



UNEP



medwaves e-newsletter

November-December 2008

A monthly e-newsletter by UNEP/MAP

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The Annual Bilateral Meeting between Barcelona Convention Secretariat and MAP Components and the European Commission took place on 2nd December in Brussels.

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The 10th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans which met in Guayaquil, Ecuador between 25-27 November.

Legally Binding Measures And Timetable Presented At Lbs Protocol Meeting

MEDPOL Focal Points and Coordination Unit met in Aix-en-Provence, France, to look at the proposed legally binding measures and timetable within the framework of the LBS Protocol.

First Workshop Meeting Of The Mediterranean Marine And Aquatic Science Libraries And Information Centres Network

The First Meeting of the Network was held in Marine Science Institute Of Andalusia (CSIC), Cadiz. Spain, 17 – 18 November 2008, with rich and informative presentations from Libraries in Croatia, France Greece, Italy, Lebanon and Spain & Tunisia.

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The updated EuroTurtle website (www.euroturtle.org) is now available and was launched to celebrate

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EU heads of state and government reached a unanimous agreement on 11th December on plans to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020.

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UNEP AT UNFCCC 2008 MEETING IN POZNAŃ



The 14th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC took place in Poznan (Poland) between 9-12th December, and concluded with agreements on providing "legal capacity" to the adaptation board and to amplify efforts toward an agreement in Copenhagen, 2009. According to UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner "a lot more work remains for Copenhagen to achieve the results and ambition needed to avoid dangerous climate change."

The UN has proposed improvements to the Kyoto protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM) and ideas to raise fresh funds to help developing countries adapt to climate change. Both subjects occupied government negotiators in the first week of international climate talks in Poznan that are aiming to prepare the ground for a new global climate treaty.

Proposals to raise fresh funding for the struggling adaptation fund for developing countries include extending an existing two per cent levy on CDM transactions to Kyoto's other two flexible mechanisms: Joint implementation (JI) and government-to-government trading of greenhouse gas emission quotas. Governments could also be forced to auction a share of their emission quotas.

Finance ministers met on the fringes of the Poznan talks to discuss the financial architecture of a new climate treaty. Financing featured also heavily in the ministerial-level alongside a shared long-term vision for action on climate change.

GREEN ECONOMY INITIATIVE



On the 12th of December UNEP Executive Director was invited to BBC's HARDtalk to discuss the concept of a Green Economy and Green New Deal, where he explained that it is possible to fight climate change and the economic downturn at the same time. UNEP has responded to the financial, food and fuel crises by launching the Green Economy Initiative and the

Global Green New Deal. The idea is that mobilizing and re-focusing the global economy towards investments in clean technologies and conserving the planet's natural infrastructure is the best bet for real growth, combating climate change and triggering an employment boom in the 21st century.

For more information: www.unep.org/greeneconomy/

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)



The ad-hoc intergovernmental multi-stakeholder meeting on an IPBES was convened in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 10 to 12 November 2008. The meeting was attended by representatives of 78 Governments and 25 organizations.

There was consensus among the participants that there is a need to strengthen the science-policy interface. Participants felt that the main areas of potential work that the proposed mechanism could take are: (i) early warning and horizon scanning; (ii) multi-scale assessments; (iii) policy information; and (iv) capacity building.

As an immediate follow up to the meeting, UNEP was asked to undertake a preliminary gap analysis on existing science-policy mechanisms and processes on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The report will be made available to the 25th session of the UNEP GC/GMEF in February 2009 as an information document, which will later be reviewed and considered by concerned Governments and organizations.

UN LAUNCHES E-LEARNING INITIATIVE IN OVER 160 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: Sixteen UN Agencies Mobilize Efforts to "Deliver as One"

Sixteen UN agencies, meeting at a forum organized by UNEP during the 14th International Conference on Technology Supported Learning and Training in Berlin, agreed to establish UNe-Learn - a UN-wide network on technology supported learning to share information and expertise, and to collaborate on the

sustained deployment of e-Learning.

The Berlin meeting of UN agencies and programmes was convened by the UN Environment Programme and held 3-5 December as part of Online Educa 2008, Europe's largest (and the world's second largest) conference on technology supported learning, held annually in Berlin.

As a first step towards the implementation of the project, a comprehensive stock-taking exercise is planned to commence, early in 2009, to identify and integrate quality-assured training resources from across the UN system. The UN Staff College will host a number of online communities of practice that will bring together capacity development and training expertise in sector areas, such as agriculture, development, education, environment, food security, health and human rights.



By agreeing to pool and share their collective training resources and shift towards technology supported learning, the initiative will help UN agencies eliminate duplicative activities, reduce costs, and reach a wider client base.

The 16 United Nations agencies taking part in the technology-supported learning initiative are: UNDP, UNU, UNITAR, UNSSC, UN Secretariat at New York, FAO, WFP, UNDPKO, UNWTO, UNHCR, ITC-ILO, IAEA, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, WHO, and UNEP, UNEP CITES.

The new UN e-Learning initiative will offer developing countries opportunities to draw upon a rich array of training and capacity-building resources.

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

MAP COMPONENTS AND EC ANNUAL MEETING FOCUS ON 2009 KEY ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS

10th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

The UNe-Learn network will provide targeted training and outreach to help UN country teams implement common programmes of work in over 160 developing countries.

The initiative, inspired by the UN "Delivering as One" concept, aims to maximize coherence and effectiveness among UN projects at the country-level as parts of efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The "Delivering as One" initiative builds on the existing reform agenda set by UN member states, which asks the UN development system to accelerate its efforts to increase coherence and effectiveness of its operations in countries. The UN family – with its many and diverse agencies – must act in a more coordinated way at country level. The objective is to ensure faster and more effective development operations and accelerate progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals – in short, a UN development system that delivers more and better for the poorest and most disadvantaged.

MAP COMPONENTS AND EC ANNUAL MEETING FOCUS ON 2009 KEY ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Annual Bilateral Meeting between Barcelona Convention Secretariat and MAP Components and the European Commission took place on 2nd December in Brussels.

The focus of this year's discussions were the Union for the Mediterranean and the ICZM Protocol, with the meeting also including Horizon 2020, the ecosystem approach, climate change and the process of the LBS Protocol.

Within the discussion on the Union for the Mediterranean, the EC stated that the next Euro-Med Environment Ministers' meeting will be held in the second half of 2009 and will focus on the implementation of the Roadmap approved by the Ministers at their meeting in Cairo in 2007 that calls for the development of a pipeline of pollution reduction projects. It was therefore agreed that UNEP/MAP will be given the opportunity to address the next Euro-Med Ministerial Meeting.

The EC representatives also announced that the EU

Council is expected to approve the signing of the new ICZM Protocol shortly. Moreover, the Council has put the ratification of the protocol on its agenda for 2009. This process may be delayed due to the elections for the European Parliament towards the middle of next year. Reference was made to the high level meeting being held in December by the French EU Presidency and the UfM on ICZM. The EC has the intention to allocate the sum of 1 million euros to give visibility to the new protocol and promote its ratification by the EU Mediterranean countries.

These bilateral meetings are held on an annual basis to review the progress of work in the priority areas of cooperation and to discuss issues related to furthering the objectives of the MAP-EC Joint Work Programme.

10th GLOBAL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS



The 10th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans which was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador between 25-27 November and was attended by MAP Coordinator Paul Mifsud. The meeting was held back to back with the High Level Meeting about the impact of Climate Change on Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the South Pacific.

The meeting was chaired by Jacqueline Alder, the new Coordinator of the Marine Ecosystem and Coastal Branch (MECB) of the Division for Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) of UNEP.

The agenda included six different sessions during which participants discussed the issues of Climate Change, Ecosystem Management, Cooperation with MEAs, Sustainable Financing and Legal Instruments to further the implementation of Regional Seas' Work Programmes, Operational Considerations for the RSP as well as Strategic Directions (2008-2012) upcoming events and other matters.

During the first session on Climate Change, MAP Coordinator made a presentation about Climate Change Adaptation Challenges in the Mediterranean

outlining the initiatives taken by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) on the basis of the decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the recommendations of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSDD) and the outcomes of seminars and workshops organized by its Regional Activity Centres.

Although climate change was not on the agenda when most RS Conventions were initially negotiated, it was agreed that through the management of ecosystems in an integrated manner they all have a mandate to address the issue of climate change and therefore no new instrument is needed in this regard. RS should address specifically climate change when revising their strategies or developing action plans. The ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona Convention is an example, as provisions dealing with climate change were introduced in the new Protocol.

Following the presentation by the Coordinator of the MECB on UNEP's Medium Term Strategy and the Marine and Coastal Strategy (MCS) which is currently being developed, it was pointed out that Regional Seas already have a strategy or an action plan approved by their meeting of the Parties. In the case of MAP, the programme of work (PoW) is framed on the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), which was approved by the Contracting Parties in 2005.

On the issue of sustainable financing the meeting heard the different experiences of RS in implementing GEF projects, in particular the problem of involving other Ministries apart from those of the Environment, in particular the Ministries of Finance, when identifying priority areas for GEF funding. The problem of identifying co-financing for GEF projects was also mentioned. A call was made for the establishment of a long-term sustainable financing mechanism for the regional seas programmes. Also the meeting recognized the importance of using the Regional Seas as a platform to influence the global environmental agenda in view of the launching of GEF 5 financing package. In this regard, RS Conventions and Action Plans should provide a link to the global decision making bodies in order to seek their support.

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

Legally Binding Measures And Timetable Presented At LBS Protocol Meeting

First Workshop Meeting Of The Mediterranean Marine And Aquatic Science Libraries And Information Centres Network

MEDASSET Launches Updates EuroTurtle Website

On 28th November, the High Level Meeting about the impact of Climate Change on Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the South Pacific was opened by the Deputy Minister for the Environment of Ecuador.

The participants heard statements and presentations by the Executive Secretary of the Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission, the Director of the Marine Ecosystem and Coastal Branch (MECB) of DEPI, and representatives of other international organizations including the International Meteorological Organization.

A Joint Declaration was approved at the end of the meeting which included recommendations agreed upon by the 10th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.

LEGALLY BINDING MEASURES AND TIMETABLE PRESENTED AT LBS PROTOCOL MEETING



MEDPOL Focal Points and Coordination Unit met in Aix-en-Provence, France, to look at the proposed legally binding measures and timetable within the framework of the LBS Protocol.

The meeting reviewed the proposal of the Secretariat on the preparation of action plans and programmes containing legally

binding measures and timetables required by Art. 15 of the LBS Protocol and decided to prepare a series of programmes/ action plans to be submitted to the Contracting Parties in 2009 for adoption.

One of the action plans focused on the reduction of BOD5 from municipal wastewater. It was agreed that MEDPOL Focal Points would send by 30 December 2008 their national Emission Limit Values (ELVs) for municipal wastewater when available.

Another plan of action was agreed for phasing out substances contained in Annex I of the LBS

Protocol and Annex A of the Stockholm Convention. In particular, the MEDPOL Focal Points should send by the end of December 2008 their official position on the inclusion of Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlore, Mirex, Toxaphene.

Finally national representatives should send by the end of December 2008 their official position on the timetable for phasing out DDT.

The meeting requested the Secretariat to organize an intercessions working group. It also requested the Secretariat to try and organize a second meeting before the meeting of MEDPOL focal points in May 2009.

For the biennium 2010-2011, meeting participants proposed to prepare an action plan for mercury, food sector and Stockholm Convention candidate substances. To this aim MEDPOL focal points were requested to provide their national ELVs by 30 December 2008.

Additionally, the MEDPOL Secretariat requested guidance from the MED POL Focal Points on the proposal of using a modelling tool for the assessment of the impact of brine discharges coming out of seawater desalination plants on the marine environment. The Focal Points, considering the importance of this tool to assess the impacts of discharge of brine in the marine environment, requested the Secretariat to provide additional information on the scope of the model and the description of the software before taking any decision.

FIRST WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN MARINE AND AQUATIC SCIENCE LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES NETWORK

The First Meeting of the Network was held in Marine Science Institute Of Andalusia (CSIC), Cadiz, Spain, 17 – 18 November 2008, with rich and informative presentations from Libraries in Croatia, France Greece, Italy, Lebanon and Spain & Tunisia. There was a lot of enthusiasm to develop the Network as a tool for exchanging information on new projects, training, and technology. Much of this will be achieved through on online Portal which is being developed presently in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, and

to work together with the European and International Associations of Marine Science Libraries.

MEDASSET LAUNCHES UPDATES EuroTurtle WEBSITE

The updated EuroTurtle website (www.euroturtle.org) is now available and was launched to celebrate MEDASSET's 20th Anniversary. EuroTurtle has served since 1997 as a valuable and unique on-line information centre, exclusively devoted to sea turtles in the Mediterranean and around the world.

New resources have been added, as well as information, graphics, photographs, scientific data, work sheets, diagrams, tools and educational kits.

The website covers sea turtle biology, distribution



of the seven species of marine turtle, threats facing sea turtles today, conservation efforts and practices, as well as reporting on all sea turtle

species as well as the Nile Soft-shelled turtle. Also included is a comprehensive sea turtle glossary, 'Suzy's' Frequently Asked Questions and links to relevant conventions, environmental organizations and sites. EuroTurtle is also a portal for UK Turtle Code, a code for reporting marine turtle sightings in the UK. Though mainly orientated towards sea turtle conservation, visitors will find resources that apply to most other endangered marine species and contain information on many broader environmental subjects. www.euroturtle.org

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Ministerial Conference Of The Member Countries Of The Barcelona Process: Union For The Mediterranean

European Leaders Pass Climate "Credibility Test"

National Marine Park of Alonnisos (Greece) Is Looking For INTERREG IVC partners

EUROPEAN LEADERS PASS CLIMATE "CREDIBILITY TEST"

EU heads of state and government reached a unanimous agreement on 11th December on plans to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020.



French president Nicolas Sarkozy described the move as "historic": "You will not find another continent in this world that has given itself such binding rules"; Mr Sarkozy said after a summit in Brussels.

There had been fears that countries concerned about the potential cost of the climate and energy package to their economies would reject a deal. But the French president said negotiations "turned out to be much easier than people said".

Concessions were made to states that had expressed worries about the economic impact of the new rules. All firms in the EU's emission trading scheme (ETS) will get at least 30 per cent of their carbon allowances for free until at least 2020, leaders decided. Some power plants will get a proportion of free allowances until the same date.

But the EU's basic 20-20-20 targets remained unchanged. More carbon auction revenue was earmarked to help eastern European economies and to fund carbon capture and storage (CCS), and generous access to foreign carbon credits was agreed. European commission president José Manuel Barroso said the EU had "passed its credibility test" on climate change and predicted that MEPs would back the deal when they meet in Strasbourg next week for their final plenary meeting of the year.

Green groups called on MEPs to reject an agreement on national emission reduction targets for non-ETS sectors. The limits agreed for the use of Kyoto protocol flexible mechanism credits would mean that two-thirds of member states' reduction efforts could be achieved by buying credits overseas instead of action at home, they argued.

Governments also endorsed a European commission economic recovery plan and a series of priority actions in which climate and energy

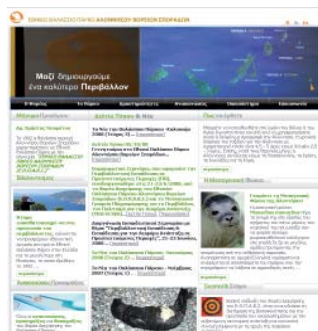
measures feature strongly. They backed an increase of €30bn in European investment bank funding for renewables and clean transport, and the creation of a financing mechanism called the "Marguerite fund" to boost investment in energy, climate change and infrastructure for 2020.

Leaders said they supported "for the member states that so wish", the possibility of applying reduced sales taxes for certain sectors and instructed finance ministers to "settle this issue" by March. They also reaffirmed their support for the EU to cut climate emissions by 30 per cent by 2020 if other developed countries take on similar commitments.

NATIONAL MARINE PARK OF ALONNISOS (GREECE) IS LOOKING FOR INTERREG IVC PARTNERS

The Management Body of the National Marine Park of Alonnisos in collaboration with the Municipality of Alonnisos and with the support of local groups intends to submit a proposal to INTERREG IVC and seek partners for the project.

To learn more about the project, download the attachments:



- presentation letter
- brief outline of the proposal

Contact: Vassilis Kouroutos
 Marine Biologist
 National Marine Park of Alonnisos Northern Sporades
 Tel: +(30) 24240 66378/66388/66419
 Fax: +(30) 24240 66376
 Email: bkouroutos@alonissos-park.gr
 http://www.alonissos-park.gr
 Skype address: vaskou60

EUROPEAN COMMISSION NAMES NEW ENVIRONMENT CHIEF



The European commission's environment department will get a new boss from January. The German Karl-Friedrich Falkenberg will take over as head of the environment directorate-general from Jos Delbeke, who held the role temporarily after the previous incumbent, Mogens Peter Carl, left to become a special advisor to the French presidency earlier this year.

Like Mr Carl, the incoming director-general has a long history of working on trade issues and had previously served as deputy director-general in the commission's trade department.

The commission also announced that it would create a separate directorate-general to deal with energy policy by 1 November next year. Energy is currently dealt with by the same department as transport issues. A task force will make proposals on the new department's scope and structure by 1 May.

COMMITTEE BACKS STRICTER MARITIME POLLUTION LAW



The European parliament's environment committee has proposed minor changes to draft legislation that would criminalise the most serious breaches of EU maritime pollution law. The recommendations will be forwarded to the transport committee, which is leading parliament discussions on the issue.

The proposed amendments are contained in a non-binding resolution adopted by the environment committee in November. In the most significant change, the committee proposed to criminalise incidents that occur as a result of "negligence" rather than "serious negligence" as proposed by the commission.

European Commission Names New Environment Chief

Committee Backs Stricter Maritime Pollution Law

World Bank Web Site On Climate Change In The Middle East And North Africa Region (MENA)

In another amendment, MEPs said that “inciting or aiding” a criminal breach of maritime pollution rules should be “adequately” punishable by law. The transport committee is scheduled to hold its first reading vote in January 2009.

WORLD BANK WEB SITE ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION (MENA)

The World Bank web site on climate change in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) was launched in December. The site contains information on ongoing and planned World Bank activities aimed at helping MENA countries enhance their resilience to Climate Change, and move to a low carbon development path. The URL for the site is:

<http://www.worldbank.org/mena/climatechange>

The screenshot shows the World Bank website page for 'Climate Change in the Middle East and North Africa'. The page features a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'Overview', 'Office of the Chief Economist', 'Public Information Center', and 'Resources For'. The main content area includes a title 'Climate Change in the Middle East and North Africa', a sub-header 'Adaptation', and a paragraph stating 'The World Bank is committed to assist developing countries in their efforts to address the climate challenge through a variety of analytical tools and of financial services including the Proposed Climate Investment Funds'. Below this is a map titled 'Yearly GDP is projected to drop by 20 to 30% in most of MENA by 2050' and a smaller map titled 'Percent change in sea level (Source: IPCC et al (2007), published in 2007)'. The right sidebar contains sections for 'Climate Change Strategies', 'Country-level Information and Initiatives', and 'Cross-cutting Issues'.

UNEP/MAP Key 2009 Dates

15-16 January

Conférence Internationale sur la conservation de Coralligène Tunisia

22-23 January

Meeting of the Working Group on Liability and compensation Athens, Greece

10-11 February

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention Athens, Greece

22-24 June

MCS D Meeting Cairo, Egypt