EP

United Nations
Environment
Programme

UNEP(OCA)/MED IG. 11/8
15 October 1997

Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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

Tunis, 18-21 November 1997

Progress Report of the Coordinator on the activities of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in 1996 - 1997

UNEP
Athens, 1997

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Introduction

The present progress report is submitted by the MAP Coordinator in compliance with the Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD). The report covers progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the various decisions taken during the first and second meetings of the Commission (Rabat, 16-18 December 1996 and Palma de Majorca, 6-8 May 1997). A supplementary report will be submitted by the Coordinator at a later stage to cover the deliberation and recommendations of the Third Meeting of the MCSD (Sophia Antipolis, 28-30 October 1997).

I. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MCSD

1. The post-Rio era was an important period in the history of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) during which the Governments of the Mediterranean region and the European Community started the process of translating and adapting UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context through the preparation of Agenda MED 21, reorientation of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and the creation of a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

2. The Commission was established in 1995 within the framework of MAP, as an advisory body with the following mandate:[1]

   - to identify, evaluate and assess major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals thereon to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, evaluate the effectiveness of the follow-up to the decisions of the Contracting Parties and facilitate the exchange of information among institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

   - to enhance regional cooperation and rationalize the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues.

3. At their Extraordinary Meeting (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Terms of Reference and the Composition of the Commission.[2] According to the Terms of Reference (see Annex I to this report), the Commission is composed of 36 members, consisting of high level representatives from each of the Contracting Parties (21), representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations (15), working in the fields of environment and sustainable development (see Annex II to this report). Strongly believing that the role of the local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs is very important during this new era of MAP, the meeting of the Contracting Parties approved a new dimension in MAP relations with these three groups by accepting that they shall participate in the work of the Commission as fully fledged members on an equal footing as the case with the Contracting Parties.

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1 UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16, Annex XIII, (IV-a)

2 UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7, Annexes V & VI

A) First Meeting of the Commission

4. During its first meeting (Rabat, 16-18 December 1996), the Commission agreed on a programme built around short-term and medium-term activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region. Two themes were identified as being areas for action in the short-term because sufficient work had already been undertaken to permit the development of policy and strategy proposals (sustainable management of coastal regions and management of water demand). Other six subjects were identified as medium-term priority themes (sustainable development indicators, tourism, information, awareness and participation, free trade and environment, industry and sustainable development and the management of urban and rural development) for which end-products planned for submission to the meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in 1999.

5. In order to implement efficiently and usefully these activities and to ensure larger participation, the Commission designated Task Managers and Thematic Working Groups to deal with each selected theme. The MAP funds allocated to the MCSD will be considered as seed money since the task managers are expected to look for the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise for the activities of the thematic working groups. However, the countries involved are willing to support as far as possible these activities through the provision of human and financial resources, being confident that if the Commission selected priority activities that are sound in their substance and organization, they would raise greater interest from donors.[3]

6. The first meeting also designated a Bureau composed of eight members, a president, six vice-presidents and a Rapporteur. The present Bureau is headed by the Minister of Environment of Morocco. The other members are representatives from the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the Mediterranean (ASCAME), Centre des Région Euroméditerranéennes pour l'environnement (CREE), Croatia, Egypt, EC, Tunisia and EcoMediterrania.

7. The meeting also accepted the invitation of Spain to host the second meeting of the Commission in early May 1997 and took note of the invitation of France to host the third meeting in France in October/November 1997.

B) First Meeting of the Bureau of the Commission

8. During its first meeting (Athens, 20-21 February 1997), the Bureau reviewed the progress achieved in the work of the Task Managers relevant to the two short-term themes, namely, "Sustainable management of coastal regions", and "Management of water demand".

9. The Bureau noted that consultation between the Task Managers, the members of the Thematic Working Groups and the supporting RACs had been limited, due to the short time available and the complexity of the themes. Nevertheless, tangible progress has been achieved towards these two short-term themes.

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[3] Report of the First Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (document: UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.120/4)

10. During the discussion on this item, members of the Bureau made various concrete comments on the programme of work of the two Task Managers and their proposals for future work.[4]

11. With a view to enhancing and speeding up the work of the task Managers and the Thematic Working Groups, the Secretariat approached all Task Managers (March 1997) urging them to undertake the necessary consultations with their Thematic Working Groups in order to prepare a working programme, including timetable, of their relevant themes for presentation to the second meeting of the Commission.

12. As it is also envisaged that a workshop for each Thematic Working Group is to be held, the Secretariat has already engaged in a consultation process with donors in order to solicit financial resources for these workshops.

13. In this connection, intense consultation with METAP III is being undertaken, with a view to coordinating MCSD activities with those of METAP priorities, and avoid overlapping. Keeping in mind that the overall budget of METAP III for the period 1996-2000 is about $118 million Dollars, there would be a good chance for the Commission to benefit from this financial programme.

C) Second Meeting of the Commission

14. The Second Meeting of the Commission was held in Palma de Majorca, Spain, on 6-8 May 1997. The Commission reviewed progress achieved and problems encountered since its first meeting. It listened to the various progress and preliminary reports of the Task Managers and made the necessary comments and suggestions in order to improve their work.

15. The Meeting also reviewed the composition of the Thematic Working Group and decided to add a few other members upon their request. The revised composition of the Working Groups is contained in the following table.

16. With regard to the draft rules of Procedure of the commission, after some discussion and due to time limitation, the meeting decided to defer the decision on the draft Rules of Procedure to the Third Meeting of the Commission to be held in France on 28-30 October 1997.

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[4] First Meeting of the Bureau of the Commission (document: UNEP/MCSD/BUR/1/5)

ANNEX II

TABLE
THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS
(Revised)

Themes	Task managers	Members of the group	Support from MAP[5]
Short-term (over about a one-year period)			
- Sustainable management of coastal zones	Morocco and MEDCITIES	CREE, European Community, Greece, City of Rome, Spain, EcoMediterrania, Monaco, WWF, Italy, EOAEN, Cyprus, France, Tunisia, MIO-ESCDE, Egypt, Malta, Albania	RAC/Priority Actions Programme, RAC/Blue Plan, RAC/Environment Remote Sensing and RAC/Specially Protected Areas
- Management of water demand	Tunisia and Morocco	Libya, WWF, APNEK, European Community, Egypt, Italy, France, CEFIC, MIO-ECSDE, Malta, Spain, EcoMediterrania, CEDARE, Cyprus, Israel	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme
Medium-term (until 1999 Contracting Parties meeting and beyond)			
- Sustainable development indicators	France and Tunisia	European Community, Morocco, EcoMediterranean, Greece, Israel	RAC/Blue Plan
- Sustainable Tourism	Spain, EOAEN and Egypt	Malta, Monaco, Cyprus, Croatia, European Community, Greece, EcoMediterrania, WWF MIO-ECSDE, ASCAME	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme
- Information, awareness and participation	MIO-ECSDE and CREE	European Community, WWF, France, APNEK, Croatia, Egypt, Morocco, MEDCITIES, EcoMediterrania, Albania, Algeria, Libya	MED Coordinating Unit
- Free trade and environment in the Euromediterranean context (strategic impact assessment)	FIS	Tunisia, France, European Community, APNEK, Morocco, MIO-ECSDE	MED Coordinating Unit
- Industry and sustainable development (cultural, economic, technical and financial aspects of progressive elimination of land-based pollution)	Italy, Algeria	WWF, Israel, EOAEN, ASCAME, CEFIC, Spain, European Community	MED POL, RAC/Clean Production
- Management of urban/rural development	Egypt	MEDCITIES, FIS, MIO-ECSDE, Spain, Morocco, France, Malta (Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Algeria, CEDARE, EC	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme

[5] The Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres will each provide the necessary support to the different working groups according to their expertise.

II. PROGRESS REPORTS BY TASK MANAGERS

A) Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones

Before the MCSD meeting in Palma de Majorca (6-8 May 1997), PAP/RAC had organized the preparation of the basic document for the work of the thematic group. The task managers of the group (Morocco, MEDCITIES) selected the expert to prepare it (Prof. Harry Cocossis, Greece). PAP/RAC agreed with the modalities of the document preparation, and cooperated closely during the preparation of the document "Sustainable Development for Mediterranean Coastal Areas". In Palma, the working group had two meetings, commenting on the document and formulating suggestions for its final editing. The document was completed and submitted to the members of the working group in August 1997.

The working group of this programme envisages the organization of a conclusive workshop to discuss practical and concrete proposals for measures aimed at improving and enhancing the sustainable management of Mediterranean coastal zones. Those measures would be proposed for adoption by the members of the MCSD and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. PAP/RAC accepted the proposal by the EcoMediterrania (Spanish NGO, member of the working group and of the MCSD) to accept the offer of the Savings Bank of the Mediterranean (Caja de Ahorros del Mediterraneo - CAM), Alicante, Spain to partially sponsor of the meeting of the workshop.

Within the preparations of the workshop, two one-day meetings were organized in Barcelona (July and September 1997) in the premises of EcoMediterrania. The meetings were attended by PAP/RAC, task group managers, EcoMediterrania and the author of the basic document. They defined various aspects of the workshop, such as the contents, procedure, agenda, participants, documents to be presented, and all relevant logistic issues. In the first meeting, the basic document was discussed thoroughly and some additional proposals were made for its amendment. Also in that meeting it was agreed to focus the workshop on the most crucial issues for the implementation of the working group theme.

The workshop "Sustainable and Integrated Management of Mediterranean Coastal Zones", was held in Benidorm, Spain, on 21-23 September 1997. It was organized in the premises of the sponsor, CAM, and was attended by 40 experts (MCSD members that are members of the working group, invited renowned experts from the Mediterranean, and a group of Spanish experts). A number of documents relevant to the problems of integrated coastal management, prepared by MAP and PAP, were distributed to the participants. The workshop drew great attention of the media, and after the conclusion, a public debate was organized in which some of the participants had public presentations. The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop to the MCSD members are highly practical, and can be grouped in two basic sub-themes:

- How to increase national, regional and local efforts to match international initiatives in the integrated and sustainable coastal zone management ? and
- How to increase the initiatives of the civil society in the integrated and sustainable coastal zone management ?

PAP/RAC will prepare a report of the workshop and distribute it to all MCSD members. It is expected that the sponsor will prepare a high quality publication with all inputs and documents of the workshop.

The followings are the conclusions and recommendations of the Benidorm Workshop meeting:

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Context

Coastal areas are composed of specific physical, natural and human ecosystems. The increasing environmental problems of the Mediterranean coastal areas threaten human activities and their development prospects. Their particular characteristics and problems suggest that special policies should be targeted to such areas as priority areas for development and environmental protection. The rising concern about long-term development options and their environmental consequences for development opportunities has brought forward the need to adopt sustainable development strategies for coastal areas pursued at a local, national and international level.

Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) offers a conceptual framework to organize policy actions in a process leading to better coordination of public policy in coastal areas integrating environmental, socio-economic, and physical concerns. Integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas require an integrated policy and decision making process which include all relevant sectors and actors-stakeholders. This secures the balance and compatibility of uses. The decision makers should focus on well-defined issues concerning coastal management while the application of preventive and precautionary approaches in project planning and implementation will ensure the coastal sustainable development. ICAM is, thus, emerging as a major tool of intervention for national authorities, international community, and other actors in the region.

Many actions have been taken with the objective of achieving sustainable development in the region's coastal areas, with special reference to the implementation of ICAM. At a political level, one of the most significant initiatives undertaken was the Tunis Declaration concerning Sustainable Development adopted by the Ministers in charge of the Environment in the Mediterranean countries and the European Commission (1994). Revision of the Barcelona Convention and the new Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) - Phase II (1995), and establishment of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - MCSD (1996) are other major regional efforts in this direction.

At a policy level, the meeting of Mediterranean countries' representatives at Santorini (1996), brought about a major exchange of policy options among regional ICAM experts. The vastness of the task lying in front of the Mediterranean countries became apparent.

At the practical level, the initiatives undertaken by the Mediterranean Action Plan (since 1987) including the activities of the Blue Plan, Priority Actions Programme and of other regional centres integrated in pilot projects, Coastal Area Management Programs (MAP CAMP), should be noted, as well as a number of METAP interventions.

Practical initiatives at a national level include target area policies and integrated coastal zone management policies. Several countries have taken significant steps in creating institutional structures or special legislation for coastal areas. Some have opted for coastal plans at a national or regional level, or management programs aimed at the preservation of natural assets considered as areas of unique beauty or are under some threat - i.e.

erosion, storms, etc. In certain cases the strategies covered single sectors such as tourist development including policies for alternative types of tourism related with culture, health, sports, etc. Protection is in many cases a high priority. Besides landscape protection, other measures related to pollution control, creation of nature reserves, habitat protection, restoration of wetlands, maintenance of marshes, water management, assurance of public access to beaches, restoration works, control of car parking on beaches and sensitive areas, introduction of nature trails and cycle routes, public awareness programs are included. Land control and particularly the establishment of a zoning system is encouraged particularly for those areas which represent significant ecological units.

Although in a number of cases significant progress has been made, the full integration between sectors, stakeholders, administrative levels and plans has not yet been achieved. In many Mediterranean countries a sectoral approach in coastal management is still dominant. It is true, however, that the coastal issues are dominating policy actions in these areas, but the actual degree of integration of these issues depends largely on the institutional framework. In most cases the formulation of programmes, plans and policies is easier than their implementation.

Although environmental problems appear to be common among Mediterranean countries, there are many impediments to the equally effective implementation of ICAM. The state of their economic development is probably one of the reasons to prevent some countries from ICAM. They mainly provide for these needs from the budgets which are more or less limited. In some cases funds can be secured from international donors (METAP, the European Investment Bank, EU, GEF, UNDP, MAP, etc.). Also, the national ICAM efforts do not necessarily have to start all at once. ICAM could be implemented either region by region, resource by resource, or function by function. Through this step-by step process a better evaluation of the whole problem can be achieved since isolated cases serve as pilot projects providing for useful experience and information.

The MCSD working group on Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones has the task to provide concrete proposals to the Commission to take specific measures and actions to improve the performance of ICAM in the region with the aim of achieving the sustainable development of coastal areas. The Workshop in Benidorm was organised with the objective to provide regional countries with advice on how to implement more effectively the ICAM process. Since the implementation component had been determined as the weakest link in the ICAM process, the workshop deliberations concentrated on some of the most pressing issues. Two major questions were presented to the participants:

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How to increase national, regional and local efforts to match international initiatives in the integrated and sustainable coastal zone management? and

- How to increase the initiatives of the civil society in the integrated and sustainable coastal zone management?

Recommendations

The workshop participants propose the following recommendations:

A. With regard to the first question, the participants have reached a consensus that the national, regional and local efforts could be improved to match the international initiatives in the integrated and sustainable coastal zone management. To achieve that, the following general policy actions are proposed to the members of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development:

C to improve the institutional framework;

CCto introduce stricter and more specific legislative and regulatory measures;

CCto make law enforcement more efficient;

CCto structure and disseminate information and knowledge;

CCto increase the use of financial instruments; and

CCto promote and encourage concrete projects of sustainable management of coastal areas.

For each of these recommendations, a number of tools are proposed:

i) To improve the institutional framework for coastal zone management, the MCSD members are advised to:

Cestablish national, regional and local agencies for coastal zone management mainly to

C coordinate actions among competent authorities

to secure the integrated management of coastal areas;

Csecure cooperation among various administrative bodies, institutions and organizations

C active in coastal zone management in order

to avoid duplication of efforts;

ii) To secure efficient coastal zone management, stricter and more specific legislative and regulatory measures are needed. The MCSD members are encouraged to:

- C continue the activities on drafting a Mediterranean protocol on coastal zone management with the objective of establishing general principles to be applied by the countries in their own legislation;
- C improve the existing, or create new coastal law (where it doesn't exist) to regulate actions in the coastal area in an integrated manner;
- C secure that the national legislation guarantee that significant part of the coastline is left without any development;
- C made regional and local development plans compulsory for all coastal areas in the Mediterranean region, preferably to be completed before the year 2005.

iii) To make law enforcement more efficient by preventing illegal activities in coastal areas. The MCSD members should:

- C implement strict protection measures strengthened by the possibility of penal sanctions;
- C put penalties in line with the damages done;
- C create efficient mechanisms for law enforcement (secure inspectors, equipment, training, etc.) to be paid out of the money collected from financial instruments applied in the coastal area.

iv) To break the information barriers, found sometimes in the region, in order to raise the awareness, as well as to educate the largest possible number of actors. Efficient information system should become a major communication channel for transferring relevant information and knowledge to the interested parties in the Mediterranean. The following is proposed to the MCSD members:

- existing structures and technologies within MAP have to be used to transfer information and knowledge (best practices, information on successful and unsuccessful projects, new technologies, new methodologies, etc.);
- all appropriate information and knowledge must reach national, regional and local levels, as well as all interested individuals by using all available means (Internet, newsletters, other electronic media, etc.);
- MAP and the countries should be encouraged to translate the best documents on coastal area management in all Mediterranean languages and secure the widest possible dissemination.

v) To use financial mechanisms necessary to secure the implementation of activities in integrated coastal management. Besides international funds, national financial resources have to be utilized to the maximum possible extent. MCSD members are reminded that the possible sources of financing are:

- increased and better coordinated contributions of multilateral (MEDA, METAP, GEF and other) and bilateral sources for coastal management activities;
- special national and regional funds created for exclusive use in coastal areas, to be filled from additions to local taxes, development taxes, and other taxes on the activities in the coastal area;
- increased contribution by national governments for coastal areas with particularly sensitive environment, to be used for their protection and conservation;
- visitor taxes imposed by local authorities in places frequently visited, which should be used exclusively for the benefit of improving the environment of those areas.

vi) To increase the visibility of integrated coastal management in the region and to improve the efficiency of tools used, it is of utmost importance that the international community and countries undertake concrete integrated coastal management field projects and widely disseminate their results. The following is proposed to the MCSD members:

- that the conflicting coastal areas identified by the Mediterranean countries should be priority areas for concrete field projects;
- that other priority areas for field projects could be: ecologically important and sensitive coastal terrestrial and marine areas, wetlands, coastal aquifers, urban and rural areas where poverty is high, areas where there are problems of natural resource exploitation with regard to their carrying capacity, coastal erosion areas, areas to implement EIA, Strategic Environmental Assessment, local environmental audits, local Agendas 21, etc.;
- to guarantee the efficiency of the projects, they must have very clearly stated objectives, outputs and benefits for the community.

B. With regard to the second question, the participants concluded that the role of the civil society is very important in the context of sustainable development of coastal zones according to the principle of co-responsibility in order to improve the efficiency of various forms of policy intervention. In its complexity, the civil society comprises, among others, economic factors, social partners, syndicates, NGOs, research centres, and universities. The main objective is to increase the possibility of various groups to participate actively in the integrated and sustainable management of coastal zones. Basically, the role of the society is expressed through:

- democratic debate;
- harmonization and mediation;
- cooperation and participation.

It is exercised through:

- information;
- awareness raising;
- training;
- management of projects and programmes (new forms of partnership);
- mobilization of resources.

The following is proposed to the MCSD members:

- to develop institutional instruments necessary for harmonization (polls, surveys, coastal committees, environmental councils, etc.);
- to introduce the civil society into the decision-making process;
- to prepare a guide of good practices for integrated coastal zone management;
- to prepare periodical reports on the state of coastal environment, and on the evaluation of integrated coastal management practices instruments, with the assistance of civil society actors;
- to promote and stimulate creation of new forms of partnership between the civil society and other interested parties in order to encourage the introduction and implementation of innovative ideas;
- to encourage the cooperation which not only allows for exchange of experience but also improves and promotes structuring of the civil society for the implementation of ICAM programmes and projects;
- encourage networking of the civil society actors involved with ICAM in order to facilitate the establishment of identified mediators and structuring of priorities for decision-making at local, regional, national and international levels.

B) Management of Water Demand

WORKSHOP ON "WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT"

Fréjus, 12 and 13 September 1997

SUMMARY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The problem of water resources is at the heart of the common concerns of Mediterranean countries today. When one considers that water demand in the region overall has grown by 60 per cent over the past quarter of a century and that, at the predicted level of population growth, by the year 2025 practically no southern Mediterranean country will have resources exceeding an average of 500 m^3 per capita/per annum, equivalent to the population's essential needs, it can be seen that the problem will become increasingly acute.

These concerns have been widely voiced by the most authoritative sources both at the national and regional levels, notably through the appropriate Mediterranean structures. Water management becomes the core of sustainable development when water extraction reaches approximately the same level as resources so the MCSD rightly included the question of demand management as one of its short-term priorities for 1997.

Tunisia and Morocco, as task managers, benefited from the assistance of the members of the working group, namely, Cyprus, Egypt, the European Community, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, France, Israel, Italy, Malta, Spain, WWF, CEFIC, MIO-ESCDE, APNEK, and CEDARE.

The Blue Plan, one of MAP's Regional Activity Centres, provided scientific and logistic support. Together with the task managers, this support took the form of:

preparation of the preliminary report submitted to the first meeting of the MCSD's Bureau held in Athens in February 1997;
preparation of the progress report submitted to the second meeting of the MCSD, held in Palma de Mallorca in May 1997;
organization of the workshop on "Water demand management", held in Fréjus in September 1997.

Objectives of the workshop

Experts and officials from 16 countries and 14 intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, private firms and local authorities helped to meet the objectives of the workshop (see annexes), which were the following:

to define the **characteristics of water use systems**: the strong points and the malfunctioning or inconsistencies inherent in the systems adopted;
to identify the socio-economic, institutional, legal and technical **obstacles** that hinder or prevent sustainable management of demand and their respective importance;
to make a precise assessment of the **water conservation** that could be achieved, to estimate the efficiency and cost in terms of technical and economic feasibility;
to identify the socio-cultural, economic, institutional, legal and technical **measures** to be taken to remedy the defects and eliminate the obstacles so as to prevent shortages in the future.

The workshop provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion of the relative importance of the various defects of water use systems and the effectiveness of the tools used to remedy them. It also enabled some relevant guidelines for sustainable management of water demand to be outlined and so contributed towards the broader strategic objective of sustainable water management in the Mediterranean.

Conduct of the workshop

The workshop had before it a number of working documents prepared for the purpose of guiding the debate:

Framework document to direct the work.

Problems of water demand management in Mediterranean countries. This introductory study reiterates the objectives, methods, means and tools of demand management, as well as approaches to assessing the feasibility of the water conservation predicted.

Summary of country information sheets. This represents an effort to improve, harmonize and update information on water use in Mediterranean countries (at the instigation of the MCSD task manager, a request for detailed information was sent to all participants for the purpose of assessing the status of water use systems in Mediterranean countries as a whole).

Provisional compendium "Principal criteria and statistics relating to water demand in the Mediterranean", which completes the summary by showing the most important figures available.

Information sheets for the three working groups focusing on the various tools (socio-economic, institutional and legal, technical) of water demand management and defining the issues discussed. Each group, composed of around 15 participants, dealt with one aspect of demand management, basing itself on a special information sheet and an analytical table showing the management tools and the defects to be remedied in each sector of use. The different national and local experience of demand management tools was reviewed.

RESULTS

Management defects, but improvements possible

Water demand management suffers from defects in the form of loss of resources both in terms of quantity and quality, as well as economic loss, and consequently lower profitability. There appears to be a lack of awareness of this situation and there is little understanding of the value of water as such.

All users bear some part of the responsibility. Agriculture shows by far the greatest excess consumption.

This unexploited resource is important and so demand management is better placed than other water supply alternatives.

It is technically possible to conserve a large part of the water lost or wasted and this would cost a lot less than producing new supplies, especially the cost of supplying water to cover future additional needs. Before increasing the supply of water, would it not be better to save it? This would be as beneficial to users as to the environment. Moreover, it would diminish the risk of disputes over water use in times of scarcity.

Furthermore, policies that affect population growth, urbanization, irrigated agricultural production, and energy consumption necessarily have an impact on water requirements, and consequently on demand, even though this is not one of their principal targets. However, reducing the need for water could in some cases be included among these policies' aims.

Clearly identified causes

The causes of this unsatisfactory management of demand were studied from three main aspects: (1) legislative and regulatory; (2), socio-economic; and (3) technical and technological. The specific recommendations on these three aspects were submitted in advance.

Legislative: the concept of demand management has not been incorporated in all legislation, because for historical reasons some countries lagged behind, but the balance of power is changing;
Socio-economic: water has changed from being seen as a natural asset to a rare economic asset, a product. But it also has social, cultural and environmental dimensions that must be preserved;
Technological: in general, the technology exists, but it is not always utilized. At the present time, not every country has access to the most modern technology.

Likewise, some general principles are not always taken into account in management, namely:

Management of demand or supply (of resources) are not alternatives. Management of water demand neither replaces nor competes with management of supply, but complements it within the context of integrated water management;
Management of demand in terms of quantity and quality are two related components;
Demand management is like a chain whose effectiveness depends on its weakest link;
The practice of demand management necessitates a global and consistent vision in terms of time and space, together with constancy and continuity. Such a vision requires genuine coordination at all levels of action;
Regulations must be rational and in synergy with the other tools employed.

CONCLUSIONS AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

To develop among the public, economic actors, managers and decision-makers awareness of the importance of loss and waste of water, both in economic terms and in volume of water, and to incite a sense of responsibility among users with a view to better management of water demand:

Implement awareness promotion campaigns at all levels;
Facilitate access to information on water demand.

To improve among the public, economic actors, managers and decision-makers, knowledge and evaluation of the potential advantages to be gained from more economic management of water demand, laying emphasis on total transparency:

Set up mechanisms for collecting data in order to have a better knowledge of the efficiency of the networks and use systems;
Prepare and take into account indicative use standards for the major forms of use in terms of quantity and quality.

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To incorporate water demand management effectively in national water strategies and development policies:

Promote effective incorporation of demand control objectives in water planning policies and in all sectoral development policies that have an impact on water requirements;
Undertake feasibility studies on water conservation possibilities (potential savings, methods, costs, time limits, legal, financial and control criteria, etc.);
Promote investment in activities that use water as efficiently as possible (particularly in agriculture and industry).

To undertake practical demand control activities:

Carry out pilot projects to improve the efficiency of use systems (networks, processes, etc.);
Improve the output of distribution and use networks;
Develop sophisticated and graduated systems of prices and charges;
Promote better incorporation of the imperatives of demand management in all sectoral development policies so as to reduce demand.

To encourage cooperation among groups of countries facing the same demand management problems and future scarcity:

Encourage the transfer of know-how by and for managers;
Implement economic and technical cooperation on water in line with the objectives of water demand management;
Promote cooperation that will lead to water conservation.

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C) Information, Awareness, Environmental Education and Participation

During the Palma de Majorca meeting of the MCSD, three were the key points concerning the Thematic Working Group:

a. It was decided that the Working Group on "Information, Awareness and Participation" will formally enlarge its scope to include Environmental Education, also in its title.

b. There was a consensus that the subject of the Group cuts across all other sectorial issues. However,

c. The Group felt that the message given to it was to slow down its activity for it was not foreseen for the first run of priority issues.

The Group decided to continue its work with its limited resources and by "adding value" to already planned activities or emerging opportunities for complementary work and/or meeting. Seeking complementarity with other activities was decided as the strategy for this phase. In this framework one should mention the preparation, on behalf of MAP/UNEP, of an overview paper on "Public Participation in Environmental Matters in the Mediterranean" used as background document for the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea, supported by GEF. A version of this document will be circulated to the members of the group as a document for reflection before the next meeting of the WG.

Further on, recently MIO-ECSDE, according to a memorandum of understanding signed with MAP/UNEP, will produce Guidelines for Public Participation in order to assist in the organization of Round Table Discussions on the issue of Public Participation with various partners. These guidelines will be ready before the end of the year (1997).

The Task Managers (MIO-ECSDE and CREE) have exchanged views about the structure of a questionnaire and a matrix to be circulated to the other groups during the next meeting of MCSD. Two preparatory collaboration meeting between CREE and MIO-ECSDE have been fixed for 8-9 October 1997 in Athens and 16-18 October in Montpellier in order to finalize the above mentioned documents.

The next meeting of the entire WG will take place in the framework of the 3rd Meeting of the MCSD in Sophia-Antipolis, France (28-30 October 1997).

Furthermore, it is noteworthy that MIO-ECSDE acts as the Secretariat for the International Conference organized by UNESCO and the Greek Government on the issue: "Environment and Society: Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability", 8-12 December 1997, in Thessaloniki, Greece. In the framework of the Conference all members of the MCSD and the Working Party have been invited and is hoped to organize a short meeting of the WG and a Workshop for the presentation of the relevant work of MCSD to a wider audience.

Prior to the International Conference, MIO-ECSDE will organize a meeting of Mediterranean NGOs, open to all partners, on the same subject (6-7/12/97). The results will be presented as a Mediterranean input to the main Conference and will be used for the future work of the Working Group.

D) Industry and Sustainable Development

(Cultural, economic, technical and financial aspects of progressive elimination of land-based pollution)

Since the second Meeting of the Mediterranean Commision on Sustainable Development held in Palma de Majorca last May, the Thematic Group has focalized its attention on drawing a scheme of pilot-project aiming at fostering the small and medium industries to improve their environmental performances in order to promote a modernization of their productive processes and, at the same time, a progressive reduction of pollution. In developping such a pilot plant, the approach dealt with exploiting the existing initiatives in the Mediterranean area in this field.

A first sketch of sequence of recommendation in this sense has been performed on the track of the experience gained by the Catalan Chamber of Commerce and by the Centre of Cleaner Production of Barcelona (CP/RAC). Such scheme takes into consideration:

- the analysis of the existing legislative and the regulatory frames,
- the inventory of avalaible technologies for some relevant sectors and products,
- the sensitization and formation campaigns,
- the measures and tools aimed at fostering entrepeneurs in industrial conversion or modernization,
- the instruments for the information transfer and for facilitating the transfer,
- the access and the implementation of the available technologies,
- the eco-management and the eco-audit as a vehicle to promote cleaner production,
- financing support,
- positive effects on the occupation sector.

This ambitious project has started by defining, step by step, their components, giving priority to no cost actions and implementing some experiences and initiatives carried out by other institutions or fora. Such a pilot project will be defined in all its aspects before the XI ordinary Conference of the Contracting Parties. At present, priority has been suggested to the following issues:

a) Information, formation and capacity building. The need of establishing new professional figures related both to goods and services production and to environmental safeguard and management requires a multi-disciplinary approach which takes note of the modern knowledge on socio-economics, organization, production techniques and technologies. This type of environmental culture is fundamental for a sustainable development. In particular, it is necessary that the perfomances of the BAT and BEP have the greatest diffusion in order to satisfy, but also to stimulate, the need of knowledge.

Only under a frame of common knowledge and of constructive cooperation it is possible to establish, step by step, situations of “par condicio” between the Mediterranean countries. This awareness has been one of the leitmotiv of the discussions between the members of the Group.

Great help in this purpose can be given by the big companies which can offer the tools for this kind of cooperation in order to allow the Mediterranean countries to acheive some European standards. An hypothesis in this sense has been largely discussed and CEFIC (Non governmental organization) has offered to draw a project concept on this field.

b) Eco-management and eco-audit. The traditional environmental legislation is based namely on definitions, limits, and crime repression. This is necessary but not sufficient. With this awareness, the attitude of governements, industries and civil societies in general has moved from a regulated framework to a self-regulated one.

It has been taken, as model, the environmental practices developped by ISO/CEN and by the European Union. Some members of the Group has considered the role of the ISO 14000 series standards and guidelines and of the eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) as a key for promoting, on a voluntary basis, a programme aimed at undertaking a review of the actual strategies and production processes towards cleaner operations in order to improve environmental performances.

Great importance has been given to this aspect in consideration of the fact that all over the industrialized countries the general trend is moving towards the above direction, and companies, that are not behaving in this way are under the risk of going off the market.

The Group is considering the pratical tools for transferring and adapting the above environmental policy towards a common approach for the Mediterranean countries.

c) Network for transfer of technologies and knowledge. Information, formation, partnership, and environmental policies could not be conceived and implemented consistently without the transfer of technologies and knowledge. This was the third urgent aspect faced by the Group. The practical implementation of a similar network is hard, complex, and out of the physycal and financial capabilities of MAP; these motivations induced the Group to look for some already existing networks.

A project concerning the realization of a network for the transfer of technologies all over the Mediterranean countries has started in 1997 under the sponsorship of the Italian Embassy in Madrid. The project, named RE.T.E. (**RE**te di **T**rasferimento **E**uromediterranea = **RE**d de **T**ransferencia **E**uromediterranea), is led by the Italian National Council of Research and involves the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Spain and, in few mounths, will involve several Spanish institutions for the transfer of technologies and other Mediterranean countries. A collaboration between RE.T.E. and CP/RAC has to be promoted.

The only limitation of this project is that it will be realized under the frame of MEDA programme of cooperation. This means that not all Mediterranean countries are included. It has been, in any case, desirable to adopt the “step by step” principle in order to implement the initiative in the largest possible number of countries where it is financially possible to do it.

The analysis of this three aspects has outlined the necessity of further investigation before going on with the all projects. A wider consultation among members of the Thematic Group and the experts, who developped the above mentioned parts subject to be incorporated in the pilot project at issue, is highly recommended.

E) Management of Urban/Rural Development

Progress report

September 1997

As planned (MCSD preliminary report, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 7 May 1997), a preparatory meeting on the subject was organized by Blue Plan and held at Sophia Antipolis on 3 and 4 July 1997. Participants included one expert from the North and one from the South, the task manager, and members of the Blue Plan team. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the key aspects of the activity, to fix priorities for future activities, and to make proposals to the next meeting of the MCSD in October 1997.

Key aspects of the activity

According to the "ecological balance" theory, human societies can be seen as a dynamic system made up of four major factors : the population, resources, technology, and institutions. These factors together constitute a dynamic balance. Any variation in one factor alters the system as a whole. The development of technology in transport and telecommunication can promote economic growth and the concentration of activities in certain regions, or on the contrary can lead to the decline or abandon of other regions. The development of technologies such as telecommuting, distance learning, teleshopping, make it possible to go beyond the traditional limitations of communication. These innovations, however, have an effect in terms of space : overall, they encourage the breakdown of urban areas. Institutional factors may be either formal (laws and public authorities) or informal (the mentality and attitude of the population). Social and cultural change has a marked effect on the population structure and the dynamism of different regions. Changes in lifestyle (for example, the growth of leisure activities, tourism, second homes, etc.) have also radically altered the population structure, social attitudes and modes of behaviour.

Population growth trends are very different in the coastal regions of the North, the South and the East. In the North, rural areas are stagnating or declining, whereas in the South and East rural and urban areas are expanding, even though the growth rate is falling. In general, urban development appears to undergo a three-stage development, going from a period of high growth, a period of maturity, and a period of decline (stagnation or decrease).

The forms of migration at the international level also differ between the North and the South. There is a clear population movement from the South to the North (France, Italy, Spain, etc.). At the national level, there is a general trend towards rural exodus and city-to-city migration. Economic activity incites population movement towards areas of job creation. It is therefore necessary to consider the forms of growth in each economic sector.

Infrastructural development also exerts a powerful influence on the reorganization of space. Large metropolitan areas appear to benefit most from the infrastructure.

The ways in which the land is used are of particular interest because they not only affect the landscape but also the development potential in a given area. Two types of change appear to be particularly worth examining, on the one hand the changes in the rural landscape as a result of abandonment of the land or diffuse urbanization, and on the other the increase in built-up areas along the coast.

Consequently, the problems concern:

on the one hand, the Mediterranean coastal plains, where the question is how to preserve fruitful coexistence or complementarity between the city and the surrounding rural area and how to combat the growing imbalances that threaten to stifle agricultural areas due to the inexorable expansion of built-up areas, the disappearance of agricultural land and the absorption of agricultural labour;

on the other hand, the coastlines, where there is now keen competition for space, water and labour, between the city and urban activities on one side and agricultural speculation on the other.

Rural and urban development policies must be linked. The main point at issue is how to implement policies that are capable of incorporating the two dimensions. This is why it is first necessary to understand the phenomena before proposing policies. Rural development cannot be understood by means of one single element, for example population density. Two aspects have to be distinguished: on the one hand the population trend, and on the other an understanding of how the system interacts, and then policies can be proposed.

Priorities

The phenomenon of urbanization/movement towards the coast is universal and is exacerbated in the Mediterranean. In order to study this phenomenon and propose policies, it is necessary to have an integrated view in terms of space, not taking the sectoral approach and focusing on dynamics of space from the standpoint of resources, human activities, and the impact of activities on resources. It is therefore proposed to analyse urban/rural conflict from within specific urbanization spaces such as:

Metropolitan areas, integrated into international competition.

Medium-sized cities. Their function and role are evolving. For example, the service function is becoming increasingly important, whereas the port function of medium-sized cities is diminishing.

Small towns (with a population of between 2,000 and 10,000 for example). These are semi-urban areas that may be situated close to a large city or in an essentially rural area.

Mountainous areas and small islands.

Tourism areas along the coast.

For each of these areas, it is necessary to take into account:

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Competition for natural and human potential (competition for water, space and labour).

Population migration from the countryside to towns (rural exodus) and its impact (decline of agriculture and desertification of the countryside, rapid urban growth and urban congestion).

Excessive pressure on the coastal areas due to the development of polluting industries and tourism facilities that are too dense and too close to the sea, together with their effects (industrial pollution of the coast, accelerated marine erosion of tourism beaches).

Policies of Mediterranean States on agriculture and rural areas, industrialization of coastal areas, development of tourism in general and the coast in particular.

The data required and the levels to be taken into account

Four types of data are required for the study:

Population data for cities and the countryside, urban and rural density, country/city and interurban migration;

Economic data on the various activities in the countryside and in cities, together with their impact on the population, rural activities that are increasing or declining, foreign investment and its impact, particularly in the South and East of the Mediterranean basin;

Natural data (relief, climate, vegetation, hydrology, etc.);

Data on national regional development policies.

These data are not always available nor accessible. They do not need to be exhaustive, except for case studies whenever possible. Case studies will be chosen according to a three-tier system, to which a transversal dimension will be added, so-called “natural areas”:

the Mediterranean level, called “macro”, composed of very large cities integrated in an international fabric;

the regional level, called “meso”, where each town is shown within its regional context, this is the land planning level;

the local level, where each town is considered in relation to its surrounding environment.

Modular proposals for the work

The work to be done could be carried out in the following stages, on the hypothesis that the resources required are available. The project could be implemented in the form of modules that are relatively independent of each other. This subject can be discussed at the next meeting of the working group.

Stage 1: State of the art will cover the general theoretical framework for the study (systemic approach, ecological balance theory, sustainable development, prospects …).

There will also be an assessment of rural and urban studies. This “state of the art” will consist of a critical analysis of the bibliographic references most relevant to the Mediterranean dealing with the following subjects:

Urbanization;

Large cities and towns;

Towns and regional development;

Rural areas;

Town/country relations;

Marginal and/or natural areas;

Gravitation towards the coast.

Stage 2: Present situation. Overall view of conditions in the Mediterranean will on the one hand provide an overall view of natural conditions in the Mediterranean and, on the other, of the population and its activities.

The geographical characteristics and natural resources could be identified on the basis of (past and recent) work by Blue Plan and PAP. The study of the population and its activities could also be based on Blue Plan's work. As far as tourism and the transport infrastructure are concerned, the Blue Plan leaflets provide a wealth of information, as do documents from the World Bank, the Council of Europe, etc.

Stage 3: Recent developments and future prospects will provide a retrospective picture of urbanization and rural development at the country and coastal regions levels. Future trends will be based on work by Blue Plan and the United Nations and by the Habitat II conference.

This stage will also cover "conflicts and possibilities". The latter, for example, shows the various infrastructure projects that give large towns the opportunity of playing an even more important role. The importance of lifestyles and the quality of the environment in towns and the countryside with a view to ensuring sustainable development will also be studied.

Stage 4: Major problems will deal in greater detail with the priorities identified, i.e.:

Population migration;

Competition between town and country affecting natural and human potential;

Towns and regional development;

Excessive pressure on the coast;

Major threats.

Stage 5: Policies and strategies to be implemented will first of all propose a compendium of policies implemented in Mediterranean countries in relation to agriculture and rural areas, industrialization of coastal areas, development of tourism and the infrastructure.

Part of this work will be devoted to reviewing instruments, tools and policies available in the complex area of the relationship between urbanization, rural development and the environment. This will provide an opportunity to open the study up to the rest of the world.

The last part - “Possible strategies and options” - will constitute a summary of the study in the form of recommendations.

Two hypotheses can be considered regarding the work described above:

A maximum hypothesis, which implies resources (consultancy, case studies, working meetings, etc.), in which all the work can be completed.

A minimum hypothesis in which the working group will focus on two essential points. The first concerns recent developments and future prospects for urbanization and rural development at the country and coastal regions levels (see Stage 3). The second consists of a catalogue of policies implemented in Mediterranean countries in relation to agriculture and rural areas, industrialization of coastal areas, development of tourism and the infrastructure (see Stage 5).

Timetable for the programme of work according to the minimum hypothesis

27-29 October 1997. Meeting of the MCSD and the working group

Discussion and adoption of the programme (amended if necessary).

During this meeting, questionnaires will be handed to members of the working groups in order to collect the information necessary for the preparation of the section on “Recent developments and future prospects”. These questionnaires will focus on urbanization and migration on the one hand, and rural areas and agriculture on the other. The replies should reach the support centres and/or the task manager within approximately four months. They will be summarized by a couple of experts from the North and the South.

June 1998. Meeting of the working group

Presentation of the summary of the information collected.

Proposal for questionnaires on policies implemented in relation to agriculture and rural areas, industrialization of coastal areas, development of tourism and the infrastructure. A summary of the replies (to be forwarded within approximately four months) will be made by the two experts.

Early 1999. Workshop

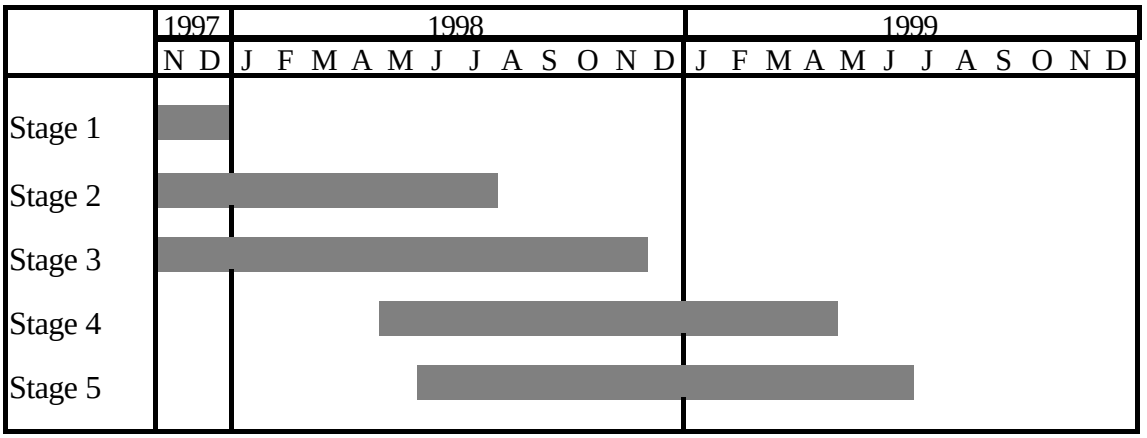
This workshop will be open to regional development actors and international experts, in addition to the members of the working group. The results achieved and summaries thereof will be presented. Possible strategies for management of urban and rural areas will be discussed with a view to being put before the Contracting Parties. The report of this workshop will constitute the final summary of this subject.

Mid-1999. Final report

This will be based on the conclusions of the workshop and will be submitted to the Contracting Parties.

Timetable for the programme of work according to the maximum hypothesis

This option calls for continued work by the two experts, the use of other consultants, meetings and workshops, etc. The project would last 20 months, with slack periods between the stages. The table below shows an indicative timetable. The working group's participation would be the same as for the minimum hypothesis and would be through questionnaires.



F) Sustainable Development Indicators

PROPOSAL FOR THE SELECTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Rightly adopted as a priority issue by the MCSD, a preliminary report (UNEP(OCA)MED WG.124/Inf.3) was prepared for the Commission's second meeting in Palma de Mallorca. Following the *ad hoc* meeting of the working group, a second document on "Sustainable development indicators for the Mediterranean region" was drafted in June 1997 and sent to members of the group.

After the informal meeting on sustainable development indicators held at Blue Plan on 10 and 11 July 1997, with the agreement of Blue Plan it is proposed to fix a suitable timetable to ensure satisfactory participation both at the Mediterranean and professional levels in preparation of the MCSD *ad hoc* group's report and in selection of the indicators to be used for the Mediterranean region.

This timetable might be the following:

1997 :

October : working meeting of the MCSD's *ad hoc* group.

1998 :

March : 1st Mediterranean regional workshop, to be held in Tunisia with participation by around 20 professionals, in order to draw up a preliminary list of priority indicators.

1999 :

2nd Mediterranean regional workshop : consideration of the proposals in the report and selection of a series of indicators.

1998-1999

Several small subject-related workshops or workshops with restricted participation, brief *ad hoc* meetings by indicator in order to select indicators by subject, attended by a small number of experts, in addition to the Blue Plan, comprising if possible:

actors from the sector in question at the Mediterranean level;

international experts (UN/CSD, OECD, UNEP, Eurostat, European Agency …) on sustainable development indicators in the sectors examined.

At least six of these restricted workshops may be needed in order to benefit from practical expertise in the subject examined.

Emphasis will be laid on performance and response indicators that are the least developed at the global level and indicators that will be a priority in the list of sustainable development indicators for the Mediterranean.

The minimum time required for this type of restricted participation workshop is at least one and a half days. A project leader should be responsible for the project as a whole.

Attention must also be paid to the financial resources needed for the proper organization of such workshops. The search for funds is thus essential, and even urgent, because there is no special provision in MAP's 1998-1999 programme of activities for the workshops to be organized by the various working groups of the MCSD.

In order to lower costs, some of the restricted participation workshops will be organized within the framework of the Franco-Tunisian partnership for the "Indicators test" project requested by the UN/CSD.

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE REPORT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'S GROUP ON"SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS"

After the situation has been analysed, the final report of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development's working group on indicators will be made up of a limited number of proposals (not recommendations) to be taken into account by all Contracting Parties and addressed on the one hand to the Mediterranean community as a whole and, on the other, to those countries which may individually decide to implement them. The report will be around ten pages and will show the objectives and ways of achieving them. The work being carried out by the UN/CSD, especially action in Mediterranean countries, will naturally be taken into account.

* * *

It must be recalled that the ultimate objective is to obtain a series of economic, social and environmental indicators, coordinated at the international level and capable of taking into account national efforts to achieve sustainability (long-term management of the ecology, the economy, progress towards social equity).

In the economic and social sectors there is a long tradition of using indicators for the purpose of monitoring and comparison at the international level. This constitutes the basis for this paper. Gross domestic product, price index, unemployment level … are valuable tools for decision-makers. All over the world, they help to monitor public policy and play a catalytic role in the drafting of new measures.

More recently, the human development indicator (HDI), developed by UNDP, has been added to the "armoury" of monitoring tools in the socio-cultural sphere.

The environmental sector, however, does not yet have a homogenous series of indicators that play the same key role in guiding policy. In view of the growing demand for meticulous description and monitoring of environmental action, an ever increasing number of proposals are being put forward at the national and international levels and many experts are devoting themselves to advancing consideration of this issue.

The adaptation of Agenda 21 to the Mediterranean basin (Agenda MED 21), undertaken as part of the study of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, led to the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) within MAP.

The selection of sustainable development indicators as a priority issue for the MCSD over the next two years is consistent with the recommendations in Agenda 21 (Chapter 40).

At this stage, the following proposals can be made:

- Active cooperation so as to present regularly to the global community the status of the Mediterranean region in relation to sustainable development, in the form of a document showing the common elements and the diversity of situations, the trend for the next 25 years, and, whenever possible, for an even longer period. This report will be drawn up every four years.

- This document will be in the form of a text in French and English based on the major sustainable development indicators, focusing on general indicators, with possible forecasts of trends or alternatives, including action and performance indicators. This document, together with its annexes, will be posted on the Internet in order to facilitate its dissemination.

Each Mediterranean country will undertake to translate and disseminate the document in its own language, incorporating pages showing the status of the measures and action taken at the national level since the previous report.

- Cooperation will be focus on the progress of the most effective sustainable development indicators, in the strict sense, fixed by the Mediterranean community or by major international institutions that have developed such indicators whose regional application could be tested by using the Mediterranean region as a pilot area.

- Cooperation will also include exchange of documents on research into sustainable development indicators and the creation of a training network for experts in sustainable development indicators and heritage accounting in the various areas in the region covered, starting with those adopted in the Commission's timetable (currently these are six).

- Review of national sustainable development performance will be extended to all Mediterranean countries by considering two countries each year by a multinational team. The findings will be elaborated and published in the same way as OECD's work in this field.

- A list of "guidelines" for national efforts to gather, process and disseminate sustainable development indicators has been drawn up by the Commission : it is put before national authorities in order to assist collective progress and comparison and facilitate Mediterranean cooperation in this area.

- Mediterranean countries, while desirous of harmonizing their efforts with international work such as that carried out by the United Nations, the UN/CSD, the World Bank, UNEP and UNDP in particular and of maintaining the necessary links, will also strive to develop and disseminate as far as possible special indicators of Mediterranean interest and, in this spirit, encourage thinking about the action to be taken on problems that are a priority for the Mediterranean region.

- Mediterranean countries together will endeavour to obtain reliable data for all Mediterranean countries and so provide technical help to those that have not yet completed their own work on indicators or heritage accounting because they are developing a particular - and essential - indicator.

- Every two years, the Mediterranean sustainable development observatory will convene a scientific council composed of high-level experts proposed by countries, not exceeding 12 in number (appointed for a maximum of four years), over half of whom must be researchers, academics or professionals who are not civil servants.

- Countries will strengthen their own tools for measuring and collecting indicators according to their own priorities and using their own national observatories.

Annexes (to be prepared)

principles for selecting indicators;

consideration of indicators of Mediterranean interest;

bibliography of sustainable development indicators;

information sources;

vocabulary;

and the essential element : the 150 (?) indicators concerning the Mediterranean, broken down by country and, where possible, with a long-term outlook and forecast, focusing on Mediterranean regions.

•PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

In order to link the indicators with international efforts in this regard, particularly those of the UN/CSD, they are grouped under headings based on Agenda 21 and “Mediterranean 21”. Each indicator is only included once, but in the other headings under which it might appear there is a reference to its inclusion in the main heading.

The brackets ( ) indicate Agenda 21 chapters with their number.

New headings are indicated by the sign (.).

Social aspects

Demographic dynamics and sustainability	(5)
Domestic living standards, poverty, unemployment and employment	(3)
Promoting education, training, and public awareness	(36)
Health	(6)

Territories and human settlements

Towns and urban systems	(7)
Rural regions (and mountainous areas)	(7) and (14)
Fragile and protected areas	(12)
Coastline and movement towards the coast	(17)

Economic sectors

Changing consumption patterns	(4)
Employment	(.)
Financial resources allocated to sustainable development and to the environment and economic action incorporating the two	(8 and 33)
Agriculture and the food industry	(14)
Industry	(part of 30)
Energy	(.)
Domestic transport	(.)
Transport abroad	(.)
Domestic trade, services	(part of 30)
Communication	(.)
Tourism	(.)

Environment

Freshwater	(18)
Seas and salt water	(17)
Forests (and scrubland)	(11)
Soil, land management and desertification	(10)
Biological diversity, fauna, flora	(15)
Biotechnology	(16)
Solid wastes and wastewater	(21)
Industrial wastes, chemical substances and radioactive products, management of technological risks	(12-20-22)

E. Sustainable development : actors and policies

Principal actors	(24-32 and 35)
Problems and policies not included under the preceding headings and general sustainable development policies	(.)

Mediterranean exchanges and cooperation

Intra- and extra-Mediterranean trade, trade balances	(.)
Mediterranean cooperation and exchange of data on sustainability (capacity building, transfer of technology …)	(34 and 37)
Cooperation between Mediterranean countries and other developing countries	(34 and 37)

A total of 32 headings.

Different types of indicator under each heading

A number of indicators - hopefully a reasonable number although no limits have been preset by group - are shown for each group. These indicators will be grouped according to the following priorities:

Indicators universally accepted by international bodies (especially those of the UN/CSD, the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP) and neighbouring regional institutions (Europe, for example), by country but with more limited data at the Mediterranean level[6] and the local community level.

Indicators from other sources recognized as reliable and of relevance for understanding the status and trends in the Mediterranean region.

3. Indicators in the first category which cannot be analysed at the Mediterranean level.

Indicators that can be linked to studies forecasting trends or medium-term, long-term or very long-term alternatives will be given priority (P).

6 The manner in which they are defined is to be determined.

Performance indicators measuring the existence or effectiveness of measures or action taken in countries in the region will be given priority (A).

Indicators for which there is not sufficient data concerning a significant number of countries will not be used, but they will appear in a separate catalogue in order to cover the possibility of seeing them come into general use one day in all Mediterranean countries.

Indicators which only concern certain countries will be included in a separate section of the catalogue when they deal with a phenomenon that is peculiar to these countries.

Indicators concerning several groups or headings will be included in the group or heading to which they are most relevant, but a cross-reference to other headings will be given.

REMINDER OF THE LINKS BETWEEN THE HEADINGS IN AGENDA 21 AND MED 21

The modifications in comparison with Agenda 21 are shown below and, together with MED 21, this could constitute the fabric of the headings.

<u>headings (preambles) that did not need to be chapters</u>	1 and 25
<u>subdivided</u>	
- business and industry	30
<u>regrouped</u>	
- actors (major groups)	24-29 31 and 32 in a single heading
- chemical, toxic substances	19, 20, 22
- hazardous wastes, radioactive wastes	in a single heading
• - mountainous regions	13
• also in rural regions	
<u>headings modified</u>	

- forests and scrubland 11

- (seas and saltwater) and not oceans 17

New chapters

Although Agenda 21 is the essential reference point, it has to be recognized that it was not divided into chapters in order to allow sustainable development indicators to be used to analyse all the issues, and that certain problems that are specific to the Mediterranean region were not the main subject of concern at the international conference in Rio. Consequently, neither tourism nor the movement towards the coast appear, even though coastal areas are included to some extent in the Oceans chapter.

We propose 12 new or practically new chapters.

Social aspects

2. Domestic living standards, unemployment and not only poverty.

Territories and human settlements

Coastal areas and gravitation towards the coast.

Economic sectors

Employment

14. Energy
15. Domestic transport
16. Transport abroad
17. Domestic trade, services
18. Communication
19. Tourism

Environment

Sustainable development : actors and policies

Mediterranean exchanges and cooperation

International trade

Mediterranean cooperation and transfer of sustainability

Cooperation with other developing countries.

CHAPTERS IN AGENDA 21 OF RIO 1992 AND THEIR UTILIZATION

Yes : included

No : not included

Chapter no.	Title		
1	Preamble	No	
Section I: Social and economic dimensions			
2	International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies		
3	Combating poverty	Yes	
4	Changing consumption patterns	Yes	
5	Demographic dynamics and sustainability	Yes	
6	Health	Yes	
7	Promoting sustainable human settlement development	Yes	
8	Integrating environment and development in decision-making	Yes	
Section II: Conservation and management of resources for development			
9	Protection of the atmosphere	Yes	
10	Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources	Yes	
11	Combating deforestation (management of forests, reforestation)	Yes	Forests and the steppe
12	Managing fragile ecosystems. Combating desertification and drought	Yes	
13	Managing fragile ecosystems. Sustainable mountain and hinterland development	No	
14	Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development	Yes	
15	Conservation of biological diversity	Yes	
16	Environmentally sound management of biotechnology	Yes	
17	Protection of oceans, all kinds of seas: the protection, rational use and development of their living resources	Yes	But focusing on the movement towards the coast
18	Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources	Yes	
19	Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals	Yes	
20	Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes	Yes	
21	Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues	Yes	

22	Safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes		Regrouped
Section III: Strengthening the role of the major groups			
23	Preamble	No	
24	Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development		Regrouped Groups
25	Children and youth in sustainable development		Regrouped
26	Recognizing and strengthening the role of indigenous people and their communities	No	
27	Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations		Regrouped
28	Local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21		Regrouped
29	Strengthening the role of workers and their trade unions		Regrouped
30	Strengthening the role of business and industry		Divided: industry, domestic trade and services
31	The scientific and technological community	No	
32	Strengthening the role of farmers		Regrouped
Section IV: Means of implementation			
33	Financial resources and mechanisms	Yes	
34	Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building	Yes	
35	Science for sustainable development	No	
36	Promoting education, public awareness and training	Yes	
37	National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries	Yes	
38	International institutional arrangements	No	The agreements reached by countries are included in the headings
39	International legal instruments and mechanisms	No	
40	Information for decision-making	No	

G. Sustainable Tourism

1. During the Second meeting, held in Palma (6-8 May 1997), all the members of the MCSD agreed to send suggestions to the Spanish proposal which was presented to the Palma meeting. Till today, no suggestions were received. It is presumed that they all agree with the original text.

   Accordingly a new document on bibliography of this subject will be presented to the third meeting which will take place in Sophia Antipolis.

2. A draft report concerning some aspects of sustainable tourism is being prepared, based on the scheme of the document and dealing especially with the consolidated touristic destinies and the industry of tourism.

III. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION OM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNCSD)

1. In conformity with the Terms of Reference of the Commission, that the MCSD shall maintain relations with the UNCSD, the first meeting of the MCSD (Rabat, December 1996), agreed that the Commission should submit a short report to the Fifth Meeting of the UN Commission (New York, 8-25 April 1997) and the Special Session of the General Assembly (New York, 23-27 June 1997), on the establishment of the MCSD, supported by useful background information on the situation with regard to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

2. A draft report prepared by the Secretariat was presented to the first meeting of the Bureau of the Commission (Athens, 20-21 February 1997), under the title "The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - A Tool for Mediterranean Strategy and a Regional Bridge between Global and National Levels". The Bureau thoroughly reviewed the draft report, made certain modifications and requested the Secretariat to finalize it with a better presentation, in order to obtain wider dissemination during the meetings. The Bureau also suggested that the MAP Coordinator represent MAP in these two U.N meetings.

3. The Report on the MCSD was amended, finalized and sent in many copies to the U.N for distribution (see Annex III to this report). As for representation, UNEP agreed to MAP's request that the Coordinator of MAP be included in the UNEP delegation to the fifth meeting of the UNCSD for the second week of the meeting. In this regard, the President of the Commission and the MAP Coordinator briefed the recent meetings of the Commission and the Bureau of the Contracting Parties on their participation at the Fifth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) held in New York in April 1997, where work was proceeding on the draft declaration to be made by the Heads of State or Government at the special session of the UN General Assembly (New York, June 1997).

4. The President had seized the opportunity to attend the ministerial segment of the UNCSD's Fifth Session to draw the attention to the establishment of the MCSD. Moreover, he had a discussion with the Chairman of the UNCSD about how best to obtain a solemn political commitment from governments in the Mediterranean region to include sustainability in their development plans. As negotiations on the final declaration of the Special Session were well advanced and it would not be possible to include a statement of the Mediterranean position, he proposed that the MCSD should agree upon two or three important non-controversial environmental and sustainable development issues indicative of the common Mediterranean position. The statement could then be transmitted to the Contracting Parties so that Heads of State or Government could take it into consideration in their declarations to the Special Session.

5. The Coordinator attended the second week of the UNCSD session as a member of UNEP's delegation, and thus had an opportunity to inform the Commission"s members about the work of the MCSD. In view of the importance and relevance of the issues discussed by the UNCSD, it was essential for the MCSD to become accredited to the Commission; however, that would require political support from Mediterranean governments. It would not be possible to obtain accreditation in time for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly; therefore, the MCSD"s activities could only be reflected in the declarations made by Mediterranean Heads of State or Government.

6. During the ensuing discussion which took place during the meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, the members of the Bureau expressed their thanks to the President and the Coordinator for their efforts to represent MAP and the MCSD at the Fifth Session of the UNCSD and expressed their support for the proposal that a common message be conveyed to the Special Session of the general Assembly through the declarations made by the Mediterranean Heads of State oar Government. In this regard, a draft statement was prepared and agreed upon by the Bureau. (see document BUR/50/4-Report of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties).

RIO+5

FROM UNCED TO UN General Assembly: A LONG WAY TO GO

In 1992, the UN General Assembly endorsed Agenda 21 and decided to convene a Special Session to review and appraise its implementation. The 19th UN General Assembly (UNGASS) was held from 23 to 27 June 1997, five years after UNCED in Rio de Janeiro. It was preceded by the fifth session of the UNCSD, in April 7-25.

From « Earth Summit » to UNGASS, a series of international meetings and working sessions were held by or in relation with UNCSD (Inter-Agency Committee, Ad-Hoc Sessions, Inter-sessional activities, CSD sessions,...).

All chapters of Agenda 21 were reviewed through three major groups :

- integration of economic, social and environmental objectives (enabling international economic development, changing consumption and production patterns, making trade and environment mutually supportive, population , health)

- sectors and issues (freshwater , ocean and seas, forests, energy, transport, atmosphere, toxic chemicals, hazardous waste, radioactive waste, land sustainable agriculture, desertification and drought, biodiversity, sustainable tourism, small island developing states, natural disasters, technological and man-made disasters)

- means of implementation (financial resources and mechanism, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity building, science, education and awareness, international legal instruments and the Rio declaration on environment and development, information and tools to measure progress).

The « Earth Summit +5 » reminded that little progress has been made over the past five years in implementing key components of Agenda 21 and moving towards sustainable development. When the Special Session came to a close, some felt that the meeting had been a failure because governments had shown lack of political will to force more than convoluted compromises. Others felt that the meeting proved to be an « honest attempt to try and make an appraisal of the results and of how far we have gone from RIO. There was little attempt to try to sweep things under the carpet or put a gloss over something that's not there ».

After intense discussions on various successive drafts of a « political statement », the text was finally withdrawn from consideration and replaced by a specific « statement of commitments ».

Rather then media celebration of global partnership for Sustainable Development, pretending that things are better then they are, UNGASS acknowledged that progress to operationalise sustainable development remains insufficient and measured the enormous difficulties of overcoming short term and vested interest that would unable concrete commitments to specific targets and global programmes.

Since the Earth Summit, considered in 1992 as a great success with its results, Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration that served as a blue print - « The Bible »-for Sustainable Development, some progress was done with lot of meetings and negotiations and some limited achievements, but generally the problems remain the same.

The issues that proved most difficult to resolve in 1992 are still problematic today. Questions related to the provision of financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries have haunted most conferences. Much remains to be done to activate the means of implementation set out in Agenda 21, in particular in the areas of finance and technology transfer, technical assistance, and capacity building. The debt situation remains a major constrain to achieving sustainable development.

The state of the global environment has continued to deteriorate. Despite some progress in institutional development, public participation and private sector actions, and in decreasing population growth rates, overall trends are worsening mainly when considering the increasing levels of pollution that threaten to exceed the capacity of the global environment to absorb them, increasing the potential obstacles to economic and social development in developing countries.

It was obvious that much more needs to be done, mainly in the following fields :

- implementation of Agenda 21 that requires new and additional financial resources and technology sharing
- alleviation of poverty, condition to sustainable development
- consumption and production patterns that remain unsustainably high
- **"**

official development assistance/ODA, that has declined, partly replaced by

foreign investments

- impacts of globalisation and trade liberalisation on developing countries, that need serious and proper consideration
- importance of education, sustainable tourism, local initiatives and local Agenda 21 peace and political stability.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Since UNCED, the concept of sustainable development has come to inform economic planning worldwide, the principles of Agenda 21 are being codified in to national legislation, and major new Convention on Climat Change and Biodiversity are being applied. Implementation of the commitments in the UNCED and post-UNCED agreements remains to be carried out and in many cases further strengthening of there provisions as well as mechanisms for putting them into effect are required. The establishment, restructuring, funding and replenishment of GEF were major achievements, but its funding levels have not been sufficient to meet its objectives.

Efforts have been done by governments and international organisations to integrated environmental economic and social objectives into decision making by elaborating new or adapting existing policies. The major groups have demonstrated what can be achieved by taking committed action, sharing resources, building consensus and reflecting grassroots concern and involvement.

Progress has been made in incorporating the principles contained in the Rio Declaration, including commun but differentiated responsibilities which form the basis of international cooperation, the precautionary principle, and the polluter pays principle in various legal instruments.

Achievements since UNCED include, inter alia :

- entry into force of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)
- entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- entry into force of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)
- conclusion of the Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
- the adoption of the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States
- the elaboration of the Global Programme of Action for Protection of the Marine Environment for Land Based Activities
- the restructuring and replenishment of the GEF.

Moreover, it is worthwhile noting that :

- communication and cooperation between UN Agencies improved through the Inter-Agency Committee discussions, at global as well as national levels
- communication and cooperation between Major Groups, notably NGOs, international organisations and governments improved through a series of meetings and joint activities, at global (representatives of the Civil Society to UNGASS participated for the first time in a General Assembly) as well as national and local levels

- public and private awareness increased and expanded regarding development and environment interactions, limited/renewable/non renewable resources and sustainable development principles
- many countries have elaborated National Agenda 21 and created National Committees for Sustainable Development
- over 1800 Local Agenda 21 in 64 countries are being considered, discussed and/or implemented
- a menu of indicators, with its related « blue book », has been identified and agreed upon and 16 countries around the world have volonteered to go through a test exercise

TOWARDS RIO+10

From now on, Agenda 21 will probably be considered as the basis for discussion, rather than being treated as the Bible, with readiness to move on, specially since Agenda 21 was written in a different and political environment. Realistically, Agenda 21's approach to finance would no longer be heavily focused on ODA but needs to be expanded to embrace globalisation and issues like the relationship between trade and environment, corporate responsibility, monitoring corporate activities and identifying issues that private sector growth will never solve. The question of innovative financial mechanisms for Sustainable Development will certainely be given, and it requires, greater attention.

Meanwhile, for the sake of coherence, recevability and efficiency, policy coordination at the inter-governmental level needs to be strengthened. In that sense, CSD was asked to promote increased regional implementation of Agenda 21 in cooperation with relevant regional and subregional organisations. Within its mandate, CSD will continue to provide a central forum for reviewing progress and for urging further implementation of Agenda 21.

In its second period of activities, the CSD is called on to, inter alia :

- make concerted efforts to attract greater involvement in its work of ministers and high level national policy makers responsible for specific economic and social factors
- continue to provide a forum for the exchange of national experiences and best practices in the area of SD
- provide a forum for the exchange of experiences on regional and subregional initiatives and regional collaboration for SD
- establish closer interaction with international financial, development and trade institutions
- strengthen its interactions with representatives of major groups
- organise the implementation of its next multi-year programme of work (1998-2002) with the most effective and productive way.

The CSD work programme identifies the sectoral, cross-sectoral and economic sector / major group themes for the next four sessions of the Commission. During UNGASS, it was agreed that overriding issues for each year would be poverty and consumption and production patterns. For CSD sessions the work programme would cover the following :

1. 1998 session : major sectoral theme would be strategic approach to freshwater management. Additional themes and sectors could be : transfer of technology, capacity building, education, science, awareness-raising and industry ;
2. 1999 session, CSD will consider oceans and seas, consumption and production patterns, sustainable tourism.
3. 2000 session, the session will go through : integrated planning and management of land resources, financial resources, trade and investment, economic growth and agriculture.
4. 2001 session, the subjects will be : atmosphere, energy, transport, international cooperation for enabling environment, information for decision making, participation.
5. finally in 2002, the session will go through comprehensive review of all above and CSD progress.

By 2002, the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development should be completed and efforts by developing countries to effectively implement national strategies should be supported. A broad package of policy instruments should be worked out in light of country specific conditions to ensure that integrated approaches are effective and cost efficient. However, calls for CSD to establish targets and timetables in order to elevate the process towards sustainable development to a higher level have not found a consensus and few, if any, targets remain in the final text.

FROM UNGASS TO MAP : TRACKS FOR MCSD

The MCSD is too young to think about an evaluation but we certainely have to care continuously for its dynamism and enthousiasm. Consequently, interest in and for its activities and results should be kept very high by giving adequate place to criticism, adaptation, revision and updating, with attention and means focused on activities most relevant to major priorities and critical issues for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

A major concern during the preparatory period for RIO+5 was how to translate words into action. Most countries and participants were left unsatisfied. Can MCSD take up the challenge ? To a certain extent yes, considering the specific Mediterranean context together with the Euro-Mediterranean partnership which in its case is already a major challenge.

From above UN status and progress, following remarks could be done for further consideration in MCSD activities, inter alia :

- MED21 was a good step, with strategic issues and some milestones ; it would be useful reviving and revitalising it ;
- for some of the global agreements and conventions (FCCC, CBD, CCD, PASIDS, GPA/LBA, ...), MAP/MCSD could carry on an interesting regional case ;
- promotion of implementation of precautionary principle and polluter pays principle could be encouraged through some success stories ;
- Mediterranean « esprit d'entreprise » can be revitalised for financial question and adoption and transfer of environmentally sound technologies taking also advantage of the Euro-Med process ;

- Major groups, notably NGOs, already very active in Med, MAP and MCSD, should be further involved mainly when looking for local operational level ;
- in the critical field of consumption and production patterns, MCSD could be an excellent forum for the promotion of relevant « sustainable development » mediterranean practices (there are still some) and for the presentation of the unsustainable ones with alternative options ;
- National « sustainable development » strategies could be shared with and compared to other Med ones
- the « sustainable development indicators » test exercise could be shared with other Mediterranean partners and MCSD could become a specific regional case for the CSD related activity ;

As the MCSD working groups cannot be too numerous to cover all important subjects in a short period of time, it would be interesting, even necessary, to have from time to time, a limited and qualified group of experts, mostly Mediterranean but not exclusively, that will be asked to prepare a sharp and short action-oriented strategic « position paper » on a very important and critical issue.

IV. DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE MCSD

1. In accordance with paragraph B-4 of the Terms of Reference of the Commission, the Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall be the Rules of Procedure of the meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, until the rules of procedure of the Commission are proposed by the Commission and adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

2. At its first meeting, the Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure, which would be reviewed by the first meeting of its Bureau and submitted to its second meeting for review before submission to the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997) for final adoption.

3. The first draft of the Rules of Procedure was reviewed by the first meeting of the Bureau of the Commission (Athens, 20-21 February 1997). The members of the Bureau made several comments and stressed in particular, that the specificity of the Mediterranean, the innovatory character of the Commission and allowing for the required flexibility should be taken into consideration when finalizing the draft Rules of Procedure. Various concrete proposals were also made during the review process of the draft document, in particular in relation to the extraordinary meetings of the Commission, the accreditation procedure, and the languages of the Commission and its Bureau.

4. At its second meeting (Palma de Majorca, 6-8 May 1997), the MCSD reviewed the revised draft text of the Rules of Procedure and due to time limitation, it decided to defer taking any decision relevant to the draft text to its third meeting.

5. The revised draft Rules of Procedure of the Commission will be submitted to the Third Meeting of the MCSD (Sophia Antipolis, 28-30 October 1997) and the Bureau Meeting (31 October 1997, Sophia Antipolis) for their consideration, before submission to the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997) for final approval

ANNEX I

MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the Tunis Ministerial Conference, held in November 1994, as approved by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries meeting in Barcelona in June 1995, a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) is hereby established as an advisory body to make proposals to the Contracting Parties within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

A. Purpose of the Commission

2. The purpose of the Commission is:

   (a) to identify, evaluate and assess major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals thereon to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, evaluate the effectiveness of the follow-up to the decisions of the Contracting Parties and facilitate the exchange of information among the institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

   (b) to enhance regional cooperation and rationalize the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues.

B. Functions

3. The functions of the Commission shall be:

   (a) to assist the Contracting Parties by making proposals on the formulation and implementation of a regional strategy of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, taking into consideration the resolutions of the Tunis and Barcelona Conferences and the context of Agenda MED 21 and MAP Phase II;

   (b) to consider and review information provided by the Contracting Parties, in accordance with Article 20 of the Barcelona Convention, including periodic communications or reports regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda MED 21, and the problems they encounter, such as problems related to the integration of environment into national policies, capacity-building, financial resources, technology transfer, and other relevant environment and development issues;

(c) to review at regular intervals the cooperation of MAP with the World Bank and other international financial institutions, as well as the European Union, and to explore ways and means for the strengthening of such cooperation, and particularly to achieve the objectives of Chapter 33 of Agenda MED 21;

(d) to consider information regarding the progress made in the implementation of relevant environmental conventions, which could be made available by the relevant conferences or by the parties;

(e) to identify technologies and knowledge of an innovative nature for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and to provide advice on the various means for their most effective use, in order to facilitate exchanges among the Contracting Parties and to enhance capacities for national development;

(f) to provide reports and appropriate recommendations to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, through the MAP Secretariat, on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of reports and issues related to the implementation of a regional strategy related to MAP Phase II and Agenda MED 21;

(g) to undertake a four-year strategic assessment and evaluation of the implementation by the Contracting Parties of Agenda MED 21 and decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties and of actions by the Contracting Parties relevant to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and propose relevant recommendations thereon;
the first strategic review should be undertaken for the year 2000 (with ministerial participation), with the objective of achieving an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda MED 21, examining emerging policy issues and providing the necessary political impetus.
The Commission shall make the best use of the main results of MAP activity centres in the field of sustainable development, and those of the MAP Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory, as well as those of national environmental observatories;

(h) to assume such other functions as are entrusted to it by the meetings of the Contracting Parties, to further the purposes of the Barcelona Convention, MAP Phase II and Agenda MED 21.

4. The rules of procedure of the Commission shall be the Rules of Procedure of the meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, until the rules of procedure of the Commission are proposed by the Commission and adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties, considering that the Commission shall not have any voting system.

C. Composition

5. The Commission shall be composed of a maximum of 36 members, consisting of representatives from each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations working in the fields of environment and of sustainable development. All representatives shall participate in the Commission on an equal footing.

D. Observers

6. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, any State which is a member of the United Nations or the specialized agencies, and any other inter-governmental organizations the activities of which are related to the functions of the Commission, may participate in the Commission's work as an observer.

E. Meetings of the Commission and responsibilities of the Secretariat

7. The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development shall hold ordinary meetings at least once every year, up to the year 2000, then shall meet at least once every two years. The meetings shall be convened at the premises of the Coordinating Unit of MAP, without prejudice to the convening of its meetings in other Mediterranean venues upon a recommendation of the Commission approved by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

8. At the opening of each session, the Commission shall elect a Bureau composed of a President, four Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur, from among its members on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution and among the various groups.

9. The Coordinating Unit of MAP, serving as the Secretariat of the Commission, shall provide for each session of the Commission an analytical report containing information on relevant activities to implement Agenda MED 21 and other sustainable development activities recommended by the meetings of the Contracting Parties, the progress achieved and emerging issues to be addressed.

F. Relationship with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and with national and regional commissions on sustainable development

10. The Commission shall maintain relations with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and shall facilitate the exchange of information and experience among national and regional commissions on sustainable development.

11. The Commission, in discharging its functions, shall take into account the experience and expertise of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and shall submit relevant reports to the United Nations Commission through the Contracting Parties' meetings on any issues that may be of interest for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

12. The Commission and the Contracting Parties shall, as far as possible and taking into account the particular needs of the Mediterranean countries, utilize the existing reporting system of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, with a view to streamlining and avoiding duplication of work.

G. Relations with specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

13. The Commission shall, through the Secretariat, strengthen its activities with the relevant United Nations specialized agencies and other inter-governmental bodies within the United Nations System, including international, regional and sub-regional financial and development institutions, in particular regarding projects for the implementation of the regional Mediterranean strategy related to Agenda MED 21 and the decisions of the Contracting Parties.

14. The Commission shall, through the Secretariat, enhance the dialogue with, and the participation of, relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the independent sector, and receive and analyse their inputs within the context of the overall implementation of the Mediterranean regional strategy for sustainable development.

ANNEX II

MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MCSD)

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION *

(a) NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. The Commission shall be composed of 36 members, consisting of representatives from each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations working in the fields of environment and sustainable development.

2. In particular:

   a. each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention shall be represented by one high-level representative (total 21), who may be accompanied by such alternates and advisers as may be required, in order to ensure interdisciplinary participation of relevant ministerial bodies of the Contracting Parties (e.g. ministries of environment, tourism, economy, development, industry, finance, energy, etc.).

   b. each of the three categories mentioned in section C.5 of the text of the Terms of Reference, i.e. local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations, shall be represented by five representatives (total 15) and an equal number of alternates, to be selected by the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

3. All 36 members shall participate in the Commission on an equal footing.

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* This criteria may be modified by the Contracting Parties in the light of experience.

(b) METHOD OF NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES OTHER THAN THOSE REPRESENTING THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

a. Method of nomination of candidates

(i) local authorities

As the legal and administrative status of local authorities differs from one country to another, the representatives of the local authorities, their groups or networks, will be selected through proposals from the governments of the Contracting Parties, which transmit their candidatures to the Secretariat of MAP.

(ii) Socio-economic actors

As the legal and administrative status of the socio-economic actors differs from one country to another, the representatives of the socio-economic actors, their groups or networks, will be selected through proposals from the governments of the Contracting Parties, which transmit their candidatures to the Secretariat of MAP.

(iii) NGO's

1. The criteria and the list of MAP/NGO partners approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995), shall be used as the reference text for any NGO that wishes to participate in the Commission' s work.

2. Three categories of NGO's shall be represented in the Commission:

- NGOs with international scope and multidisciplinary interest recognized in their status, especially those contributing to Mediterranean cooperation and concerned with matters covering a substantial portion of MAP' s field of activity;

- NGOs with regional scope covering more than one country in the whole Mediterranean area and covering a portion of MAP' s field of activity;

- NGOs with national or local scope covering a portion of MAP' s field of activity.

3. The selection of five NGOs from this category will be done through NGO networks in the region and through direct applications to be submitted to the MAP Secretariat.

b. Method of nomination of members of the MCSD

1. The meeting of the Contracting Parties shall nominate the members of the Commission, other than those representing the Contracting Parties.

2. For the first meeting of the Commission (Fez, Morocco, December 1996), the Bureau of the Contracting Parties shall make the selection of the members of the Commission, following consultation with the Contracting Parties.

(c) SELECTION CRITERIA FOR MEMBERS OTHER THAN THOSE REPRESENTING THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

The following general selection criteria are proposed:

1. The criteria and the list of MAP/NGO partners, approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995 (document: UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16), shall be used as a reference text for selection of members representing NGOs.

2. Priority for selection shall be given to Mediterranean local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs that are concerned with environmental and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean.

3. The principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected (north/south and east/west).

4. Fragile and island ecosystems will be given due consideration.

5. With reference to the three specific categories, the following are the selection criteria, giving priority to the groups or networks concerned:

(i) local authorities

1. Local authorities to be selected should be concerned with environmental and sustainable development issues.

(ii) Socio-economic actors

1. Selection within this group should take into consideration the major problems and decisive factors in the Mediterranean as well as the following factors:

   - north/south representation
   - developed/developing countries
   - rural/urban
   - past and current activities at the Mediterranean level.

2. Priority of selection shall be given to socio-economic networks active in the Mediterranean.

(iii) NGOs

1. The members representing NGOs should be selected from the list of MAP/NGO partners.

2. The members should be selected from among three NGO categories:

   - NGOs with global scope
   - NGOs with regional scope
   - NGOs with national and local scope

3. The NGOs to be selected should have a concrete and action-oriented approach towards the Mediterranean.

(d) DURATION OF THE MANDATE

1. The duration of the membership of the Commission shall be as follows:

   a. all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention shall be permanent members of the Commission (21);

   b. representatives from each of the three categories (local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations), shall be selected for a duration of two years by the meeting of the Contracting Parties (15).

ANNEX III

MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: REGIONAL CHANNEL FOR AGENDA 21

20 years of working together for sustainable development in the Mediterranean

For over 20 years, the concept of eco-development and its successor - sustainable development - have been the guiding philosophy of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), adopted in 1975 by Mediterranean countries and the European Community.

In the 1970s, it became obvious to countries in the region that the Mediterranean, the epitome of a regional sea, could not be viewed solely from the perspective of marine pollution: human activities at sea of course led to marine pollution, but its origin was to an even greater extent to be found in land-based activities. The speed of socio-economic development in Mediterranean countries, together with the inadequacy of coastal zone planning and environmental management, had had a negative impact on the quality of the marine environment and ecosystems, and on the coastal landscape. Protecting the Mediterranean meant going beyond simply combatting pollution and called for the integration of environmental concerns upstream, in the region's development policies.

The quest for sustainable development in the Mediterranean led to the adoption of the Barcelona Convention on protection of the marine environment in 1976.

The adoption of this Convention of regional scope was followed by the creation of an instrument to be used to acquire scientific knowledge and to carry out ongoing monitoring of the environment: the MED POL. Within the framework of Blue Plan activities, it encouraged strategic and long-term thinking about the development of countries in the Mediterranean basin and the consequent environmental impact on coastal zones and natural resources. It also led to the elaboration of a Priority Actions Programme so as to find technical, economic and political responses together and achieve better development-environment interaction for integrated coastal zone management.

After the Earth Summit in Rio in June 1992, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention naturally wanted to give effect at the Mediterranean level to the Agenda 21 resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Drawing on their experience of working together within MAP, as well as on the conclusions they had already reached regarding sustainable development, Mediterranean countries rapidly became involved in the Rio process.

The region's governments and the European Union, have given a practical demonstration of their commitment to sustainable development by building upon instruments that already existed or by adopting new means of action. The last two years have been marked by the following:

- the approval of Agenda MED 21 in 1994, setting out the regional partners' commitments in respect of sustainable development. Agenda MED 21 adapts the provisions of Agenda 21, sets out a framework to permit the elaboration of a Mediterranean strategy and fixes the goals, together with a timetable;

- the revision of the Barcelona Convention in 1995 in order to give the commitments made at Rio legal status;

- the revision of the Mediterranean Action Plan, setting more ambitious goals (MAP Phase II);

- the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in 1996.

The establishment of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, by strengthening still further the regional solidarity of Mediterranean partners, in itself reflects the Rio spirit. It responds to UNCED's desire to see regional and subregional cooperation develop to a level deemed adequate to promote the integration of ecological concerns in development policies.

By doing so, the Mediterranean has once again reaffirmed its position as an eco-region and its coastal States now have the forums for dialogue and the instruments for action that allow them to tackle environmental problems not only at the local and national levels but also at the regional level.

Sustainable development: the characteristics of the Mediterranean

As the studies carried out in the context of the Blue Plan show, the Mediterranean is a very typical example of the problems of sustainable development.

Its natural resources, notably its soil, forest and water resources, whose availability and quality are under threat in the long or even medium term, are subject to overwhelming pressure. The trend towards increasingly intensive exploitation of agriculture and fisheries has a significant impact on natural resources and on the marine environment. Coastal zones in particular are especially vulnerable to intensive urban and tourism development that affects outstanding landscapes, historic sites and coastal ecosystems.

Issues related to the environment, housing, transport and quality of life have begun to predominate in large Mediterranean cities that are undergoing rapid expansion. Urban areas, industrial zones and ports whose development has been inadequately controlled, that lack effective sewage facilities and adequate waste treatment systems, constitute a series of "hot spots" that contribute towards the pollution of the marine environment, the coast and the atmosphere. Studies carried out on energy, transport and urban waste have underlined the need to move towards more rational and sustainable production and consumption. Policies on harnessing energy and promoting renewable energy sources in particular must be seen as a priority.

Taken together, these studies show clearly that the sustainable management of coastal areas is a decisive factor for the Mediterranean's future. They also demonstrate, however, that the management of environmental issues can only be effective if it is included within a development perspective. This is the only way of obtaining new financial resources, acquiring the scientific, technical and administrative capacity that will allow States, local authorities, enterprises and non-governmental organisations to enhance their capabilities and their ability to deal with environmental problems. Lastly, improvement of the environment and the quality of life will only become a reality if the public is better informed and educated, if citizens of the Mediterranean are involved, especially women and children.

Inter-institutional collaboration that is already well established

The above conclusions constitute a solid reference framework for the Mediterranean's sustainable development partners and they have already been embodied in a series of complementary measures:

- at the State level, through the preparation and adoption of national sustainable development strategies, often implemented under the auspices of national sustainable development commissions;

- at the Mediterranean level, through combined action by the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the European Investment Bank (EIB), which have drawn up a Mediterranean Environment Technical Assistance Programme, the METAP;

- at the Euro-Mediterranean level, through the establishment of the partnership decided upon at the Barcelona Conference.

So today there is genuine inter-institutional collaboration at the regional level in which the European Union is called upon to play an increasingly important role.

Organisation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development was recommended by the Mediterranean States and the European Union in 1994, approved in 1995 and established in 1996.

The MCSD is an advisory body set up as a forum for dialogue, exchanges of views and proposals to the Contracting Parties and their partners for the purpose of defining a regional sustainable development strategy in the Mediterranean.

Bearing in mind the decisions of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), the task of the MCSD is to deal with the practical and concrete aspects of sustainable development in the Mediterranean. It studies major environmental and development issues in the Mediterranean, taking as a basis the work carried out by MAP's Regional Activity Centres, regional and national observatories, and by specialised international agencies and qualified expert centres (universities, research bodies...).

The Commission follows up the decisions made by the Contracting Parties, reviews the problems encountered, in particular with regard to the integration of the environment in national policies.

The MCSD identifies and publicises innovative environmental methods and technologies adapted to the Mediterranean context. It endeavours to facilitate exchanges among its members and to promote the enhancement of their capacity for environment-related action.

It makes recommendations to strengthen MAP's cooperation with international financing institutions present in the Mediterranean and with the European Union.

The MCSD is responsible for drawing up a strategic assessment of the implementation of Agenda MED 21 by the Contracting Parties over a four-year period. The first assessment is expected in the year 2000. It will help to take stock of the achievements and to review problems faced by countries as well as their causes, and will also assist in making recommendations on pursuing the Commission's work.

A pluralist commission

The MCSD is composed of a maximum of 36 members. These represent each of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, as well as local authority networks, socio-economic actors and environmental and sustainable development NGOs.

All the members participate in the Commission on an equal footing, which is a significant innovation. The Contracting Parties are standing members of the Commission, but the other members sit for two years so that there is greater rotation and consequently broader participation.

The MCSD's conclusions and recommendations are adopted by consensus.

The Commission will hold plenary sessions at least once a year until the year 2000 and once every two years thereafter.

The MAP Coordinating Unit, located in Athens, Greece, acts as the Commission's Secretariat and at each session it informs members of the progress of implementation of Agenda MED 21, activities to promote sustainable development at the regional level, and issues that require consideration.

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development will base its work on the experience of the UNCSD and will have to establish working relations with the latter.

It will participate in the exchange of information and experience among national and regional sustainable development commissions.

As far as possible, it will utilise the system for establishing reports already existing within the UNCSD so as to rationalise work and avoid duplication of effort.

The MCSD's initial work

Basing itself on Agenda MED 21, the MCSD decided that rather than dealing with every chapter separately it would focus on a limited number of issues that were vital for the Mediterranean, including those on which real progress could be expected.

In 1997, the MCSD will concentrate on two subjects on which considerable knowledge and experience has already been gained:

- sustainable management of coastal zones, particularly from the strategic and political decision-making perspective;

- water resource management, focusing on demand.

Six other subjects have been identified and will be considered by the MCSD in a second phase between 1997 and 1999: sustainable development indicators; (eco)tourism; information, promotion of awareness and involvement; free trade and the environment; industry and sustainable development; management of urban and rural development.

A task manager is responsible for each of the eight subjects and is leader of a thematic working group that meets between sessions; each thematic group receives technical support from MAP and its regional activity centres. MCSD members from States and the major groups volunteered to act as task managers and to participate in thematic working groups according to their own areas of interest.

For its working methods, the MCSD adopted the aspects it considered the most

innovative and effective in the UNCSD mechanism. The task manager system in particular was one of the most positive cooperation models in Agenda 21, reinforcing the UNCSD's work and establishing an improved sustainable development synergy within the United Nations system.

MAP has allocated funds to the MCSD as "start-up capital" to allow the task managers to catalyse the activities of the thematic groups and, where necessary, to receive support in the form of technical expertise. The MCSD also hopes that the importance of the subjects dealt with will encourage Mediterranean countries and international organisations concerned to add to its resources, either financially or by making staff available.

The MCSD's regional nature and its composition constitute an innovative contribution to the implementation of the resolutions in Agenda 21. As a regional forum for dialogue and activities, it constitutes a bridge between the global impetus given at the Rio Earth Summit and the efforts of States at the national level.

It represents a promising framework for the definition of a genuinely Mediterranean sustainable development strategy, a vital factor for the Mediterranean in the 21st century.