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IN THIS ISSUE:

UNEP NEWS

Shark prize awarded to UNEP Executive Director Steiner

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MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

International Conference "Confronting fresh water crisis in the Mediterranean Basin.

What role for the European Union ?"

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"Destinations" project wins Energy Globe Award

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New Offices of REMPEC Inaugurated in Malta

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Sardinia Chart for the protection of Mediterranean coasts adopted

During the second day of the Mediterranean Workshop on ICZM Policy, organised by PAP/RAC in Alghero between 19th and 21st May 2008, a special session was organised dedicated to the Sardinian experience in ICZM.

Energy and climate change in the Mediterranean -

Meeting of the steering committee

Blue Plan is currently finalizing a study on energy and climate change in the Mediterranean. These works are mainly funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB).

UNCSD tackles global food crisis and climate changes issues

The 16th Meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development focused on the issue of poverty and the food crisis, which is currently witnessed globally, compounded by the rise in the prices of commodities.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Climate change awareness campaign

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UNEP NEWS

Shark prize awarded to UNEP Executive Director Steiner

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International Conference "Confronting fresh water crisis in the Mediterranean Basin. What role for the European Union?"

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SHARK PRIZE AWARDED TO UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEINER



On 29th May the Shark Guardian Award was handed over to Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, by Dr Andreas Keppeler of the German NGO Sharkproject at

the Convention on Biological Biodiversity in Bonn, Germany.

The award was given in recognition of the important efforts that Mr Steiner and his organisation made to publicise the threat of mercury poisoning as a result of eating top-predator-class fish, such as sharks. UNEP's contribution to protect globally endangered populations of sharks was also a factor that determined the recognition.

Sharkproject and UNEP reaffirmed continued cooperation to establish a training programme for 8 to 10 years old children that will explain the marine food web; the virtual important role of the sharks in the marine ecosystem and how to avoid human intoxication with mercury by seafood consumption.

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "CONFRONTING FRESH WATER CRISIS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN. WHAT ROLE FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION ?"

Organized in Paris on 28th - 29th May 2008, with the support of Iddri, Blue Plan and the World Water Council, this conference aimed at attracting the general public's attention to the problems related to fresh water in the Mediterranean basin.

By considering the contributions of the different co-operation forums dealing with water in the Mediterranean, and especially the actions of the



European Union, the Presidency of which will be assumed by France on 1st July 2008, this conference offered solutions that can help policy-makers.

It brought together speakers with a wide range of perspectives, from multiple countries in the Mediterranean region and from diverse backgrounds – business, public administration, NGO and academia.

In the framework of regional, European and French water policies in the Mediterranean, the following topics were addressed: climate change adaptation, public-private partnership and the agricultural model required for a sustainable water resources management.

"DESTINATIONS" PROJECT WINS ENERGY GLOBE AWARD

The International Jury of the Energy Globe Award 2007 has chosen the "Destinations" as the national winner for Algeria. The objective of the project is to propose strategies for sustainable tourism development in three pilot coastal zones: Mont Chenoua - Cap Djinet in Algeria, Central Rif in Morocco and Cap Bon in Tunisia.



This project, co-financed within LIFE - Third Countries programme of the EC, is being implemented by UNEP/ MAP centre PAP/RAC and its partners in the Maghreb countries.

The ceremony in which certificates were presented to the winners, and the international television gala for the ENERGY GLOBE World

Awards took place on 26 May 2008 at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The International Energy Globe Awards (the World Awards for Sustainability) have been awarded annually since 1999 to recognise projects that make careful and economical use of resources and employ alternative energy sources.

The winners, in the categories of Earth, Fire, Water, Air and Youth, are selected by a panel including members from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Bank and the European Renewable Energy Council. The awards were initiated by Austrian engineer and environmentalist Wolfgang Neumann.

NEW OFFICES OF REMPEC INAUGURATED IN MALTA



The new offices of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) at 'Maritime House', Valletta were officially inaugurated on the 2 May 2008 by the Hon Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta in the presence of Mr Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization

(IMO) and Mr Paul Mifsud, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Prior to the unveiling of the commemorative plaque, Mr Mifsud, Mr Mitropoulos and the Hon Gonzi addressed the distinguished guests which included members of the Diplomatic Corps resident in Malta, Members of Parliament, senior Maltese Government officials and two former Directors of the Centre, Mr Philippe Le Lourd and Rear Admiral Roberto Patruno. A reception hosted by Mr Frederic Hebert, Director of REMPEC, followed the inauguration ceremony.

REMPEC moved to the new offices, which were made available and refurbished by the Government of Malta, last December. The Centre has been hosted in Malta since its establishment in 1976.

At the beginning of April, REMPEC's initiative

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on garbage discharge requirements brought into effect MARPOL Annex V special area status for the Mediterranean, and made the disposal of garbage into the Mediterranean from ships prohibited from 1st May 2009.

SARDINIA CHART FOR THE PROTECTION OF MEDITERRANEAN COASTS ADOPTED



During the second day of the Mediterranean Workshop on ICZM Policy, organised by PAP/RAC in Alghero 19th and 21st May 2008, a special session was organised dedicated to the Sardinian experience in ICZM. In the afternoon of the same day, the Sardinia



Chart was discussed, jointly with Mr. Renato Soru, President of the Sardinian Region.

The "Sardinia Charter" aims at promoting the local level ICZM network, and its adoption was supported also by the representatives of the NGO networks, like WWF, Medcities and EUCC. A press conference with

participation of the representatives of the national TVs and newspapers, which was held in the evening, was dedicated to the first celebration of the EU Maritime Day and the adoption of the "Sardinia Charter".

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy) and in the framework of the EU funded SMAP III project. It was attended by 84 participants, including high-level policy-makers from different Ministries of the SMAP eligible countries, NGO representatives and the representatives of the SMAP III ICZM projects, including the high-level representatives of the EU, UNEP/MAP and METAP.

The Ambassadors for the Coast appointed by PAP/RAC opened the workshop addressing the participants and describing their personal efforts, as well as endeavours of their countries and relevant organisations to achieve sustainable coastal development.

Mostafa K. Tolba, former UNEP Executive Director, described his 30 years of struggle within UNEP for saving the Regional Seas. He reminded

the participants of the results of the ecological footprint studies and invited them all to consolidate efforts towards improving the ICZM policy in the Mediterranean. Cicito Morittu, Councilor of the Environmental Protection of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, presented, on behalf of Renato Soru, President of the Sardinian Region, the regional recent initiatives and their objectives. Lhoucine Tijani, Delegate of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa of Morocco, and President of the Foundation Mohamed VI for the Environmental Protection, presented the Foundation's efforts to improve the status of the coast in Morocco.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Blue Plan is currently finalizing a study on energy and climate change in the Mediterranean. These works are mainly funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB). On 20th May 2008, the steering committee pertaining to the study met in order to validate the main findings and recommendations to be published in July, in



conjunction with the report.

The members of the steering committee belong to the following institutions: EIB, European Environment Agency, French Ministry of Environment, ENDA Maghreb, Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie, Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics.

In the framework of an Euro-Mediterranean seminar organized in Athens on 31st May 2008, by the Paris 11 University and the Pantheon University of Athens, Blue Plan gave a presentation on climate negotiations. The seminar gave the opportunity to experts, politicians, journalists and students to exchange on the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean and to discuss a few regional measures to mitigate them (Regional Carbon Facility, funding through a world facility adaptation measures in the Mediterranean countries).

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

UNCSO tackles global food crisis and climate changes issues

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Climate change awareness campaign

UNCSO TACKLES GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS AND CLIMATE CHANGES ISSUES



PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 16th Meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable

Development focused on the issue of poverty and the food crisis, which is currently witnessed globally, compounded by the rise in the prices of commodities.

The meeting took place in New York from 14th to 16th May 2008 and included a Ministerial segment addressed by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

A series of side events were also organised during the CSD, with the participation of UNEP/MAP Coordinator Paul Mifsud.

In particular, the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, the European Commission, UNEP/MAP and MIO/ECSDE organised a panel discussion on "Addressing Climate Change Adaptation Challenges in the Mediterranean", with presentations by political representatives from several Mediterranean countries and regional organisations. UNEP/MAP Coordinator highlighted the adaptation initiatives promoted by UNEP as part of the Climate Change Strategy, indicating how all UNEP entities should take ownership of such initiative which is not just relevant to the Regional Seas Programme.

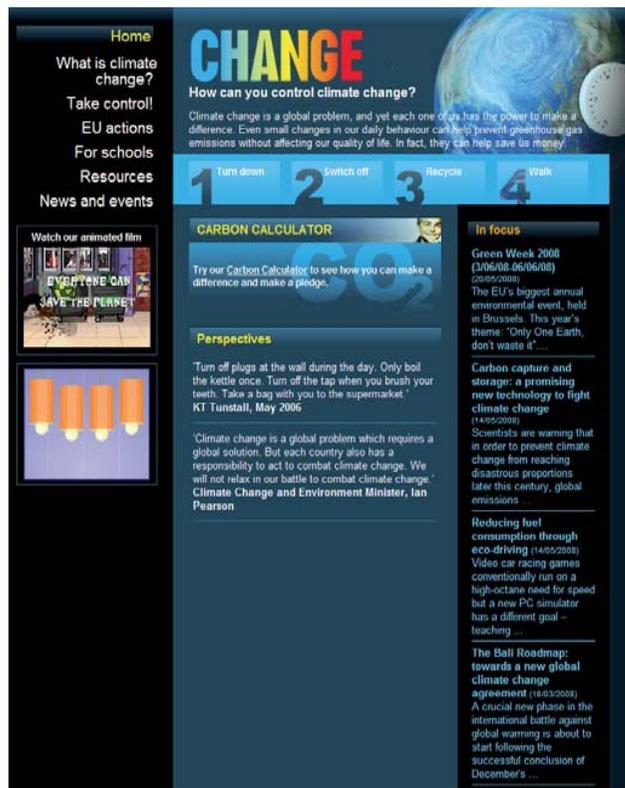
During the side event organised by Montenegro about National Sustainable Development Strategies, it was underlined how UNEP/MAP contributed and supported Montenegro and other Mediterranean countries to develop their NSSD within the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The public awareness campaign on climate change, launched by the European Commission in May 2006, moved into its third and final stage, focusing on Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and

Bulgaria. Entitled 'You control climate change', the campaign aims to stimulate active dialogue in these five countries, where national campaigns have not yet been implemented. The campaign will run until mid-2009 and will comprise the following actions: from June 2008, a TV advertisement showing how simple everyday actions can help to combat climate change, to be broadcast on the main youth channels and online on the campaign website; a 'Be a changer' competition, aimed at getting young people in these countries to pledge to adopt new habits and actions to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and an internet campaign targeting youth-focused portals and chat platforms, directing them to the 'Be a changer' competition website. This final stage of the campaign will cost €1.5 million, bringing the total two-year campaign cost to €6.2 million. The campaign website is at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/campaign/index_en.htm



19-20 June

MCSO Steering Committee Meeting Athens

3-4 July

First Meeting of Compliance Committee Athens

9-10 July

Second Meeting of Government designated experts on the ecosystem approach Athens