

ANNEX V

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCERNING THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN FOR ACTIVITIES

TO BE DEVELOPED IN THE 1979-1980 BIENNIUM

Environmental Assessment

1. The seven pilot projects on pollution monitoring and research (MED I - MED VII) are designated to lead to the establishment of a long-term pollution monitoring and research programme. During the 1979 - 1980 biennium, such a programme should be formulated in consultation with the Governments and the EEC and with the assistance and participation of the relevant specialized organizations of the United Nations system. This programme should ensure systematic and regular information on the sources, amounts, levels, pathways and effects of pollutants in the Mediterranean basin. The methodology of the long-term programme should be based on experience gained during the 1975 - 1980 pilot phase, with modifications, as appropriate, and on the participation of research institutions to be designated by their Governments and the EEC.
2. The seven ongoing pilot projects on pollution monitoring and research projects (MED I - MED VII) should be extended until the second meeting of the Contracting Parties (1981) in order to strengthen the basis for national marine pollution monitoring and research activities geared to satisfying the needs and requirements of the individual States and of an international co-operative programme for continuous monitoring of, and research on, the state of pollution of the Mediterranean, as envisaged by the Barcelona Convention.
3. In order to ensure the smooth continuation of the work and the highest degree of data comparability over the period 1975 - 1980, no substantial changes should be introduced in the methodology used at present in MED I - MED VII projects, except when the results obtained until now indicate a need for it. The mandatory intercalibration of analytical techniques and the common maintenance services (MED XI) should also continue. In the future, the interlaboratory comparison exercises conducted through the IAEA should be reinforced and the services improved. Relevant findings should be communicated to the Governments and the EEC.

4. Based upon the methodology used during the pilot phase and taking into account already existing standard methods, a consolidated set of Reference Methods for Pollution Studies in the Mediterranean should be prepared by the end of 1979.
5. In order to assist the work of marine scientists in the Mediterranean, a Selected Bibliography on the Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea should be published by the end of 1979.
6. The Report on the State of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea should be finalized by the end of 1979 making full use of data obtained through the MED POL pilot projects and other relevant sources. The final form of this report should be prepared and released in consultation with the Mediterranean Governments and the EEC.
7. The results obtained through MED POL should be systematically collected, analysed and published annually as:
 - (i) consolidated reports on each of the MED POL pilot projects;
 - (ii) collated reports of individual research centres participating in MED POL; and
 - (iii) a report assessing the operational capabilities of the national centres in terms of equipment and specialists, with an indication of the assistance that has been provided within the framework of MED POL.
8. Assistance should be provided to national research centres designated as participants in the MED I - MED VII projects within the budgetary framework of each pilot project, in order to strengthen those centres that do not have either sufficiently trained personnel or the equipment needed for their effective participation in the programme.
9. To prepare for the launching of the long-term pollution monitoring and research programme, currently available methods for data recording, archiving and statistical analysis should be tested and elaborated using the facilities of the Geneva-based United Nations International Computing Centre (ICC), taking account of existing standard practices and making full use of the existing mechanisms for data collection, handling, exchange and dissemination.
10. The work of the seven MED POL Regional Activity Centres in the pilot phase of the monitoring and research programme should be evaluated.
11. The pilot project MED X on the evaluation of land-based sources of pollution should be pursued in a way which allows for the collection of data from countries that could not participate in the first part of this project. During the first phase the assessment of river inputs was undertaken under MED IX and X jointly. It was decided that during the biennium 1979-1980 this assessment should be pursued under MED IX.

12. Interest was expressed, although for several delegations this interest was purely scientific, in:

- (i) monitoring of pollution levels of the open waters and the biogeocycle of the most important pollutant (MED VIII);
- (ii) assessment of input of airborne pollutants in the Mediterranean (MED XII);
- (iii) development of conceptual and predictive models of biogeochemical cycles and water mass movement (MED XIII).

Taking into account, however, the present state of the art for some of the projects and the difficulties in initiating or implementing them, also in view of the limited availability of resources for the MED POL programme, the following priorities are suggested:

1st Priority - MED POL I - VII, IX, X and XI

2nd Priority - MED POL VIII, XII and XIII.

The results of pilot projects within the MED POL programme should be subjected to a review by a meeting of experts on the Mediterranean long-term pollution monitoring and research programme which should be asked to make recommendations concerning project revisions or continuance.

13. Work should be continued on the development of the scientific rationale for the criteria applicable to the quality of recreational waters, shellfish-growing areas, waters used for aquaculture, and seafood. Based on this rationale and taking into account existing national provisions and international arrangements and agreements, the criteria should be formulated on a scientific basis and submitted to the Governments and the EEC for their consideration.

Environmental Management

14. In order to enable an early implementation of the first phase of the Blue Plan along the lines agreed at the 1977 Intergovernmental Meeting in Split, the Mediterranean Governments and the EEC:

- (i) should give strong support to all actions regarding the implementation of the Blue Plan as an important and integral part of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
- (ii) invite the Executive Director of UNEP, in his general co-ordinating role, to convene and organize a meeting of the National Blue Plan Focal Points as soon as feasible, preferably within the next three months;

- (iii) with regard to the aforesaid meeting, should designate National Focal Points for the Blue Plan if they have not yet done so.
15. UNEP, in its general co-ordinating role should present to the Meeting of the Focal Points the necessary operational documents. These documents should take into consideration related documentation which has already been prepared and, in particular, the documents on the subject issued during the First Meeting of the Blue Plan Focal Points and the subsequent Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States and First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. These documents should include:
- (i) descriptions of surveys within the framework of the first phase of the Blue Plan;
 - (ii) the methodology to be followed, taking into consideration existing bodies of data available from the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, from national governments and their agencies, and from other national or international organizations;
 - (iii) a definition of the role of UNEP and of the other specialized agencies of the United Nations system, of the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), and of the national focal points, as representatives of their respective governments in organizing, supervising and co-ordinating the initial phase of the Blue Plan;
 - (iv) proposals concerned with certain financial and institutional arrangements, linked to the implementation of the Blue Plan, including contributions in kind and services from the Governments, the EFC and United Nations specialized agencies.
16. The Meeting of the Blue Plan focal points mentioned under paragraph 14(ii) will be empowered to adopt, complete or modify the proposals which will be submitted to it in order to facilitate the initiation of the first phase of the Blue Plan. The meeting should also serve the purpose of orientating and supervising the activities of the Blue Plan.
17. In order to ensure the harmonious development of the complementary Blue Plan and Priority Actions Programme activities, and to avoid unnecessary repetition and overlapping, a close and direct working relationship should be established between the Regional Activity Centres for the Blue Plan and for the Priority Actions Programme.
18. Taking into account the decision to convene a meeting of the Blue Plan Focal Points, the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre should put itself at the disposal of UNEP to assist in the preparations for the meeting.

19. In view of the importance of local parameters for the optimal management of certain renewable natural resources, especially as the present state of knowledge and technology places the utilization of these resources in the marginal economic fringe, it is of the utmost importance that the PAP includes financial and expert assistance which would allow the Mediterranean countries who ask for them, to establish a precise inventory of their resources and the conditions in which they can be utilized.
20. The Governments which have not yet done so and the EEC should designate their focal points for the Priority Actions Programme, and to the extent possible, should endeavour to nominate, for the purposes of the PAP, the same focal point as for the Blue Plan.
21. UNDP and UNEP, in co-operation with FAO (GFCM) and the interested Governments of the Mediterranean States, the EEC, as well as the appropriate organs of the League of Arab States and other international organizations concerned, should continue the development of a regional co-operative project on mariculture, taking into consideration the recommendations of the 1978 Expert Consultation in Athens and the currently ongoing preparatory activities.
22. UNDP and UNEP, in co-operation with the interested Governments of the Mediterranean States, the EEC, as well as the appropriate organs of the League of Arab States and other relevant international organizations, should accelerate the development of regional co-operative programmes on renewable sources of energy in accordance with the recommendations of the 1978 meeting of experts in Malta and with the present ongoing preparatory activities, with the aim of implementing the said recommendations at the earliest possible date.
23. UNEP, in co-operation with the interested Governments of the Mediterranean States, the EEC, as well as the appropriate organs of the League of Arab States and relevant international organizations, and with the assistance of WHO, UNESCO and CEFIGRE, should accelerate the development of regional co-operative programmes on freshwater resources taking into consideration the recommendations of the 1978 meeting of experts in Cannes. The possible involvement of UNDP in this activity should be explored.
24. UNEP, in co-operation with the interested Governments of the Mediterranean States, the EEC and the appropriate bodies of the League of Arab States, with the assistance of the Town Planning Institute of Dalmatia acting as a Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Actions Programme, and with the assistance of UNESCO, FAO, WTO and other relevant specialized organizations of the United Nations system, should prepare a feasibility study on the need for the development of co-operative projects in the fields of soil protection with particular emphasis on soil erosion, desertification and coastal erosion, human

settlements and tourism. The results of these studies should be brought to the attention of the Governments and the EEC, and their views should be solicited on eventual future steps. The possible involvement of UNDP in this activity should be explored.

25. In the light of the significance of protected areas from the socio-economic, scientific and conservation points of view, Governments should support the protection and rational management of existing marine parks, wetlands and other protected areas. They should also promote the creation of new protected areas in the region. In particular:

(i) Governments should support the continued efforts of UNEP to create an Association of Specially Protected Mediterranean Areas;

(ii) UNEP should, in co-operation with UNESCO, FAO and IUCN, convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider, with a view to adoption, guidelines and technical principles for the selection, establishment and management of Mediterranean specially protected areas and other related matters. The meeting should also consider the development of a protocol concerning Mediterranean protected areas; and

(iii) a Directory of Mediterranean protected areas should be prepared by UNEP in co-operation with IUCN.

26. Data collected through the ongoing environmental assessment activities should be utilized by UNEP and the relevant specialized organizations of the United Nations system for the elaboration of principles and technical guidelines by a group of experts leading to a model code of practice for the management of wastes including sea disposal of wastes from land-based sources. The model code of practice should assist Governments in implementing measures concerning pollutants from land-based sources.

27. UNEP, in consultation with, and through the assistance of, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, should explore the possible ways and means for the realization and acceptance of the offers made by the Governments of Yugoslavia and Greece to use the experience gained through their large-scale and complex projects which demonstrate integrated planning principles for the benefit of other Mediterranean States. Similar projects in other countries should be considered for the same purposes.

28. Continuing support should be provided by UNEP for the training of national administrators, experts and decision-makers in the field of environmental management through the various activities in the framework of the Action Plan, including the Blue Plan, and through seminars, workshops and meetings organized in specific subjects. In initiating these activities, priority should be given to the needs of developing countries. In this area a fundamental role should be played by the "Mediterranean Training Centre" in Urbino.

Legal Component

29. As an expression of their full support for the protection and harmonious development of the Mediterranean basin and the activities launched as part of the agreed Action Plan, the Governments of the Mediterranean States which have not yet done so are urged to ratify, or to accede to, with the shortest possible delay, the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols.

30. The coastal States of the Mediterranean region should provide the Regional Oil Combating Centre with the support and co-operation necessary to enable it to carry out effectively its activities as set forth in resolution 7 of the 1976 Barcelona Conference. In this connection, priority should be given to the Centre's function of gathering and disseminating information, in particular by ensuring continuity of the communications system, and to the provision by the Centre of assistance in the technical training of national officials responsible for combating accidental oil pollution. Each coastal State should pursue the efforts already being made to prepare plans of action for dealing with emergency situations, and steps should be taken to examine and, where appropriate, to elaborate methods of establishing bilateral or multilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries in particularly vulnerable areas, as provided in the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution. In particular, the Regional Centre should help in making available to the Mediterranean States concerned the methodological and technological experience and knowledge acquired by other countries or international bodies. The Executive Director is requested to submit to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties a report on the activities and organization of the Regional Centre, taking account of the lessons learnt from its activities since its establishment.

31. Recognizing that pollution from man's activities on land represents the most significant source of pollution in the Mediterranean Basin, the Governments of the Mediterranean States and the EEC should continue their consultations on the protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources, leading to the adoption of the protocol at a diplomatic conference as early as possible. UNEP should assist the States in this task by providing appropriate background material on land-based pollutants. Parallel meetings of technical and legal experts should be convened in Geneva from 25 to 29 June 1979 to consider new material that has been developed by the secretariat, or provided by the Governments and the EEC, with a view to resolving the outstanding difficulties which prevent a consensus from being reached on the text of a draft protocol suitable for submission to a diplomatic conference with a view to its final adoption. If necessary, the Executive Director is requested to make arrangements for a second meeting of experts at a later date.

32. The Mediterranean coastal States, aware of the importance of preventing pollution from ships and implementing appropriate international instruments, especially with regard to the construction and operation of ships, recommend that States which have not yet done so should ratify as soon as possible the conventions concerning the prevention and control of marine pollution and safety at sea drafted by IMCO, and especially:
- (i) The 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.
 - (ii) The 1978 Protocol to the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.
 - (iii) The 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and the 1978 Protocol to it.
 - (iv) The 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers.
 - (v) The 1969 International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties.
33. Recognizing the activities already under way within the Action Plan on specially protected areas, UNEP should, in co-operation with IUCN, FAO, and UNFSCO, prepare background material on existing legislation and regional legal alternatives for the protection of such marine and coastal areas. UNEP should convene an intergovernmental meeting in 1979 to review this material and other related matters, and to advise on the feasibility of developing a protocol on specially protected marine and coastal areas.
34. Taking note of the work already in progress within the UNEP Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law regarding corrective and preventive measures for pollution damage arising from offshore mining and drilling carried out in the areas within national jurisdiction and of the results of the IJO meeting of experts on Legal Aspects of Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf, the Seabed and its Subsoil in the Mediterranean, UNEP is requested to bring to the attention of the Mediterranean Governments and the EEC the actions that have been taken and that should assist them to undertake steps for developing a protocol in this respect and to seek their comments and suggestions on this matter.
35. In accordance with resolution 4 of the 1976 Barcelona Conference of Plenipotentiaries and recommendation 37 of the 1978 Monaco Intergovernmental Review Meeting, a study should be made of the possibility of establishing an Inter-State Guarantee Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Area and of appropriate procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment deriving from violations of the

provisions of the Barcelona Convention and applicable protocols. The study should be entrusted to a committee of experts from the Mediterranean coastal States and the EEC taking into account the work done by the consultants of UNEP and IJO. The committee of experts should report on the progress achieved to the second meeting of the Contracting Parties.

36. UNEP, as the organization responsible for the secretariat functions under article 13 of the Convention, should convene the second meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention and protocols in 1981. By that time it is hoped that all Mediterranean coastal States will have become Contracting Parties.

Institutional and Financial Arrangements

37. Recommendations concerning institutional and financial arrangements are to be found in paragraphs 71 - 75, 79, 81-82, and 84 - 85 of the main body of the report.