



medwaves e-newsLetter

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A monthly e-newsletter by **UNEP/MAP** - In collaboration with **INFO/RAC-MAP**

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UNEP/MAP Working Group meets to finalise draft ICZM Protocol

The Working Group on the ICZM Protocol meets in Loutraki, Greece, on 12-15 February 2007. [\(full article ↗\)](#)

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The ECO MEDA Forum 2007 will take place on the 27-28 February and is organised within the framework of the Ecocity Exhibition in Barcelona. [\(full article ↗\)](#)

30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention Video to be launched by INFO/RAC

A 41-minutes video produced by INFO/RAC, the MAP's Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication, has been finalized and will be launched in the coming months. [\(full article ↗\)](#)

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Demolition Waste, Damaged Water Infrastructure and Mined Agricultural Land Legacies of the Lebanon Conflict

The recent conflict in Lebanon had a serious environmental impact apart from being a catastrophe in human terms. [\(full article ↗\)](#)

UNEP's Governing Council meeting 5-9 February: Infusing 'Intelligence' into the Globalized Economy

The ministers attending the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), GC 24, will be searching for ways to put globalization on a more sustainable and intelligent path. [\(full article ↗\)](#)

UNEP Announces Finalists for 2007 Environment & Development Awards at the World Economic Forum in Davos

The ten finalists for one of five Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development (Seed) Awards were announced in Davos at the end of January. [\(full article ↗\)](#)

UNEP's campaign for a million trees

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a major worldwide tree planting campaign. [\(full article ↗\)](#)

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On-line publication of issue 7 of **EcoMedia Magazine**, devoted to *Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development*, available at www.ecomediomagazine.org

UNEP/MAP Key 2007 Meeting

[\(full article ↗\)](#)



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Joint EEA – UNEP/MAP Work Programme for 2006 – 2008 signed

➔ A joint programme of activities has been agreed and co-signed by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and UNEP/MAP.

This workplan provides the framework for strengthening the existing stable and effective cooperation between the two organisation for the period 2006 – 2008, with the prospect of developing a sustainable working partnership.

The activities proposed as part of this work plan cover the following areas: state of the environment reporting activities; data, indicator and scenario activities; impact assessment studies; networking, partnership building and support activities; shared information and communication activities and services.

The timing of this work plan takes into consideration concrete policy developments and achievements and aims to underline the role of information dissemination in supporting the implementation of these policies, in particular the recently adopted Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the existing joint programme between the European Commission and UNEP/MAP, the EU Enlargement Policy, the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Horizon 2020 initiative. ☒

CONTACT

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UNEP/MAP Working Group meets to finalise draft ICZM Protocol

➔ The Working Group on the ICZM Protocol (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) will meet for the third time, in Loutraki, Greece, on 12-15 February 2007. The experts will continue reviewing the text of the final version of the Protocol.

The Working Group of experts for the drafting of the ICZM Protocol was established by the decision of the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in Portoroz, Slovenia, in 2005. The WG is expected to present the final text, to be adopted by the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties, scheduled for 10 – 14 December in Almeria (Spain).

If agreement is reached on the text of the Protocol, a Plenipotentiary Meeting will be organised, back to back with the meeting of the Contracting Parties, to open the Protocol for signatures.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management aims to deal with coastal area problems collectively on the understanding that they are interlinked. It relies on

the involvement of a range of sectors, stakeholders and administrative bodies.

MAP's Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), based in Split, Croatia, concentrates on integrated coastal zone management to alleviate development problems in built-up coastal areas. The centre offers technical assistance and coordinates Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMP) that typically involve the participation of many local bodies.

Since 1990, 11 CAMP projects have been completed in Albania, Algeria, Croatia (Kastela Bay), Egypt (Fuka-Matrouh), Greece (Rhodes), Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Syria, Tunisia (Sfax), and Turkey (Izmir Bay). Another two are currently being implemented, one in Cyprus and another in Slovenia, while another two for Spain and Morocco are in the pipeline. ☒

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CP/RAC organises III Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Development “ECO MEDA” Forum

➔ The ECO MEDA Forum 2007 will take place on the 27-28 February and is organised within the framework of the Ecocity Exhibition in Barcelona. The ECO MEDA Forum 2007 will debate themes related to sustainable development, such as the 2020 Vision, alternative energies, climate change, the solutions to reduce CO2 emissions and the challenges posed by water shortages. It will also aim at strengthening the alliance between enterprises and cities, the main actors for new environmental policies. In addition, this forum will try to point to the economic advantages and the business opportunities for the enterprises that adopt sustainable management.

This forum, under the slogan “Common value, shared costs”, is a joint initiative of MAP's Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC), the Fira de Barcelona, the Fundacio' Forum Ambiental, the Official Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona, with the collaboration of the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME). The past two editions brought together international stakeholders, representatives of the private and public sector, experts and businessmen of the Euro-Mediterranean region, and was attended by over 500 enterprises and institutions. A similar number of participants are expected to attend this year's event. ☒

CONTACT

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30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention Video to be launched by INFO/RAC

➔ The INFO/RAC production “MEDITERRANEA” is a 41-minutes video produced for the 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention, developed with the contribution of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, and in cooperation with UNEP/MAP and several Mediterranean Governments.

The video, produced entirely by the INFO/RAC video team, explains the history and content of the Barcelona Convention through the travel of two young people through the Mediterranean region. The production is a further development in the attempt to involve the younger generations of the Mediterranean in shaping and modelling a common future.

The video can be obtained via INFO/RAC, who can provide guidance and assistance to parties interested in promoting its dissemination in the national television networks, media organisations and schools.

“Everybody's involvement is crucial. The wide distribution of this video will enable youth but also a broader audience to discuss and participate in the development of regional initiatives for the protection and conservation of the Mediterranean environment”, said Sergio Illuminato, INFO/RAC Director.

The video production also carries interviews with politicians, environmental experts and MAP's representatives, apart from a recording of the actor Omar Sharif reading excerpts of Melville's Moby Dick.

For additional information and to obtain copies of the video please contact:

CONTACT

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» The recent conflict in Lebanon had a serious environmental impact apart from being a catastrophe in human terms. The bombing of the Jiyeh power plant last summer had resulted in 15,000 tonnes of heating oil flooding the surrounding area and the Mediterranean Sea. A 150-kilometre oil slick had stretched along the Lebanese coastline and parts of the Syrian coastline.

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), one of the MAP Regional Activities Centres, provided both the Lebanese and Syrian authorities with expertise and emergency support to deal with the environmental damage caused by the oil slick.

The Centre mobilised its Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), contacted the countries parties to the Barcelona Convention to provide technical help, and organised a roster of experts to coordinate the interventions. A number of experts were seconded to REMPEC by several countries, including Canada, the

UK, France, and the European Union through the European Maritime Safety Agency.

REMPEC's expertise focuses on helping Mediterranean coastal states build up their national prevention and response capabilities to be prepared for major marine pollution incidents.

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Post-conflict study by UNEP

Today, the main priority facing Lebanon is addressing the infrastructure, said Achim Steiner, UNEP's Executive Director. Another outstanding issue is the disposal of large quantities of oil-contaminated waste.

Steiner's remarks came as he presented the results of a post- conflict study of war-torn Lebanon in Berlin on January 23.



It was after the bombing that Lebanon's Environment Minister had formally asked UNEP to conduct a post-conflict environmental assessment of the damage caused his country, said Steiner.

Fifteen experts formed a UNEP survey team. Voluntary helpers and scientists from Lebanon's Environmental Ministry and representatives of the atomic energy authority had also accompanied the team during its operations, he said.

More than 100 “carefully selected areas” had been chosen for tests of the air, earth and ground water. Twice weekly the team's samples were dispatched to special laboratories in Sweden, Switzerland and Britain for analysis.

The Lebanese-Israeli conflict waged between last July and August had caused enormous damage in Lebanon with a vast number of houses and apartments being destroyed or seriously damaged, the airport bombarded, and more than 100 bridges and crossings crippled, he said.

Steiner said 2,100 people had died during the conflict, and 440,000 others were injured. More than 900,000 Lebanese citizens had had to flee their homes.

“The massive human displacement and destruction has had a very deep impact on the civilian population,” he said. “30,000 houses and apartments were destroyed during the war. “There's enormous amounts of rubble in that country that can either be just dumped, presenting a long-term hazardous risk or used again for rehabilitation.”

Lebanon would have to meet the main costs of the post-conflict “clean up” in the country. “The international community can help with a series of projects and, where largely infrastructure is concerned, with both financial and technical support.

“But, ultimately the reconstruction of the country will be something that the citizens of Lebanon will have to bear, as is so often the tragic consequence of conflict,” said Steiner. ☒

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UNEP's Governing Council in Nairobi, 5 – 9 February: Infusing 'Intelligence' into the Globalized Economy

➔ Over 95 Ministers and Deputy Ministers for the Environment have already confirmed their participation at UNEP's 2007 Governing Council. Around 170 countries will be represented in Nairobi. The ministers attending the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), GC 24, will be searching for ways to put globalization on a more sustainable and intelligent path.

The 2007 GC comes at a key time for the environment. Climate change and environmental issues have taken front stage in all international discussions. As Achim Steiner, UNEP's ED, said “environmental issues are now the center of our worries. It is now crucial to tackle the problem. The international community is now looking for a fundamental way to cope”.

This year's annual gathering is set to be a landmark in several ways. In the growing spirit of UN reform and the request by the international community for greater cooperation and cohesion across the UN, UNEP will be joined by leading figures from several agencies.

These include Kemal Dervis, UN Development Programme Administrator who will join Mr Steiner in launching a joint Poverty and Environment Facility and Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of the UN Industrial Development Organization—UNEP is working with UNIDO on areas including biofuels and persistent organic pollutants.

Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade

Organisation, will also be attending to help spearhead a special discussion on “Ensuring Coherence between the Trade and Environment Regimes”.

“I believe the presence of Mr Lamy at UNEP's Governing Council shows there is no longer one-way traffic in respect to trade and the environment. But a clearer and growing understanding that both sides have a tremendous amount to gain in working hand in glove to solve the challenges of a globalized world,” said Steiner.

UNEP will also release its latest Global Environment Outlook Year Book on 5 February at an opening press conference.

The Year Book will cover the state of the global and regional environment while addressing emerging issues like nanotechnology—the engineering of coatings and particles at sizes slimmer than a human hair.

The Year Book will also sketch out the current globalization landscape as related to the environment and suggests some routes towards a more intelligent path. It is among several reports and papers that have been produced to inform next week's ministerial debate.

A further report, this time linking globalization, the rapid global demand for biofuels from crops and pressure on the last habitats of the orangutan in south East Asia, will also be launched at a press conference on Tuesday. ☒

UNEP Announces Finalists for 2007 Environment & Development Awards at the World Economic Forum in Davos 25.01.07

➔ The ten finalists for one of five Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development (Seed) Awards were announced in Davos, Switzerland at the end of January.

The winners of the Seed Awards, an incentive scheme for local entrepreneurs to promote economic growth, social development and environmental protection will be announced at the forthcoming United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in May 2007.

The Seed Initiative is an international awards-based scheme and learning tool to encourage local entrepreneurs, communities, companies and others to join forces in partnerships for sustainable development. Partners in the Seed Initiative include the World Conservation Union (IUCN); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the governments of the United States of America, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, and the United Kingdom; and private sector partner Swiss Re. The Seed Awards programme publicly recognises the contribution of innovative, entrepreneurial partnerships to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Finalists for the Seed Awards 2007 take a range of promising, locally-adapted approaches to sustainability, including the promotion of traditional medicine and community-based tourism and the production of alternative fuels. The countries represented by finalist initiatives are Brazil, Ecuador, India, Nepal, Kenya, Peru, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Tanzania, and Vietnam. ☒



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UNEP's campaign for a million trees

➔ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a major worldwide tree planting campaign.

Under the *Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign*, people, communities, business and industry, civil society organizations and governments are encouraged to enter tree planting pledges with the objective of planting at least one billion trees worldwide during 2007. To date, over 157 million tree-planting pledges have been recorded.

Forests cover 30 per cent of the planet's total land area. The total forested area in 2005 was just under 4 billion hectares, at least one third less than before the dawn of agriculture, some 10,000 years ago. (100 hectares is the same as 1 square kilometre).

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and are vital carbon sinks. It is estimated that the world's forests store 283 Gigatonnes of carbon in their biomass alone, and that carbon stored in forest biomass, deadwood, litter and soil together is roughly 50 per cent more than the carbon in the atmosphere.

Carbon in forest biomass decreased in Africa, Asia and South America in the period 1990–2005. For the world as a whole, carbon stocks in forest biomass decreased annually by 1.1 Gigatonne of carbon

(equivalent to 4 billion 25kg sacks of charcoal).

The loss of natural forests around the world contributes more to global emissions each year than the transport sector. Curbing deforestation is a highly cost-effective way to reduce emissions. Other solutions include increased energy efficiency, reduced energy demand, better transport and the use of green energy.

Worldwide, deforestation continues at an alarming rate, about 13 million hectares per year, an area the size of Greece or Nicaragua. Africa and South America have the largest net loss of forests. In Africa it is estimated that nearly half of the forest loss was due to removal of wood fuel. Forests in Europe are expanding. Asia, which had a net loss in the 1990s, reported a net gain of forests in the past five years, primarily due to large-scale forestation in China.

UNEP's people-centred campaign is raising awareness of the interdependence between humankind and the planet's ecosystems, as well as the linkages between tree planting and climate change mitigation, the restoration of biodiversity, air and soil quality, and food security.

UNEP's call to action will help regenerate the environment, and will also instil social responsibility in the public's mind, while creating associations between tree planting and positive actions to save the Planet. ☒



UNEP/MAP Key 2007 Meetings

27-28 February	CP/RAC Focal Points Barcelona, Spain
9 March	MCSD Steering Committee Athens, Greece
26-28 March	Extraordinary Meeting of National MEDPOL Coordinators Mytilini, Lesbos, Greece
7-11 May	REMPEC Focal Points Malta
21-22 May	Reporting Istanbul, Turkey
23-25 May	Compliance Istanbul, Turkey
30-31 May	MCSD Istanbul, Turkey
4-8 June	Joint meeting BP/PAP/INFO/RACs Focal Points Rome, Italy
12-15 June	SPA/RAC Focal Points Rome, Italy
26-28 June	MED POL Focal Points Tunis, Tunisia
2-3 July	Bureau of the Contracting Parties Madrid, Spain
16-19 October	MAP Focal Points Madrid, Spain
10-13 December	Contracting Parties Almeria, Spain