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THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN MAGAZINE

13th MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
MEDITERRANEAN
"ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT"
IN CATANIA

MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

REDUCING POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES

FOR A MEDITERRANEAN "COMMON VISION" ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NEW LEGAL PERSPECTIVE FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT



> IN THIS ISSUE

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> THE BARCELONA CONVENTION, TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVENESS



LUCIEN CHABASON
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AFTER THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT, the Mediterranean Action Plan is presently facing two main responsibilities:

1. to further elaborate regional strategies for the realization of its main objectives;
2. to take steps towards the effective implementation of the legal obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

The 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties is to adopt a regional strategy for marine and coastal biodiversity and launch the preparation of a regional strategy for the implementation of the new “Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea” aiming at avoiding maritime accidents in the Mediterranean and providing the means for reducing voluntary pollution from ships.

It will also launch the preparatory process for a regional instrument on sustainable coastal zone management and, finally, it will adopt regional orientations for sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

As the amended Barcelona Convention and its new or revised Protocols are to enter into force soon (two ratifications are still missing as at October 2003), the time has come to set up the basis for an effective implementation of its provisions.

The process will be based on:

- > the reporting system to be adopted in Catania;
- > the monitoring and compliance mechanism;
- > the preparation of national plans to implement the Strategic Action Program for the reduction of pollution from land-based sources;
- > the adoption of a programme budget for 2004–2005 with a view to more efficient support to countries for the implementation of the Convention;
- > the development of GEF and MEDA projects aiming at supporting specific activities in relation to the Convention and its Protocols.

It is expected that the reorientation of the MCS D work programme will be helpful in relation with the crucial issue of financing the environmental infrastructure and building the national and local capacities.

Finally let's remember that the success of the MAP is mainly depending on:

- > the commitment by the countries;
- > the participation of NGOs, the public and the media;
- > the involvement of the scientific and academic community, private sector and local authorities;
- > finally, the cooperation with the European Commission and the international organizations sharing the same objectives and working in the Mediterranean region.

> MEDITERRANEAN "ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT" IN CATANIA

Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for the environment in 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union celebrate an "environmental summit" this November, in Catania, Italy, on the occasion of the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. A Ministerial Declaration is expected to focus, among others, on the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity, the further reduction of pollution from land based sources, the prevention of maritime accidents, and the boosting of sustainable development in the region.

Co-organised by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and the Italian Ministry for Environment and Safeguard of the Territory, the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania, which will take place on 11-14 November, will assess the activities carried out by the MAP over the biennium 2002-2003 and decide upon actions to be followed for the period 2004-2005 as well as the related budget. Delegations of MAP partners, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, will also participate.

>> STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS as available at the MAP Secretariat on 22.10.2003

	BARCELONA CONVENTION			DUMPING PROTOCOL			EMERGENCY PROTOCOL		NEW PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY PROTOCOL	
	Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution			Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft			Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in cases of Emergency		Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea	
Adopted:	16.02.1976 (Barcelona)			16.02.1976 (Barcelona)			16.02.1976 (Barcelona)		25.01.2002 (Malta)	
Entry into force: (Amendments are not yet in force)	12.10.1978			12.10.1978			12.10.1978			
CONTRACTING PARTIES	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	—	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	—	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	—	30.05.90/AC	—	—
Algeria	—	16.02.81/AC	—	—	16.03.81/AC	—	—	16.03.81/AC	25.01.02	—
Bosnia & Herzegovina	—	01.03.92/SUC	—	—	01.03.92/SUC	—	—	01.03.92/SUC	—	—
Croatia	—	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	—	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	—	08.10.91/SUC	25.01.02	13.06.03***
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	25.01.02	—
European Community	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	25.01.02	—
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	—	—
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	25.01.02	02.07.03
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	11.02.77	03.01.79	—	16.02.76	03.01.79	25.01.02	—
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	—	16.02.76	01.03.84	—	16.02.76	03.03.78	22.01.03	—
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	25.01.02	—
Lebanon	—	08.11.77/AC	—	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	—	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	—	—
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	—	31.01.77	31.01.79	—	31.01.77	31.01.79	25.01.02	—
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	25.01.02	18.02.03
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	25.01.02	03.04.02
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	—	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	25.01.02	—
Slovenia	—	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	—	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	—	15.03.94/AC	25.01.02	—
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	25.01.02	—
Syria	—	26.12.78/AC	*	—	26.12.78/AC	—	—	26.12.78/AC	25.01.02	—
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	25.01.02	—
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	—	20.05.03***
Yugoslavia	—	27.04.92/SUC**	—	—	27.04.92/SUC**	—	—	27.04.92/SUC**	—	—



The meeting is expected to focus on ways to adapt the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to the Mediterranean region. Participants will also bear in mind the regional context, and more specifically, the enlargement of the European Union to some Mediterranean countries.

The agenda proposed for the meeting is in line with these concerns:

- > to review the preparation for the elaboration of the Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development and in particular the orientations which

- have been drafted in this context;
- > to adopt the Strategic Action Program to protect the marine and coastal biodiversity;
- > to adopt new measures for the implementation of the protocol on land based sources of pollution aiming at further reducing pollution from towns, industry, agriculture, coastal areas and rivers;
- > to adopt a Declaration which among other important issues will encourage a stronger cooperation between MAP and the European Commission and

streamline the development of MAP strategy for the prevention of maritime accidents within the framework of the new Malta protocol.

A series of side events, parallel to the meeting, will include regular briefings to the media professionals from the region, workshops on specific issues such as the “Prestige” accident and the need for a better control in preventing such ecologically devastating ship accidents, as well as a Event on nutrition, health and the environment, and a competition of environmental documentaries.

D-BASED SOURCES (LBS) PROTOCOL			SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS (SPA) PROTOCOL		SPA & BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL		OFFSHORE PROTOCOL		HAZARDOUS WASTES PROTOCOL		AC: Accession AP: Approval SUC: Succession
Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources			Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas		Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean		Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil		Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal		
1980 (Athens)			03.04.1982 (Geneva)		10.06.1995 (Barcelona)		14.10.1994 (Madrid)		01.10.1996 (Izmir)		
1983			23.03.1986		12.12.1999						
Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	
—	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	—	30.05.90/AC	10.06.95	26.07.01	—	26.06.01	—	26.07.01	* Syria notified its acceptance of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention pending notification from the depositary country. ** F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92. On 20 March 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganised State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention. *** Turkey and Croatia notified their ratification of the new Emergency Protocol to UNEP/ MAP pending notification from the depositary country.
—	02.05.83/AC	—	—	16.05.85/AC	10.06.95	—	—	—	01.10.96	—	
—	22.10.94/SUC	—	—	22.10.94/SUC	—	—	—	—	—	—	
—	12.06.92/SUC	—	—	12.06.92/SUC	10.06.95	12.04.02	14.10.94	—	—	—	
5.80	28.06.88	12.10.01	—	28.06.88/AC	10.06.95	15.10.01	14.10.94	15.10.01	—	—	
5.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	10.06.95	12.11.99	—	—	—	—	
—	18.05.83/AC	—	16.02.83	08.07.83	10.06.95	11.02.00	—	—	01.10.96	—	
5.80	13.07.82/AP	16.04.01	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	10.06.95	16.04.01	—	—	—	—	
5.80	26.01.87	10.03.03	03.04.82	26.01.87	10.06.95	—	14.10.94	—	01.10.96	—	
5.80	21.02.91	—	03.04.82	28.10.87	10.06.95	—	14.10.94	—	—	—	
5.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	03.04.82	04.07.85	10.06.95	07.09.99	14.10.94	—	01.10.96	—	
5.80	27.12.94	—	—	27.12.94/AC	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5.80	06.06.89/AP	—	—	06.06.89/AC	10.06.95	—	—	—	01.10.96	—	
5.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.06.95	28.10.99	14.10.94	—	01.10.96	28.10.99	
5.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	03.04.82	29.05.89	10.06.95	03.06.97	14.10.94	—	01.10.96	—	
5.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	02.04.83	22.06.90	10.06.95	—	—	01.07.99	20.03.97	01.07.99	
—	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	—	16.09.93/AC	—	08.01.03	10.10.95	—	—	—	
5.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	03.04.82	22.12.87	10.06.95	23.12.98	14.10.94	—	01.10.96	—	
—	01.12.93/AC	—	—	11.09.92/AC	—	—	20.09.95	—	—	—	
5.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	03.04.82	26.05.83	10.06.95	01.06.98	14.10.94	01.06.98	01.10.96	01.06.98	
—	21.02.83/AC	18.05.02	—	06.11.86/AC	10.06.95	18.09.02	—	—	01.10.96	—	
—	27.04.92/SUC**	—	—	27.04.92/SUC**	—	—	—	—	—	—	

> A STRATEGY TO CONSERVE MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY



P. SANCHEZ

The Mediterranean region witnessed an increasing development of human activities with an unremitting rate of transformation of ecosystems. The degradation, loss and fragmentation of natural habitats are common phenomena in many Mediterranean areas. However, the nature and extent of the threats to the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity vary from one part of the Mediterranean to another, sometimes from one country to the next. Many of these threats are linked to pollution and to the exploitation of the region's natural resources.

Furthermore, Mediterranean biological diversity is increasingly becoming subject to the effects of global phenomena, such as global warming, the impacts of which could be felt at the level of species and ecosystem balance. In certain cases, such global phenomena could worsen the impact of other local or regional threats.

The complex threats to biological diversity call for a wide range of responses across a wide spectrum of sectors, the implementation of national and regional actions and the participation and involvement of all the countries, stakeholders and users.

In this context, during 2001 and 2002 and with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF),

an important assessment and consultation process was conducted in the Mediterranean with the view of elaborating a strategic plan aimed at strengthening the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and at promoting practices for its sustainable use.

In all, some 120 experts (including 98 national and international consultants) have made a contribution to this pro-



cess, which consisted in an assessment, at the national and regional levels, of Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity, based on available knowledge and existing inventories.

This process culminated in the elaboration of the Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO). Most international and / or regional organisations concerned with the topics of SAP BIO were closely involved and provided significant inputs.

SAP BIO aims at establishing a logical base for implementing the 1995 Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. This protocol, known as the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, provides the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, international and national organisations, NGOs, donors and all other actors involved in the protection and management of the Mediterranean natural environment, with principles, measures and concrete and coordinated actions at the national, transboundary and regional levels for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity.

SAP BIO is also intended to facilitate the application, at the Mediterranean level, of the provisions of the Jakarta Mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the best available knowledge and approaches, such as the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle.

Furthermore, being in line, in its objectives, with the recommendations and approaches of the Johannesburg

Summit, SAP BIO will allow the Mediterranean countries to guarantee a high level of sustainability in the utilization of biological diversity and to fulfil their obligations towards the pertinent international agreements.

SAP BIO advocates concrete actions and recommends practices that aim at:

- > reducing causes (lowering the stress), and modifying the conditions for preventing or mitigating impacts that are harmful for maintaining biodiversity;
- > promoting sector-based bio-conservation-friendly policies, procedures and techniques, particularly as regards fishing, tourism, agriculture and forestry;
- > identifying gaps, uncertainties and trends in scientific knowledge;
- > strengthening, updating or improving the legal structures;
- > training and improving the ability to elaborate and implement strategies;
- > integrating SAP BIO actions within

general regional and national decision-making contexts;

- > establishing and / or strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation;
- > carrying out the common actions of the centres and the important programmes of the Mediterranean Action Plan concerning the wider aspects of maintaining biodiversity;
- > encouraging and putting into effect participation actions, programmes and campaigns aimed at informing the general public and increasing its awareness about maintaining biodiversity.

The SAP BIO was approved by three meetings of experts and representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and will be submitted for adoption by the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, in Catania, Sicily (Italy) on 11-14 November this year.

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> TIME TO HALT AND THINK ABOUT THE “SAP” CHANCES

Nearly six years have elapsed from the formal adoption of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to Address Pollution from Land-based Activities. Two years ago, the concrete operational details for its implementation were discussed and approved by the Mediterranean countries. A lot has been said on the importance of this programme and its potential impact on the pollution of the region. Many reports have been prepared on the specific activities carried out so far. However, it may be useful at this stage to halt and think of the concrete chances of success of the SAP as an effective opportunity for the countries to initiate the process of reducing pollution.

At a first glance, the results achieved so far are important and promising. The injection of funds operated through the Project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the French GEF (FFEM), and other donors has been effective. Each country is now preparing its National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) and calculating, by source and by type, the amount of pollution released (the Baseline Budget of Releases).

These are key steps on which to base the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs), due during the next biennium, where countries are expected to show how and with what means they intend to fulfil the SAP objectives and targets during the next ten years.

However, considering the long-term character of the SAP (25 years), one could say that only a small part of the programme has been implemented and that the “pollution reduction” process is far from being initiated.

Undeniably true. Nevertheless, the importance and the rather innovative character of the activities carried out so far, as well as the active and, in cases, enthusiastic participation of the countries, add value to the first achievements of the programme.

In addition, the preparation of the technical, scientific and policy basis for the long-term implementation of the SAP –this has been fully achieved during this the first phase– is indispensable for a successful programme.

To be or not to be

One key issue to the success of the SAP and to the preservation of the environment still remains with a big question mark: will the countries and the other stakeholders put on the table



adequate funds for the necessary interventions?

The question, certainly not new and already widely debated, has been on everybody's mind since the formulation of the SAP and has even put in doubt the credibility of the whole programme.

The main answer is obviously that Governments have to put the environment at the top of their agenda. But everybody knows that this is not always possible, in particular in times of generalized economic difficulties as is the case today, with many other priorities existing in both developed and developing countries.



A. KEMETROPOULOS

There are solutions

So, no hopes? There are indeed hopes. The first and most obvious hope is to see more public funds invested by Governments for the environment. However, in addition to that, there are complementary ways to seek alternative sources and external funds.

The SAP itself indicates the cost of the necessary interventions and lists the main financial instruments available in the region.

In addition, one component of the

GEF Project was dedicated to this issue: several case studies were carried out in a number of countries in order to identify innovative and alternative financial instruments. This initiative is being followed by some projects jointly prepared with the Global Programme of Action (GPA) Coordination Office of UNEP.

Another line to be followed is the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, which could offer concrete help for specific interventions such as the modernization of obsolete industrial complexes.

Public / private partnerships could also play a fundamental role. Last, but surely not least, negotiations have already been initiated with the GEF Secretariat for the elaboration of one or more additional projects that this time could possibly involve more substantial funds for the actual implementation of the SAP by the countries.

Best techniques and best practices

However, in the specific field of pollution reduction in industry, some steps could be made immediately at a low cost and, in many cases, with quick and visible results, through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP).

Considering the highly positive cost / benefit ratio, large efforts are being made to make the Mediterranean industry aware of such opportunities including training on the practical application of BAT and BEP.

In conclusion, although the region is expecting to witness larger economic efforts by the Governments for the environment, some opportunities for alternative sources of financing do exist and should be fully utilized.

It is believed that the political will of the Governments, the awareness of the need to concretely reduce pollution, a more concrete and public / private partnership and the assistance of the international community could be the right formula for making the National Action Plans adequate and viable. The next biennium will let us know...

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> TOWARDS A MEDITERRANEAN “COMMON VISION” ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In recent years the feeling has grown amongst the people of the Mediterranean that the region needs to develop a “common vision” of the future in order to face the many challenges they are confronted with. Such a shared vision, to be based on what exists already in the field of cooperation between its various States and entities, would become the basis for developing a comprehensive and efficient strategy for sustainable development.

Sustainable development implies a series of reforms requiring the active participation of all stakeholders and actors. It is a process that requires new ideas and ways of thinking, efficient management techniques and larger participation in the political and economic debate, as well as in the implementation process of reforms. In this context, the regional cooperation process should lead to integrating sustainable development and governance principles in all decision-making structures so as to suppress the various serious threats on the well-being of the Mediterranean population.

There are five major challenges, equally important and inter-related, that originate from the region’s geographical, political and cultural features. It is obvious that “peace and security” in the region is a major objective to be reached for the common vision and its major socio-economic and environmental challenges to have a decisive impact on the elaboration and implementation of a Sustainable Development (SD) strategy for the region.

These challenges concern:

Development and environment protection:

Through various international programmes, the Mediterranean countries and their partners have been promoting the protection of the regional environment and the integration of relevant concerns in economic development activities. But specific reforms and strategic actions are still necessary.

Patterns of production based on non-renewable sources cannot become generalized without compromising the future of generations to come. Measures taken to protect the environment at the national level become meaningless if they are not

backed up, at least at the regional level, because this problem ignores borders.

Commitment to promote alliance between development and environmental protection should give priority to sustainability and take into account the right of future generations to quality of life without harmful effects.

Poverty and inequality:

Many countries of the Mediterranean find it more and more difficult to meet the growing needs of their populations because the financial constraints are considerable and indebtedness has reached unsustainable levels.

There is a tension between the need to moderate consumption, to preserve the fragile equilibrium of the eco-system and the desire to consume stimulated by the dissemination of modern lifestyle and consumption patterns.

The persistence of large pockets of illiteracy and poverty, mainly among the female population, exacerbates problems in accessing health services, drinking water and sanitation, causes an increase in maternal and infant mortality as well as significant inequalities between genders.

In this context, reaching a significant level of convergence between the two shores of the Mediterranean in coming decades must be an integral part of a common vision. To this effect there is a need to build a non-asymmetrical system of interdependence based on guaranteed peace and security and on a readjustment of the transfer of resources, including debt and remittances, and their use to stimulate sustainable development.

Innovation and economic entrepreneurship:

Economic regulation in global markets is no more exclusively in the hands

ABLE DEVELOPMENT



of States and Government institutions. It offers many opportunities by facilitating the free flow of information, goods, services and technologies. But it constitutes also a big challenge for slow performing economies or for social groups excluded from its benefits.

Most Mediterranean markets continue to be protected, Research and Development is not sufficiently developed and entrepreneurial innovation is very weak. Growth patterns have not effectively embodied modern technologies and growth has been modest and not accompanied by productivity increases.

The conditions that will allow Mediterranean societies to improve their standard of living have to be created so as to enhance productivity and reduce emigration of brains. Transfer of eco technology and the use of cleaner production techniques within the framework of a partnership freely negotiated among professional associations on both shores of the Mediterranean would make the new sharing of roles meaningful and acceptable. Promoting sustainable development based on know-how, the networking of knowledge and competence would be synonymous with well-being.

Cultural diversity:

In the Mediterranean region there is a great diversity of cultures, religious and ethnic identities, some of them feeling marginalized or excluded by globalization and modern consumption and production patterns. It is urgent to take actions to dispel these feelings. Sustainable development consists of recognizing and protecting diversity without endan-

gering the cohesion of the whole society and the unity of the State.

In this context, commitment to education for all could be a powerful source of identity in order to move from the information (often misinformation) society to the knowledge and know-how society. In-depth reform of the education system at all levels, from primary school to the university is needed, with emphasis on gender equilibrium and innovation. Generalizing access to knowledge, in particular, through distance learning, will be a considerable challenge, and a tremendous contribution to sustainable development.

Governance:

In the framework of Sustainable Development, it is essential to move from a centralized decision-making process to negotiation, cooperation, concerted action and decentralization.

In the absence of a regional governance structure, focus should be put on promoting mobilization and building the capacity of actors (government authorities, local authorities, private sector and civil society), within the framework of a system that is able to improve and complement the traditional system of governance.

Commitment to an efficient governance system would give meaning and perspective to a Mediterranean sustainable development process that would respect a shared ethical view of sustainability that responds to a moral imperative and transcends any utilitarian considerations.

The right to development in a healthy and equitable environment should be

reaffirmed loudly at all levels of our societies so that it could become the central component of social, political and economic dialogue and policy making at the local, national and regional levels.

However, facing up to these challenges in a satisfactory, efficient and sustainable manner requires long-lasting peace and security in the Mediterranean region and between its countries and people.

The Mediterranean region has been characterized throughout its long history by both antagonisms and peaceful co-existence affecting cooperation and collective security. This is why there could be no sustainable development without making determined efforts to establish significant levels of collective action to suppress the causes of conflicts.

Going beyond the illusory quest for parity, Mediterranean countries should, according to their respective capacities, build a Mediterranean that is managed in partnership, targeting the overall efficiency of cooperation and successful collective action.

Facing up efficiently to the challenge of peace and security is highly determinant for sustainable development in the Mediterranean, and progressing positively in coping with above major challenges will contribute to the promotion of peace and security.

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This article is based on a draft proposed "Common Vision" to be considered by the 13th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Catania, Italy, on 11-14 November 2003. At this stage, its contents engage only the author.

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> NEW LEGAL PERSPECTIVE FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT



In 2002–2003, the socio-economic forces have led to an increasing concentration of activities, population and infrastructure along the Mediterranean coasts. Sixty five percent of the coast is occupied and there is a pressure of about 6,000 residents and tourists per each square kilometre of the coast. There are 155 existing and planned power plants along the coast. Such processes could only be more intensive in the future. As a consequence, the impacts on natural environment are likely to be particularly adverse, evidenced in terms of pollution, biotope losses, and resource degradation. It is not so much the specially protected areas that are at stake, but the non-protected areas, open spaces and nature sites (sand dunes, estuaries, river deltas, sea shore landscapes), which lack any form of legal protection. These statements, however, could not be corroborated because, in spite of many efforts, the relevant system of indicators is still not in place.

The last biennium has been characterised by great efforts of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (CPs) to deal with the growing problems in their coastal areas, particularly with regard to legislation, strategic planning and implementation of the concrete projects.

The CPs meeting in Monaco (2001), that strongly supported continuation of efforts to improve Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM), set the general trend. They authorised the Priority Actions Programme / Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) to prepare the Feasibility Study for a regional legal instrument on ICAM.

It is believed that such an instrument would help countries in making stronger cases for more effective national coastal management, and avoiding future coastal areas' over-exploitation of resources. The study proposed three options for a regional protocol on ICAM. Namely: detailed, intermediate, and Framework options.



The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) has continued with the implementation of Coastal Area Management Programmes (CAMPs). In this period, seven projects were active: Malta (completed); Algeria and Lebanon (projects ongoing); Slovenia and Cyprus (agreements signed); and Morocco and Spain (feasibility studies prepared).

The projects' implementation and management have been improved in terms of shortened duration, better financial resources utilisation, and fewer activities performed. CAMPs are becoming a model exercise that improves national and local capacity for ICAM.

Awareness raising and information on ICAM has been brought to a new level by the launching of the internet-based Clearing House for coastal management in the Mediterranean (<http://www.pap-medclearinghouse.org>).

This innovative instrument offers visitors a wealth of information on projects, experts, legislation, funding, institutions, literature, and strategies, plans and tools for ICAM. Thus, for example, it identifies more than 70 coastal projects being carried out in various Mediterranean countries, and several hundreds of experts that are involved.

Countries and international organisations were also active. However, little progress has been made in the field of coastal legislation. The new coastal law has only been adopted in Algeria (2002), and specific coastal legislation exists only in a few countries. Since legislation is the basis for any decisive action in coastal areas, efforts should be made to help countries raise the awareness on this issue.



The European Union has adopted the Recommendation for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the accompanying Strategy (2002). The Recommendation entails a number of tasks, such as national coastal stocktaking and a national ICZM strategy, to be carried-out.

Five countries have started local coastal projects (France, Greece, Croatia, Syria, and Tunisia). International organisations have continued supporting ICAM in the region. The Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) has extensive ICAM programmes in Morocco, Algeria, Slovenia, Albania and Croatia, while MEDA/SMAP (Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme) projects approved in 2001 have been launched during in this biennium.

In addition to the Strategic Action Plan Mediterranean project (SAP-MED) led by the MAP (to be completed next year), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is implementing the MedWet / Coast project. GEF is also supporting national coastal biodiversity projects in Tunisia and Croatia. Sub-regional activ-

ities are becoming a new model for environmental management. Countries of the Adriatic have adopted Adriatic Action Plan in Zadar (June 2003). It relies strongly on the MAP structure, while its activities are mainly related to the protection of the Adriatic coastal areas and marine environment.

Proliferation of coastal actions at the institutional level is an encouraging sign since it will create a solid basis for environmental change in the region. If this opportunity is not utilized in the near future, a worsening of coastal trends could be expected. It is expected that, the pressure of population will double to 12,000 persons per km² in the next 20 years; the number of coastal agglomerations will grow well above the present 1,500 settlements with more than 10,000 inhabitants. This will create an enormous pollution load. It could also be expected that in some countries urbanisation would occupy close to 100% of the total length of the coast. This is a prospect that needs to be avoided at any cost.

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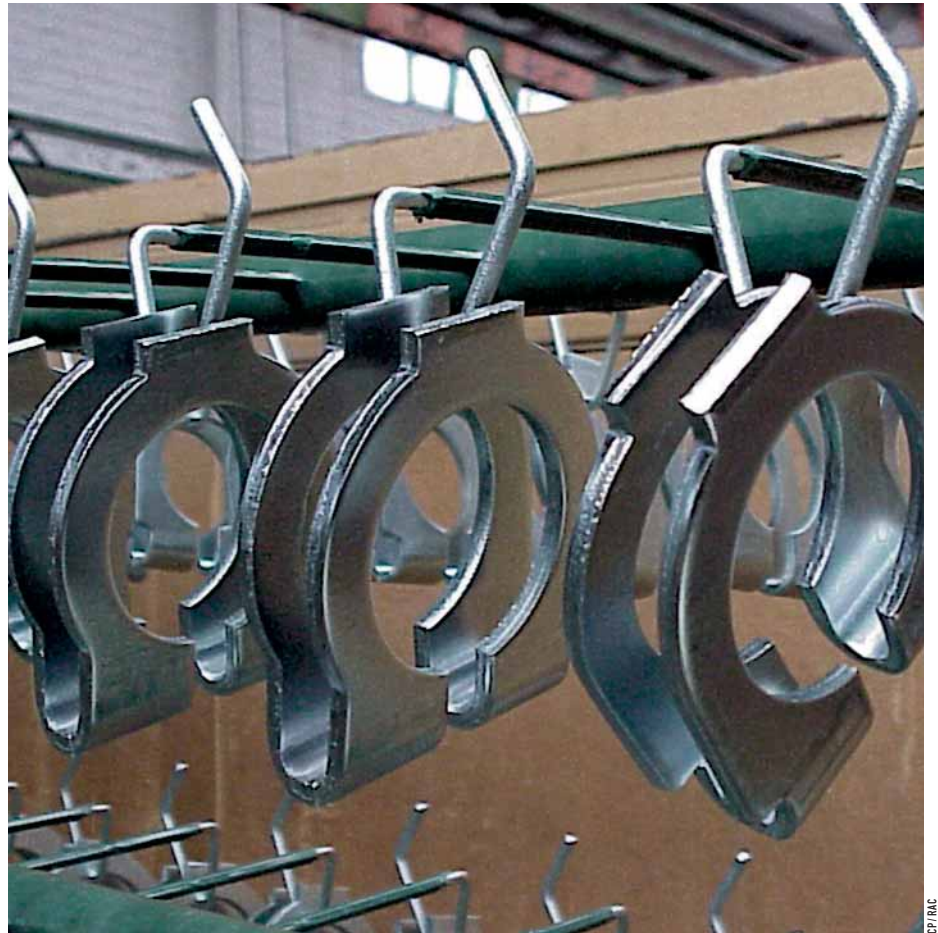
> DIAGNOSE BEFORE ACTING

When we speak of living beings and we want to cure an illness for which we are possibly initially only aware of certain symptoms (pain, paleness, fever, etc.), the procedure for reaching the desired objective, the “cure”, must necessarily start with a good diagnosis. A diagnosis that analyses the causes, the main and side effects, the interactions with the overall vital system, so that the most appropriate therapy can be applied in each case.

In a more optimistic approach, if we want to improve the performance of a healthy being in a certain activity (for example a sport), the process that starts with a thorough diagnosis prior to undertaking the specific activity, analysing the points to be improved or mistakes to be corrected, will similarly be the most advisable course of action.

In the two previous examples, no action would be carried out without having this prior diagnosis to assist us in adopting the most appropriate options.

In the same way as with living beings, when a company (which is nevertheless a type of “being”) of which we wish to improve the “health” and vitality



and need to “cure” or improve its relationship with the environment, the diagnosis-action sequence is still the most effective method.

A diagnosis in both technical and financial terms is therefore needed in order to achieve the objectives that have been set, these being the adoption of certain obligations, such as the improvement of the degree of environmental excellence.

In order to carry out this prior diagnosis, which will identify both the causes and the possible alternative courses of action, there are practical tools such as the Minimisation Opportunities Environmental Diagnosis (MOED), developed by the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production of the Mediterra-

nean Action Plan (CP/RAC), based in Barcelona¹.

For example, the carrying out of a MOED² is what has facilitated the identification of the financial and environmental advantages of installing a vacuum evaporator for treating the wastewater from the electrochemical nickel baths for electric light bulb screw casings in a factory close to Barcelona. The ensuing savings in the cost of water consumption, wastewater treatment and purchase of chemicals, has allowed for the required investment to be recovered in 0.9 years.

There are successful examples of this diagnosis-action sequence in the different countries of the MAP³. Such are the reductions in re-dyeing opera-



tions that were achieved by a Turkish textile company, by improving the usual manufacturing process and by precisely adjusting the formulations used. These actions, which required no investment, led to annual cost savings in excess of 24,000 euro.

The MOED applies a methodology that sets priorities for “pollution prevention” actions before the “treatment of pollution that has already occurred” by following a logical flow that starts with the analysis of such actions that may avoid or reduce the environmental impact, leaving the treatment proposals for the fraction that cannot be avoided, reduced or recycled, in terms of their technical and financial feasibility and in accordance with the situation of each country.

The identification of these feasible alternatives does not depend on the business sector (there are examples for each of them) or on the size of the installations. We can mention a slaughterhouse in Bosnia and Herzegovina with only six workers, which with an investment of 58,000 euro, achieved annual savings of over 900,000 euro in water consumption, salt, environmental taxes and treatment costs. Recovery of the investment, in less than a month.

Finally, three aspects should be highlighted:

Firstly, the MOED is not a detailed project, but a tool for assisting in the decision-making mechanisms used by companies. Based on realistic knowledge, it allows us to enter deeper into our business strategy, a strategy that in

today’s world must necessarily include the environment and the analysis of the courses of action that can improve the competitive edge of the business.

Secondly, it is a useful tool for situations in which the company must adapt to regulatory obligations, as well as in setting priorities for the actions for prevention at source; it will firstly enable those that offer a financial payback to be identified, and also the “end-of-pipe” actions, that involve additional cost.

And thirdly, for companies that have set the objective of achieving the greatest possible degree of excellence—which often comes with the adoption of a standard such as ISO 14001 (Environmental Management) or EMAS (Eco-Managements and Audit Scheme)—it is also a useful tool.

This applies both in the first stages of definition and initial diagnosis and in setting objectives for improvement,

through the same reasoning as previously mentioned. It would be hard to understand how one can set objectives without a diagnosis and identification of possibilities and opportunities.

A good diagnosis, understood as a tool for assisting in business decision making, can help overcome what could be considered as the greatest hindrance in this necessary interrelationship between the company and the environment: routine.

VÍCTOR MACIÀ
CP/RAC DIRECTOR

¹ This methodology is available to companies in the Region, by contacting the CP/RAC at: cleanpro@cema-sa.org.

² The CP/RAC has over 350 MOEDs on reference, carried out in both Spanish and other companies in different Mediterranean countries.

³ Some of these examples have been published by the CP/RAC and are available on its website at: www.cema-sa.org.



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> POLLUTION WITH NO FRONTIERS, AN ANALYSIS

MAP prepared a draft report on the “Assessment of Transboundary Pollution Issues in the Mediterranean Sea” that aims at identifying the perceived problems affecting this sea, including those associated with land-based activities. The objective is to contribute to the preparation of a policy-oriented Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, within the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to reduce land-based pollution.

In this report, seven major pollutant sources with a transboundary component have been identified in the Mediterranean through a review of the results of the work done within the MAP over the last twenty years, the work of related programmes and the reviews carried out in the context of the present study. These are:

- > Airborne emissions and deposition;
- > Riverine outflows;
- > Agriculture runoff;
- > Fishery and mariculture activities;
- > Urban centres and industrial activities;
- > Ports and maritime transport;
- > Exploitation of sea bed and subsoil.

As a first attempt in identifying the nature of the transboundary effects of these environmental pressures, the impacts on living marine resources and biodiversity, marine ecosystems, land-use and tourism, and human health have been assessed.

It is apparent that environmental degradation, particularly of coastal areas, generated by these sources is expected to significantly affect human activities and land-use, mainly by limiting their recreational and residential values, as well as impairing the quality and availability of natural resources. Moreover, the detrimental effects may extend towards a reduced geographical area and affect rather distant sites or regions, even belonging to other countries.

The perceived major problems are summarised as follows:

- > Degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems;
- > Unsustainable exploitation of marine resources;
- > Loss of habitats supporting living resources;
- > Decline in biodiversity;
- > Worsened human related conditions;
- > Inadequate protection of the coastal zone and marine environment.



Root causes are common to a number of different perceived problems and issues, so addressing a few of them may have positive effects on several problems, although the relative importance of each cause differs in relation to the individual problem. Five main root causes are identified for the perceived problems.

- > Inadequate legal and institutional framework;

- > Inadequate planning and management at all levels;
- > Insufficient human and institutional capacity;
- > Insufficient involvement of stakeholders;
- > Inadequate financial mechanisms and support.

As a result of this analysis, four major types of action are proposed, to address each of the identified problems. Again the relative importance of each type of action varies according to the nature of the problem. These are:

- > Reduction of gaps of knowledge;
- > Reduction of environmental pressures, notably pollution;
- > Resource management;
- > Integrated planning and management.

In conclusion, it is worth pointing out that in order to address the problems and root causes summarised, it is necessary to develop and apply a holistic and integrated management and planning approach, as the traditional sectorial coastal zone approach failed to reverse or even slow down negative trends.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), a concept developed during the past thirty years, is considered as the major methodological framework for implementing coastal zone specific initiatives and for achieving sustainable development in coastal areas.

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> HOW TO BE A GOOD "CITIZEN OF THE ENVIRONMENT"



MEDWAY ARCHIVE

Representatives of NGOs from the Arab countries, including seven members of the Mediterranean Action Plan, met in Cairo to discuss ways to promote the further implementation of the concept of “environmental citizenship” in the region.

A total of 45 delegates, representing NGOs from 14 Arab countries as well as several regional organizations and networks, gathered on 15-16 October in Cairo at the headquarters of the League of Arab States, to exchange information and formulate recommendations for actions to be followed by all stakeholders and at all levels, aimed at strengthening the practical implementation of concept of “environmental citizenship”.

The participants reviewed the document on “Environmental Citizenship in the Arabia Nation”, adopted by the Council of the Arab Ministers for the Environment, with the objective of finding ways to ensure the involvement of all actors in protecting the environ-

ment in the context of all activities related to sustainable development.

The document emphasises the need for Arab citizens to be aware of the importance of environmental problems, their dimension, reach and impact on their lives, and to be committed to actively participate in its protection.

The meeting, jointly organized by the Arab League, the Arab Network for Environment and Development and UNEP-West Asia, with the support of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), adopted a series of recommendations, stressing among others the need to set up indicators of what to achieve and what has been achieved; to include the concept of environmental citizenship in the curric-

ula of schools; to update national legislations; to promote prevention actions; to activate the role of the family, and to spread awareness on the direct links with all socio-economic factors.

At the same time, the meeting reviewed a series of implementation mechanisms that range from the set up of field projects on some of the most pressing issues such as the sound use of water and solid waste recycling, to the organization of seminars for capacity building for the media; the preparation of specific information kits; the active involvement of religious leaders; the elaboration of guidelines; the organization of workshops, and the preparation of specific studies, all with the strong participation of the civil society.



> INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION, KEY TO PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



The importance of information and participation and the need for a better dissemination of information on the state of the marine environment to all citizens and also for more developed environmental education programmes, has been highlighted in the “Carthage” Declaration that concluded the works of a Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Solidarity and Partnership for the protection of the natural and cultural Mediterranean heritage.

The Conference took place in Tunis on 12 and 13 September and was attended by a high number of inter-governmental and regional organizations, professional associations, as well as Non Governmental Organizations from the Mediterranean region.

Participants reviewed and discussed the major initiatives and emerging issues related to biodiversity, information on the marine environment, marine pollution and sustainable management of marine resources.

Several presentations made by experts described the state of the art on the subjects and provoked wide discussions with a large participation of the public.

At the conclusion of the event, the “Declaration of Carthage-Tunis”, highlighting a number of important points aimed at a more effective cooperation in

the region, was unanimously adopted.

Apart from information, participation and education, the principles of prevention, precaution and responsibility were also considered as key factors for the sound use of the marine resources, paving the way to establishing international and regional rules and procedures to ensure liability and compensation in case of recognized environmental damages.

The Declaration also recognized the significance of the complementary work and initiatives of the associations and NGOs that ensure a deeper knowledge of the problems at stake and a greater participation of civil society.

The Conference is considered as an important contribution to the common efforts of international organizations, national authorities, associations and NGOs towards a sustainable management of the natural and cultural richness of the region.

> “LIKE FOSSILS” WINS MAP AWARD



Over 70 films competed this year in the third edition of the International Environmental Film Festival.

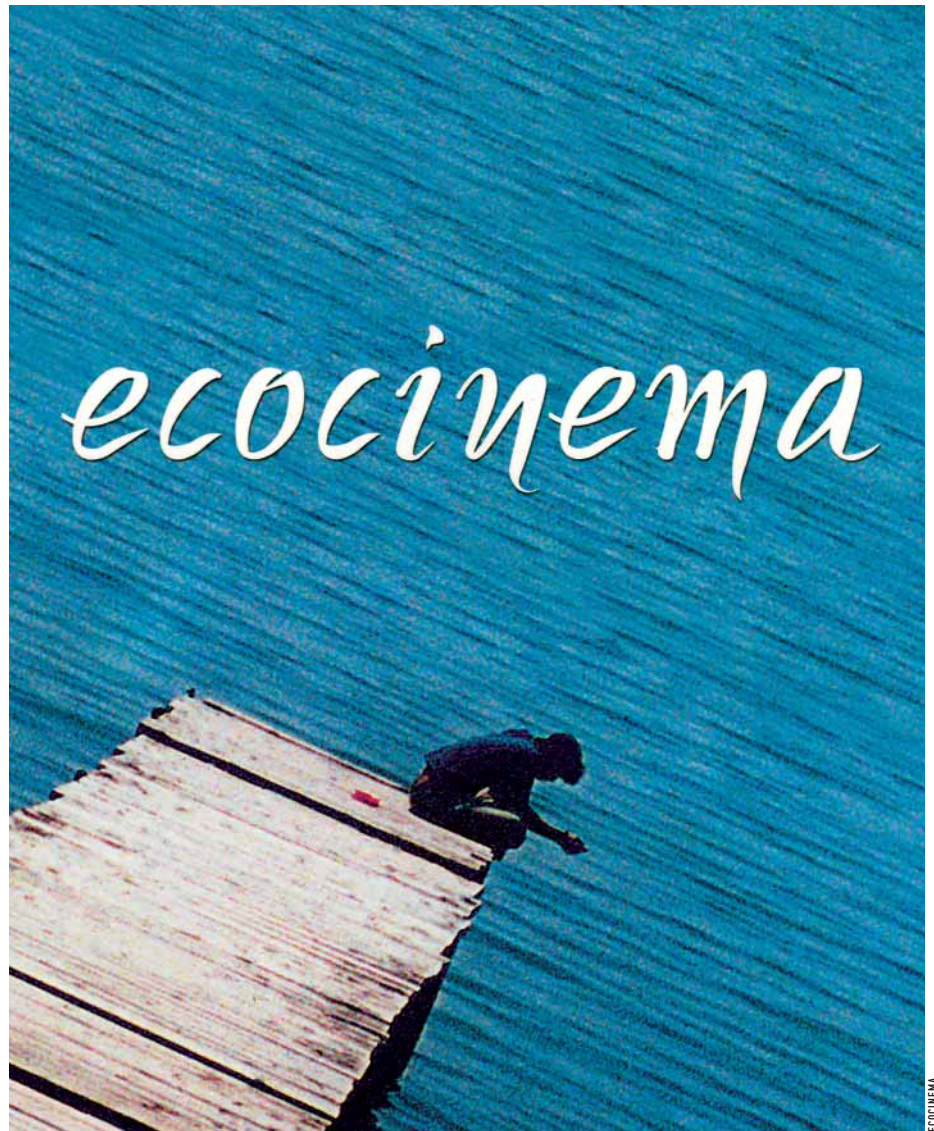
A documentary, directed by the Italian filmmaker Luca Pastore, was awarded with the prize sponsored by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP).

Luca Pastore, the author of the film, is 33 years old. This is how he describes his work: “A documentary without interviews or human voices, may seem like a paradox. But the protagonist of this film are mute: enormous empty spaces, silent but deafening in the continuous rebounding of echoes of voices, sounds and noises that once inhabited them”.

“Like Fossils is the story of old wool mills and the feeling one gets wandering through an abandoned factory, with the conscience that one is walking somewhere that was once very important to someone”.

Pastore’s work competed with 38 other documentaries in the Festival whose organizers, given the high number of works participating this year in the event, decided to divide the competition in two sections: one for short films and one for long ones.

On the other hand, and according to Elias Efthymiopoulos, president of the



Festival, former Deputy Minister for Environment, Town Planning and Public Works of Greece, the fact that this third edition coincided with the International Year of Fresh Water has been “an opportunity to reset a matter on which so much has been said and so little has been done”.

Ten films having water in all its aspects as their subject participated in EcoCinema Festival.

The third edition of this event, known as the Eco-Cinema Festival, took place in the Greek island of Rhodes, on 9-14 September. The Festival is funded by its own non-profit organization, with the support, this year, of the Greek Ministries of Culture and Environment, the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation and several other institutional and non-governmental organizations.

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