
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting
Parties to the Convention for the Protection
of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution
and its Related Protocols

Athens, 3-6 October 1989

Report of the Executive Director on the
implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan
in 1988 - 1989

Co-operation with the World Bank and
the European Investment Bank

1. During the Fifth Meeting of Contracting Parties the representative of the World Bank indicated the Bank's intention of contributing to the financing of environmental projects in the Mediterranean region. The Meeting took note of these intentions and requested the Co-ordinating Unit to approach the World Bank in order that its new programme take into account the work already done or being done within the Mediterranean Action Plan in order to support it (UNEP/IG.74/5 Recommendation D.9.a).
2. There were extensive contacts between officials and experts of the World Bank and of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the staff of the Co-ordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres over the past eighteen months. Information has been made available, and discussions held. These have led to a high-level formal agreement signed by the Vice President, Europe, Middle East and North Africa Regional Office of the World Bank, and by the Executive Director of UNEP on 12 July 1989. The text of the letter of agreement appears in Annex I.
3. Subsequent programme reviews were carried out in Washington (24-25 July 1989) and in Athens (16-18 August 1989) leading to an understanding of the scope and content of METAP (Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program of the World Bank, the EIB and the UNDP) - MAP co-operation. The text of the understanding appears in Annex II.
4. Detailed project agreements will be drawn up on the basis of the MAP programme budget for 1990-1991, as approved by the Contracting Parties, in line with the Bank's wish to use METAP resources for speeding up, deepening or widening the scope of a given MAP activity, rather than displace the MAP funds allocated to that purpose.
5. The Secretariat proposes to keep the Contracting Parties informed, through the Bureau, on specific project activities carried out jointly with the World Bank and the European Investment Bank.

ANNEX I

July 12, 1989

Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba
Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Dr. Tolba:

Further to Mr. Conable's letter to you on June 14, 1989, I am writing to reiterate the Bank's interest in continued collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in dealing with the environmental problems in the Mediterranean Region. As I indicated in my letter, dated June 19, 1989, the Bank recognizes the efforts of UNEP since 1975 in forging the Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean and their adoption by the Mediterranean States and the EEC as well as its role as secretariat of the Convention and the Action Plan and as co-ordinator of a wide range of activities in connection with the Mediterranean. On the Bank's part, we believe the Environmental Program for the Mediterranean not only complements the Action Plan but sets the stage for the implementation of policy actions and bankable projects to support the objectives of the Convention, the Action Plan and the Genoa Declaration.

The purpose of this letter is to set out working arrangements between our two institutions to govern our co-operation and joint sponsorship of programs designed to assist in dealing with the environmental problems of the Mediterranean Region. To that end, we propose that our institutions should:

- (a) hold regular consultations on policy and program implementation levels with a view to co-ordinating the development of joint or complementary activities;
- (b) exchange information on past, ongoing and planned activities relevant to the protection of the Mediterranean;
- (c) exchange data relevant to the protection of the Mediterranean available in our respective data banks;
- (d) invite each other to participate in policy and technical meetings relating to the Action Plan and the Environmental Program for the Mediterranean;

- (e) assist each other upon request in the preparation of action plans and other programs and projects related to the environmental problems of individual Mediterranean States, in particular proposals for coastal zone management;
- (f) consult each other from time to time on matters not specifically set forth above but are of mutual interest to our institutions in connection with each institution's environmental work in the Mediterranean Region.

It is understood that these working arrangements may be modified or supplemented at any time by mutual agreement and may, after giving of reasonable notice, be terminated by either institution.

If you agree with the foregoing, please indicate your assent by countersigning below.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Wilfried P. Thalwitz
Vice President
Europe, Middle East & North Africa
Regional Office
The World Bank

Accepted and Agreed:

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

(Signed) Mostafa K. Tolba
Executive Director

ANNEX II

SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDING

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF METAP-MAP CO-OPERATION

1. A meeting of the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (OCA/PAC and MAP) was held on August 16-17-18, 1989 at the MAP Headquarters in Athens to explore possible areas of co-operation between the proposed Mediterranean Technical Assistance Program (METAP) and the proposed 1990-1991 program of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

2. The World Bank gave a rapid overview of the basic objectives and envisaged outputs of METAP in the context of the Environmental Program for the Mediterranean (EPM). Major outputs of METAP at both the country and regional levels could include:

- (a) policy studies leading to the definition and/or upgrading of key environmental policy instruments;
- (b) institution building activities focusing on environmental management institutions;
- (c) support to project preparation through financing of pre-feasibility studies and pilot studies;
- (d) support to high priority monitoring and data analysis activities (through technical assistance activities and training).

3. The identification of possible areas of joint work was based on the proposed 1990-1991 MAP program to be discussed at the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in October 1989 (Document UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/4). With respect to policy studies, institution building and monitoring and data analysis activities, the following tasks were identified as potential candidates for joint work:

- (a) compilation and assessment on a country basis of environment-related legislative, regulatory and institutional framework;
- (b) selective support to the implementation of the LBS protocol in the form of (i) analytical studies on the economics and technology of industrial pollution control for specific substances, (ii) support to development of guidelines and manuals, and (iii) support to survey of land-based sources of pollution in the region;

- (c) development and implementation of an institutional strengthening program (training, twinning of marine pollution laboratories, equipment) for marine pollution monitoring activities in the context of MED POL;
- (d) elaboration of disaster preparedness plans concerning oil and toxic material shipping, leading to a full operational capability.

4. The following three activities were identified as potential candidates for joint work in support of project identification and preparation:

- (a) updating of feasibility studies for port reception facilities;
- (b) preparation of a representative set of coastal zone management pilot projects;
- (c) site-specific studies for a limited number of specially protected areas. These studies should, inter alia, examine the institutional, financial management and economic aspects associated with the development and operation of these sites.

5. The preparation of coastal zone management pilot projects may offer a great potential for co-operation. The criteria for selecting specific pilot projects for joint work would include:

- (a) government's commitment to effective implementation;
- (b) applicability to other areas;
- (c) potential for developing best practice case and dissemination value;
- (d) contribution to coverage of basic representative set of curative and preventive action plans for managing the Mediterranean coast line.

6. Based on respective comparative advantage and institutional capacities, it appears that efficient program co-operation in the field of coastal zone management would be achieved by having UNEP support the governments in the preparation of pilot projects. This support would be made in close contact with the World Bank and EIB with the common objective of designing innovative operations for full scale financing.

7. The World Bank pointed out that METAP funds for each joint work activity should be seen as truly additional to MAP funds included in the final 1990-1991 MAP program budget. The availability of METAP funds for any particular joint activity would consequently be contingent upon the effective and timely availability of counterpart MAP funds and should lead to speeding up, deepening or widening the scope of the given activity rather than displace the MAP funds allocated to that purpose.

8. Finally, it was agreed that the proposed framework for co-operation outlined above would be communicated to the participants of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in response to the specific request they made at the last meeting of the Contracting Parties with respect to a closer involvement of financing institutions (World Bank, EIB) in the operational parts of the MAP program. Further finetuning of modalities, timing and sequencing of individual tasks identified above for MAP-METAP co-operation will be pursued in the coming months with a view to finalizing the program towards the end of calendar 1989.