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GEO 4 LAUNCHED



The fourth Global Environment Outlook report was launched in October in New York. The report, the culmination of a four year information gathering, validating

and review process involving UNEP and a community of scientists from around the world, is an important part of UNEP contribution to keeping the global environment under review.

This year edition indicates that the world is still under-going unprecedented environmental change – from climate change, air pollution, the growing ozone hole through to unsustainable land practices, declining freshwater systems and forests.

Consistent with the findings of the IPCC earlier this year, the report also states that environmental deterioration is linked to human activities and calls for urgent transition to more sustainable development.

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

MAP FOCAL POINTS TACKLED FUTURE WORK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



The meeting of the MAP Focal Points took place in Madrid between 15-18 October 2007, with the

support of the Spanish Ministry of Environment. Other participants included representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the United Nations Environment Programme for West Africa (UNEP/ROWA), World Bank/METAP, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and NGOs active in the Mediterranean environmental network.

In addition to reviewing the progress report of the current biennium, MAP Focal Points discussed the programme of work and budget for 2008-2009, the Strategy Declaration and the Governance Paper which will now go to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in January 2008 for approval.

The meeting of the Contracting Parties is also expected to adopt the Almeria Declaration.

Participants to the meeting were informed about the progress made with respect to the ratification and acceptances of MAP legal instruments. In this regard, a major development was registered with respect to the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, which would enter into force following its ratification by Montenegro and once the instruments of ratification are deposited with the Depository country. Montenegro also told the meeting that it had also ratified three other Protocols. Spain, Greece and Syria updated the meeting about the progress made with respect to the ratification and acceptances of other Protocols.

The Secretariat has been entrusted by the MAP Focal Points to carry out further consultations with those countries that have registered a reservation with respect to some of the articles of the new draft ICZM Protocol with a view to have the draft protocol approved by the meeting of the Contracting Parties next January before it is submitted to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

A number of decisions were reviewed dealing with the ecosystem approach, the compliance mechanism, a new reporting format, and MEDPOL Phase IV.

In the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, guidelines concerning Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Pollution Concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a



Place of Refuge for Ships in need of Assistance were prepared and will be submitted for adoption by the Contracting Parties.

Procedures for the revision of areas included in the list of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) have also been developed following an assessment of the evaluation process. Common criteria to be applied in evaluating proposals for amending Annexes II and III of the Specially Protected Areas Protocol have also been prepared.

These will also be submitted to the meeting of the Contracting Parties next January.

At the end of the meeting, the Focal Points approved the draft provisional agenda for the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The topic chosen for the Ministerial segment of COP15 is “ the challenge of climate change in the Mediterranean”.

REGIONAL SEAS DIRECTORS APPROVE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR 2008 – 2012 AND SIGN JEDDAH DECLARATION

2nd November 2007 --- Participants to the 9th Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans approved the Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2008 – 2012 and signed the Jeddah Declaration, confirming their resolution to implement programmes and initiatives to protect and conserve the global coastal and marine environment.

“With the adoption of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2008-2012 as well as the Jeddah Declaration we, Directors and Coordinators of

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

Regional Seas Directors Approve Strategic Directions for 2008 – 2012 and Sign Jeddah Declaration

CAMP Levante De Almeria, Spain, to Raise Awareness on Coast Management

First Mediterranean Coast Day Celebrated on 24 October

Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, have charted the way forward for the next five years and have set ourselves targets which we must strive to achieve", said MAP Coordinator Paul Mifsud. "With the adoption of the Jeddah Declaration we have resolved to implement programmes and initiatives to protect and conserve the global coastal and marine environment."

The meeting was organised in Jeddah from 29-31 October, at the invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the three-day event organized by UNEP Department of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), Regional Seas Directors and Coordinators engaged in discussions on environmental issues which are high on UNEP's agenda, including the effects of climate change on the marine and coastal environment, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, ecosystem-based management strategies, and the mainstreaming of the environment into national development planning and budgeting.

HRH Prince of Saudi Arabia Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Azziz, President of the Meteorological and Environmental Protection Administration of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, delivered the opening remarks. Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of UNEP addressed the opening session on behalf of the Executive Director, while Regional Seas Directors presented their progress in implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004-2007.

A number of world experts made presentations on the emerging issues on the global environment agenda, including the sequestration of CO2 emissions into geological formations, international governance regarding the high seas and deep-water ecosystems and biodiversity.

At the end of the meeting and on behalf of all participants, the Director of DEPI Ibrahim Thiaw expressed his thanks and appreciation to Veerle Vandeweerd, who was present at the meeting and who has now left UNEP to join UNDP, for the sterling work she did in her former role as Coordinator of UNEP's Regional Seas Division.

Attendees to this 9th meeting of UNEP's Regional

Seas included representatives from the CBD, IUCN, IOC of UNESCO, the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and the Stockholm Environment Institute.



Centre row, HRH Prince of Saudi Arabia Turki bin Nasser bin Abdul Azziz (4th from right), Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of UNEP (5th from right) and UNEP/DEPI Director Ibrahim Thiaw (2nd from right).

CAMP LEVANTE DE ALMERIA, SPAIN, TO RAISE AWARENESS ON COAST MANAGEMENT

A new CAMP project will be launched in the coming weeks, following the signing of the project agreement on October 8, 2007, between the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and UNEP/MAP. The partners for the CAMP Almeria are the Regional Ministry of Environment (RMoE) of Andalusia, the Spanish Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the MAP-PAP/RAC.

"The CAMP Levante de Almeria will reach a significant part of the general population through the participatory processes, the training and the communication activities, including the project webpage", said Ivica Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC. "The results expected from the CAMP Levante de Almeria will be a valuable experience for the creation of similar organisational structures nation-wide, promoting in this way a true implementation of integrated coastal area management (ICAM)."

The CAMP project area covers over 219,000 hectares of the South Eastern area of the Almeria Province, in Southern Spain. Of that total, 71,000

hectares correspond to the marine area, and 148,122 hectares are land.

The overall goal of the project is to enhance the co-ordination mechanisms between the different government bodies and the area's social and economic actors for the compatibility and integration of the policies implemented and the actions carried out.

The leading project activities are the establishment of an institutional co-ordination and social participation framework; training and capacity building; and environmental information and education - this is considered of high importance for the promotion of coastal environments and sustainability social awareness.

Additional environmental education activities will also be carried out (i.e. sustainable practices, promotion of sustainability and active participation in urban planning, beach and sea users environmental awareness campaigns, dissemination of the cultural and landscape heritage values).

In addition to CAMP Levante de Almeria in Spain, the agreement for CAMP Morocco was also signed on October 29, 2007 and preliminary discussions



are under way for CAMP Montenegro and for CAMP Italy. To date, three cycles of CAMPS were developed and implemented within the UNEP/MAP framework. In the 1990-98 period,

mainly individual projects ran in: Albania (The Albanian coast), Croatia (The Kastela Bay), Greece (The Island of Rhodes), Syria (The Syrian Coast), Tunisia (The City of Sfax) and Turkey (The Izmir Bay). The project in Fuka, Egypt, has been completed in 1999, and the project in Israel in June 2000.

The latest cycle of the Programme started in 1997 with the preparation of projects in Algeria, Lebanon, Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia. CAMP Malta was completed in November 2002, CAMP Lebanon in December 2004, in Algeria in January 2005 and CAMP Slovenia in June 2007. Currently, CAMP Cyprus is in full swing.

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

First Mediterranean Coast Day Celebrated on 24 October

FIRST MEDITERRANEAN COAST DAY CELEBRATED ON 24 OCTOBER



Countries around the Mediterranean have organised a series of events to celebrate the first-ever Coast Day on 24th October, which was also the internationally-celebrated UN Day. Coast

Day is an awareness raising campaign organised in cooperation with the EU, UNEP/MAP and the World Bank. "Coast Day" aims to highlight the value of the coast, as well as of the threats to it, and to call for a stronger and more efficient commitment of the governments to coastal management.

The campaign was launched by the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with an initial 20 partners from different Mediterranean countries. In the coming months up to 50 partners will join the campaign.

The activity focused on promoting a sustainable use of our coastal resources in the Mediterranean. The overall campaign also points out the necessity of using an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as an approach in managing the coasts. This project is implemented within the framework of the SMAP III MAP/METAP project, financed by the European Union.

"For the people living in the Mediterranean, coasts are the most valuable, but, at the same time, the most vulnerable asset", said UNEP/MAP Coordinator Paul Mifsud. "UNEP/MAP, through its regional centre PAP/RAC is taking

the lead in this campaign to promote care for the coast in our region. MAP hopes that "Coast Day" will then spread to other Regional Seas and other



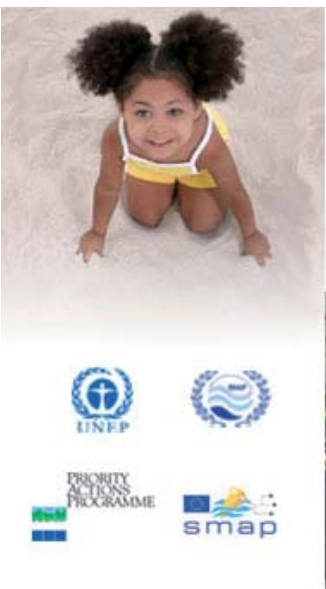
coastal countries, and that it will live on in the years to come."

Activities were organized in Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Sardinia (Italy), Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. In Athens, UNEP/MAP, MedWet and the French Institute co-hosted along with the cultural NGO Elliniki Etairia a screening of documentaries dedicated to issues faced by the sensitive coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean.

All events were designed to call for a more sustainable coastal development. They included conferences, workshops, meetings, panels, open doors in marine protected areas, clean-up events, sailing regattas and kayaking excursions, marathons, exhibitions, concerts, educational events

for children, TV transmissions and interviews, They have been organised through a wide partnership of international organisations, governmental bodies, NGOs, Research Centres, Universities, Media companies and schools.

Coastal areas are considered to be the most valuable part of national territories in most Mediterranean countries and worldwide. According to the Blue Plan Report on Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (RED, 2005), coastal regions, which occupy 12% of the national territory, are inhabited by 33% of their population. The total share of the Mediterranean population in the world population is around 7%, while the Mediterranean is a destination for about one third of the world tourists.



If the current trend of massive development in the coastal areas continues, by 2025 50% of the Mediterranean coast could have disappeared and turned into buildings. Linear development along the coast is irreversibly destroying ecosystems and landscapes, in addition to coastal erosion, marine pollution, climate change and overfishing.

"Regional and national coastal management achievements, like in Sardinia and Algeria, testify that policy-makers together with the local population



can find the options to reverse the negative trends and to make steps towards sustainable coastal development.



Their leaders, together with other distinguished individuals advocating sustainable development of the Mediterranean

coasts, are today our Ambassadors for the Coast", said Ivica Trumbic, Director of PAP/RAC

The "Coast Day" campaign is designed to act on several levels; it calls for a political will for change and reminds of the necessity to change behaviour of all the actors in the coastal areas. Political will for a stronger commitment to ICZM together with behavioural changes are the essential prerequisites for sustainable coastal development. "Coast Day" is promoting the coasts of tomorrow – coasts that are resilient, productive, diverse, distinctive, attractive, and healthy.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Nobel Prize for IPCC and Al Gore

NOBEL PRIZE FOR IPCC AND AL GORE



The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Committee awarded the Nobel Prize jointly to former US Vice President Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This significant recognition gives credit

for a 20 year process of sound scientific debate and reflection which has informed policy makers and governments to the point where there remains no doubt that climate change must be addressed on an urgent basis.



UNEP/MAP Key 2007 and 2008 Dates

18-20 November	"Protecting Africa and the Mediterranean against climate change"; International Conference, Tunis, Tunisia
3-14 December	Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change (COP13), Bali, Indonesia
25-27 October	First International Conference on Marine Protected Area, Hyeres, France
12-14 December	Review Meeting on MED POL monitoring activities and the role of indicators, Athens, Greece
15-18 January 2008	15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Almeria, Spain
19-21 January 2008	Conference of the Plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the ICZM Protocol, Almeria, Spain

