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Expert Consultation on
Mediterranean Marine Parks and Wetlands
Tunis, 12-14 January 1977

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

As part of a comprehensive Action Plan for the protection and development of the Mediterranean Sea Area, adopted at the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 28 January-4 February 1975), a consultation of experts on Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands will be convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Tunis (12-14 January 1977) at the kind invitation of the Government of Tunisia.

The Consultation is expected to advise the Executive Director of UNEP on:

- (a) the present status of Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands, including relevant national legislation.
- (b) the importance and significance of Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands as:
 - (i) safe "sanctuaries" for the endangered indigenous Mediterranean species (seals, for instance);
 - (ii) breeding grounds necessary for the maintenance of exploitable stocks of migratory marine species;
 - (iii) natural habitats for birds migrating to, from, or through the Mediterranean;
 - (iv) reserves of typical Mediterranean ecosystems as reference systems for scientific research, as pools of specific genetic material and as areas needed for public education.
- (c) principles and guidelines for the establishment and management of Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands.
- (d) measures to be taken for the improvement of the present situation.

Based on the advice of the Consultation the Executive Director of UNEP will decide on the steps to be taken in order to bring the recommendations of the Consultation to the attention of the Governments of the Mediterranean states and to ensure action aimed at the protection and development of the Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands.

The Consultation will be attended by 10-15 experts on Mediterranean marine parks and wetlands invited by UNEP in their personal capacity. Representatives of international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations interested in the Mediterranean region would be welcome as observers.

English and French will be used as working languages of the Consultation. Documents relevant to the Consultation, which will be distributed to the participants of the meeting, will be available in both of these languages.