



medwaves e-newsletter

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MAP Coordinator Paul Mifsud was invited to deliver a presentation and chair the opening session of the 11th Euro-Mediterranean Economic Transition Conference, organized by the European Commission on the 18th and 19th June 2007 in Brussels.

Horizon 2020 Committee Meeting

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12th Meeting Of MCSD Focus On Climate Change

The 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development was held in Istanbul, Turkey, 29 May – 2 June. The main item on the agenda was the issue of climate change in the Mediterranean.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Protection Of Mediterranean Coral Rejected At CITES

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which took place in The Hague, Netherlands, from 3 to 15 June decided on a series of measures to protect endangered species.

EC Suggestions For A Rapid Adaptation To Climate Change

With the effects of climate change already perceptible, the European Commission believes that it is possible to take a certain number of adaptation measures at EU level right now to tackle the problem

Consultation On Maritime Policy

Representatives of the EU's scientific community met on 22 June, in order to respond to the European Commission's ongoing consultation on a future European maritime policy.

Rising Temperatures Force Red Sea Marine Species To Move To The Mediterranean

Rising sea temperatures could be the cause of the rising influx of marine species from the Red Sea into the Eastern Mediterranean.

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HOT RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS FUELLED BY CLIMATE CHANGE WORRIES

Climate change worries coupled with high oil prices and increasing government support top a set of drivers fuelling soaring rates of investment in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, according to a trend analysis from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

According to UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner: "One of the new and fundamental messages of this report is that renewable energies are no longer subject



to the vagaries of rising and falling oil prices—they are becoming generating systems of choice for increasing numbers

of power companies, communities and countries irrespective of the costs of fossil fuels".

Renewables now compete head-on with coal and gas in terms of new installed generating capacity and the portion of world energy produced from renewable sources is sure to rise substantially as the tens of billions of new investment dollars bear fruit.

While renewable sources today produce about 2% of the world's energy, they now account for about 18% of world investment in power generation, with wind generation at the investment forefront. Solar and bio-fuel energy technologies grew even more quickly than wind, but from a smaller base.

Says Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Climate Change: "As governments prepare to begin a new round of post-2012 climate change-related negotiations later this year, the report clearly shows that, amid much discussion about the 'technologies of tomorrow,' the finance sector believes the existing technologies of today can and will 'decarbonize' the energy mix provided the right policies and incentives are in place at the international level".

"Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investments", a UNEP report, 2007 can be downloaded at www.unep.org

MAP MEETS TUNISIAN MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT – CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER IN TUNISIA



During a bilateral meeting at the end of June, MAP Coordinator Paul Mifsud and the Tunisian Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development HE Mr. Nahdir Hamada discussed the country's initiative to organise a major conference on Climate Change in

the Mediterranean next November.

The conference is an initiative of the Tunisian President himself, to which have been invited Heads of State and Government from all over Europe and Africa, as well as heads of UN agencies, including UNEP Executive Director, and other international organisations.

UNEP/MAP has been requested to support this initiative by sponsoring the participation of delegates from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

MEDPOL PROGRAMME MOVES INTO PHASE IV

MEDPOL Phase IV operation plan was approved, as well as its activities for the 2008-2009 biennium at the meeting of MEDPOL National Focal Points held in



Hammamet, Tunisia, on the 25 – 27 June.

The meeting was opened by H.E. Mr. Nadhir Hamada, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia, who underlined the excellent relation between his country and UNEP/MAP referring to several activities carried out over the years. The MEDPOL meeting was organised with the support and financial participation of the Tunisian Government.

"Tunisia has always considered that social and economic development and environmental protection go hand in hand. In this spirit we adhered to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution (Barcelona Convention), its Protocols and its amendements, in order to protect the Mediterranean region and to contribute to the improvement of life quality for its citizens [...]."

Our support to the MAP's efforts has been and will always be a constant trait of our cooperation policy in the field of environmental protection", said H.E. Mr Hamada in his speech addressing the meeting.

The MEDPOL representatives addressed the activities carried out during the present biennium and discussed the activities proposed for 2008 – 2009, which were approved and will be transmitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption. Other topics included the review and approval of MEDPOL Phase IV, the process for the preparation of the new legally-binding text containing measures and timetables for pollution reduction in accordance with article 15 of the LBS Protocol, and data policy within the MEDPOL Information System.

Participants also heard a presentation about the stage reached by UNEP/MAP in the process for the application of the ecosystem approach that will be applied to all MAP components. The roadmap for the application of the ecosystem approach prepared by experts from the Contracting Parties will be submitted to the MAP Focal Points and the Contracting Parties meeting.

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

ICZM Protocol text agreed and ready for submission to COP

UNEP/MAP successfully drives GEF PROJECT home

International forum prepares mediterranean report on water scarcity and droughts

ICZM PROTOCOL TEXT AGREED AND READY FOR SUBMISSION TO COP

During the meeting of the Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts that took place in Split (Croatia), agreement was reached on the final draft text of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

The draft text will be submitted to the meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP15) for approval. It will thus be submitted for adoption to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, which is scheduled to be held back to back with the COP 15.

This successful meeting also marked the 30th Anniversary of PAP/RAC, MAP's regional activity centre for the Priority Actions Programme. A commemorating event was organised by the centre, which highlighted its achievements in the field of coastal zone management, in particular its contribution for the development of Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs).

UNEP/MAP SUCCESSFULLY DRIVES GEF PROJECT HOME



The Regional Component of the GEF Project "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem" has been approved by the GEF Council this June 2007, endorsing the allocation of funds to implement the proposed activities.

This is a major success for UNEP/MAP and the Barcelona Convention, marking the launch of a Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem by GEF, UNEP and the World Bank. UNEP/MAP has been a strong driver behind the success of the project.

In the coming months the GEF team at UNEP/MAP will focus on the preparation of the Project Document and the MOUs, and securing the co-financing. The project approval opens now the way to the implementation of specific activities starting beginning of 2008 with a duration of five years.

The **GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean LME, implemented by UNEP and the World Bank, and executed by UNEP/MAP**, responds directly to priorities of the countries of

the Mediterranean Sea basin as identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, and agreed interventions as outlined in the two Strategic Action Plans, SAP-BIO and SAP-MED. The two SAPs are now ready for implementation.



The **main objective** is to assist basin countries in implementing reforms and investments in key sectors that address transboundary pollution reduction, biodiversity decline, habitat degradation and living resources protection priorities identified in the two SAPs. The Partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of this damaged large marine ecosystem its contributing freshwater basins, habitats and coastal aquifers. It will also develop a strategic regional approach to investments for greater benefit to the countries in the region. A specific framework will be designed to replicate and transfer investment experiences throughout the region.

The project activities will be carried out in the following GEF eligible countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco Syria, Tunisia Turkey. The Palestinian Authority also participates.

The Strategic Partnership consists of two individual components, which fit together to assist the countries in a collaborative manner:

- **Regional Component:** Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas (US\$ 13 million GEF grant, to be implemented by UNEP/MAP and partners)
- **Investment Fund** for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership (US\$ 85 million GEF grant, implemented by the World Bank).

This will be the largest regional project ever

implemented in the Mediterranean. **Its total budget, including co-financing, is expected to exceed \$US 250 million.**

The large interest generated by this project is proved by the fact that France, Italy and Spain will co-finance it in cash with an approximate amount of 5 Mil USD, while the EC has agreed to participate together with them and all recipient countries in the Steering Committee of the project. **This will ensure a strong ownership of the Project by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention while UNEP/MAP, being responsible for its implementation, will be at the heart of this effort.**

INTERNATIONAL FORUM PREPARES MEDITERRANEAN REPORT ON WATER SCARCITY AND DROUGHTS

In the framework of the 2nd phase of the Mediterranean EU Water Initiative & Water Framework Directive Joint Process, Blue Plan participated - on the 19th of June, 2007 - in the meeting of the Mediterranean "Water Scarcity and Droughts" working group.

This meeting took place in Sevilla during the International forum on drought (17-20 June) and made it possible to define the objectives, contents and drafting process of the Mediterranean Report on "Water Scarcity and Droughts", which will be presented in 2008 to the Water Directors and Ministers in charge of water issues of the Euro-Mediterranean and South-Eastern European countries.

The International Forum on Drought gathered specialists in different fields focused on analyzing the phenomenon of drought.

Experts from around the world shared and deliberated on appropriate measures to prevent, combat and ameliorate the effects of drought. Additionally, the event was used to promote public awareness and to get society involved in adopting water conservation behaviours.



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11TH EURO-MEDITERRANEAN ECONOMIC TRANSITION CONFERENCE FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT



EUROMED
PARTNERSHIP / PARTENARIAT

MAP Coordinator Paul Mifsud was invited to deliver a presentation and chair the opening session of the 11th Euro-Mediterranean Economic Transition Conference, organized by the European Commission on the 18th and 19th June 2007 in Brussels.

Paul Mifsud presented the work carried out by MAP and outlined the main principles and objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development as the basis for sustainable development in the region. Environmental challenges were highlighted, in particular the poor management of natural resources and the degradation in the field of agriculture, over-used water resources, rapid growth of waste, urbanization, tourism over-development, unsustainable consumption and production, coastal zones and land-based pollution.

One of the working groups addressed the issue of Horizon 2020 and environmental integration in the European Neighbourhood Policy action plans. Both the EC and EIB Representatives acknowledged that this initiative is based on the National Action Plans developed by the Mediterranean countries through the MEDPOL Programme of UNEP/MAP, within the framework of the Land Based Sources Protocol.

In addition, MAP promoted the new GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem, which was approved by the GEF Council at the beginning of June.

Both Blue Plan and Cleaner Productions RACs, two of UNEP/MAP regional activity centres, participated in the conference, and were repeatedly praised for the work they have been conducting in developing countries in the Mediterranean. Henry Luc Thibault, Director of Blue Plan, chaired the session dedicated to the cost of non-action and the specific urgencies of Mediterranean economies.

The conference was addressed by Mr Almunia, EU Commissioner for Economic & Monetary affairs, who underlined that it was the first time such forum

of economists and environmental specialists dealt specifically with environmental issues. It offered the opportunity to discuss about their integration (including climate change) into the Mediterranean economic analysis and into the agenda of economic reforms.

HORIZON 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING

During the first meeting of the Steering Committee for the Horizon 2020, which took place in Marrakech (Morocco) on 5-6 June, participants reviewed the activities carried out so far, and focused on defining the implementation of the road map.

The main items tackled were the pollution reduction activities developed by EIB in cooperation with MED POL, the marine pollution assessment and control component of UNEP/MAP, and the work on indicators coordinated by the EEA.

MED POL work on the formulation of National Diagnostic Analyses and NAPs to address land-based pollution was appreciated by the participants, which underlined its significance for the preparatory work on the Horizon 2020.

At the same time, the Horizon 2020 team including a MED POL representative visited Syria and Tunisia mainly to assess the status of implementation of the projects identified in the National Action Plans (NAPs) and to identify the "bankable" projects according to the European Investment Bank (EIB) criteria.

In April, the Horizon 2020 team had conducted its first country visit to Egypt.

12TH MEETING OF MCSD FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development was held in Istanbul, Turkey, 29 May – 2 June. The main item on the agenda was the issue of climate change in the Mediterranean. Participants to the meeting attended a comprehensive presentation and questions and answers session on the particularities of the Mediterranean climate by Mr Filippo Giorgi, from the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics of Trieste, Italy, and a

member of the IPCC.

The MCSD members agreed on a number of recommendations to be submitted to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, together with the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Energy and Sustainable Development and Water Demand Management, organised by Blue Plan in line with the programme of work of the MCSD.

MCSD members also proposed amendments to the programme of work 2008-2009 presented by the Secretariat, and proposed changes to the MSSD Communication Strategy developed by INFO/RAC, which will now be revised before it is submitted to the next meeting of MAP Focal Points.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

PROTECTION OF MEDITERRANEAN CORAL REJECTED AT CITES

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which took place in The Hague, Netherlands, from 3 to 15 June decided on a series of measures to protect endangered species.

Proposals for controls on trade in two types of shark were rejected as were those for protecting pink and red coral, an endangered species typical of the Mediterranean Basin.

Among others, the conference agreed on restrictions on the international trade in sawfish, which is threatened with being overfished.

EC SUGGESTIONS FOR A RAPID ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

With the effects of climate change already perceptible, the European Commission believes that it is possible to take a certain number of adaptation measures at EU level right now to tackle the problem. The Commission's view is that this can be done on the basis of currently available instruments and policies. This is what it



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

EC suggestions for a rapid adaptation to climate change

Consultation on maritime policy

Rising temperatures force Red Sea marine species to move to the Mediterranean

develops in its green paper, adopted on 27 June and in which it proposes a series of options. It will therefore launch a public consultation, which is due to end on 30 November 2007.



The green paper highlights the effects of climate change that are already being perceived - on water resources, ecosystems

and biodiversity, food (dangers of famines), coastal areas (rise in the level of oceans) and human and animal health.

It underlines that the phenomenon poses a double challenge, both on a short-term, as well as medium and long-term basis.

In the medium and long term, it can only be countered by considerable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and a gradual shift towards low carbon economies.

As a short-term solution, an immediate action would be to introduce reactive adaptation measures where the effects of climate change are already apparent, while prevent them in case they have already been identified or can already be anticipated.

Among the suggested measures, the Commission proposes creating a consultative European group for adaptation so as to encourage the participation of all stakeholders (industries, NGOs, public authorities, private and public sectors) in the consultation process to define specific and detailed actions.

CONSULTATION ON MARITIME POLICY



Representatives of the EU's scientific community met on 22 June, in order to respond to the European Commission's ongoing consultation on a future European maritime policy.

In advance of the conference, called EurOcean 2007, the EU executive presented figures showing that €612 million of funding was allocated to marine-related research activities under the 2002-2006 EU Research Framework Programme.

These funds were allocated to around 250 different

projects. The Commission also emphasised the possibilities which exist for funding under the new 2007-2013 7th Framework Programme (FP7).

Marine science and technology activities are eligible for support from several different themes of the FP 'cooperation' programme. These include food, agriculture, fisheries, and biotechnology (total budget €1.9 billion), energy (€2.3 billion), environment (€1.8 billion), and transport (€4.1 billion). The Commission's consultation process, based on a green paper adopted in June 2006, will close on 30 June.

RISING TEMPERATURES FORCE RED SEA MARINE SPECIES TO MOVE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

Rising sea temperatures could be the cause of the rising influx of marine species from the Red Sea into the Eastern Mediterranean.



Marine biologists on Crete and Rhodes have noted an increase in the numbers of tropical fish around the islands, and say it could be due to rising water temperatures.

The transfer of sea life from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean has been noted since soon after the completion of the Suez Canal in 1869.

However, much larger numbers of fish and crustacea have been travelling the 163 km through the canal and seem to be currently thriving and developing sustainable population in the eastern Mediterranean.

There is a link between warming seawater and the development of new potential habitats for migrating fish. A report published on the 15th June by the European Science Foundation Marine Board also indicates climate change as the reason for such marine species migration.

The invasion of the non-indigenous species has resulted in the dislocation of other species. The Marine Board described the eastern Mediterranean's ecosystem as particularly vulnerable and warns that the effects of climate change on marine biodiversity could be irreparable.

UNEP/MAP Key 2007 Dates

September	publication of UNEP's 4th Global Environmental Outlook – GEO4
Mid-September	Launch of Greek Presidency of the Human Security Network - campaign focused on Climate Change. UNEP/MAP cooperates with the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs on a series of events.
16-19 October	MAP Focal Points, Madrid, Spain
24-27 October	First International Conference on Marine Protected Area, France
3rd week January 2008	15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Almeria, Spain

