



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

*Long-term programme for
pollution monitoring and research in
the Mediterranean (MED POL) - Phase II*

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PREFACE

Fourteen years ago the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972) adopted the Action Plan for the Human Environment, including the General Principles for Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution. In the light of the results of the Stockholm Conference, the United Nations General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to "serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the United Nations system" (General Assembly resolution (XXVII) of 15 December 1972). The organizations of the United Nations system were invited "to adopt the measures that may be required to undertake concerted and co-ordinated programmes with regard to international environmental problems", and the "intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have an interest in the field of the environment" were also invited "to lend their full support and collaboration to the United Nations with a view to achieving the largest possible degree of co-operation and co-ordination". Subsequently, the Governing Council of UNEP chose "Oceans" as one of the priority areas in which it would focus efforts to fulfil its catalytic and co-ordinating role.

The Regional Seas Programme was initiated by UNEP in 1974. Since then the Governing Council of UNEP has repeatedly endorsed a regional approach to the control of marine pollution and the management of marine and coastal resources and has requested the development of regional action plans.

The Regional Seas Programme at present includes ten regions^{1/} and has over 120 coastal States participating in it. It is conceived as an action-oriented programme having concern not only for the consequences but also for the causes of environmental degradation and encompassing a comprehensive approach to combating environmental problems through the management of marine and coastal areas. Each regional action plan is formulated according to the needs of the region as perceived by the Governments concerned. It is designed to link assessment of the quality of the marine environment and the causes of its deterioration with activities for the management and development of the marine and coastal environment. The action plans promote the parallel development of regional legal agreements and of action-oriented programme activities ^{2/}.

The Mediterranean Action Plan was the first one developed in the framework of the Regional Seas Programme. It was adopted in early 1975 in Barcelona ^{3/} and since then has shown a remarkable progress.

The monitoring of the sources, levels and effects of pollutants, as well as the research related to this monitoring, was one of the cornerstones of the Action Plan. During the first phase of the

^{1/} Mediterranean, Kuwait Action Plan Region, West and Central Africa, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, South-East Pacific, South Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, East Africa and South Asian Seas.

^{2/} UNEP: Achievements and planned development of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 1. UNEP, 1982.

^{3/} UNEP: Action Plan for the protection of the Mediterranean. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 34. UNEP, 1983.

monitoring and research programme, known as MED POL, in which 83 national marine research centres participated from 16 Mediterranean States, several pilot projects were formulated and carried out with assistance of eight United Nations organizations ^{4/}.

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution ^{5/}, which provides the legal framework for the Action Plan, decided, in 1981, to terminate the pilot phase of MED POL and approved a long-term (10 years) programme for pollution monitoring and research (MED POL - Phase II).

The overall objective of the long-term programme is to promote the achievement of the goals of the Convention and its related protocol. When approving the long-term programme, which is reproduced in this document, the Contracting Parties recommended (UNEP/IG.23/11, Annex VIII, section 5) that they "should contribute to co-operation in the Mediterranean, without thereby increasing the general administration costs, by:

- Jointly developing programmes of interest to the Mediterranean;
- Increasing the part played by the mobilization of national efforts in the common endeavour, by providing studies, the results of pilot experiments, training, etc; and
- Identifying their own efforts and annually notifying thereof the other Mediterranean coastal States and the international organizations concerned, such identification relating in particular to the institutes, laboratories and research workers taking part in national, regional and subregional programmes, and indicating, as far as possible, the nature and purpose of their work together with any relevant bibliographic data available, with a view to their dissemination and the facilitation of fruitful co-operation."

^{4/} FAO/UNESCO/IOC/WHO/WMO/IAEA/UNEP: Co-ordinated Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme (MED POL) - Phase I: Programme Description. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 23. UNEP, 1983.

^{5/} UNEP: Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols. UNEP, 1982.

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BACKGROUND

1. The pilot phase of the Co-ordinated Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme (MED POL - PHASE I) was initiated in 1974 and formally approved by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 28 January - 4 February 1975) as the scientific/technical component of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
2. Initially it consisted of seven pilot projects (MED POL I - VII), which were later expanded by an additional six pilot projects (MED POL VIII - XIII), some of which remain in a conceptual stage only. It was based on the work of 83 national research centres designated by 16 Mediterranean States and the EEC as participants in co-operative networks and on the input of 8 United Nations organizations (ECE, UNIDO, FAO, UNESCO, IOC of UNESCO, WHO, WMO, IAEA), IUCN and ICSEM. The overall co-ordination and guidance for MED POL - PHASE I was provided by UNEP, acting as the secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
3. The general objectives of the MED POL - PHASE I, evolved through a series of expert and intergovernmental meetings, were:
 - to formulate and carry out a co-ordinated pollution monitoring and research programme taking into account the goals of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the capabilities of the Mediterranean research centres to participate in it;
 - to assist national research centres in developing their capabilities to participate in the programme;
 - to analyse the sources, amounts, levels, pathways, trends and effects of pollutants relevant to the Mediterranean Sea;
 - to provide the scientific/technical information needed by the Governments of the Mediterranean States and the EEC for the negotiation and implementation of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols;
 - to build up consistent time-series of data on the sources, pathways, levels and effects of pollutants in the Mediterranean Sea and thus to contribute to the scientific knowledge of the Mediterranean Sea.
4. The results of, and experience gained through, MED POL - PHASE I are reflected in numerous documents issued by UNEP and the specialized agencies which participated in the Programme.
5. The Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States and First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, and its related protocols (Geneva, 5-10 February 1979), having examined the status of MED POL - PHASE I, recommended that during the 1979/1980 biennium a long-term pollution monitoring and research programme should be formulated and the present document is a response to this request.
6. The legal obligations of the Contracting Parties to the:
 - Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution; adopted in Barcelona, 16 February 1976; entered into force on 12 February 1978;
 - Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft; adopted in Barcelona, 16 February 1975; entered into force on 12 February 1978;
 - Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency; adopted in Barcelona, 16 February 1976; entered into force on 12 February 1978; and

- Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources; adopted in Athens, 17 May 1980;

are the legal basis for MED POL - Phase II.

7. Based on the recommendations made at various expert and intergovernmental meetings, the draft long-term (10 years) programme for pollution monitoring and research (MED POL - PHASE II) was formulated by the secretariat of the Convention (UNEP) in co-operation with the organizations which supported the MED POL - PHASE I. Subsequently, it was formally approved by the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols and Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Action Plan held in Cannes, 2-7 March 1981.

OBJECTIVES

8. The general long-term objective of MED POL - PHASE II is to further the goals of the Barcelona Convention by assisting the Parties to prevent, abate and combat pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment of the Area. The specific objectives are designed to provide, on a continuous basis, the Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols with:

- information required for the implementation of the Convention and the protocols;
- indicators and evaluation of the effectiveness of the pollution prevention measures taken under the Convention and the protocols;
- scientific information which may lead to eventual revisions and amendments of the relevant provisions of the Convention and the protocols and for the formulation of additional protocols;
- information which could be used in formulating environmentally sound national, bilateral and multilateral management decisions essential for the continuous socio-economic development of the Mediterranean region on a sustainable basis;
- periodic assessment of the state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.

9. These objectives will be achieved through the evaluation of the information on the sources, amounts, levels, trends, pathways and effects of pollutants in the Mediterranean which will be collected, analysed and reported on a systematic basis using commonly agreed methods, and taking into account data available from other sources.

PRINCIPLES

10. The basic principles used in the development of MED POL - PHASE II are listed below:

(a) Mechanisms which will be used for MED POL - PHASE II related to policy making:

- periodic meetings of Contracting Parties to decide on the programme, approve its budget, review its progress and evaluate its results;

- periodic meetings of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation which will consist of national MED POL co-ordinators designated by the relevant national authorities to assist the Contracting Parties in reviewing the progress of the programme and in evaluating the results thereof, and to prepare relevant recommendations for submission, through UNEP, as the secretariat of the Convention, to the meetings of the Contracting Parties.
- (b) The monitoring of, and research on, pollutants affecting the Mediterranean marine environment will reflect primarily the immediate and long-term requirements of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols (including those protocols which are in their formative stage) but will also take into account factors needed for the understanding of the relationship between the socio-economic development of the region and the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.
- (c) The strategy of the programme will be such as to provide information on pollution trends within the Mediterranean recognizing that the dynamics of the system are such that pollution in one area can cause detrimental effects in other areas.
- (d) For this purpose, monitoring will be organized on several levels:
 - monitoring of sources of pollution providing information on the type and amount of pollutants released directly into the environment;
 - monitoring of nearshore areas, including estuaries, under the direct influence of pollutants from identifiable primary (outfalls, discharge and coastal dumping points) or secondary (rivers) sources;
 - monitoring of offshore areas (reference areas) providing information on the general trends in the level of pollution in the Mediterranean;
 - monitoring of the transport of pollutants to the Mediterranean through the atmosphere, providing additional information on the pollution load reaching the Mediterranean Sea.
- (e) Studies and research undertaken in the framework of the programme will be directly relevant to the achievement of the objectives of the programme.
- (f) PHASE II will be based primarily on the experience and results obtained during PHASE I, but will also take into account the experience gained through other large-scale national, bilateral or multilateral research and monitoring programmes carried out in the Mediterranean and in other regions of the world.
- (g) The work will be carried out by national research centres, which will not necessarily have to carry out all the aspects of the programme, in particular those which actively participated in PHASE I, taking into account the need for adequate geographic coverage. These centres will be designated by the relevant national authorities and will be named "collaborating UNEP MED POL centres" after demonstrating their relevant technical competence. Participation of national institutions in the work will be formalized through contracts based on proposals submitted to the Mediterranean Action Plan Co-ordinating Unit in response to requests.
- (h) The results of PHASE II will be collated, processed and disseminated by the unit co-ordinating the Mediterranean Action Plan in co-operation with the relevant specialized organizations of the United Nations system. The International Computing Centre (ICC) in Geneva will be used for data processing according to agreed standard practices, making full use of existing mechanisms for data exchange.
- (i) Data generated in PHASE II will be comparable, to the largest extent feasible, with those obtained during PHASE I and with those generated through UNEP-sponsored regional seas programmes in other regions, thus contributing to the Global Environment Monitoring System

(GEMS), and furthering the concept of integrated monitoring of the environment. The inter-regional comparability of data will be assured through UNEP's Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre.

- (j) The overall co-ordination of MED POL - PHASE II will be vested in the Mediterranean Action Plan Co-ordinating Unit, acting on behalf of UNEP (the secretariat of the Barcelona Convention).
- (k) The day-to-day co-ordination of the work carried out by national institutions participating in MED POL - PHASE II will be achieved through the relevant international organizations, under the responsibility of the Co-ordinating Unit.
- (l) Mechanisms which will be used, as appropriate, for the analysis of data and their initial evaluation are:
 - the unit co-ordinating the Mediterranean Action Plan in co-operation with the international organizations;
 - the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation;
 - experts, selected by the Co-ordinating Unit in consultation with the international organizations. These experts will act in their personal capacity;
 - periodic meetings of scientists participating in the programme to discuss the progress made in the projects and the future programme.
- (m) Financial resources for the implementation of PHASE II are:
 - (i) cash from:
 - Mediterranean Trust Fund;
 - UNEP's Fund;
 - voluntary contributions.
 - (ii) contributions in kind, services and activities related to the Mediterranean Action Plan from:
 - collaborating national centres;
 - Governments of the Mediterranean States and the EEC;
 - specialized organizations participating in the programme.

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