



MEDWAVES

MAP CO-ORDINATING UNIT • NEWS BULLETIN • JULY - AUGUST 1985 • ISSUE No 1

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN 1975 - 1985 People's vote of Confidence

IN THE late '60's and early '70's people in the industrialized world lived in a climate of soaring environmental crisis. The shock of Minamata Bay poisoning disaster in Japan had not yet been absorbed in social consciousness when the Torrey Canyon catastrophe hit marine life in the coasts of South Britain and North of France with 200,000 tons of crude oil. Besides, newspapers around the world reported, day after day, industrial accidents, wreckages of oil tankers, heavy pollution of beaches, dumping of oil and toxic wastes in the seas, dead fish washed ashore and other environmental incidents.

It was then (June 1972), that the United Nations World Conference on Human Environment was held in Stockholm; and later in the same year the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was given birth by the United Nations General Assembly, following the recommendations of Stockholm Conference.

Among the very first decisions reached by UNEP's Governing Council (1973) - endorsing a regional approach to the control of marine pollution and management of marine and coastal resources - were those recognising that «... priority should be given to regional activities, with the possible establishment of programme activity centres in the Mediterranean...» and «...the Programme should encourage and support the preparation of regional agreements or conventions on the protection of specific bodies of water from pollution, particularly from land-based sources. High priority should be given to supporting activities to protect living resources and prevent pollution in the Mediterranean».

After almost two years of intense preparatory activities, UNEP convened in Barcelona the first of a series of Inter-governmental Meetings of the Mediterranean Coastal States. 16 out of 18 coastal states attended and wide interest was aroused. It approved an ambitious and comprehensive plan, now known as the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The MAP was developed by UNEP in collaboration with the Governments of the region and the relevant United Nations Specialized Agencies.

Today, the year 1985 not only marks the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the Mediterranean Action Plan in Barcelona; it also provides the factual evidence that MAP has proved a workable and well tuned instrument directing all the concerted efforts being made by the Mediterranean Coastal States to protect their marine environment. And even more, it reminds all peoples of the region, in a most meaningful manner, that MAP is an act of understanding between nations, which beyond any political differences, have agreed to protect a common resource and heritage.

In the days when the Mediterraneans used to ask in fear and anxiety whether their common sea was already dead or if it is was dying of pollution, MAP was practically their only password to some answers of hope; and they believed in it and trusted it ever since.

Today MAP is a Plan of concerted action aged in years of progress. Product of a human mechanism, structurally strong and scientifically mature it has, above all, become a commonly shared valuable source of newly developed marine knowledge, indispensable for the protection of life

in the Mediterranean Sea.

The mere fact that Mediterranean peoples and the over two hundred millions of tourists visiting the coasts of Mediterranean basin every year do not ask any more whether the Mediterranean is dead or dying of heavy pollution but want to know «how is the state of its health this year» indicates clearly that the MAP human mechanism that stretches its activities from one end of the Mediterranean to the other has honoured the vote of confidence the Mediterraneans have bestowed upon it for ten years now. ■

... When several countries share a common resource on which their lives are largely dependent, and which is at risk, they eventually come to understand that each one of them cannot handle such a problem alone, at the national level. In this case they realize that what-ever they do to protect their common area - a common lagoon, a common sea - will be of no use unless their neighbours next door are taking similar corrective action...

Mostafa Kamal Tolba

MAP 1985

Stop-over to a Promising Future

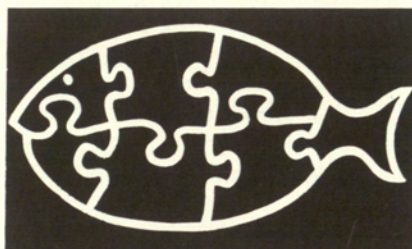
In his recollections of MAP's ten years of toilsome march through uphill and narrow administrative, scientific, political and financial passages, Mr. Aldo Manos, MAP Co-ordinator, throws some light of optimism beyond the ecological threshold on which human health, recreation and economic life in the Mediterranean region finds itself today.

LOOKING back at the point where Mediterranean Action Plan has started from we must be very impressed with the progress made all these years. Ten years ago, among the Mediterranean coastal states, there was no experience in combating pollution, there were no precedents, there was no tradition of getting together, meeting, talking to each other, working together. So they started, literally from zero. Therefore what has been achieved, what the countries have been able to build in these past ten years is quite remarkable. First of all, the countries have committed themselves to the Barcelona Convention in an open-ended way. Not just to get together, do a small job and then disperse again. The Barcelona Convention is an agreement among the Mediterranean coastal states to work together for a very long time; and they do it; and they have been constructive ever since.

The question - what the public wants to know - is whether there are any tangible achievements reflecting this constructive co-operation among the Mediterranean countries. The answer is «definitely Yes, there are». It is, first, the structure the contracting countries have built so that the Mediterranean Action Plan can operate. It is, second, the open and frank manner in which they discuss common difficulties and problems.

We must not forget that ten years ago there was no institution belonging to Mediterranean states alone. Today the Mediterranean countries have built a network of Mediterranean centres with a central point of reference, the MAP Co-ordinating Unit in Athens - a large office clearly identified, and Centres for specialized work.: in Sophia Antipolis, housing the Blue Plan, in Split, the centre for the Priority Actions Programme, in Malta, the Regional Oil Combating Centre, and the recently established Centre in Tunisia for Specially Protected Areas which added in the MAP, for the first time, the dimension of nature conservation.

What is may be more important in this



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN 1975 - 1985

is that co-operation has been very open. Countries do not only speak of their achievements, which is very easy. They have also spoken quite frankly, quite openly, about their problems, their difficulties, their mistakes; this experience is difficult to obtain from countries. They say openly «You, other countries, please do not copy us, please learn from our mistakes, we have lost millions of dollars in this project, don't do the same things. Let us try and find a better way together».



This openness in discussing problems is really a sign of high degree of maturity.

As for the actual health of the Mediterranean Sea a question which is waiting for an answer for some time now, it can be stressed that there have been published assessments, based on available data, on microbial pollution, on mercury pollution and on petroleum hydrocarbon pollution in the Mediterranean sea. The situation with regard to microbial

pollution is not very bright. We know that many cities are throwing their sewage straight into the sea without any form of treatment or without any form of dispersion or dilution. So the picture cannot be very bright there. The same holds true also for the liquid wastes of industrial areas.

Besides, all these years the Mediterranean continued to grow. Today there are more tourists than ten years ago. That is a fact. There is a larger population than ten years ago. Population in the Mediterranean basin is growing. There is also a movement of population towards the coastal areas in many countries. And we should not forget that as time passes the problem we are dealing with becomes bigger and bigger.

It is true that MAP is getting stronger and better equipped with mechanisms that ten years ago did not exist.

However, very large urban areas, Megalopolises, are growing around the Mediterranean coast. And it is known that pollution is concentrated near large cities, near large industrial areas. And it is also known that population which needs to use the beaches is also concentrated near the same areas in the cities and near large industrial areas. So it is not surprising that one third of the beaches in the Mediterranean that have been analysed do not meet safety standards. And this is a very sad situation. We cannot accept this situation. Governments should not accept this situation and people should not accept it too. Because the Mediterranean is our main hope for recreation and better living now and for the future. However, for this type of problems the technology is known; there is no secret, there is nothing man cannot do. It is a problem of deciding to do it, of finding funds, and then do it. It can be done. It will be done. We have witnessed the commitment of coastal states to achieve a better future for their peoples.

The keyword is co-operation. Co-operation in every aspect of human endeavour in the Mediterranean. ■

The 4th Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention

AS IT was decided at the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention held in Dubrovnik in March 1983, the 4th Ordinary Meeting will be held in Genoa, Italy, from 9 to 13 September 1985. The Extraordinary meeting held in Athens in April 1984 recommended unanimously that participation in this meeting should be at the ministerial level.

The year 1985 marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Mediterranean Action Plan in Barcelona and offers a good opportunity to the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties to reaffirm their political will to protect and enhance the Mediterranean sea through their co-operation.

The implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan has made further progress since last year. The Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas has been established in Tunis, the PAP Centre, in Split has developed a full range of activities, monitoring and research is progressing in all coastal states. The representatives of the 18 Contracting Parties (17 Mediterranean states and the EEC) will, thus, have in Genoa the opportunity to make a general factual assessment of the state of the Mediterranean Sea, based on the information available through the MED POL pilot phase and other sources; they will also proceed to an evaluation of the progress achieved towards the goals set in the Action Plan and they will outline the objectives to be achieved in the next 6 to 8 years. □

Joint Meeting of National Focal Points for the Blue Plan and Priority Actions Programme

PROGRESS made by the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme was reviewed at the meeting which was held in Athens in 6-9 May 1985 and was attended by experts designated by thirteen Mediterranean countries and the EEC.

The Blue Plan and the Priority Action Programme are the two constituents of one of the four components of the Mediterranean Action Plan termed «Integrated Planning and Development».

For the Blue Plan - the Regional Activity Centre of which is located in Sophia

Antipolis, France - there were discussed the activities leading to the preparation of scenarios for the development of the Mediterranean basin up to the year 2025.

Progress in developing several priority actions such as development of aquaculture, water resources, integrated planning and management of coastal zones, rehabilitation and reconstruction of historic settlements, land-use planning in earthquake zones, etc., were reviewed.

The recommendations of the meeting, which endorsed the programmes and budgets for 1986 and 1987 will be submitted to the 4th Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which is to be held in Genoa next September. □

UNIC Directors meet on the Mediterranean Action Plan

THE directors of the United Nations Information Centres met to discuss the ways and means by which they could publicize the objectives and results of the Mediterranean Action Plan as well as the role of the United Nations System in the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution.

In the meeting which was organised in co-operation with the United Nations Department of Public Information and was held at the headquarters of the Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan in Athens from 23 to 25 April 1985, the UNIC directors were briefed on various MAP activity areas such as the MED POL programme, the Regional Oil Combating Centres activities, the Blue Plan, the Priority Actions Programme, the Specially Protected Areas as well as on the role of the United Nations Specialized Agencies.

During the meeting the MAP Co-ordinator had the opportunity to stress the importance of MAP to the Mediterranean community and underlined the international co-operation and the inter-agency co-ordination that had characterized this major UNEP effort. He invited the participants to advise the Secretariat on ways and means to publicize the MAP objectives, activities and results.

The UNIC directors recognized the need for an adequate action in the field of information in order to publicize the information gathered and the results achieved to secure the support of decision-makers and to mobilize public opinion in further support of goals. They also stressed the need for strengthening contacts with non-governmental organizations in order to enlist their active participation in support of the programme. □

ASPECTS



The First Step

THE protection of environment is primarily an ethical issue and as such is accepted by the great public of all countries. Generally recognised as an inspiring goal promising a better and healthier life and a sustained use of natural resources for the benefit of all peoples, it hardly influences the behaviour of the persons living within an enclosed area like the Mediterranean, who contribute daily to its pollution and by some activities affect - negatively or positively - their own living conditions and that of others.

In the case of the Mediterranean Region the Action Plan has been conceived to help minimize the negative effects and maximize the positive ones. The Secretariat of MAP has been convinced that every person living permanently or staying temporarily in the Mediterranean should be informed, through public information programmes, of the concerted efforts made by the Governments, through MAP in this area, in order to be able to personally contribute to them and become conscious of the direct and indirect effects of his or her action or indifference.

The main objectives of a MAP public information strategy should develop and encourage public acceptance and understanding of basic environmental ideas and conservation principles and support policies and programmes that promote MAP's environmentally sound development goals.

These are not mere academic communication concepts; these are a basic constituent and major task for the Mediterranean Action Plan - the UNEP's «senior» Regional Seas Programme; and the MAP Secretariat recognizes the great value of public information and sees clearly the importance of keeping all target groups, in all coastal states, well informed of its problems, efforts and achievements in the process of implementing the task it has been entrusted with: to fulfill the catalytic role of assisting the Mediterranean coastal states in a consistent manner, to protect their common sea, their common resource of life, their common cultural heritage.

The publication now of the MEDWAVES informal news bulletin, is only the first step towards the implementation of a comprehensive public information programme.

The Editor



THE BLUE PLAN

A scientific exercise oriented to give answers and proposals on long term perspectives, problems and solutions to be applied in the socio-economic development of the Mediterranean region with a time horizon to the years 2000 - 2025.

SITUATED at the outskirts of Antibes, 5 kms from the Mediterranean French Coast, in a government owned campus known as «the city of the Future» Sophia Antipolis houses the Regional Activity Centre for the BLUE PLAN which is one of the basic elements of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

The Mediterranean coastal states having officially expressed their will to tackle the pollution of their common sea and to protect its marine resources for a sustainable use of them, they realised that they can do so only if they observe three conditions:

1. Anticipate the future by taking a long - term look at the situation with a horizon of one or several generations.
2. Trace pollution back to its source and examine all the components of economic and social development so as to determine an efficient growth policy close to «ecodevelopment».
3. Broaden the study to the geographical hinterland to take in all that makes up the Mediterranean basin and Mediterranean civilization.

In more general terms, the Blue Plan can be defined as a package of surveys and studies which examine the most important socio - economic factors within the Mediterranean region, their interrelationships and their role in shaping the future of the Mediterranean.

These are to be combined and presented in various environmentally minded development scenarios from which it will be possible to select those that seem most appropriate at a given time for a particular place. A horizon of fifty years, to the year 2025, is contemplated.

The fundamental objective of the Blue Plan is to initiate a continuous process of concerted co-operation among Contracting Parties in the area of economic and environmental planning. As a result of this co-operation it will be in the position to place at the disposal of national decision-makers and planners in-



formation and development alternatives which will assist them to formulate plans for optimum socio-economic development on a sustainable basis without environmental degradation of regional resources.

In consequence, the Blue Plan is structured along three main lines of approach:

1. It is formulated as a prospective study: it examines and attempts to perceive the future in the light of potentialities of the present. At the same time it tries to incorporate possible changes in existing situation by using «if - then» scenarios, hypothetical but likely to occur;
2. It is a comprehensive study: it examines the different components of development not in isolation but as part of a general system. It does so by investigating interrelationships and bringing them into play through systems analysis. Corrective actions in one field can, thus, be analysed as to their repercussions in another.
3. It is an action-oriented study; it attempts to perceive the future not as it will be, but as it could be if the right decisions are taken at the right time.

In order to enable Mediterranean Governments to direct and orient the co-

urse of work on the Blue Plan, according to their needs, it has been decided to carry it out in three phases:

- **The First Phase** was devoted to the improvement of knowledge of the present situation: reconnaissance and information gathering, identification of major trends, and possible priority action. Work was divided into twelve study areas: Water, energy, health and population movements, space use and urbanisation, industry, tourism, land-marine systems, transport, intra-mediterranean relations, extra-mediterranean influences, cultural heritage and environmental awareness.
- **The Second Phase** will study, through systems analysis, the possibilities of development linked with environmental protection and will elaborate alternative scenarios accordingly.
- **The Third Phase** should be a synthesis of the whole exercise and provide decision - makers with insights on the general and sectoral prospects in the Mediterranean area.

The first phase of the Blue Plan started officially in September 1980 and was concluded in January 1984, with quite important results. They contain a host of information which justify the effort and the expense. A computerized information system and data bank was developed and it is available for Phase II.

But what can be thought as a good success of Blue Plan's Phase I is the involvement in it of a great number of scientists (150 for the launching, another 250 for the confrontation seminars alone) from all countries who were thus confronted with a holistic approach to Mediterranean interrelationships.

Today Blue Plan's Phase II is examining the environment - development relationships prevailing within the Mediterranean region through a system analysis approach. ■

PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME

A plan to promote specific actions on selected priority fields of particular importance to Mediterranean countries. Protection of soil, Management of Water Resources, Human Settlements, Tourism, Aquaculture and Renewable sources of Energy.

ONE of the four components of the Mediterranean Action Plan - approved in Barcelona, early in 1975 - was the «Integrated Planning and Development». It was anticipated, then, that the multitude of present and planned human activities around the Mediterranean - where the population was expected to double by the year 2000 - would have degrading impact on the quality of the environment.

Early in 1977 representatives of Mediterranean countries met in the lively medieval town of Split in Yugoslavia, and approved a three-phase Blue Plan Programme, to operate at the research and planning level in order to produce answers and proposals on long-term perspectives of the socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region at a time depth of 50 years.

At the same time, they also approved a Priority Actions Programme to carry out specific work in fields of particular importance for Mediterranean countries; it had been already found that enough elements existed to initiate priority action in a number of fields in which opportunities for development through such a direct practical approach were immediately desirable.

The main steps in the process of implementing the Split decision on the Priority Actions Programme were, first, to make an appraisal of possibilities in the Mediterranean and of problems in each subject area, second, to make proposals for projects covering determined aspects of development, and third, to proceed with the establishment of a network of focal points in Mediterranean countries for information exchange, demonstration purposes, training etc.

Being conceived as a tool in environmental management, the Priority Actions Programme was defined as a programme of practical and concrete activities in fields in which direct opportunities for



development were obvious and possible; fields which were particularly suitable for co-operation among Mediterranean countries on technical level, in view of fruitful exchange of experience and transfer of know-how.

Several areas of direct interest to Mediterranean coastal states were investigated and the following were proposed as priority fields:

- Protection of Soil,
- Management of water resources,
- Marine living resources: Management of fisheries and aquaculture
- Human settlements
- Tourism
- Soft technologies for energy including solar energy

Located within the Town Planning Institute of Dalmatia in Split and supported by the Yugoslavian Government - the Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Actions Programme has now overcome with success all difficulties which are

normally associated with start-up phases, while the work has gone a long way since February 1977.

Today the results of the activities initiated and / or launched in earlier years and in 1984 are tangible. For instance in the fields of Water Resources Development for Mediterranean islands and isolated coastal areas, Integrated Planning and Management of Coastal Zones, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Mediterranean Historic Settlements and Land-use Planning in Earthquake Zones national reports of participating countries were completed, synthesis of national reports prepared, working meetings of experts convened, reports of these meetings are completed and disseminated, the content and structure of case studies have been determined, proposals for possible assistance to the states of the Mediterranean region were formulated and two seminars were prepared on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Historic Settlements and on Land-use planning in Earthquake Zones. Besides, preparatory work has been completed for two projects on Promotion of Soil Protection of Mediterranean Coastal Zones; and one project was launched on Development of Mediterranean Tourism Harmonized with Environment.

So, these are a few among a large number of similar activities - preparatory work for projects to be launched, co-operation contacts, documentation, training, dissemination of scientific information to all participating countries, and the like - that make the Priority Actions Programme a tool of environmental management in the hands of competent authorities of Mediterranean States in planning their short-term use and development of resources. Besides, the Priority Actions Programme in Split feeds, on a regular basis, the Blue Plan with information useful and necessary for its long-term planning of socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region. ■



Barcelona Convention

THE Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, with its related protocols, is the main legal document binding the Mediterranean coastal states and the European Community in their joint effort to «prevent, abate and combat pollution on the Mediterranean Sea Area». These documents were opened for signature by the Mediterranean coastal states and EEC in Barcelona, in February 1976.

The actual starting point of this remarkable legal precedent of regional co-operation must be traced back in Rome in February and May 1974, where the FAO meetings of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean were held for an intergovernmental consultation on the protection of living resources and fisheries of the Mediterranean from pollution.

Some «guidelines» approved during those meetings appear today in the Barcelona Convention in the form of provisions.

Following the FAO meetings in Rome the Mediterranean countries and UNEP, in co-operation with FAO and other specialized international organizations, continued a preparatory work, drafting up some necessary international instruments.

But the real step towards the drafting of legal, scientific and technical instruments was made in Barcelona in early 1975, when UNEP convened an intergovernmental meeting. The-



re, scientific and legal committees working on a parallel basis examined and elaborated the specific convention instruments.

A year later, when a tremendous load of hard work had been completed by groups of experts, UNEP convened in Barcelona a conference of plenipotentiaries from Mediterranean coastal states to sign the legal instruments the experts had already elaborated: a Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against

Pollution; a Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft; and a Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances, in Cases of Emergency.

Today that all states bordering the Mediterranean (except Albania) and the EEC are Contracting Parties, the co-

vention appears a very complete agreement covering all types of pollution from practically all sources and practically all pathways of pollutants into the sea. The unanimous acceptance of the Convention formulation implies that all Contracting Parties are making considerable efforts to abide by it. It can be said that the Convention has provided a common formula for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea that is respected by all states bordering it.

Following provisions in the main body of the Convention, protocols have been adopted to cover abatement of pollution from various sources:

The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircrafts was adopted in Barcelona simultaneously with the Convention and came into force on February 12, 1978. It has now

been ratified by all Contracting Parties.

The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency — the Emergency Protocol as it is widely known — was also adopted in Barcelona simultaneously with the Convention and came into force on February 12, 1975 being ratified by all Contracting Parties.

The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources was adopted and signed in Athens on May 1980. It entered into force on June 17, 1983. In its basic provisions it is one of the strictest international agreements of similar content, requiring Contracting Parties to eliminate pollution from toxic and harmful substances enumerated in a very exhaustive «black list». Contracting Parties undertake also to strictly limit pollution from substances and sources contained in an equally exhaustive «grey list».

The Protocol on Specially Protected Areas was adopted and signed in Geneva on April 3, 1982 and has not yet entered into force. In its basic provisions it is one of the most comprehensive international agreements, of its kind, although of source it is only binding insofar as Contracting Parties wish to designate Specially Protected Areas. In contrast with the Convention these may include inland waters, wetlands and coastal areas. ■

The following documents have been published recently and are available at request:

Microbiological Methods for Coastal Water Quality Monitoring

Report published under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organisation.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, 1985, Original in French.

Les Methodes Microbiologiques de Surveillance de la Qualité des Eaux Côtières

Deuxieme rapport publié sous l'égide conjointe du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement et l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé.

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE, Bureau Régional de l'Europe, Copenhagen, 1985, Original in French

Les Methodes Microbiologiques de Surveillance de la Qualité des Eaux Côtières.

Troisieme rapport publié sous le patronage conjoint du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement et de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé.

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE, Bureau Régional de l'Europe, Copenhagen, 1985. Original in French

Surveillance Biologique du Methylmercure dans les Populations Méditerranéenes

Publié sous l'égide conjointe du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé.

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE, Bureau Régional de l'Europe, Copenhagen, 1985. Original in English.



Should you Need to know More about Acidification

We received the winter 1984-1985 issue of the Acid Magazine in which a new Swedish programme for controlling air pollution and acidification is described. This programme represents an attempt to deal comprehensively with the problems. It includes not only proposals for further reduction of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides but also for measures with direct application in the environment, such as

restrictions on certain practices in forestry.

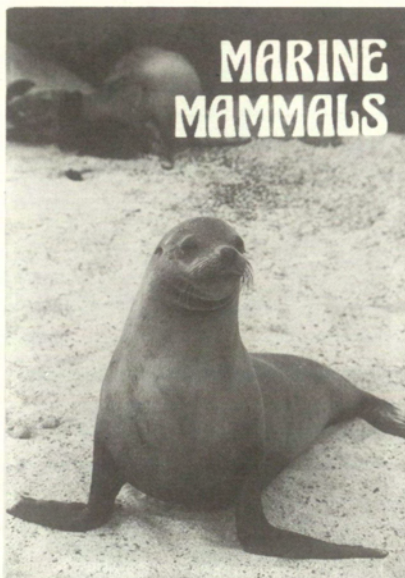
The Acid Magazine, which is published in Sweden in English language by the National Environment Protection Board, in this issue includes also a special insert announcing a travelling photographic exhibit, with English texts, which is now available to organisations, clubs or individuals who may wish to show how air pollution and acidification affect the environment. In a concise presentation the exhibit illustrates the acidification of soil and water, the damage to forests and the effects on ground water and human beings as well as on animals and plants.

Inquiries regarding the availability of the exhibit should be addressed either to the Swedish Institute, Exhibition Section, Box 7434, S-103 91, Stockholm, Sweden, or to any of the Swedish embassies abroad.

A Good Weapon for a «Save The Marine Mammals» Campaign

«Marine Mammals» is the title of a very interesting booklet recently published by the Programme Activity Center for Oceans and Coastal Areas of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Very informative, well documented, easily readable, with no lengthy articles and with nicely illustrated contents with sketches and black and white and colour pictures this booklet offers a strong and persuasive argumentation to a save the marine mammals campaign.



THE MAP CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

TITLE	DATE/ PLACE	ORGANIZER
Fourth Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	9-13 Sept. Genoa	UNEP-MEDU
International Conference on Pollution of the Mediterranean	2-5 Oct. Split	YSWP (UNEP-MEDU, WHO, IAWPRC)
Effects of Pollution on Marine Ecosystems	7-11 Oct. Blanes	FAO (UNEP-MEDU)
Consultation Meeting on the Correlation between Coastal Water Quality and Health Effects	21-25 Oct. Follonica Italy	WHO (UNEP-MEDU)
Fifth Intercalibration Exercise and Consultation Meeting on Microbiological methods for Coastal Water Quality Monitoring	18-23 Nov. Marseille	WHO (UNEP-MEDU)
Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Technical Implementation of the Land-based Sources Protocol	9-13 Dec. Athens	UNEP-MEDU

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10 YEARS AFTER

A Regional Seas Programme Overview

M W : *When in 1984 Mediterranean Action Plan was initiated as one of UNEP's «regional activities» it was thought to be a model plan, a pilot project for a number of similar UNEP undertakings around the world, which were to follow. How has MAP served this purpose? Has it proved a good lead?*

Dr. S.Keckes: UNEP's Programme of Regional Seas was initiated by a decision of the Governing Council in 1974. Today it covers 11 regional seas from the Caribbean to the South Pacific, including three regional seas in the Americas, three in Africa and four in Asia and the Pacific. The first Regional Sea Programme was the Mediterranean. Therefore, MAP was the first project. It started in late 1974 while the others started in 1976, 1977. So to a certain extent we have indeed learned on the Mediterranean how to do it. But I wouldn't say that the other similar regional projects are copies of the MAP, because the substance in every region is different and so are their Regional Action Plans. But the main structure and approach is similar. Each of the Action Plans have their Convention, have their Pollution Research and Monitoring, but there are marked differences.

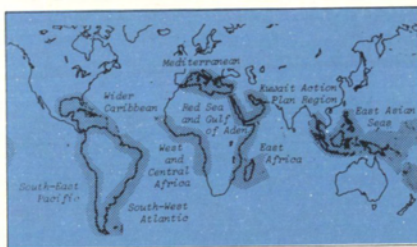
For instance, the Blue Plan we are working on here does not exist in any other region as an activity. Research and monitoring of Pollution is existing in every region, Conventions **do not** in all regions but in most regions **do** exist. PAP activities **do** exist in most region and so on. So there are differences and similarities but the main approach is the same and remains the same.

M W : *Dr. Keckes, it is known that the Mediterranean is politically a hot region. However, peoples' environmental worries bring all Mediterranean coastal states around the MAP table where, beyond their political differences, they are ready to work together in order to find solutions for their serious common ecological problems. Does this happen also in other UNEP regional areas?*

Do, there too, environmental concerns of the people overrule the political differences expressed by their states?



Dr. S. Keckes I wouldn't say overrule. People cannot forget politics. Politics is the base of life, you cannot forget it. But what the Governments see very clearly is that pollution does not recognise political differences. It does exist, and the Governments also realise that they cannot solve the problem individually.



The marine pollution problems cannot be solved only on a national level. The solutions, certainly, have to be sought through national actions. But there is a need for international co-operation, otherwise they will not be able to solve the problem. There is no solution for the Mediterranean pollution if one country imposes strict rules and the neighbouring ones are not imposing strict rules. There is a need for an agreement otherwise the whole efforts are wasted. This is recognised clearly and the Governments, inspite of their political differences, are ready to co-operate in the field of protection of their marine environment. Because they realise that marine environment

cannot be protected only through national effort and through national policies.

M W : *Seeing now the Mediterranean Action Plan from the different angle, the more global view you have from your position as a Director of UNEP's Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme do you find it grown up, healthy and structurally mature?*

Would you say that it has accomplished the mission it was entrusted with?

Dr. S.Keckes: A regional programme like this is never finished. It is a living body, it grows. It grows and it changes taking account of the present needs. It started with certain basic concepts which are still valid and the governments stick to them. But there are some definite evolutions. Emphasis has been shifting from one point to the others, depending on what are the long-term and immediate needs of the government. So you would never say it is finished. This could be very bad. Once you say it has now achieved its full stage you practically say then it is dead. So a plan like MAP is a living organism.

But I would agree with you that MAP has achieved a high degree of maturity. At the beginning it was requiring a much bigger effort from the side of the Secretariat, while the Governments were, I would not say passive, but not actively participating in it.

Now it is really an international programme and the main actors are not only UNEP and the Athens Secretariat but the Governments themselves. And this is what I call maturity of the programme.

Governments now feel that it is their programme, it is not a UNEP programme. It is a programme of the Mediterranean Coastal states, and this is how it should be. This is reflected clearly, in all meetings where Governments are dictating what they want to see done and the Governments are paying for that. The MAP is paid 100% by the Governments of the Mediterranean countries. Would they pay for something if they were not interested in it?

This is the best sign of MAP's maturity. ■