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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

First Steering Committee Meeting for the Mediterranean PDF-B:
**"Formulation of a Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea,
to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities."**

Athens, 13 January 1997

REPORT OF THE FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN PDF-B: "FORMULATION OF A STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, TO ADDRESS POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES."

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Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Mr L. Chabason, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan in the offices of the Mediterranean Coordinating Unit, Athens, Greece at 9.30 am on Monday 13th January. Mr Chabason welcomed participants on behalf of UNEP and noted with regret that neither the World Bank nor the United Nations Development Programme had been able to attend. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

2. Mr Chabason expressed the view of UNEP that the Steering Committee meeting was of considerable importance in ensuring that the activity met the requirements of the GEF Operational Strategy; fulfilled the regional agreements and expectations concerning the execution of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities in the Mediterranean; and in providing a forum for collaboration and cooperation between the three GEF Implementing Agencies.

3. The agenda was briefly introduced and it was noted that in the absence of representatives from the World Bank and UNDP it would be difficult to reach agreement concerning the role of these agencies in execution of the activity. **It was agreed that the proposed involvement of UNDP and the World Bank would be conveyed to the International Waters specialists in these agencies by Mr Pernetta as soon as possible following closure of the meeting.** The agenda as agreed, is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

Agenda item 2. Role and Functions of the Steering Group

4. Under this agenda item, Mr J. Pernetta, UNEP/GEF informed the group that the Steering Committee had primary responsibility for approving the contents of the various documents to be prepared during the preparatory phase; for ensuring that the products met the requirements of the GEF Operational Strategy; for ensuring that the workplan and timetable was compatible with the plans of the World Bank executed PDF-B activity on oil related issues in the Southern Mediterranean; and for identifying the potential roles of the Implementing agencies both in the PDF phase and in any future GEF Project that would be developed.

Agenda item 3 Overview of actions and progress to date

5. Mr F.S. Civili UNEP/MEDU outlined progress to date in executing the activities planned under this PDF-B grant.

6. It was noted that twelve countries and the European Union had nominated National Coordinators in response to the letter from the Coordinator despatched in December and that at least one had initiated the process of creating an inter-ministry forum for development of the National reports. **It was agreed that Mr Civili would follow-up with countries that had not responded to date, that this would be undertaken as a matter of urgency,** and that National Coordinators should be encouraged to commence formation of Inter-Ministry committees or fora as soon as practicable.

7. It was noted that an initial *ad hoc* consultation in November had developed the draft terms of reference for the main consultants who would work on the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (Mr Jeftic); on the Strategic Action Programme (Mr Ros); on the Hot spots (Mr El-Kholy); and on the Major Rivers (Mr Redaud). A second *ad hoc* meeting involving these consultants had been convened in December during which the outline of the documents had been prepared and discussed. These outlines had been used as the basis for preparing the extended annotated

outlines presented to this meeting.

8. The Committee noted that the signed project document had not yet been received by the Mediterranean Coordinating Unit and **Mr Pernetta agreed to investigate this matter upon his return to Nairobi.**

9. The Committee noted the receipt of detailed technical comments from Mr Andrew Hudson, International Waters Specialist of the UNDP GEF Coordination Unit **and agreed that the responsible individuals would take these comments and suggestions into account during revision of the documents.**

Agenda item 4. Consideration of outline/draft documents prepared under the UNEP activity.

4.1 Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

10. Mr L. Jeftic introduced the draft annotated outline prepared on 12 January 1997. Considerable discussion ensued concerning the proposed content of this document, with some participants expressing the view that the document should be restricted to land-based activities.

11. Mr Pernetta pointed out that the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis was an integral component of the process envisaged in the GEF Operational Strategy and that as such it was intended to provide a broad overview of all transboundary issues in the Mediterranean together with an assessment of their relative importance. It would serve as the justification for the selection of priority interventions that would form the substance of the Strategic Action Programme. In this context it was noted that the GEF portfolio's included biodiversity, climate change and protection of the ozone layer in addition to international waters and that the TDA could therefore provide the justification for activities in these other portfolio areas as well as in the protection of the waters of the Mediterranean from Land-Based Activities.

12. During discussion it was noted that for many of the components outlined in the draft the available information and data were extensive and detailed, what was required in the TDA was a balanced overview of these data and information that provided an evaluation of the relative importance of each identified issue and problem.

13. In discussing the specific contents of the planned document it was agreed that maritime transport, seabed exploitation, living marine resources and conservation areas should be included and that where appropriate the World Bank, FAO and other specialized agencies should be asked to assist in the preparation of reviews and analyses.

14. During discussions of areas to be covered in relation to economic and financial costs it was agreed that the assistance of the World Bank should be sought, but that for many areas and issues estimates of the financial costs of particular interventions and actions were available. It was agreed to return to this issue during the subsequent *ad hoc* meeting. It was further noted that any subsequent proposal for a GEF supported project must include an estimate of the baseline and incremental costs since the GEF was established to finance the agreed incremental costs of interventions designed to secure global environmental benefits.

It was agreed that:

- **the TDA should take the broadest approach possible within the constraints of time and money;**
- **Mr Jeftic would finalize the outline in the light of comments and proposed**

- amendments before the end of the *ad hoc* consultation;
- the first draft of the TDA would be finalized in May for consideration by the regional meeting of National Coordinators to be convened in Italy in June 1997; and,
- Mr Pernetta would transmit the final annotated draft outline to the partner Implementing Agencies together with the report of the meeting.

4.2 Hot Spots

15. Mr G. Kamizoulis WHO introduced the annotated outline and workplan for the completion of documentation relating to the review of Hot Spots in the Mediterranean. Considerable discussion ensued concerning the definition of coastal cities and whilst it was agreed that all cities exceeding 100,000 inhabitants should be reviewed during the Hot Spots analysis, wherever possible smaller urban settlements should also be included.

16. The issues of transient, tourist populations also needed to be considered, as did problems stemming from coastal urban agglomerations and ribbon development along the coastal zone. In this context it was noted that the institutional and administrative arrangements for development and management of such areas differed from those of 'cities' *sensu strictu* and that these differences would need to be elaborated and taken into account in any plans for future action.

4.3 Strategic Action Programme

17. Mr Ros introduced the annotated outline of the draft Strategic Action Programme, which it was noted focussed on problems of Land-Based Activities. During discussion it was recognized that the Strategic Action Programme could not be finalized until the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis had been completed and that the TDA was in turn dependent upon completion of the Hot Spots Review. It was felt that progress on developing the present draft had been rapid and that to ensure compatibility of the content of the SAP with that of the TDA, development of the SAP should be closely correlated with and be dependent upon the development of the TDA.

18. It was agreed that the planned meeting in July would be too early for finalization of the draft SAP given the timing of completion of the TDA and Hot Spots Review. **It was proposed and agreed that the regional meeting to review the SAP be deferred to September to provide sufficient time for finalization subsequent to the completion of the TDA, and that the draft SAP would be made available for information during the June meeting of National Coordinators in Italy.**

Agenda item 5. Consideration of the World Bank Oil related activities and their articulation with the UNEP workplan.

19. The committee noted that at the time of approval of the UNEP PDF-B activity a proposal concerned with addressing oil related issues in the Maghreb countries of the southern Mediterranean had been submitted by the World Bank to the GEF Secretariat. It was further noted that the importance of oil pollution in the Mediterranean had perhaps been over-stated in an earlier draft of this document and that the GEF Secretariat had taken the view that the development of a full-scale Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis was required in order to evaluate the priority of oil related pollution problems in the Mediterranean. The GEF Secretariat had approved the World Bank proposal but requested that this be closely correlated with the activities planned by UNEP.

20. The World Bank had requested that the evaluation of priority issues and problems be made available through the TDA no later than July 1997 in order to ensure a smooth transition from

ongoing Bank activities to the planned future interventions.

21. The Committee noted with regret that Mr Garvey was unable to attend and **it was agreed that Mr Pernetta would contact Mr Slimani to obtain a copy of the final PDF-B proposal from the World Bank and to ascertain the status of the schedule and workplan.**

22. The Committee further noted that during discussion of the TDA the need for World Bank inputs concerning maritime transport, ports and harbours had been raised and **it was agreed that Mr Pernetta would raise these issues with the appropriate Bank personnel.**

Agenda item 6. Consideration of the Terms of reference for the principle consultants

23. Mr F.S. Civili introduced the draft terms of Reference for the primary consultants which were discussed and approved with minor amendments.

Agenda item 7. Potential participation of Partner Implementing Agencies

7.1 World Bank participation in the financial and Economic analyses

24. It was agreed that Mr Pernetta would communicate with the World Bank concerning:

- coordination between the World Bank and UNEP envisaged actions under the two PDF-B activities;
- involvement in the financial and economic analyses envisaged as components of the TDA and SAP;
- future involvement in the development of the GEF Project brief and execution of envisaged activities.

7.2 UNDP participation

25. The detailed comments provided by Mr A. Hudson on the various documents were noted, as were his proposals concerning potential involvement of UNDP in the activity.

26. The Committee agreed that both the World Bank and UNDP had potentially important roles to play in the activities envisaged as comprising the Strategic Action Programme. It was anticipated that future investment activities would be handled through the World Bank whilst UNDP would take the lead in capacity building in GEF eligible countries in the region.

Agenda item 8. Review of the Workplan and timetable

27. The committee noted that the Hot Spots review was to be completed by mid-April, the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis by the planned meeting in Italy in June. As noted earlier the regional meeting to review the Strategic Action Programme would need to be re-scheduled from July to September to permit adequate consideration of the results of the Hot Spots review and TDA.

Agenda item 9. Closure of the Meeting

28. There being no further business Mr F.S. Civili closed the meeting at 1830 on Monday 13th January, noting that during the subsequent *ad hoc* consultation there would be the opportunity to examine the issues raised in further detail.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

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