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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of Unesco)

PROGRESS REPORT ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN IOC AND UNEP  
IN MARINE POLLUTION RESEARCH AND MONITORING

During the Twelfth Session of the IOC Assembly (Paris, 3-20 November 1982) the deliberations of the Fourth Session of the Working Committee for GIPME were considered. Resolution XII-21 was adopted; by it the Assembly decided to present a report at the Eleventh Session of the UNEP Governing Council (Nairobi, 9-25 May 1983), on the Commissions ongoing and planned programmes in the field of marine pollution, so that the Governing Council could determine to what extent UNEP would be prepared to co-sponsor any of the programmes or activities described. Since the Chairman of IOC was unable to attend, owing to national commitments, the Secretary of IOC attended the UNEP Governing Council and introduced the above-mentioned report (Document IOC/INF-523 "The Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring Programme of the IOC, Present and Planned Activities").

The UNEP Governing Council considered the report and adopted a decision (Decision 11/7 Part 4) which: (1) noted the co-operation existing since 1975 between the IOC and UNEP; (2) encouraged the IOC to continue to report periodically to the Governing Council on the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, particularly on matters concerning pollution of the marine environment; and (3) encouraged the further co-operation and co-ordination within available resources between the Programme and the Commission on projects of mutual interest on a global basis, such as the Regional Seas Programme, the Programme on the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment and the Marine Pollution Monitoring System.

The Secretary of IOC had the opportunity to meet with the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Moustafa Tolba, to discuss co-operation between the two organizations, particularly collaboration with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Mr. Tolba took a constructive position during these discussions, the outcome of which was notified to IOC Member States by Circular Letter n° 923 dated 20 October 1983.

Consultations between the Director of the Regional Seas Programme and the Secretary of IOC, with concerned staff and with the First Vice-Chairman of IOC, took place on 16-17 January 1984 in Geneva. The purpose was to review on-going co-operation and possible steps aimed at developing it further, in accordance with IOC Resolution XII.20. The meeting resulted in the following decisions among others :

- IOC and UNEP will work jointly in the development of MARPOLMON as the ocean chemistry component of the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS);
- IOC and UNEP will jointly co-sponsor the GIPME Group of Experts on Methods, Standards and Intercalibration (GEMSI);
- IOC and UNEP will co-sponsor a "mussel watch" as a joint interregional activity through the regional components of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and IOC's Marine Pollution Monitoring System (MARPOLMON).

*Programme and Monitoring Programme*  
The full text of the Aide Memoire covering this meeting is appended to the present document.

The IOC and UNEP have been collaborating specifically in the following activities

(i) In connection with global pollution monitoring, A First Symposium on Integrated Global Ocean Monitoring was held in Tallin (USSR) with the support of IOC, UNEP, FAO and WMO; (ii) A Seminar on Biological Monitoring Using Bivalve Molluscs (Mussel Watch II) was held in Honolulu (USA), from 7 to 11 November 1983, with the support of IOC and UNEP. Within several of the UNEP Regional Sea Action Plans IOC is the executing agency for part of the programmes. The accumulated total amount of funds involved, since 1973, exceeds three million US dollars. During 1983, IOC activities took place within the following Regional Sea Action Plan Programmes : Co-ordinated Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme (MEDPOL), Monitoring of Pollution in the Marine Environment of West and Central African Region (WACAF) and Kuwait Action Plan (KAP). (iii) Within GESAMP a continuous collaboration occurs between the sponsoring UN agencies (IMO/FAO/Unesco/WMO/WHO/IAEA/UN/UNEP) with specific involvement of IOC/Unesco, as lead agency, in the GESAMP Working Groups on the Health of the Oceans and on Riverine Input to Ocean Systems, with UNEP financial support.

AIDE MEMOIRE

on consultations between representatives of the Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and of the United Nations  
Environment Programme (UNEP)

Geneva, 16 and 17 January 1984

1. In order to achieve a better co-ordination between IOC and the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP (RS/PAC) in the field of marine pollution research and monitoring, a meeting took place in Geneva from 16-17 January 1984 with representatives of both organizations.

2. IOC was represented at the meeting by Mr. Mario Ruivo, Secretary of IOC and Messrs. N. Andersen and A. Jernelov, consultants to IOC. The First Vice Chairman, Mlle. M. A. Martine Sane, attended the final phase of the consultations. The Regional Seas Programme of UNEP was represented throughout the meeting by its Director Mr. S. Keckes as well as his Deputy, Mr. F. Szekely. Short presentations were provided by the following RS/PAC programme officers: Ms. P. Bliss-Guest and Messrs. D. Elder, M. Gajraj and M. Tangi.

3. The meeting started at 10:00 a.m. on 16 January by the Director of RS/PAC who welcomed the IOC representatives. Two general presentations followed in which the work of IOC and UNEP in the field of marine pollution research and monitoring was reviewed. On the afternoon of the same day, the analysis of global and regional activities of both organizations were examined and discussed.

4. The participants noted :

- (a) IOC Resolution XII-20 in which UNEP was called upon to "increase its support to the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME), to the Marine Pollution Monitoring Programme (MARPOLMON) and to other components of GIPME ...", and
- (b) IOC Resolution XII-21, which invited "the UNEP Governing Council ... to determine the extent to which UNEP is prepared to co-sponsor these programmes and activities with the IOC."

5. The participants reconfirmed the intention of the Secretariats of each organization to "further co-operation and co-ordination within available resources between the Programme (UNEP) and the Commission (IOC) on projects of mutual interest on a global basis, such as the Regional Seas Programme

(RSP), the Programme for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME) and the Marine Pollution Monitoring System (MARPOLMON)", as called for in Decision 11/7, Part Four, A, of UNEP Governing Council .

6. In order to achieve these objectives and recognising the co-operation during the last ten years (29 joint projects supported by UNEP with more than US\$ 3,000,000 from the Environment Fund being provided to IOC as the co-operating agency), the relevant parts of programmes of the two organizations were reviewed and the following general conclusions have been reached:

- (i) The strengthening of the co-operation on programmes of mutual interest will be achieved through joint projects which will be considered as part of or contribution to the relevant programmes of both organizations. In formulating such projects the legal and budgetary constraints of both organizations will be fully respected.
- (ii) The intention to work jointly in the development of MARPOLMON as a chemical ocean component of the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) through the marine pollution research and monitoring projects of the RSP and the IOC was stated.
- (iii) Whenever possible the existing regional structures, such as IOC's regional subsidiary bodies and the regional structures supported by UNEP, should be used in the implementation of joint projects, in particular for joint projects of relevance to both the RSP and MARPOLMON.
- (iv) The problems that may arise from the different geographic coverage of the IOC regional subsidiary bodies and UNEP's regional structures, as well as from their respective mandates, have been recognized and will be duly taken into account in formulating and implementing joint IOC/UNEP regional projects.
- (v) The importance of adequate methods and their harmonization were recognized as essential for achieving an evaluation of the state of the marine environment on a regional and global basis and as an input to assessing the state of the health of the oceans. In this context it was agreed to co-operate on the development, testing and intercalibration of sampling and analytical methods, on their joint publication (e.g. in UNEP Reference Methods for Marine Pollution Studies Series and IOC Manual and Guides) and on their use in joint projects. The importance of GEMSI's advice on methods relevant to chemical pollutants was recognized and it was agreed to consider GEMSI as a jointly sponsored body.

- (vi) Further efforts will be made to harmonize the development of global, regional and national environmental data banks in order to maximise their efficiency, avoid unnecessary duplication and to facilitate their compatibility taking into account the role of IODE.
- (vii) The "mussel watch" will be implemented as a joint interregional activity of IOC and UNEP through the regional components of RSP and MARPOLMON. Co-operation of other organizations in specific tasks (development of methodology, intercalibration) will be desirable.
- (viii) The co-operation between IOC and UNEP on RSP, GIPME and MARPOLMON does not exclude co-operation of either IOC or UNEP on these programmes with other appropriate organizations and institutions.
- (ix) On programmes of mutual interest regular consultations between the Secretariats of the two organizations will be continued either bilaterally or through interagency meetings, as appropriate.

7. Co-operation on specific regional programmes was reviewed in detail region by region and will be kept under periodic review by the Secretariats.

Geneva, 17 January 1984



Secretary of IOC



Director of RS/PAC, UNEP