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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE BLUE PLAN FOR 1980

The attached report, which was prepared by the Centre d'activités Développement - Environment en Méditerranée (MEDEAS), a body responsible for the administration of the Blue Plan, is submitted to participants for their information.

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MEDEAS, which was offered by France to the United Nations Environment Programme as a host institution for the management of the Blue Plan, was established on 28 March 1978, and is based in Cannes, at the Château Font-de-Veyre.

The contract between the United Nations Environment Programme and MEDEAS entrusting the latter with the management of monies from the Mediterranean Regional Trust Fund for the implementation of the Blue Plan was to have been signed at the end of 1979 and to have come into force on 1 January 1980.

At that time, not all countries had complied with UNEP's request that they should nominate candidates for the Group of Co-ordination and Synthesis (GCS) of the Blue Plan and for the posts of experts responsible for the various expert studies of the first phase, and consequently the contract could not be signed as scheduled. It was finally signed at the Intergovernmental Meeting of Mediterranean countries held at Barcelona in February 1980. Dr. Tolba appointed the first members of GCS in April 1980, and it was then decided to set to work without a complete team pending the nomination of candidates by all countries. Besides Mr. Ismaïl Sabri Abdalla, GCS Co-ordinator, Dr. Tolba designated three consultants for GCS in April 1980: Mr. GASPAROVIC (Yugoslavia), Mr. PLIEGO (Spain) and Mr. LAGOS (Greece).

In conjunction with them, MEDEAS arranged the first meeting of GCS (termed a preparatory meeting), which was held in Cannes from 9 to 11 June. The meeting was attended by Mr. Sabri Abdalla, Co-ordinator of the Blue Plan, the three other members of GCS who had already been appointed, a representative of UNEP and a representative of UNDP, and the President and the Director of MEDEAS. To avoid delays in starting the first phase of the Blue Plan, GCS decided to set to work at once without waiting until the team was complete. The programme of work for the first few months was established, as were the time-table of meetings for the same period and the dates of the launching seminars for the 12 expert studies planned for in the first phase. The programme of work was established as follows:

GCS divided the first phase of the Blue Plan into three parts:

1. <u>September 1980 to the end of January 1981</u>

   (a) Drafting of terms of reference;

   (b) Launching seminars for the expert studies;

   (c) Appointment of the experts.

2. <u>November 1980 to September 1981</u>

   (a) Compilation of expert studies;

   (b) Confrontation seminars.

3. <u>September 1981 to December 1981</u>

   (a) Synthesis of expert studies;

   (b) Drafting of the report.

Two further GCS consultants having been appointed during the summer, the GCS meeting which marked the beginning of Blue Plan operations was held from 1 to 5 September. GCS embarked upon the phase of the work which corresponds to the first part of the Blue Plan: the drafting of terms of reference, the holding of launching seminars for the first expert studies and the recruitment of experts by MEDEAS. It is estimated that this first part will last five months.

The first phase of the Blue Plan, which is to last for about 15 months from the start of operations, is devoted primarily to the compilation of 12 expert studies concerned with fields which the Mediterranean countries consider to be of fundamental and priority importance. At the end of this phase the synthesis of the results will be carried out. It was decided that each of the expert studies would be compiled on a "binomial" basis by one expert from a southern Mediterranean country and one expert from a northern Mediterranean country. This binary principle is a distinct feature of the membership of GCS and, more broadly, of the Blue Plan in general. The areas to be covered by the expert studies are those which were agreed upon by the Meeting of the Blue Plan National Focal Points held in Cannes in October 1979:

Land-marine systems and sub-systems;

Water resources (surface and subterranean), competitive uses and human priorities (satisfaction of drinking water requirements and use of water for food production);

Industrial growth, industrialization strategies, and services related to the environment and life styles, and the utilization of subsoil resources;

Energy, old and new;

Health, population and population movements;

Space use, soil conservation, agriculture and rural development, urbanization, development of coastal areas and rural-urban balance;

Tourism, space use and the environment;

Intra-Mediterranean economic relations;

Transport and communications;

Cultural heritage and cross-cultural relations;

Environmental awareness and value systems;

Impact of non-Mediterranean influence on the Mediterranean Basin.

At the September meeting, GCS established the process for elaborating the terms of reference of the expert studies. A launching seminar comprising Mediterranean specialists is held before each of the expert studies is begun in order to provide guidance to the experts and to give a precise description of the field they are to cover and the subject of their work. In the interests of economy and efficiency, GCS decided to work on a basis of groups of expert studies, so that the seminars are held jointly in three series of four parallel meetings, each dealing with one of the 12 areas outlined above. Each seminar lasts two days, and in this time two parallel meetings on two of the 12 topics are held. After a break of one day, which is set aside for the essential discussions between the GCS consultants and the appointed experts, a second pair of parallel meetings is held according to the same procedure. Thus, four launching seminars take place in five days.

In this way, it was possible to prepare the first group of seminars and to draw up the terms of reference for the corresponding expert studies. In order to make the Blue Plan better known and to make all the coastal States aware of this project, GCS also arranged for the publication of a descriptive document in French and English for wide distribution in the Mediterranean region. A newsletter, also in French and English, will be published at intervals of about three or four months in order to keep the countries, organizations and members of the public interested in the progress of the Blue Plan and of the work regularly informed.

Between 5 September and 25 October, MEDEAS arranged and prepared the first four seminars and saw to the translation, reproduction or editing of all documents.

The launching seminars for the first four expert studies were held from 25 to 31 October. Delegates from the Mediterranean countries and the experts were invited to attend. The main aim of these four seminars, each of which lasted two days, was to discuss the terms of reference relating to each expert study on the basis of a draft prepared by GCS and to produce a final version of the basic document for each of the expert studies considered.

The topics of the four seminars were as follows:

Water resources, competitive uses and human priorities (expert study No. 2);

Health, population and population movements (expert study No. 5);

Tourism, space use and the environment (expert study No. 7);

Cultural heritage and cross-cultural relations (expert study No. 10).

Several Mediterranean experts selected on the basis of their knowledge of the field under consideration took part in each seminar.

The two experts appointed for each expert study, one from a northern Mediterranean country and the other from a southern Mediterranean country, in accordance with the binary principle adopted for the Blue Plan, remained for the extra time needed to finalize the terms of reference in the light of the discussions and the recommendations made during the seminar by the various consultants. The first team of experts was thus able to begin its work in November, after drawing up a time-table in collaboration with the GCS consultants. MEDEAS provided the experts with all the practical help they needed, especially as far as cartographical documentation was concerned.

Between its first and second meetings, GCS prepared the drafts of the last four sets of terms of reference, and MEDEAS prepared and arranged the second group of seminars.

The four seminars in this group related to the following subjects:

Energy, old and new (expert study No. 4);

Industrial growth and industrialization strategies (expert study No. 3);

Space use, agriculture and rural development, food consumption, development of coastal areas and rural-urban balance (expert study No. 6);

Intra-Mediterranean economic relations (expert study No. 8).

These seminars were held from 15 to 19 December, on the same principle and under the same conditions as the first four seminars. At the same time GCS held its third meeting, at which it prepared the next four seminars, which will be held at the very beginning of 1981, and drew up the general outline of its programme of work for the second phase of the Blue Plan.

Thus, by the end of 1980, work had begun on eight of the 12 expert studies planned for the first phase of the Blue Plan: the last four studies will be started at the beginning of February 1981.

It should be noted that, as far as possible, experts were chosen in collaboration with the authorities of the competent services of the various Mediterranean Basin countries, when these nominated candidates as requested.

Work has now begun on the second part of the first phase, which will be subdivided as follows:

Research and collation of information relating to the field of study;

Analytical and consultative meetings at various stages of the study.

Synthesis, submission of the report to GCS and confrontation.

BLUE PLAN

WORK DONE IN 1980

FEBRUARY	14	Signature of the MEDEAS - UNEP contract
MARCH		
APRIL		Appointment of the GCS Co-ordinator and of the first three members of GCS
		Receipt of UNEP funds
MAY		
JUNE	9 - 11	Preparatory meeting of GCS
		Elaboration of the first sets of draft terms of reference:
		Water resources
		Health, population and population movements
		Tourism, space use and the environment
		Cultural heritage
		Appointment of two other GCS members
SEPTEMBER	1	ENTRY INTO OPERATION OF THE BLUE PLAN
	1 - 4	First meeting of GCS
		Elaboration of a further four sets of draft terms of reference:
		Energy, old and new
		Industrialization
		Space use
		Intra-Mediterranean economic relations
		Preparation and arrangement of the four launching seminars for the first set of expert studies
OCTOBER	25 - 31	Second meeting of GCS
		Holding of the first four seminars and recruitment of experts

NOVEMBER		Transmission to UNEP of the first financial report, covering the period 1 June-30 September
		Preparation of the last four sets of draft terms of reference:
		Land-marine systems
		Environmental awareness
		Non-Mediterranean influences
		Transport and communications
		Preparation and arrangement of the second group of four seminars
DECEMBER	14 - 20	Third meeting of GCS
		Holding of the second group of seminars and recruitment of experts
	20	Transmission to UNEP of the report on activities in 1980, the programme of work and the budget for the period 1981-1983