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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

First Meeting of the National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean

Athens 1-4 June 1987

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

UNEP
Athens, 1987

I. Introduction

1. The Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas was adopted in Geneva on 3 April 1982 and came into force on 23 March 1986.

2. Article 14.2 of the Protocol states that "the Parties shall designate persons responsible for protected areas. These persons shall meet at least once every two years to discuss matters of joint interest and especially to propose recommendations concerning scientific, administrative and legal information as well as the standardization and processing of data".

3. Article 4 of the Protocol stipulates that "the Parties to this Protocol shall, at their first meeting, formulate and adopt, if necessary in cooperation with the competent international organizations common guidelines and, if needed, standards or criteria dealing in particular with:

   a) the selection of protected areas;
   b) the establishment of protected areas;
   c) the management of protected areas;
   d) the notification of information on protected areas. "

4. In pursuance of the above mentioned articles and of a decision of the Contracting Parties during their meeting in Genoa in September 1985, the first meeting of the National Focal Points for Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean was held in Athens, Greece, from 1 to 4 June 1987.

5. The Meeting was attended by National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas or appointed representatives, from thirteen Mediterranean coastal States. Representatives of two United Nations specialized agencies and one non-governmental organization also attended the Meeting as observers. A complete list of participants is contained as Annex I to this report.

II. Discussion

Agenda Item I - opening of the meeting

6. The meeting was opened by Mr. A. Manos, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), who welcomed the participants on behalf of Dr. M.K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP.

7. The Co-ordinator highlighted the importance of the meeting as being the first meeting of the national focal points for the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas subsequent to its entry-into-force. He requested the participants to inform the secretariat of the latest situation concerning the ratification of the Protocol by their respective countries, as ratification is a matter of importance, to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The view of the secretariat is that the pace of ratifications has been too slow; and that potential protected areas should be promptly and effectively protected if they are not to suffer further damages.

8. The Co-ordinator briefed the participants on the various agenda items under consideration and on the recommendations expected of the meeting. Concerning Agenda item 8, "Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal", he indicated that the consultation on the conservation and management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal, which was to have been held prior to the present focal points meeting, had been postponed until later in the year. Consequently, the Draft Action Plan would not be introduced during the current meeting.

Agenda Item 2 - Rules of Procedure

9. The Meeting noted that the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution would apply mutatis mutandis to its discussions (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

Agenda Item 3 - Election of officers

10. The Meeting unanimously elected its officers as follows:

Chairman:	Ms Athena Mourmouris	- Greece
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Eric Coulet	- France
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Laid Longo	- Tunisia
Rapporteur:	Ms Myroula Hadjichristoforou	- Cyprus

Agenda Item 4 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

11. The Meeting adopted the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/WG.163/1 and the proposed time-table appearing in the annex to document UNEP/WG.163/2, with a minor modification to the title of agenda item 8, which would read : "Consideration of the Status on the Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal".

Agenda Item 5 - Report of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas 1985 - 1986

12. The secretariat introduced the report on the activities of the Centre during 1985 and 1986, contained in document UNEP/WG.163/3, on behalf of Mr. Hadj Ali Salem, Director of the Centre.

13. The secretariat briefed the participants on the activities carried out in 1985 and 1986 by the Centre, in cooperation with IUCN and the Co-ordinating Unit for MAP. The major areas of work had been "Guidelines and criteria for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas", the establishment of a data base in the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas in Tunis, and the preparation of a draft Directory of Mediterranean coastal and marine protected areas. In addition the various objectives of the Centre's work were highlighted.

14. The Secretariat indicated that the Centre had received considerable administrative support from the UNDP office in Tunis in its establishment, and that it was envisaged that by the end of 1987, the Tunisian government would undertake all the financial and administrative activities of the Centre.

15. Concerning cooperation with other international organizations, the Secretariat indicated that various cooperative activities had been undertaken with other institutions in the preparation of the five case studies available to the present meeting. One - le benthos marin de l'île de Zembra,(parc nationale, Tunisie) document UNEP/WG.163/INF.4 - had been directly prepared by the Centre in Tunis while others had been prepared by other institutions with only limited financial support from the Centre.

16. A discussion took place on the report of the Director of the SPA Centre, during which one participant enquired about the means, organization and structure of the Centre. In response the Secretariat gave a briefing on how the Centre was established, the role of the host country and the financial resources available. The Centre was considered as a national centre with a regional role to play. That had resulted in some legal complications, concerning how to deal with the international experts working with the Centre. UNDP had initially assisted in this connection by temporarily granting international status to the experts. Concerning communication, the Contracting Parties had decided to designate national focal points as the national liaison for all SPA activities and that the Athens office of the Co-ordinating Unit would serve as their channel of communication with the Centre.

17. In response to the report on the progress of the Centre, a few participants informed the meeting that they had not received the Questionnaires or other communications from the RAC/SPA. For this reason, for some countries, the Directors contained information that was not officially received. The secretariat informed the meeting that extra copies of the questionnaires were available and would be distributed during the meeting.

18. Other participants were of the view that as the Centre had now been established it should now move to the second phase of its activities and provide more assistance to the Contracting Parties. It was also urged that there should be more cooperation and coordination between national focal points.

19. On the question of the Working Group meeting mentioned in paragraph 16 of the Director's report, the representative of IUCN informed the meeting that a task force consisting of scientists from various Mediterranean countries had been formed within the IUCN Commission on Ecology. The Group which was entirely an initiative of IUCN, with no connection to the Tunis Centre or the SPA Protocol had met in Arles in February 1987. Informally the Task Force had reviewed the Guidelines for the Establishment of Protected Areas in the Mediterranean region. It was ready to cooperate with the National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas and to undertake work on their behalf. IUCN was ready to adjust the terms of reference of the Task Force on the basis of the recommendations of present meeting of the National Focal Points. IUCN would provide the secretariat services for the Task Force.. However, the IUCN representative pointed out that the Task Force was voluntary and that, should the National Focal Points request that specific actions by the Task Force be completed according to deadlines, there would be a necessity to provide financial assistance.

20. With respect to the work terms of reference of the National Focal Points for RAC/SPA and other similar endeavours by other organizations, the Co-ordinator for MAP informed the meeting that cooperation and co-ordination with other programmes was important, but that the MAP was the broadest possible setting in which all Mediterranean countries could cooperate and co-ordinate their activities, since the MAP covered all Mediterranean countries and various subjects related to the protection of the Mediterranean.

21. At the conclusion of the discussion of the item, the meeting took note with appreciation of the report for the Regional Activity Centre of the Specially Protected Areas 1985-1986.

Agenda Item 6 - Progress report on the Directory of Marine and Coastal protected Areas of the Mediterranean Region

22. The representative of IUCN introduced the draft Directory of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Mediterranean Region, contained in documents UNEP/WG.163/4 and UNEP/WG.163/4 Annex I, as well as the draft map on Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas contained in document UNEP/WG.163/5.

23. During the debate which took place under this item a question was raised concerning the term "Proposed protected areas", since it was not clear to whom a proposal could be attributed. After discussion it was decided that the Directory should contain two categories of marine and coastal protected areas. The first being "established areas" and the second "areas under consideration by the respective governments".

24. Some participants observed that the Directory reflects only the subject matter of Article 3.2, sub-paragraph (a) of the Protocol, i.e. sites of biological and ecological value. It did not cover sub-paragraph (b): sites of particular importance because of their scientific, aesthetic, historical, archaeological, cultural or educational interest. The meeting felt that this matter could be dealt with by means of a later, second part of the Directory devoted to these subjects. The Co-ordinator informed the meeting that the SPA protocol had a wider geographical coverage than the Convention itself since it included coastal areas designated by each of the parties and wetland areas relevant to the protection of the Mediterranean.

25. The Consultant to UNEP who had acted as documentalist in the Centre gave a briefing on the manner in which the Directory was produced, the difficulties facing the Centre in choosing one procedure over another, the lack or scarcity of information about Mediterranean protected areas and the lack of information concerning the legal instruments covering protected areas. She requested NFPs to provide the Centre with all information available, in any of the Mediterranean languages. Information such as legal documents issued, financial matters, personnel working in protected areas, maps, problems encountered, local addresses and any general or scientific papers related to protected areas.

26. On the question of issuing a new version of the Directory with a complete picture of all Mediterranean countries, and after making all the necessary corrections, it was the opinion of many participants that enough time be given to countries which have not done so to reply to the questionnaires and for others to make necessary corrections and modifications. It was suggested that Mediterranean countries should transmit to the MAP Co-ordinating Unit their replies, corrections and modifications, including information on all the sub-items mentioned in Article 3 of the Protocol by the end of September 1987. The Centre should compile that information in a new draft Directory, to be prepared and sent to NFPs for their clearance on the part relevant to their countries, before its official publication. Meanwhile, the secretariat should present the existing draft of the Directory to the Contracting Parties at their forthcoming meeting (Athens, September 1987) with a clear indication that the Directory remained a draft version pending and information that will be sent by countries with a view to its publication in a complete form.

27. During the discussion a participant inquired about the purpose of the Directory, its impact on Mediterranean countries and its future use. The IUCN representative replied that the Directory was an information tool for use by the Contracting Parties. It was a reflection of the contents of the data-base and a synthesis of information available at the Tunis Centre. In the long-term perspective, the Directory was to be updated regularly. The Director of the Centre, added that the Directory was a useful tool for the exchange of information among Mediterranean countries. At the conclusion of the discussion on that point, it was requested that the useful information in question be inserted in the introductory part of the new version of the draft Directory.

28. It was noted that the EEC need not reply to the Questionnaires on Mediterranean Marine and Coastal protected areas due to the fact that it was not a State.

29. On conclusion of the discussion on this item the Meeting expressed its appreciation on the work done to prepare the draft Directory and adopted a set of recommendations contained in Section III-A of this Report (Recommendations).

Agenda Item 7 - Draft Guidelines for the Selection, Establishment and Management of Protected Areas in the Mediterranean

30. The IUCN representative introduced the draft Guidelines for the Selection, Establishment and Management of protected areas in the Mediterranean contained in document UNEP/WG.163/6.

31. He informed the meeting on the background and the structure of this document, which is divided to four headings as stipulated in Article 4 of the SPA Protocol:

- Guidelines for selection of protected areas;
- Guidelines for establishment of protected areas;
- Guidelines for management of protected areas;
- Notification of information on protected areas.

He explained in detail the contents of each heading.

32. The expert at the SPA Centre, introduced documents UNEP/WG.163/INF.3 and UNEP/WG.163/INF.4. He stated that the proposed methods for the identification and selection of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean were based on the methods developed in Europe (Corinea programme of the EEC) or in France (ZNIEFF programme of the Natural History Museum's Fauna and Flora Secretariat) - adapted as necessary for application to the marine and coastal environment. The identification, classification and studies UNEP/WG.163/CRP.7 appeared difficult to accomplish in view of the many disciplines that had to be brought together or individualized according to their interests. In order to simplify the procedure, it appeared necessary to proceed by stages, with national and regional approaches, as appropriate:

At the national level: identification.

At the regional and national levels: development of common classification systems.

At the regional level: standardization of a data storage system and establishment of an exchange network.

33. Concerning Document UNEP/WG.163/INF.3 it applies particularly at the national level but has direct implications for the other levels, in the selection of certain classifications and the establishment of specimen data storage and data return forms.

34. Concerning identification and selection he considered it necessary to envisage the development of a method of approach to the registration of areas of interest, applicable to all Mediterranean countries, taking account of the relative constancy of the criteria selected and considering three stages:

- The country approach of defining the major physiographical units (PU),
- The approach of each physiographical unit, marine and coastal sector, with the identification and designation of areas of interest (AI),
- The detailed approach of each area of interest, with the drawing up of a descriptive chart.

35. The main concern of this procedure is to avoid restricting the protection and management of the marine and coastal environment to the protected areas alone but to encourage an overall approach to and consideration of the country's coastline, and to take account in human activities of the interests of many other coastal points. The document or documents drawn up are not final, but will be developed in line with improved knowledge of the environment and should become a basic tool for consideration by marine and coastal environment managers before any kind of activity is carried out. Furthermore, this will make it possible to visualize the sectors or subjects for which study efforts are necessary.

36. At the end of discussion on these documents, (UNEP/WG.163/Inf. 3 and Inf.4), the meeting noted their usefulness and they are only for information purposes.

37. A general discussion took place during which participants made general as well as specific remarks to the main document before the meeting, i.e. the "Guidelines". There was a general appreciation to the work done in preparing such technical document.

38. A participant inquired about the facilities, institutions, material and equipment needed in order to be able to take advantage of this Guideline. The expert from the SPA Centre responded by stating that there is a need for countries to undertake an inventory of relevant legislations, scientific papers, equipments, etc. required for the initial stage, then a definition of the areas under consideration. The RAC/SPA can assist countries in this regard. Specialized Working Groups can be established to study available knowledge and make necessary recommendations.

39. Another participant inquired about the limits of the protected area to be included. The secretariat reminded participants of Article 1 of the Convention and Article 2 of the Protocol which determine the area covered by the SPA Protocol, i.e., the area "shall be limited to the territorial waters of the parties and may include waters on the land or side of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured and extending, in the case of water courses, up to the freshwater limit. It may also include wetlands or coastal areas designated by each of the Parties".

40. The meeting thoroughly reviewed the document on the "Guidelines" during which corrections and amendments were presented. The final version of the Guidelines was approved by the Meeting for submission and approval by the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Athens, 7-11 September 1987).

41. The text of the Guidelines is contained in Section III -B of this report (Recommendations).

Agenda Item 8 - Consideration of the status on the Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal

42. The representative of IUCN introduced Agenda item 8 concerning the Status of Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal. He indicated that on both a global and regional basis the Monk Seal was one of the most endangered species. It has therefore been given specific mention in the Action Plan for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals, which had been endorsed by UNEP, IUCN, FAO, the IWC and other international bodies. As a result UNEP had collaborated with IUCN in determining the present status of the Mediterranean Monk Seal and its biological requirements. The IUCN representative stated that the MAP Coordinating Unit and IUCN had been in correspondence with at least 40 different governmental and non-governmental bodies that had also initiated activities concerning the conservation of the monk seal. On the basis of a review of those activities it had become obvious that they were unco-ordinated and in many cases duplicated each other. IUCN and UNEP therefore felt the need to convene a meeting of those groups for the purpose of reviewing their activities and determining the possibility of the various groups initiating a co-operative programme under a Mediterranean-wide Action Plan for conservation of the monk seal. The preparations for such a meeting had now been completed and it was planned to hold the meeting during the latter part of 1987. It was pointed out that many of the interested groups had their own funds for implementing activities, or would use the conservation of the monk seal as the focus for the fund-raising campaigns. IUCN and UNEP therefore felt that the meeting should be an informal consultation held outside the terms of reference of the RAC/SPA.

43. The Co-ordinator of MAP noted that the setting up of so many groups interested in saving the Mediterranean monk seal can be taken as an implied criticism of a lack of effective action on the part of MAP so far. The proposed coordination was not intended to bureaucratize the existing efforts, but rather to help them play their role within a coherent management plan while avoiding duplication and conflicting objectives. The protection of the monk seal will test the capabilities of the countries concerned, of MAP and its SPA Centre to deal with a difficult situation that is deteriorating with time.

44. The Meeting took note of the information given by the representative of IUCN and the Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan on the status of the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal.

Agenda Item 9 - Draft Work Plan and budget for the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) for 1988 - 1989

45. The Director of the Center, introduced document UNEP/WG.163/8 - Draft Work plan and budget for RAC/SPA for 1988-1989. He briefed the meeting on developments that had occurred since the establishment of the Centre in September 1985, and the outputs of the first phase of 1985 to the end of 1986. He referred to the close cooperation between the Centre and the host country (Tunisia) as well as with IUCN.

46. The inauguration of the Centre on 13 February 1987 was a good opportunity to make the Centre known and an exhibition on the activities of the SPA Centre was organized during this occasion. Moreover, the Director attended various meetings at FAO and UNESCO/IOC and briefed them on the activities of the Centre.

47. The Director referred to useful administrative support received from the UNDP office in Tunis, and indicated that from 1987, the Centre would assume complete administrative and financial responsibilities.

48. Concerning the 1988/1989 workplan, he reviewed the four main objectives to be carried out by the Centre, i.e.:

Objective A: Creation, extension and constant improvement of the data bank and especially of the inventory of Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (establishment under consideration, and potential).

Objective B: Inventory and selection of sites for the establishment of a network of Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas.

Objective C: Research, Classification, Monitoring.

Objective D: Knowledge, Information, Education, Training.

To those long-term objectives, other objectives could be added covering special activities (limited in time) aimed at safeguarding species of regional importance, mainly:

Objective E: Safeguarding of the Mediterranean Monk Seal Monachus Monachus.

Objective F: Safeguarding of the Mediterranean sea turtles.

49. Turning to budgetary matters, the Director of RAC/SPA explained the various budget lines. He referred in particular to personnel matters, and informed the meeting that the post of documentalist had to become more action oriented in order to cover the second phase of the Centre's workplan. He expressed the Centre's readiness to assist countries by sending consultants.

50. The meeting reviewed in detail the work plan and budget for the SPA Centre for 1988-1989 and commented on the introductory statement of the Director of RAC/SPA.

51. A participant inquired about the vacant post of documentalist in the Centre and whether it was to be filled in accordance with normal United Nations procedures. The Co-ordinator confirmed that that would be the case.

52. Another participant suggested that the work plan for 1988-1989 should incorporate the Guidelines adopted by the present meeting and stressed the need for a time table for the implementation of the work plan which would help national focal points to follow closely the implementation of the Centre's programme. The adoption of the Guidelines by the meeting might entail additional financial resources in the Centre's budget. The Co-ordinator was of the view that the Centre's approach should not be a theoretical one, but should be action-oriented and practical.

53. The Chairlady expressed the hope that the SPA Centre would continue its work on the lines outlined by its Director, which would be of benefit to all Mediterranean countries.

54. The representative of FAO informed the meeting that his organization was preparing a compendium of legislations in Mediterranean countries concerning fisheries and other relaterd matters. Cooperation on this point can be initiated with the RAC/SPA.

55. The Coordinator of MAP invited possible further assistance from Mediterranean coastal States to the Centre in the form of equipment, library material or personnel.

56. During the discussion which took place, the participants made corrections, amendments and new proposals to the draft work plan and budget of the Centre.

57. Within the framework of objective F (Safeguarding of the Mediterranean Sea Turtles), the representative of Cyprus briefed the meeting on the relevant programme carried out in her country since 1978 and presented two video films on these activities. The meeting expressed its appreciation, considering these activities as an example for selecting, establishing and managing relevant areas of ecological value in the Mediterranean region.

58. At the end of the discussion on the item, the meeting adopted the work plan and budget for the Centre for the biennium 1988-1989, contained in Section III C -D of the present report (Recommendations).

Agenda Item 10 - Other business

59. No other matters were raised under this item.

Agenda Item 11 - Adoption of the report

60. The meeting adopted its report on 4 June 1987.

Agenda Item 12 - Closure of the meeting

61. The Chairlady, the representative of the secretariat and the representative of IUCN made statements in which they emphasised the importance of the decisions of the meeting and thanked all participants for their cooperation.

62. The meeting was closed on 4 June 1987 at 14.00 hours.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

The meeting adopted the following recommendations for submission to and approval by the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Athens, 7-11 September 1987):

A. DIRECTORY OF MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

1. That the Directory should reflect information on established protected areas and to the extent possible areas under consideration by relevant governments and the term "proposed areas" be deleted.

2. That countries which have not yet done so, should reply to the questionnaires on SPA and that other countries should send their corrections, and any other relevant information to be reflected in the Directory, to the Centre through the Co-ordinating Unit in Athens, by the end of September 1987 at the latest.

3. That the Contracting Parties should take note of the existing draft Directory as an output of the Centre for Specially Protected Areas, and a new, updated version would be issued by the Centre.

B. GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION, ESTABLISHMENT, MANAGEMENT AND NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Introduction

The Guidelines proposed below, concerning the Selection, Establishment, Management and Notification of information on Marine and Coastal protected areas, adopted at the first meeting of focal points (Athens, 1-4 June 1987), were offered as a guide and not as a formal obligation for their application.

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF PROTECTED AREAS

Establish policies and objectives

1. The organization of a protected area programme should be based on clearly-defined policies and objectives approved by the highest levels of government, taking into account the regional goals and contents of the Protocol. These could include:

   - the maintenance of the productivity of marine and coastal resources, and the reconstitution of depleted stocks;

- the conservation of the richness and diversity of the country's natural resources, including examples of all representative ecosystems and habitats, and the genetic diversity of important species;

- the preservation of sites of particular importance because of their scientific, aesthetic, historical, archaeological, cultural or educational interest.

- the environmentally sound sustainable development of economic activities linked to the rational and exploitation of marine and coastal resources, especially tourism and fisheries.

- the protection of the environmental quality, the health and safety of coastal communities and resource users.

Create a planning team

2. A planning team should be chosen to begin the process of selecting and establishing protected areas. A survey of the agencies, organizations and experts able to contribute to this planning team should be one of the first steps to be taken.

Survey the marine and coastal environment

3. Each country should survey its marine and coastal areas to the possible extent to identify sites worthy of protection. Existing information should be compiled and new surveys made if necessary to provide information on coastal features, natural habitats and species, and points of special interest. The surveys should consider:

   - **environmental characteristics** such as species distributions and abundance, habitat occurrence according to a standard classificaton (for marine habitats see classification in Appendix 1), and physico-chemical parameters (climatology, geomorphology, hydrology, sedimentation, geochemistry, water quality);

   - **socio-economic uses and potential** for recreation, tourism, fisheries and aquaculture;

   - **existing and potential threats** from tourism, urbanization, industry, mining, drilling, dredging, dumping, agriculture, aquaculture, navigation and naval works.

4. Information from country surveys, bibliographic research and other sources should be compiled on a regional basis to determine regional patterns and processes. This can be done by the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA).

5. The resulting national and regional inventories of natural sites and special features should be updated periodically.

Evaluate sites and features

6. All sites and features on which information has been collected should be evaluated according to criteria adopted by each country in accordance with their national goals and international obligations. Examples of criteria are:

- **Ecological criteria:** Diversity, Naturalness, Dependency of species or processes on the area, Representativeness, Uniqueness, Integrity, Productivity, Vulnerability.

- **Social criteria:** Social acceptance by local people, Public health, Recreation, Culture, History, Archaeology, Aesthetics, Conflicts of interest with local activities, Safety, Accessibility, Benchmark or Reference value, Education, Research.

- **Economic criteria:** Importance to commercial species, Importance to fisheries, Nature of threats to value of area, Economic benefits, Tourism.

- **Regional criteria:** Regional significance, national significance, Contribution to regional awareness, Demonstration of compatible uses.

- **Pragmatic criteria:** Urgency, Size, Degree of threat, Effectiveness, Opportunism, Availability, Restorability.

7. The development of regional definitions for selection criteria and of procedures for their application should be undertaken through the RAC/SPA.

Rank sites

8. Sites should be ranked by the respective countries both for their value according to each criterion, and their ability to meet multiple criteria, leading to listings of the highest priority sites for designation as protected areas.

9. Consultation with the RAC/SPA can help to identify sites of particular regional interest. This could be necessary, for instance, to protect a species of regional importance.

GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

Designate a responsible authority

10. There should be an authority responsible for the marine and coastal protected areas.

11. The authority should be given clearly-defined objectives and responsibilities.

12. It might be useful for the authority to have the following responsibilities:

    1. Define institutional responsibilities and relations;

    2. Establish priorities and mechanisms for selecting, establishing and developing marine and coastal protected areas;

    3. Communicate with the regional authorities and centres responsible for co-ordinating the Mediterranean network of protected areas;

    4. Co-ordinate the activities of the different departments with marine and coastal responsibilities in order to:

       (a) Protect species and their critical habitats;
       (b) Conserve threatened, rare, endemic and commercial species, threatened, unique, representative and valuable marine habitats, and cultural, archaeological and historical sites;
       (c) Ensure permanent protection;
       (d) Conduct or arrange for relevant research and surveys;
       (e) Provide mechanisms for developing and implementing management plans for each protected area, based on scientific data;
       (f) Control developments, activities and sources of pollution outside the protected areas that may adversely affect them;
       (g) Regulate exploitation in protected areas and their adjacent buffer zones;
       (h) Control navigation through and mooring in marine protected areas; and
       (i) Promulgate regulations and provide enforcement mechanisms.

Survey potential sites

13. The site of each potential protected areas should be surveyed in detail, identifying areas with greatest value for different uses.

Adopt legislation

14. The establishment and management of marine protected areas should be supported by adequate legislation. Comprehensive legislation for sustainable use of large marine areas including both protected areas and other management measures should be considered.

15. The regional development of model legislation for coastal and marine protected areas might be useful.

Obtain a consensus

16. To be effective, protected areas should have public acceptance and local co-operation in their operation. The establishment of protected areas should thus be subject to wide discussion and if possible consensus among the public, representatives of interested groups, or at least all the government departments concerned.

Provide financial support

17. Adequate financial support or revenues should be made available to the authority to carry out its mandate effectively.

Establish boundaries

18. The boundaries of coastal and marine protected areas should be ecologically sensible, easily identifiable by the public ; they should be determined mainly on the basis of ecological considerations and should encompass, the terrestrial and marine component of the area, the subsoil below the area and the airspace above the area to the extent possible.

19. Areas with both a terrestrial and marine component should be considered as one entity and be managed under an integrated management plan. Consideration should also be given to establishing areas that have only a marine component (within the geographical definition given in Article 2 of the Protocol).

20. Protected areas should allow as many multiple uses as are consistent with conservation objectives.

Identify resources needed

21. The needs for infrastructure, equipment, finance, field personnel (terrestrial and marine) and management support for each protected area should be identified.

Establish appropriate legislation

22. Each protected area shall be identified by a legal text defining the status of the protected area and based on the standard categories set forth in Appendix II. This text which may be of a permanent or temporary nature, shall be drawn up in accordance with international agreements and with these guidelines.

Notify RAC/SPA

23. The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas shall be notified of the creation or the modification of protected areas.

Offer alternatives or Compensate displaced activities

24. Equity should be respected in the creation of protected areas. Users or community groups whose rights or activities are displaced or reduced should be given alternate rights or activities or otherwise compensated.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

Prepare and establish a management plan

25. A management plan should be prepared and established for each protected area, and periodically updated in the light of experience. A model outline is given in Appendix 3.

Implement the management plan

26. The management plan should be implemented and the necessary regulations or controls adopted and adequately enforced. Facilities should be built, equipment purchased and personnel hired on a scale consistent with available funds.

Use zoning and buffer zones

27. Zoning should be used whenever appropriate to permit the maximum compatible uses of the protected area. Buffer zones should be created around the protected area to prevent encroachment or degradation (Article 5).

Establish educational and information programmes

28. Educational opportunities and public interpretation and information programmes should be developed within protected areas whenever possible.

Monitor the effectiveness of protection

29. Critical species, ecosystems and physical and chemical parameters should be monitored in protected areas to verify the effectiveness of management actions.

30. The RAC/SPA should encourage the development and application of standard regional methods for monitoring protected areas and species.

Conduct research

31. Research under appropriate conditions should be encouraged in protected areas, particularly to define baselines for area and coastal environments, or to develop restoration techniques for natural habitats.

Restore damage

32. Damaged or degraded areas and resources should be restored to their natural state in accordance with the established objectives of the protected area to the extent possible.

Promote the rational use of natural resources

33. The management plan should promote and serve as an example for the rational use of the natural resources of the Specially Protected areas.

NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON PROTECTED AREAS

Assign responsibility

34. The notification of information on protected areas is the responsibility of the National Focal Point (Article 14.2 of the Protocol).

Provide information to RAC/SPA

35. All information shall be transmitted to RAC/SPA as soon as available and as complete and updated as possible at least every two years before the meeting of the Focal Points. Transmission to RAC/SPA shall be made through the MAP Co-ordinating Unit. Information on each country in accordance with the standard format in Appendix IV shall be transmitted to RAC/SPA.

36. Information on each protected area is to be furnished regularly to the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas in accordance with the standard format in Appendix 5 to the possible extent.

37. Similar information on potential and planned protected areas should also be provided to the possible extent to the RAC/SPA.

38. Information on current and planned research, general surveys, monitoring of the status of species and ecosystems, and other data or regional interest are to be shared with other Parties through the RAC/SPA.

39. Information on the experience acquired, the problems encountered, and the methods developed to resolve them are to be supplied to the RAC/SPA, which can suggest solutions or appropriate studies, and prepare technical and information documents.

Distribute information and regional recommandations

40. In all cases, the RAC/SPA is to make information received widely available to the Parties. It should recommend programmes of co-ordinated research and standard scientific methods for the selection, management and monitoring of protected areas in order to improve the information available on the status of Mediterranean species, ecosystems and cultural resources.

Appendix 1 : Standard classification of Mediterranean marine zones and associated benthic biocenosis (from PERES & PICARD, 1964)

Supralittoral Zone
- supralittoral rocks
- rapid drying beaches
- slowly drying beaches

Midlittoral zone
- upper midlittoral rocks
- lower midlittoral rocks
  - -with Lithophyllum tortuosum
  - -with Ralfsia verrucosa
- midlittoral caves
- midlittoral detritus
- midlittoral sands
- muddy sands and muds of lagoons and estuaries

Infralittoral zone
- photophilic algae
  - -with Cystoseira stricta
  - -with Corallina
- infralittoral shingles
- coarse sands and fine gravels under wave influence
- sands partly protected from wave influence
- calm water muddy sands
- euryhaline and eurythermal lagoons
- terrigenous well-graded fine sands
- fine surface sands
- Posidonia oceanica beds

coarse sands and fine gravels under influence of bottom currents (various depths)

Circalittoral zone
- "Coralligenous" (with shade-loving algae)
- semi-dark caves
- completly dark caves and tunnels
- open sea rocky bottoms
- coastal detrital bottoms
  - -with algoliths
  - -with branched coralline algae
  - -with Lithothamnium
  - -with Squamariaceae
- muddy detrital bottoms
- coastal terrigenous muds
- open sea detrital bottoms

Bathyal zone
- white corals
- bathyal muds

Abyssal zone

Appendix 2 : CATEGORIES AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES OF PROTECTED AREAS

1. **Scientific Reserve/Strict Nature Reserve/Strict Marine Reserve** (IUCN I; EEC 1): To protect nature and maintain natural processes in a undisturbed state in order to have ecologically representative examples of the natural environment available for scientific study, environmental monitoring and education and for the maintenance of genetic resources in a dynamic and evolutionary state.

2. **National Park/Marine National Park** (IUCN II: EEC 3): To protect large natural and scenic areas of national or international significance for scientific, educational and recreational uses.

3. **Natural/Cultural Monument** (IUCN III: EEC 6): To preserve significant natural, cultural or archaeological features because of their special interest or unique characteristics.

4. **Managed Natural Reserve/Wildlife Sanctuary/Marine Sanctuary** (IUCN IV; EEC 2): To assure the natural conditions necessary to protect significant species, groups of species, biotic communities, or physical features of the environment, where these require specific human manipulation for their perpetuation.

5. **Protected Landscape/Seascape** (IUCN V; EEC 4): To maintain significant natural landscapes or coastlines which are characteristic of the harmonious interaction of man, land and sea, while providing opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism within the normal life-style and economic activity of these areas .

6. **Resources Reserve** (IUCN VI): To protect the natural resources of the area for future use, and prevent or contain development activities that could affect the resource pending the establishment of objectives which are based upon appropriate knowledge and planning.

7. **Natural Biotic Area/Anthropological Reserve** (IUCN VII; EEC 5): To allow human societies living in harmony with the environment to continue their way of life undisturbed by modern technology.

8. **Multiple Use Management Area/Managed Resource Area/Fisheries Reserve** (IUCN VIII): To provide for the sustained production of fisheries, wildlife, tourism and outdoor recreation, with conservation of nature primarily oriented to the support of the economic activities, or with several zones designated to achieve specific conservation objectives.

There are several titles involving special international recognition of protected areas that may be used in addition to the above:

Biosphere Reserve: Unesco category to conserve for present and future use the diversity and integrity of representative biotic communities of plants and animals within natural ecosystems, and to safeguard the genetic diversity on species of which their continuing evolution depends.

World Heritage Site: site listed under the World Heritage Convention to protect natural or cultural features of World Heritage quality, and to provide information for worldwide public enlightenment.

Biogenetic Reserve: area which is part of Council of Europe network established in order to preserve the biological integrity and ensure the effective conservation of marine or terrestrial habitats, biocenosis or ecosystems.

Appendix 3 : Indicative Model Outline for Protected Area Management Plan (Covering 3 to 5 years)

I. Executive Summary

II. Introduction
- A. Purpose and scope of plan
- B. Legislative authority for the action

III. Description
- A. Regional setting: location and access
- B. Resources (only facts pertinent to management)
  1. Physical
  2. Biological
  3. Cultural
- C. Existing uses (description, facilities, economics, etc.)
  1. Recreational
  2. Commercial
  3. Research and education
  4. Traditional
- D. Existing legal and management framework
- E. Existing and potential threats and implication for management.

IV. The Management Plan
1. Goals and Objectives
2. Administrative management
   a. Responsible authority
   b. Advisory committees
   c. Agreements (with agencies, organizations, individuals)
   d. Regional assistance
3. Physical plan
   a. Boundaries
   b. Zoning
   c. Buffer zone
   d. New regulations
4. Resource management
   a. Scientific research
   b. Protection of cultural resources
   c. Management of natural resources
   d. Pollution control
   e. Monitoring uses and impacts
5. User management and enforcement
   a. Tourism, recreation
   b. Management of economic activities
   c. Education, interpretation
6. Requirements (3- to 5-year plan)
   a. Staffing
   b. Training
   c. Facilities and equipment
   d. Budget
7. Revision of management plan

V. References

VI. Appendices

Appendix 4 : Country Data Sheet headings

1. Name of country
2. Area (sq km)
3. Length of Mediterranean coastline (km)
4. Population
5. Legislation on marine and coastal protected areas
6. Description of protected area administration
7. Address of national authorities
8. Scientific and technical organizations (list and addresses)
9. Experts on marine and coastal subjects (list and addresses)
10. List of established marine and coastal protected areas
11. List of marine and coastal protected areas under consideration by respective governments.
12. List of potential marine and coastal protected areas
13. Principal reference material

Appendix 5 : Area Data Sheet headings

1. Official name of area
2. Geographical location (place and coordinates)
3. Area
   - Total area (km)
   - Terrestrial surface (km)
   - Water surface (sq. km)
   - Length of coastline (km)
4. Annotated description of the area
5. Legal protection
   a) Legislation
   b) Legal status (category)
6. Effective date of establishment
7. Land tenure
   - Ownership and other information related to land tenure
8. Human population
9. Physical features
   I. Terrestrial features
      a) Geology, topography and hydrology
      b) Maximum altitude (m)
      c) Mean temperature (summer and winter) (°C)
      d) Mean precipitation (summer and winter) (mm)
      e) Prevalent wind direction and speed (km/h)
      f) Major seasonal climatic features

II. Marine environment
   a) Geology, topography, sedimentology
   b) Maximum and average depth(m)
   c) Mean water temperatures (summer and winter) (°C)
   d) Salinity (summer and winter) (mg/l, o/oo)
   e) Prevalent currents (summer and winter)

10. Vegetation (characteristic, endemic and endangered)
   a) Terrestrial
   b) Marine
11. Fauna (characteristic, endemic and endangered)
   a) Terrestrial
   b) Marine
12. Cultural/historical features
13. Management
   a) Management practices
   b) Staff
   c) Budget
14. Uses
   a) Recreation/Tourism
   b) Research
   c) Education/Training
   d) Exploitation of resources
15. Problems
   a) Environmental problems
   b) Management problems
16. Principal reference material
17. Contact address of local agencies or national authorities

C. WORK PLAN FOR THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS FOR 1988-1989

1. The 1988-1989 activities will be carried out in close collaboration with the National Focal Points and with the assistance and support of national and international centres and experts. Due to the time given over to the completion of the 1985-1986 activities, the new activities should continue within the framework of the 1988-89 programme.

2. Within the framework of Objective A: Improvement of the data bank.

The Centre will carry out the following activities:

- Completion and publication of the Directory of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Mediterranean Region having an ecological and biological value.
- Improvement and extension of the programme Data Base III.
- Preparation of a document concerning the bibliography of the Mediterranean Protected Areas (Ecosystems, species etc.)
- Preparation of an annual report on the projects of each country concerning protected areas.
- Preparation of the second part of the Directory on the Protected Areas of cultural importance as specified in Article 3.2.b of the Protocol.
- Preparation of a document on the proposed areas on the basis of available studies.
- Preparation of a computer programme to store and treat data on inventorying and selection of marine and coastal protected areas in agreement with other international programmes.
- Establishment of a network and preparation of a list of experts on marine and coastal protected areas in connection with National Focal Points, the Research Centres and International Organisations.

3. Within the framework of Objectives B and C: Co-operation with countries on the application of the Guidelines and assistance to the countries.

The Centre will carry out the following activities:

- Inventorying and selection: Assistance to the countries to inventory and select marine and costal areas (application of selection methods, identification of consultants, field studies, preparation of reports).
- Establishment: To prepare a document reviewing national legislation and international agreements governing the Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas.
- Management: To prepare models of planning and management (Management programmes of protected areas, ecosystems, species and of cultural resources).

4. Within the framework of Objective D: Training, Information, Education.

The Centre will carry out the following activities:

- Preparation of technical guides for training and education, especially on the study and management of the marine and coastal protected areas, ecosystems and species, the creation and utilization of data banks, etc.
- Promote training of personnel by and in the Mediterranean countries for the management of marine and coastal protected areas and study of the possibilities to organize training courses (place, subject, availability of fellowships, external financial support).
- Strengthening of the means of the Regional Activity Centre/Specially Protected Areas in equipment and personnel.
- Participation in conferences and seminars for the presentation of the work carried out and the results obtained by the Centre, for making contacts and collecting data.
- Strengthening of activities aiming at protecting marine and coastal areas and species, within the above-mentioned objectives.
- Improvement of dissemination of information, especially in collaboration with the Focal Points, the other MAP Centres and International Organizations.
- Making available the data on protected areas (experts, bibliographical lists, special topics etc.).
- Acquisition, inventorying and dissemination to the general public of material on marine and coastal protected areas (audiovisual material, brochures etc.).

5. Within the framework of objective E, the meeting endorsed the intention of UNEP and IUCN to convene a consultative meeting on an Action Plan for the Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal.

6. In meeting its objectives and in fulfilling its workplan the Centre may, in consultation with the Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas, engage specialist consultants and convene advisory and open working groups of Mediterranean experts which will provide assistance and guidance, in particular concerning the application of the guidelines.

7. The meeting approved the budget required for the permanent running of the Centre RAC/SPA (Objectives A, B, C and D) for adoption by the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, 7-11 September 1987), as it appears in Item D. of the recommendations).

8. In accordance with Article 14, para. 2 of the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas, the next meeting of the National Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas will be convened in 1989, prior to the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

D. 1988-1989 BUDGET FOR THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

	m/m	1988 in US $	m/m	1989 in US $
1. PERSONNEL				
a. Director		Host Country		Host Country
b. Experts/Consultants				
- Expert	12	50,000	12	55,000
- Data Researcher	12	40,000	12	45,000
- Expert		Host Country		Host Country
- Consultants		60,000		70,000
c. Administrative support				
- Secretary	12	8,000	12	10,000
- Driver	12	5,000	12	6,000
2. TRAVEL		20,000		25,000
3. SUB-CONTRACTS		10,000		15,000
4. MEETINGS (experts, focal points)		15,000		31,000
5. EQUIPMENT				
- Non-expendable (car, video)		8,000		5,000
- Expendable		2,000		3,000
6. RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES		Host Country		Host Coountry
7. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT		5,000		10,00023 OF
8. REPORTING COSTS		15,000		18,000
9. SUNDRY				
- Communication, postage, freight		12,000		14,000
- Hospitality		2,000		2,000
- Miscellaneous		3,000		4,000
TOTAL		255,000		313,000

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A N N E X II

List of Documents

Working documents

UNEP/WG.163/1	Provisional agenda.
UNEP/WG.163/2	Provisional annotated agenda.
UNEP/WG.163/3	Report of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas. Programme development 1985-1986.
UNEP/WG.163/4	Progress report on the Directory of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Mediterranean Region
UNEP/WG.163/4, Annex 1	Draft Directory of Marine and Coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean
UNEP/WG.163/5	Draft map of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas.
UNEP/WG/163/6	Draft Guidelines for the Selection, Establishment and Management of Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.
UNEP/WG.163/7	Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal
UNEP/WG.163/8	Draft Work Plan and Budget for the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas for 1988-1989.
UNEP/WG.163/9	Report of the First Meeting of National Focal Points for Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas. (to be prepared during the meeting).

Information documents

UNEP/WG.163/INF.1	List of documents
UNEP/WG.163/INF.2	List of participants
UNEP/WG.163/INF.3	Draft Manual of methods for the selection and establishment of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean.
UNEP/WG/163/INF.4	Case study 1: Le benthos marin de l'île de Zembra (Parc National, Tunisie).
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UNEP/WG.163/INF.6	Case Study 3. Etude de l'évolution du statut du Phoque Moine en Tunisie et dans l'archipel de la Galite. Propositions pour une gestion régionale.
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