



UNEP



# medwaves e-newsletter

April 2007

A monthly e-newsletter by UNEP/MAP

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### UNEP NEWS

#### **UNEP To Provide Solar Energy To Developing Countries**

The UN is to expand its pilot solar energy project to some developing countries to enable their populations to enjoy regular power supply.

#### **IPCC Confirms That Cost-effective Policies And Technologies Could Greatly Reduce Global Warming**

A new assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that the world community could slow and then reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) over the next several decades by exploiting cost-effective policies and current and emerging technologies.

### MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

#### **Experts Conduct Countries Assessment Within Horizon 2020 Initiative**

Within the framework of the EC Horizon 2020 Initiative, a first joint EIB/MAP visit to Egypt took place between 16 – 22 April 2007.

#### **Israel' Clean Coast Programme: 85% Of The Beaches Are Clean**

Between 70 and 85% of the Israeli beaches targeted by the "Going for a Clean Coast" programme were rated clean and above by the end of a 3-years campaign launched by the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection in 2005.

#### **Desalination And Water Resources In The Mediterranean**

The need for desalting seawater is becoming more and more pressing in many parts of the world.

#### **REMPEC Hosts 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of Focal Points In Malta**

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) held its 8th Meeting of official governmental focal points in Malta from 7 to 11 May.

#### **Programme Officer for Sustainable Development appointed at UNEP/MAP**

Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, a Greek national, was the successful candidate following the vacancy announcement for Programme Officer for Sustainable Development at UNEP/MAP

#### **Ambassadors Of The Environment (AOTE) An Environmental Education Program**

The Athens Environmental Foundation (AEF), a non profit, non governmental organization, in collaboration with Jean Michel Cousteau, who is a member of the Board of Directors, is continuing successfully the environmental program "Ambassadors of the Environment".

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

#### **Double Hulled Tankers for Heavy Oil Now Law in Europe**

A requirement that only double hulled tankers carrying heavy oil can enter European ports was signed into law by the European Parliament at the end of April.

UNEP NEWS

UNEP to provide solar energy to developing countries

IPCC confirms that cost-effective policies and technologies could greatly reduce global warming

**UNEP TO PROVIDE SOLAR ENERGY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**



The UN is to expand its pilot solar energy project to some developing countries to enable their populations to enjoy regular power supply.

Currently, an estimated 100,000 people in a rural community in India are receiving several hours of reliable solar-powered lighting every night under a UN-backed project, according to the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP).

“The project underlines the multiple benefits accruing by providing clean and renewable energies in developing countries,” said UNEP’s Executive Director Achim Steiner.

He disclosed that the Indian success “should also serve as a catalytic blueprint for similar schemes across the developing world and lead to the scaling up of renewable energies everywhere.”

The US\$1.5 million pilot scheme, managed by UNEP, has already inspired a sister effort in Tunisia, where the market for solar water heaters has gone up. Similar programmes are planned for China, Indonesia, Egypt, Mexico, Ghana, Morocco and Algeria.

**IPCC CONFIRMS THAT COST-EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND TECHNOLOGIES COULD GREATLY REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING**

A new assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that the world community could slow and then reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) over the next several decades by exploiting cost-effective policies and current and emerging technologies.

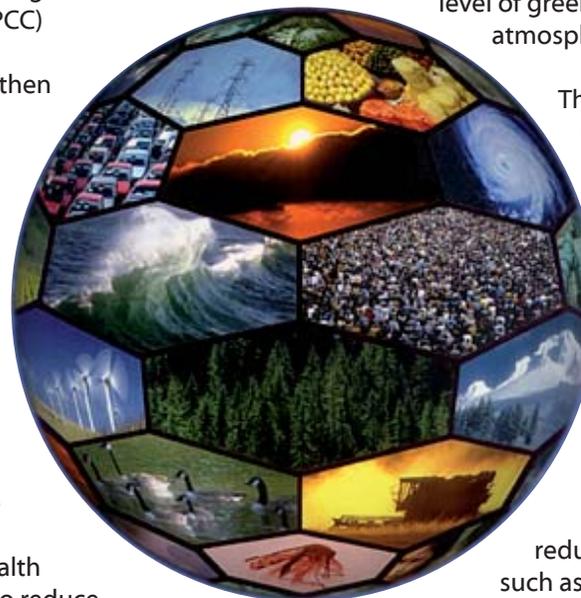
“Climate change will touch every corner and every community on this planet but equally, overcoming climate change can touch on every facet of the global economy in a wealth of positive ways. Measures to reduce emissions can, in the main, be achieved at starkly low costs especially when compared with the costs of inaction. Indeed some, such as reducing emissions by 30 per cent from buildings by 2020, actually contribute positively to GDP,” said Executive Director Achim Steiner of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) which, together with the World Meteorological Organization, established the IPCC.

“It is now up to governments to introduce the mechanisms and incentives to unleash the ingenuity and creativity of the financial and technological markets in order to realize these economic, social and environmental gains,” he said.

According to “Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change”, without additional action by governments the emissions from the basket of six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol will rise by 25 to 90% by 2030 compared to 2000. (The six gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide,

sulphur hexafluoride, PFCs and HFCs.)

By adopting stronger climate change policies, however, governments could slow and reverse these emissions trends and ultimately stabilize the level of greenhouse gases remaining in the atmosphere.



The report’s Summary for Policymakers (SPM) was finalized and adopted this week by representatives from 105 countries. The full set of underlying chapters, written by 168 authors (some 40% of whom are from developing and transition countries) and reviewed by hundreds of other experts, will be available shortly.

The report addresses ways of reducing emissions from key sectors, such as the energy supply sector, buildings, transport, industry, agriculture, forests, and waste management.

For more information:  
[www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)  
[www.wmo.int](http://www.wmo.int)  
[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)



## MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

Experts conduct countries assessment within Horizon 2020 initiative

Israel' clean coast programme: 85% of the beaches are clean

Desalination and water resources in the Mediterranean

REMPEC hosts 8th meeting of Focal Points In Malta

Programme Officer for Sustainable Development appointed at UNEP/ MAP

Ambassadors Of The Environment (AOTE) An Environmental Education Program

### EXPERTS CONDUCT COUNTRIES ASSESSMENT WITHIN HORIZON 2020 INITIATIVE

Within the framework of the EC Horizon 2020 Initiative, a first joint EIB/MAP visit to Egypt took place between 16 – 22 April 2007 to review the investment projects included in its National Action Plans, prepared in the framework of the MED POL Programme, and assess their capacity to be bankable.

The next visit is scheduled at the beginning of May, when EIB/MEDPOL experts will visit Tunisia to establish initial contacts for the implementation of the pollution reduction component of the Horizon 2020. Syria will follow soon after.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and MEDPOL, the UNEP/MAP component to fight land-based pollution in the Mediterranean, have launched a process to create a pipeline of bankable investment projects within the framework of the EC's initiative Horizon 2020, in close collaboration with the European Commission. The investment projects will be identified among those listed in the National Action Plans to address land-based pollution that every country has prepared in the framework of the MED POL Programme. In the autumn, after all country visits will have taken place, a synthesis of the findings will be prepared and the draft final report will be circulated for comments among all stakeholders.

The countries targeted by the programme are those that fall under the non-European Partnership: they must be non-EU countries, and should be no candidate for future membership, indicating mainly countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

Horizon 2020 was launched in December 2005 and adopted by the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Cairo on 20 November 2006. The main aim of this initiative is to reduce the level of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by identifying and tackling the most significant pollution sources by the year 2020.

The initiative builds on existing institutions and results, filling gaps where it can bring added value. It will operate within the framework of existing and developing environment policy instruments,

and support the implementation of the pollution reduction commitments undertaken in the framework of the Barcelona Convention. Horizon 2020 will be grouped under the following four components: (i) pollution reduction projects, in particular those identified in the National Action Plans (NAPs) prepared by MEDPOL, (ii) capacity building measures, (iii) research and (iv) monitoring, steering and review.

### ISRAEL' CLEAN COAST PROGRAMME: 85% OF THE BEACHES ARE CLEAN



Between 70 and 85% of the Israeli beaches targeted by the "Going for a Clean Coast" programme were rated clean and above by the end of a 3-years campaign launched by the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection in 2005, in cooperation with the Nature and Parks Authority. The programme was launched under the auspices of MEDPOL, the marine pollution assessment and control component of UNEP/MAP.

At the beginning of the programme, in June 2005, only 27% of the beaches were defined as clean. The final achievement by 2007 was the result of routine clean-up procedure, of pressure on the local municipalities and enhanced public awareness.

The aim of the Clean Coast programme was to achieve and ensure clean beaches at all times, not just during the summer months. The programme aims at improving beach cleanliness by promoting a variety of solutions to the litter problem while generating a change of attitude in the public regarding the importance of the issue.

The Clean Coast Programme implements several activities simultaneously: routine cleanup of unauthorized beaches by local authorities; educational activities in the country's schools and

youth movements; enforcement against polluters of coasts and non-cooperative municipalities; information and public relation activities.

Marine litter is a growing environmental problem worldwide. All coastal countries suffer from the litter deposited upon their coastlines. 185 km of Israeli beaches suffer from accumulation of litter. Located in the easterly part of the Mediterranean, current and wind regimes are responsible for the deposit of significant quantities of waste, especially during the winter and summer storms.

Enhanced public awareness, combined with enforcement measures against polluters, were the means chosen to prevent people from littering.

Dissemination of the programme via the education system that runs schools should ensure that even if the budget for the programme runs out, educational programmes will be integrated into the schools' curricula and the message continuously delivered.

According to the organisers, two major tasks still remain for future action: the need to raise public awareness even further, as the general public doesn't always relate litter with personal behaviour, and the lack of authentic willingness of some local authorities to assume full responsibility for their coastlines.

## MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

Experts conduct countries assessment within Horizon 2020 initiative

Israel' clean coast programme: 85% of the beaches are clean

Desalination and water resources in the Mediterranean

REMPEC hosts 8th meeting of Focal Points In Malta

Programme Officer for Sustainable Development appointed at UNEP/ MAP

Ambassadors Of The Environment (AOTE) An Environmental Education Program

## DESALINATION AND WATER RESOURCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The need for desalting seawater is becoming more and more pressing in many parts of the world. During the period 1950 to 1990 the worldwide consumption of water tripled, while the population grew by 2.3 billion people.

In the Mediterranean, water needs are constantly increasing. It is estimated that by the year 2010 water demands in the region will increase by 32% at least for the southern and eastern countries. There is no doubt that such needs can be met only if non-conventional resources of water are utilized, like water-recycling and desalination.

MEDPOL attended the conference "Desalination and Environment" in Thessaloniki on 23rd April, where MEDPOL representatives presented a paper on the possible impacts of desalination activities in the Mediterranean region on the state of the marine environment.

In the Mediterranean, desalination has been for a long time a major source of water, with the first plant installed in Marsa Alam in Egypt with a capacity of 500m<sup>3</sup>/day. In 1983 Malta became one of the first places to use RO processes for seawater desalination on a large. Reverse osmosis (RO) is a process in which the water from a pressurized saline solution is separated from the dissolved material by flowing



through a membrane. Today, Spain is the country with the largest capacity of seawater desalination plants in the Mediterranean region.

The desalination industry is steadily growing in the Mediterranean region. This coastal land-based activity is unique and there is a mutual interaction between the desalination plants and the marine coastal environment. A clean marine environment is a prerequisite for the production of clean water. On the other hand, the effluent and emissions produced by the desalination plants can affect the fragile ecosystem of the Mediterranean.

The European Desalination Society (EDS) and MEDPOL cooperate to increase the awareness of the possible impacts of desalination plants on the marine environment. MEDPOL has developed and disseminated a guideline for a sound management of desalination plants in the Mediterranean. The paper highlights the major socio-economic trends and the resulting pressure on the marine environment resulting from the current and planned desalination projects.

The conference, organized by the European Desalination Society and sponsored by MEDPOL, brought together some 400 participants from over 60 countries, representing governments, institutions, industry, scientists and engineers dealing with seawater desalination.

## REMPEC HOSTS 8th MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS IN MALTA

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) held its 8th Meeting of official governmental focal points in Malta from 7 to 11 May.

The objective of the meeting was to present and evaluate the implementation of the REMPEC activities programme 2006 –2007, as well as the status of implementation by REMPEC of the EU funded SAFEMED project (Euromed Cooperation on Maritime safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships). Special emphasis was given to the discussion about the technical lessons learnt after the recent accidents that occurred in the Mediterranean Sea, and in particular the oil spill that affected the Lebanese and Syrian coastline during the summer 2006.

A draft preparatory programme 2008 – 2009 was discussed and agreed, and will be submitted to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in December 2007 in Almeria



## MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

Experts conduct countries assessment within Horizon 2020 initiative

Israel' clean coast programme: 85% of the beaches are clean

Desalination and water resources in the Mediterranean

REMPEC hosts 8th meeting of Focal Points In Malta

Programme Officer for Sustainable Development appointed at UNEP/MAP

Ambassadors Of The Environment (AOTE) An Environmental Education Program

(Spain).

Participants to the meeting reviewed guidelines on prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities, as well as guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance. Another important issue under discussion was related to port reception facilities for collecting ship-generated wastes, with specific emphasis to the Special Area Status of the Mediterranean under the MARPOL Convention (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships).

Participants to the meeting were the representatives from all Mediterranean coastal states, from the European Community, all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, representatives from relevant UN organisations, such as UNEP/MAP and IMO, the International Maritime Organisation. A number of governmental and non-governmental organisations and associations also attended the meeting as observers.

### PROGRAMME OFFICER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT APPOINTED AT UNEP/MAP

Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, a Greek national, was the successful candidate following the vacancy announcement for Programme Officer for Sustainable Development at UNEP/MAP. He has joined UNEP/MAP as Sustainable Development Officer on 2 May 2007.

Spyros Kouvelis holds a BSc in Economics from the University of Athens and an MSc in Agricultural/ Environmental Economics from the University of Reading in the UK. He has worked extensively with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) since 1991 and as Acting Chief Executive Officer of WWF Greece from 1995 to 1997. In 1997 he was appointed Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Environment, Planning and Public Works of Greece, where he worked until 2001. Since 2001, he held the position of MedWet Coordinator, directing the MedWet Coordination Unit in Athens, a Ramsar outpost unit responsible for the coordination of the Mediterranean Wetlands initiative. He is fluent in Greek, English and French.

Mr. Kouvelis will be responsible for matters related to the MCSD, the implementation of MSSD

and follow up and support to the formulation and implementation of NSSDs.

At their last meeting in Portoroz, Slovenia, the Contracting Parties had agreed that the position of temporary Programme Officer for Sustainable Development, which was due to expire at the end of February, 2006, would be extended until the next meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.

### AMBASSADORS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (AOTE)

#### An environmental education program

The Athens Environmental Foundation (AEF), a non profit, non governmental organization, in collaboration with Jean Michel Cousteau, who is a member of the Board of Directors, is continuing successfully the environmental program "Ambassadors of the Environment".

The program, which was designed by J.M. Cousteau and his team of experts, has been already operating successfully in other parts of the world and accepts children 8 to 14 years old.



The expert multilingual instructors reveal the environmental problems to the children and show them ways to protect the environment through games and actual techniques. The program is especially effective and differs from others, since it is based not only in theory but in action as well. The children have the opportunity within two weeks to

get to know the ecosystems and their problems, facts about Nature and its environmental issues related to energy, recycling, biodegradation, biodiversity, the food chain and the role of the terrestrial and water bio – societies. They become Ambassadors of the Environment and they adopt a new way of life in order to contribute in the preservation of our planet. "Let's make our children Ambassadors of the Environment"

For further information:

Tel.: +30 210 64 26 055, FAX: +30 210 64 26 419  
www.athensenvironmental.org

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Double hulled tankers for heavy oil now law in Europe

### DOUBLE HULLED TANKERS FOR HEAVY OIL NOW LAW IN EUROPE

A requirement that only double hulled tankers carrying heavy oil can enter European ports was signed into law by the European Parliament at the end



of April. The law was enacted in response to disastrous oil spills from single hulled tankers the Erika in 1999 and the Prestige in 2002.

President of the European Parliament Hans-Gert Pottering said the law represents an important response to offshore tanker accidents and will lead to better protection of the seas and the environment from oil spills.

Under the new regulation, oil tankers transporting heavy oils will only be allowed to fly the flag of a European Union member state if they are double hulled.

In addition, regardless of what flag they are flying, only double hulled tankers will be able to enter member states' harbors or anchor in their territorial waters.

European lawmakers began to pay close attention to oil spill damage after the single hulled Maltese

tanker Erika broke up and sank off the French coast on December 12, 1999, spilling an estimated 3,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil that formed a slick 15 kilometres long. It polluted the north and south banks of the Loire River and the Brittany coast.

Concern intensified after the Bahamas-flagged single hulled tanker, the Prestige, sank off Spain in November 2002, releasing 80 percent of the tanker's 77,000 metric tons of fuel oil into the waters

off Spain's northeast coast.

Because the leaking Prestige drifted at sea for eight days, the spill contaminated six countries, with the worst impacts seen in Spain, Portugal, and France.

Experts predict the Prestige spill will affect marine life until at least 2012 because the oil spilled contained polyaromatic hydrocarbons. These toxic chemicals poison plankton, fish eggs and crustaceans, causing carcinogenic effects in fish and other animals higher up the food chain.

## UNEP/MAP Key 2007 Dates

21-22 May	Reporting Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey
23-25 May	Compliance Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey
30-31 May	MCSO, Istanbul, Turkey
5 June	World Environment Day Exhibition on climate change "Envisioning Change", Oslo, Norway (until 20 August). It will then travel to Brussels, Belgium and next year to Chicago, United States
5-7 June	Joint meeting BP/PAP/INFO/RACs Focal Points, Palermo, Italy
6-9 June	SPA/RAC Focal Points, Palermo, Italy
26-28 June	MED POL Focal Points, Hammamet, Tunisia
2-3 July	Bureau of the Contracting Parties, Madrid, Spain
September	publication of UNEP's 4th Global Environmental Outlook – GEO4
16-19 October	MAP Focal Points, Madrid, Spain
24-27 October	First International Conference on Marine Protected Area, France
<b>10-13 December</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Almeria, Spain</b>

