlier, the channels and procedures of donor agencies should be followed in obtaining assistance for specific projects. It should be recognized that while co-operation and the rational use of resources are ideals to which all programmes subscribe, the difficulties of co-financing should not be underestimated. Differences in approval cycles, review procedures, formats of presentation and short-term priorities may constitute formidable obstacles that require considerable goodwill, flexibility and open-mindedness if they are to be overcome.

23. The difficulties mentioned in the previous paragraph would not apply to most projects of the type identified in the present paper, as they would be sufficiently small to be financed by a single donor with co-financing possibly limited to investment projects.

24. Donor agencies should have regular access to projects developed through the Mediterranean Action Plan mechanisms and be willing to examine them sympathetically. They should inform the secretariat of their basic requirements in project design and presentation, and conditions for co-financing.

25. Interested countries should establish regular communications between their departments responsible for marine protection and coastal development and those responsible for negotiation of bilateral and multilateral co-operation, so as to ensure that projects selected are those that contribute the most to the country's long-term development.

26. UNEP and the Mediterranean Co-ordinating Unit could also play a more active role in resource mobilization on most deserving projects, for example those identified by the Contracting Parties. National projects of particular significance for the country should not be excluded, particularly if they have demonstration effects for others or potential to be regionalized.

27. The flow of information on existing co-financing can greatly assist the flow of financing. Non-governmental organizations can provide qualified personnel and applicable experience in many of the areas identified in section II above. Several industrial sectors that are responding to the challenges of low and non-polluting technologies should be encouraged to participate in several of the areas identified above.

28. UNEP operates from Headquarters a Clearing House for technical co-operation projects. It can assist a requesting country or a group of countries in projects identification and in resource mobilization from bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental sources.

Proposed Action

29. With the approval of the Contracting Parties the secretariat should prepare an annual list of regional and multi-national projects in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan which require support, and circulate it, through the UNEP Clearing House, to multilateral and bilateral donor agencies.

30. The National Focal Points should transmit annually to their national departments responsible for co-ordination of bilateral and multilateral co-operation, national projects for which outside assistance may be sought, and may contact the UNEP Clearing House through the secretariat for additional assistance in project identification or negotiation with aid sources.

31. The National Focal Points should include information on assistance provided or received for activities under A and B above, in the Annual Report prepared for the secretariat pursuant to article 20 of the Convention.