

# MedWaves<sup>44</sup>

T H E M A P M A G A Z I N E

> BUREAU URGES RATIFICATION BEFORE WORLD SUMMIT

> WHAT IS ALL THIS AKAMAS ABOUT!

> THE CONTROVERSY

> LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES:  
MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, PREPARED TO REDUCE POLLUTION

> CLEANING UP THE MEDITERRANEAN... QUICKLY!...

> DRAWING LESSONS FROM "ERIKA":  
NEW EMERGENCY PROTOCOL, READY FOR SIGNATURE

> FREE TRADE: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

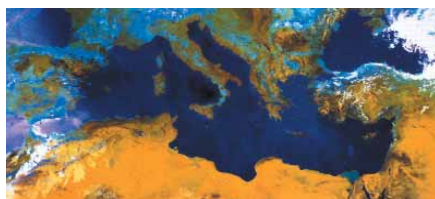
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> MOTHER EARTH HAS A NEW CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

> A SELECTION OF PUBLICATIONS



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# MedWaves

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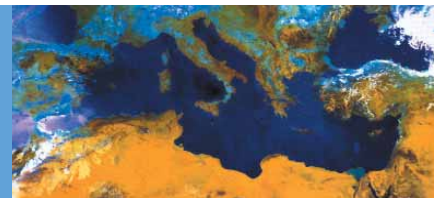


UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN



COVER PHOTO  
OLEANDER FLOWERS IN AKAMAS, CYPRUS, IN JUNE  
by ANDREAS DEMETROPOULOS

## > BUREAU URGES RATIFICATION BEFORE WORLD SUMMIT



In **Nicosia**, ministers and senior officials from six Contracting Parties exhort MAP to participate in Johannesburg with its **updated Legal System** in force.

Ministers and senior officials from Cyprus, France, Libya, Malta and Syria, members of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, stressed that it is “extremely important” for the Mediterranean Action Plan to participate in the 2002 World Summit with its updated legal system (Convention and Protocols) in force.

In its last meeting in Nicosia, from 3 to 5 May, the Bureau, which is a rotating body composed by representatives of six Contracting Parties, urged several Mediterranean countries that have not yet done so to aim at finalising the ratification process.

### France accepts the amendments

In this regard, the Bureau noted with satisfaction the announcement by the representative of France that his country has accepted / ratified the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and two of its Protocols, as well as the new SPA Protocol.

The Bureau also reviewed the progress made in the ratification process in several Contracting Parties to the

Barcelona Convention (20 Mediterranean nations and the European Union).

### The Emergency Protocol: new rather than amended

As for the Emergency Protocol, one of a total of six MAP Protocols, the Bureau noted with satisfaction the results of the recent meeting of legal experts in Monaco, which led to a consensus on a text that represents considerable progress.

In view of the very extensive revision of the text, the Bureau reaffirmed its preference for a “new Protocol” rather than an “amended Protocol”; this is expected to ease further the process of entry into force. This recommendation shall be submitted to the Contracting Parties Meeting in Monaco in November.

The Plenipotentiaries meeting mandated to adopt the Emergency Protocol will take place in Malta in January 2002.

The Bureau also discussed the use of the Arabic language in key MAP meetings, as well as a proposal by Turkey for the setting up of a new Regional Activity Centre.

### New classification of partners

As for the inclusion of new MAP partners and the retention of old ones, the Bureau approved the proposal of the Secretariat to adopt a new classification of partners, i.e. inter-governmental organisations, local authorities, socio-economic actors, NGOs, study centres and universities.

The Bureau endorsed the intention expressed by the Secretariat to submit to the Monaco Meeting a strategy document on the future of MAP taking into consideration both its track record and the regional and international context.

### Preparing for Johannesburg

Last but not least, the Bureau noted the progress made in the preparation of the World Summit, as well as the preliminary work envisaged by the Secretariat as a contribution to the preparation.

It endorsed the work-plan and called on all Contracting Parties and MAP partners to involve themselves fully in this process.

The next Bureau meeting will take place on 14 November, opening day of the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties in Monaco.

**On the occasion of the Nicosia meeting, members of the Bureau visited the Akamas Peninsula, an area of exceptional biodiversity value, but also focus of much controversy.**

> see pages 2 to 5 <



## > WHAT IS ALL THIS AKAMAS ABOUT!

The **Akamas peninsula** is the last extensive coastal area in **Cyprus**, which has remained more or less **untouched by man**, a reminder of the island's original identity.

**A**kamas' coastline is pristine and diverse varying from surf-swept beaches and cliffs, on the west coast, to calm azure crystal-clear waters fringing a similarly diverse coastline on the north coast. Green and Loggerhead turtles nest on its beaches and the occasional Monk Seal is still sighted there. The diversity of wildlife in this area ranks it as of outstanding ecological importance for the whole of the Mediterranean.

The Akamas hills reach about 670 meters in height. The geology of the area and its morphology form a complex mosaic with a multitude of habitats. Impressive sea cliffs and spectacular gorges are characteristic of the area.

Lichen-covered gigantic rocks dominate stark and spectacular landscapes. Its vegetation is of the Mediterranean drought (and goat) resistant Maquis shrub forests, of junipers, lentiscs and wild olive, with rock-roses and, in places, with a thin cover of pine trees. In the more humid areas strawberry trees, oleanders and myrtle can be

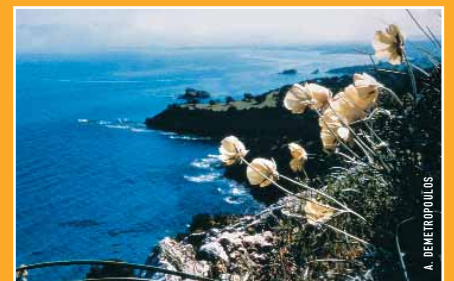
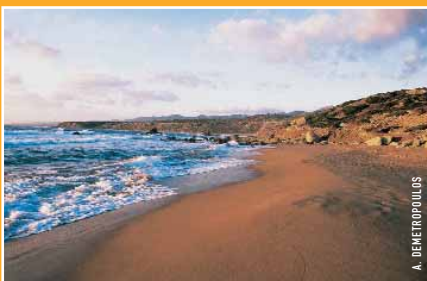


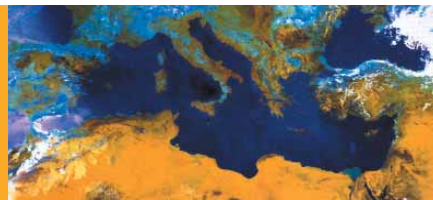
found. Much of the area is state owned forest land. Lack of water and the inaccessibility of the area spared it of the fate of most of the coastline of the island, where agriculture and urban and tourism development have left little of the original fauna and flora.

### Most of the fauna is here

The fauna of Akamas is rich and includes most of the Cypriot fauna.

Species such as the endemic Cyprus white-toothed shrew, hedgehogs, lizards and snakes can be found here. Caves shelter several species of bats including the fruit bat, which has Cyprus as its northern limit of distribution. The floral diversity of the area guarantees the survival of many species of butterfly such as the endemic Paphos Blue, the Cyprus Meadow Brown and the Cyprus Grayling.





Freshwater crabs and many other species depend on the precious springs of the area. On sand-dunes, on the west coast, the spectacular Sand Daffodil and the sand-dwelling Spiny-Footed Lizard abound.

On the much coveted, surf-swept beaches of Lara and Toxeftra, Green and Loggerhead turtles nest. The Green turtle is now in imminent danger of extinction in the Mediterranean and now nests only on a handful of beaches in Cyprus and in Turkey. They come here in summer from many parts of the Mediterranean to lay their eggs.

A turtle conservation project, the oldest in the Mediterranean, has been operating since 1978 in the Lara / Toxeftra Reserve, but covering all nesting beaches outside the reserve also. Through it eggs are protected –from foxes and humans– nesting is monitored, and turtles are tagged; in 1989 the reserve was legally set up with management measures foreseeing that the beaches remain turtle domain. In the past Green turtles nested on other beaches also, which are now well-known tourist beaches.

Since 1989, courses at the Lara turtle station, in turtle conservation techniques and beach management are attended by Mediterranean scientists,



sponsored by MAP (SPA/RAC). Many have since started turtle conservation activities in their countries.

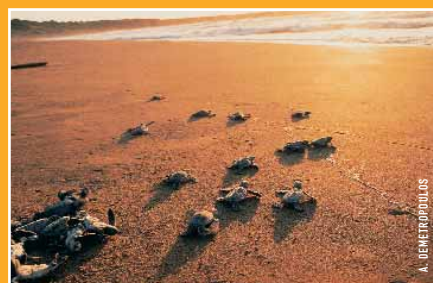
The future of Akamas and its biodiversity now pivots on political decision-

making. Detailed studies have been made, culminating in the World Bank's report "Conservation Management Plan for the Akamas Peninsula", which was funded by the European Union. This aims at the conservation of the area –safeguarding its biodiversity and ecological integrity– whilst securing a sustainable future for the area's population.

Conflicts between environmentalists and a melange of developers and local communities with aspirations to coastal tourism stretch to well over a decade. Among many deliberations and much controversy on the national level, the Akamas issue has become the focal point of supranational organisations, including the European Commission, which is intend on aligning Cyprus with the environmental Acquis Communautaire, during the progress of Cyprus towards accession to the European Union.

Also, the Council of Europe's Standing Committee on the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats –which was ratified by Cyprus– opened a file against Cyprus for non-compliance, with very detailed recommendations for the conservation of Akamas.

**ANDREAS DEMETROPOULOS**  
MARINE BIOLOGIST



## > WHAT IS ALL THIS AKAMAS ABOUT! THE CONTROVERSY

### > THIS IS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT THINKS...

The Government's major goal for the area is its sustainable management, that is to secure, both the protection of the environment as well as the socio-economic development of the rural communities in the area.

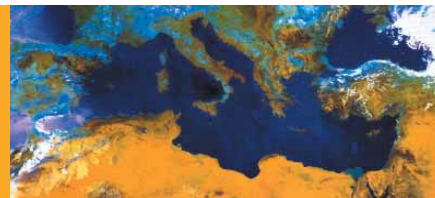
nesting beaches of "Lara" and "Toxeftra", the seagrass communities, the gorges, etc.), are already protected by legislation in place (e.g. Fisheries, Forestry, Town and Country Planning, Foreshore Protection, etc.).



With this goal in mind, after a new round of meetings involving all major stakeholders (including the Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organisations of Cyprus), a Committee of Ministers is currently in the process of finalising its proposals for a decision by the Council of Ministers, during 2001. The policy to be adopted will not compromise, neither the integrity of the most important and fragile parts of the environment, nor the legitimate aspirations of its inhabitants for a better future.

It should be noted that, the ecological and landscape assessment of the area, has clearly established the mosaic of conditions prevailing in it, which range from highly important environmental sites to developed and development areas, to ordinary agricultural landscapes. It is also noted that, the most sensitive sites of the Akamas Peninsula (the forest and the coastal strip, which includes the turtle

As for all other areas in Cyprus, the Government will fully respect in its decision-making process the goals of the Habitats and the Environmental Impact Assessment directives of the European Union. The commitment to the Habitats Directive, is evidenced, both by the fact that a relevant "LIFE"-financed project is currently being implemented, as well as by the number of habitats and species already proposed for inclusion in the directive's annexes. It is noted, however, that, as the experience from similar exercises in all EU member states has illustrated, the indispensable ingredient for the successful enforcement of any decision concerning "Nature 2000" sites, is to secure the support of the local communities affected. As far as the requirements under the Environmental Impact Assessment directive are concerned, a new Law on Environmental Impact Assessment was passed by the House of Representatives on April 12, 2001.



## > ...AND THIS IS WHAT THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS SAY...

The Akamas peninsula is an area of exceptional ecological and aesthetic value for the Mediterranean. The "World Bank Management Plan" for its conservation was commissioned by the Government and financed by the European Commission. Government inaction to imple-

2. "Mild tourist development" at an unspecified distance from Lara and eliminating existing buffer zones.
3. Retaining the tourist zones in the area and creating a new, 100-acre, tourist zone between the villages and Lara.



A. DIMITROPOULOS

ment this plan is a result of pressures from developers often hiding behind the more legitimate aspirations of local communities, which are indeed in need of incentives to develop in a way that conserves the environment and gives them a respectable standard of living. Misinformation and in some cases encouragement by developers, has led the communities to oppose the plan. It in fact foresees their sustainable development and the conservation of Akamas, something the environmentalists of Cyprus as well as the House of Parliament support, contrary to coastal development, which is the aim of developers.

Government decisions in 2000 by-pass the recommendations of the "World Bank Management Plan", aiming at:

1. Turning one of the main Green turtle beaches at Lara into a public beach, with a tarmac road to the villages, thus opening the way for the developers.

4. Tourism development at Fontana Amoroza in Akamas, belonging to one big landowner and aspiring developer.

These, if implemented, will lead to a mockery of any conservation moves the Government may make, in attempting to pacify the European Commission's voiced fears of the loss of a such a precious natural heritage, and are contrary to European Union's Habitat Directive, and the Bern Convention's Recommendation No.63 of 1997.

The more recent developments include new licenses to build hotels on the northern coast of Akamas, and for villas on the west coast, next to Toxeftra, a main Green turtle nesting beach, while an application for a big hotel in the same area is also being examined.

In the meantime, Government leaves everybody in the dark as to its next move.

FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL ORGANISATIONS OF CYPRUS

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## > LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES: MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, PREPARED TO REDUCE

**The Mediterranean countries show readiness to enter a new era in their quest for a healthier marine environment by moving a step further, from the adoption of recommendations to the actual introduction of an operational methodology, to reduce pollution from land-based sources.**

This has been the key outcome of the MED POL Coordinators' meeting in Venice, Italy. The Venice meeting, which took place from 28 to 31 May, decided to recommend to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention the adoption of the proposed operational strategy for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

The Conference of the Contracting Parties (20 Mediterranean countries and the European Commission) will take place in Monaco in November.

Before its approval in Venice, this proposed strategy –formulated by MED POL in a guiding operational document– was discussed in Catania, Italy, from 28 to 30 March 2001 during a MED POL Consultation meeting to review the operational features of the SAP.

The document details all the recommended institutional arrangements, technical information and instructions for elimination and control concerning major issues and sources of pollution. Most importantly, it details how the countries are to carry out and track specific pollution reductions, based upon a Baseline Budget for the year 2003. The document covers the varying degrees of institutional and organizational implications for the countries implementing it.

It is expected that the countries will apply a flexible and creative approach to the strategy introduced in the operational document, depending on their particular national conditions, at the same time respecting the regional perspective of the SAP. The technical features of the document require a more rigid approach.

### **The SAP and the land-based pollutants**

In 1997, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the SAP, a programme that embodies regional and national activities to address land-based pollution. The key land-based activities addressed are linked to the urban environment, focusing on municipal wastewater treatment and disposal, urban solid waste disposal and activities contributing to air pollution from mobile sources.

They are also linked to industrial development, targeting those activities responsible for the release of toxic persistent and bio-accumulative substances into the marine environment, giving special attention to persistent organic pollutants.

Also addressed are the release of harmful concentrations of nutrients into

## > EGYPT, FIRST TO LAUNCH A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRTR

A Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) is an environmental database or inventory of potentially harmful substances released or transferred to air, water and soil by industries, the agricultural and transport sector, as well as wastes transported off-site for treatment and / or disposal.

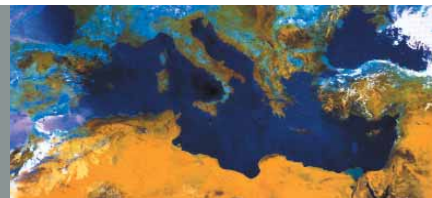
It allows governments and local authorities to track the generation, release and fate of various pollutants, including industrial chemical pollutants, and provides them with an important tool

when setting up national and local environmental management systems.

In the Mediterranean, a first pilot PRTR project is being launched in Egypt, by the Alexandria Branch of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Authority (EEAA) in co-operation with the ICS / United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), based in Italy. Six industrial sites in the Alexandria district, local NGOs and the media are contributing to the project.



# POLLUTION



the marine environment, the storage, transportation and disposal of radioactive and hazardous wastes and activities that contribute to the destruction of the coastline and coastal habitats.

In addition to the time-scheduled activities directly addressing pollution, the SAP envisages the implementation of relevant capacity-building

activities, the provision of support from the financial community and international donors as well as procedures for monitoring, evaluation, reporting, public participation, feedback and readjustment.

The SAP ultimately aims at inciting, assisting and providing support for the implementation of country specific

ic National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities, as the follow-on from the adoption in each country of all the targets and activities of the nationally relevant components of this Programme.

**FOUAD ABOUSAMRA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMIST  
MED POL PROGRAMME OFFICER

## > THERE ARE NATIONAL POLICIES TO MANAGE SOLID WASTE ON THE COAST, BUT...

Most Mediterranean countries have a national policy for the management of solid waste in coastal areas. This is confirmed by a recent MED POL assessment of the State of the Art of Coastal Solid Waste Management in the Mediterranean. According to the same report, the reason for the presence of solid waste –litter on the beach, floating objects including plastic material on the surface of the sea and garbage sitting on the seabed– is linked to a lack of proper management and coordination between the different

national and local authorities responsible. In addition, the authorities often lack the relevant technical information on locating properly landfill and dumping sites.

To improve this situation, MED POL is preparing a set of guidelines with measures and suggestions for a better coordination of the activities of the administrations involved as well as a technical description of the impact on the marine environment of the different technologies used for the treatment and disposal of solid waste.

## > CLEANING UP THE MEDITERRANEAN... QUICKLY!..

**The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) covers regional and national activities to address land-based pollution focussing on the urban environment, identifying sources of pollution, defining the strategies and measures needed, and outlining targets, deadlines and costs for action.**

**The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is now helping speed up the implementation of this programme.**



Major shifts in facing pollution issues sprung from the need to do something, quickly and effectively, about pollution in the Mediterranean. In 1995 and 1996 the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona legal system were rather radically revised for this purpose.

The changes were also intended to align them with the principles of the Rio Summit.

The LBS Protocol, with its far-reaching provisions, was amended in 1996 but has still to enter into force.

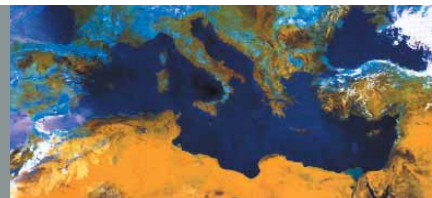
Preparatory work for the regional SAP was undertaken with a Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant for diagnosing the extent of transboundary pollution and listing the major pollution hot spots in the Mediterranean.

In order to speed up the implementation of number of key activities foreseen in the SAP, a new GEF project "Determination of Priority Actions for the further Elaboration and Implementation of the SAP for the Mediterranean Sea" was prepared and approved.

### **Also to protect biodiversity and marine and coastal fauna and flora**

The project includes a number of activities both on the regional and the national level. In addition to activities aimed at the control of pollution, the project also aims at protecting biodiversity, focussing on the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the protection of marine and coastal fauna and flora.

GEF is financing the project with about six million US dollars, and there



## > THE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE GEF PROJECT FOCUS ON:

- > **Pollution hot spots.** Pre-investment studies will be carried out for a selected number of hot spots.
- > **Regional co-operation** will include the preparation and adoption of regional guidelines for a variety of activities such as; sewage treatment and disposal; industrial wastewater treatment and disposal; application of Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practices (BAT and BEP) in industries, etc. This includes the preparation of regional plans for such activities as; collection and disposal of PCB waste; reduction of BOD by 50%; reduction and management of hazardous waste, etc. These are of course intended for implementation at the national level.
- > **The holding of regional and national courses** to improve competence at the national level in specific fields enabling the implementation of the SAP and the LBS protocol.
- > **The identification and testing, on a pilot scale, of economic and other fiscal instruments and capacity building** in the countries in their use.
- > **Encouraging public information and participation in national consultations and activities, in an effort to reach consensus over the preparation and implementation of the National Action Plans to reduce pollution.**
- > **National Action Plans.** The preparation of these is considered to be the final outcome of the project. Work and outputs of the project on hot spots, economic instruments, guidelines and other activities of the project and of course the regional SAP provisions, are expected to guide the formulation of the National action Plans.
- > **Institutional aspects and assistance.** It is foreseen that assistance will be given to help national committees carry out their task of preparing the National Action Plans. These are expected to bring all relevant actors together, including the public, in an effort to effectively and smoothly prepare the NAPs, and pave the way to their implementation.
- > **Biodiversity.** It is foreseen that a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of coastal and marine species and habitats will be prepared, to rank regional priorities and guide actions at the national level. A number of priority actions are also foreseen at the national level. All work is foreseen to be undertaken in harmony and complementarity with what some countries at least are doing under the Biodiversity Convention.

are contributions of about 900,000 US dollars from the Mediterranean trust fund and smaller contributions from other sources.

The French GEF is also considering a contribution of about 1.6 million US dollars.

Counterpart contributions in kind are also expected from countries. Twelve of the twenty countries, which are contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, are eligible for GEF financing.

It is, nonetheless, foreseen that all countries, parties to the convention, will

be co-operating and benefiting from the project in different ways and degrees.

### **Responsibility, management, execution and co-operation**

MAP has overall responsibility for the management of the GEF Project.

In the execution of the project MAP's Regional Activity Centres and MED POL will be involved as well as WHO/EURO.

The World Bank and METAP will also be co-operating in work on economic instruments and in following the pre-

investment studies and advising accordingly, so as to ensure appropriate quality control in these activities.

The project implementation started in January 2001 and the first meetings of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the Co-ordinating Committee of the project have already been held.

A number of other activities and meetings have also already started in the RACs and MED POL.

**ANDREAS DEMETROPOULOS**  
MARINE BIOLOGIST

## > DRAWING LESSONS FROM “ERIKA”: NEW EMERGENCY PROTOCOL, READY FOR SIGNATURE

**The new draft of the Emergency Protocol, which upgrades the current Mediterranean regional co-operation strategy on preparedness and response in the cases of maritime accidents to include the prevention of pollution from ships, is expected to be adopted and signed in January 2002 in Malta by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties.**

The new text was finalised and approved by legal and technical experts from Mediterranean countries and the European Commission, representing the Contracting Parties to the 1975 Barcelona Convention, during their meeting in Monaco from 2 to 6 April. Experts from non-governmental organisations also participated.

The proposed text aims at formulating a new Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention to replace the one adopted in 1976, which has been focusing mainly on Mediterranean regional co-operation actions in the areas of preparedness and response in the cases of maritime accidents.

With this draft, and drawing lessons from the “Erika” and other recent accidents, Mediterranean countries will be in a position to deal with aspects of prevention such as, per example, port reception facilities and environmental safety of maritime traffic.

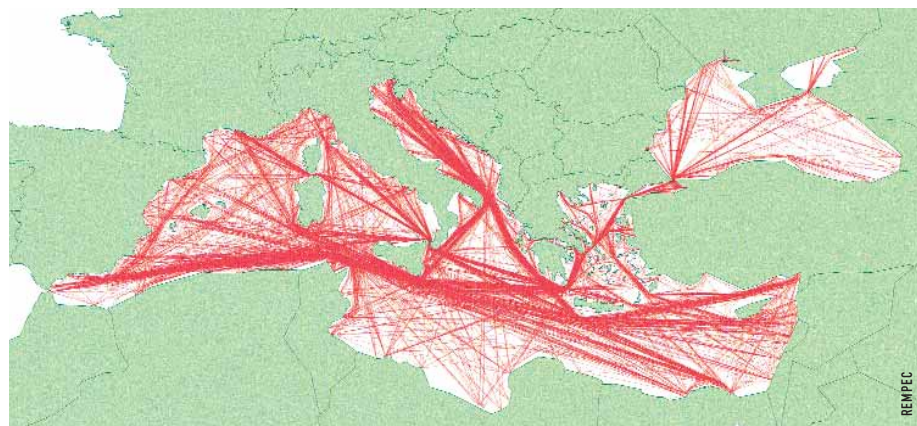
They shall also develop their national capacity as regards the implementation of those international conventions dealing with this matter and to co-operate for their effective implementation.

The current Emergency Protocol has been revised also in order to bring the text dealing with preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution in line with some of the existing global legal instruments.

The Monaco meeting was organised by the UNEP / Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) with the participation of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

able role in the economy and trade, both among the coastal States and between them and the rest of the world.

The nature of maritime transport today is varied and involves the carriage of cargo such as dry and liquid bulk, box cargo and passenger traffic.



Shipping routes in the Mediterranean (Lavender, 2001)

### **A tide-less seawater pool, vulnerable to pollution**

The Mediterranean is a semi-enclosed basin, sometimes described as a “tide-less seawater pool”, with distinct hydrological and ecological characteristics, which make it vulnerable to the effects of pollution. It has an extensive coastline (approx. 46,000 kms long) in relation to its water mass, when the various archipelagic islands are included.

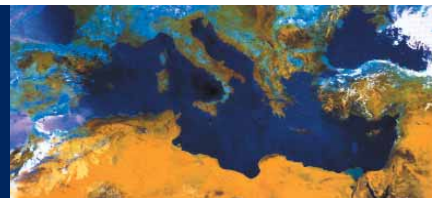
Pollution hazards from ships are extremely critical to the environment and to related economic interests.

Maritime transport in the Mediterranean basin has played an irreplace-

As a consequence, among the world’s oceans, the density of merchant vessel traffic in the Mediterranean is particularly high.

Although accidental marine pollution is considered a global problem, the risk of a major accident needs also to be viewed and addressed from a regional perspective since the risk can be greater in some regions than in others. One such region is the Mediterranean Sea area.

Traffic transiting straight through the Mediterranean Sea from the Atlantic through the Straits of Gibraltar, from the Black Sea through the Bosphore, from the Red Sea through the Suez Canal,



might have no direct economic value to the Mediterranean ports, but from the point of view of accident potential, this traffic cannot be ignored.

In terms of estimates of numbers of vessels plying the Mediterranean Sea, the following have been reported:

- >> 2,000 merchant vessels of over 100 GRT are at sea at any moment (250-300 are oil tankers);
- >> 200,000 merchant vessels of over 100 GRT cross the Mediterranean annually.

Other maritime traffic which has a bearing on the potential for accidents are those vessels plying the “bottle-necks” of the Mediterranean:

- >> Straits of Gibraltar estimated at 80,000 transits annually;
- >> Suez Canal estimated at 15,051 transits (for 1995);
- >> Dardanelle / Seas of Marmara, Bosphorus complex estimated at 15 ships per day in 1938 rising to 137 ships per day in 1997, with at least one liquid-petroleum-gas carrier passing through each week. To this must be added the urban commuter traffic estimated at 1,300 craft per day, carrying more than 1.5 million people between Istanbul’s European and Asian shores.

Another bottleneck of concern is the Strait of Boniface, where the traffic of laden oil tankers and of ships carrying hazardous substances has increased by 40% since 1985.

Merchant vessel traffic in the Mediterranean, either passing through the Mediterranean or originating from or

directed to the 305 ports scattered along the basin’s coastline, is also a contributing factor to the overall risk of accidental marine pollution in the region.

***Approximately 30%  
of the international  
sea-borne trade volume  
originates or is directed  
to the Mediterranean Ports  
or passes through  
the Mediterranean Sea  
while it is estimated  
that around 50%  
of all goods carried at sea  
are dangerous  
to some degree.  
In addition,  
it is also estimated  
that some 28%  
of the world’s sea-borne  
oil traffic transits  
the Mediterranean.***

Furthermore, when assessing the local risk in port areas, there is a need to keep in mind that most Mediterranean port areas are characterized by the absence of long approach channels and a high urbanisation. In the future, it is

most likely that sea trade, and subsequently the pattern of maritime transport in the Mediterranean, will be influenced by such factors as the relocation of industries, adjustments to production techniques and distribution processes, efforts to ensure value-adding at source, an integration of regional markets and an increase in environmental concern.

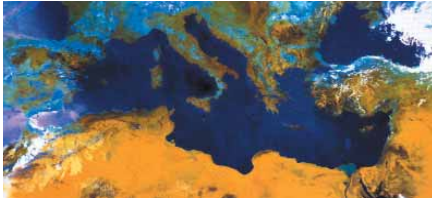
### **Activities of the oil and gas sectors**

In the oil sector for example, there is no doubt that if future plans for upgrading and the development of new pipelines in the Middle and Near East come to fruition, these will alter crude oil transport strategies in the Mediterranean, in particular the pipelines linking the Red Sea and the Mediterranean and those linking the Caspian Sea to the Black and Mediterranean Seas.

In the latter case, it is estimated that in the early part of the next century, approximately 80 to 100 million mt of crude oil will be produced in the Caspian region.

For the gas sector, in the future it is anticipated that maritime shipments of liquid natural gas (LNG) from Algeria to Spain will decrease as consideration is given to supplying the gas via pipeline.

However, it is anticipated that LNG shipments from Algeria to Turkey will increase following the commission of an LNG reception terminal on Turkey’s Sea of Marmara in 1994 and the agreement signed between Turkey and Algeria for the supply of 1.5 million mt LNG per year, for 20 years.

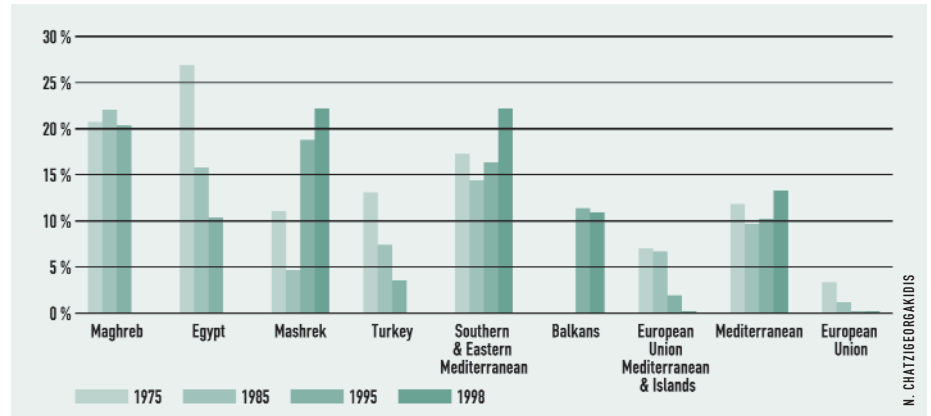


## > FREE TRADE: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

**A number of policy options aiming at preventing or alleviating the possible harmful effects on the environment of the creation of a Mediterranean Free Trade Zone between the EU and 12 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs) by the year 2010, were discussed in an experts' meeting in Sophia Antipolis, France.**

The meeting, held from 12 to 13 July, was preparatory to the next session of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD), which was set up in 1996 to bridge the gap between the need for sustainable development and its realization in the region, ranked free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context among its top priorities.

An ad hoc working group chaired by France and Lebanon, with the scientific backing of the "Blue Plan", MAP's Regional Activity Centre, was entrusted with the preparation of an activity programme that was adopted by the MCSDD and implemented in the biennium 1999/2000.



Trade Tariffs as percentage of Budget Revenues (Source: WDI, 2000)

The findings of the investigations were discussed at a closing regional workshop, held in Montpellier and Mèze in October 2000, by the representatives of the countries, international organizations, and NGOs.

On the whole, it was stressed that free trade can be viewed as a "double edged sword". On the one hand, free trade may have a positive effect on environmental conservation in SEMCs, through the set up of environmental institutions and regulations, the spread of cleaner technologies, and through conforming with the environmental standards of the EU. On the other hand, free trade may spark-off a number of negative socio-economic and environmental trends at the:

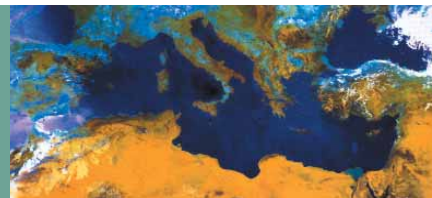
1. macro-economic level, where the major risks include an increase in budget deficits as a result of the dismantling of trade duties by SEMCs, weak foreign direct investments, trade balance deficits, and a widening of the gap in revenues;
2. sector level, the major concerns being:
  - a. the extension of free trade to agricultural products and their possible adverse social and environmental effects, particularly in remote areas and on traditional farming;
  - b. the capacity of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to internalise environmental costs and face up to increased competition from abroad; and
  - c. the "westernisation" of consumption patterns, which is based on energy-intensive goods and is likely to intensify the problems of waste treatment and recycling, car traffic, and air pollution.
3. institutional level, where the institutional and financial arrangements of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and of the association agreements in particular, were considered inadequate with respect to the expected socio-economic and environmental implications of trade liberalization.

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## > URBAN MANAGEMENT, UNDER DEBATE... ONCE MORE



### A high-level Mediterranean meeting on **Urban Management and Sustainable Development** will take place in **Barcelona, Spain, from 3 to 5 September, to review the current situation and recommend action.**

The Barcelona meeting, organised with the support of the Government of Spain and the City of Barcelona, will bring together representatives from 20 Mediterranean riparian States, the European Union, other regional and international organisations, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, and experts.

The meeting is envisaged as a debate platform where the present situation in the Mediterranean will be discussed, and where strategic and managerial recommendations and proposals will be generated, based on the position papers of two MAP Regional Activity Centres (Blue Plan and Priority Actions Programme), as well as five sub-regional studies and the feed-back of municipalities and national authorities.

The recommendations will be proposed for adoption by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCS D) in its forthcoming meeting as well as by the Contracting Parties in their next meeting in November.

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention – 20 riparian States and the EU – set up the MCS D in 1996 as a consultative body, devised as a forum for dialogue, communication and proposals for action aimed at a sustainable development in the area.

The MCS D is composed of 35 members, and brings together, on an equal footing, representatives of the 20

Mediterranean States and the European Union, of local authorities, of socio-economic actors, and of non-governmental organisations. It formulates recommendations on future actions related to key Mediterranean areas for the promotion of sustainable development, such as water demand, coastal areas, tourism, free trade, industry and urban management.



Cities and urban agglomerations are considered as strategic sites for a sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. The majority of population and of countries' economic growth is concentrated there, as well as along with the environmental and social impacts of development patterns.

A MCS D Working Group on "Urban Management and Sustainable Development" was set up in 1999, chaired by the MedCities network, Egypt and Turkey. With the support of two MAP Regional Activities Centres (the Priority Actions

Programme, in Split, Croatia, and the Blue Plan, in Sophia Antipolis, France), the following activities have been carried out, among others:

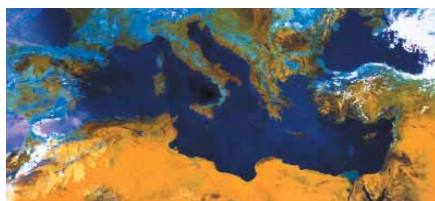
- >> drawing up an initial regional view on urban development issues and town management challenges in the Mediterranean region;
- >> carrying out an information campaign, through questionnaires sent to urban authorities in 90 Mediterranean cities as well as to national authorities in the 20 riparian countries;
- >> mobilising sub-regional experts for a better identification of priority urban issues and of obstacles for moving towards more sustainable development, according to specific contexts;
- >> taking stock of international and regional initiatives for sustainable urban development in the Mediterranean region;
- >> identifying levels of action for moving towards more sustainable urban development in the region.

Members of the Working Group are: Spain, Morocco, France, Malta, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Algeria, Slovenia, Cyprus, the European Union, the City of Rome, the Municipality of Naples, CEDARE, MEDCOAST, MED Forum, ENDA Maghreb, and AIFM.

**NEVEN STIPICA**  
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## > INDUSTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, "HAND IN HAND"

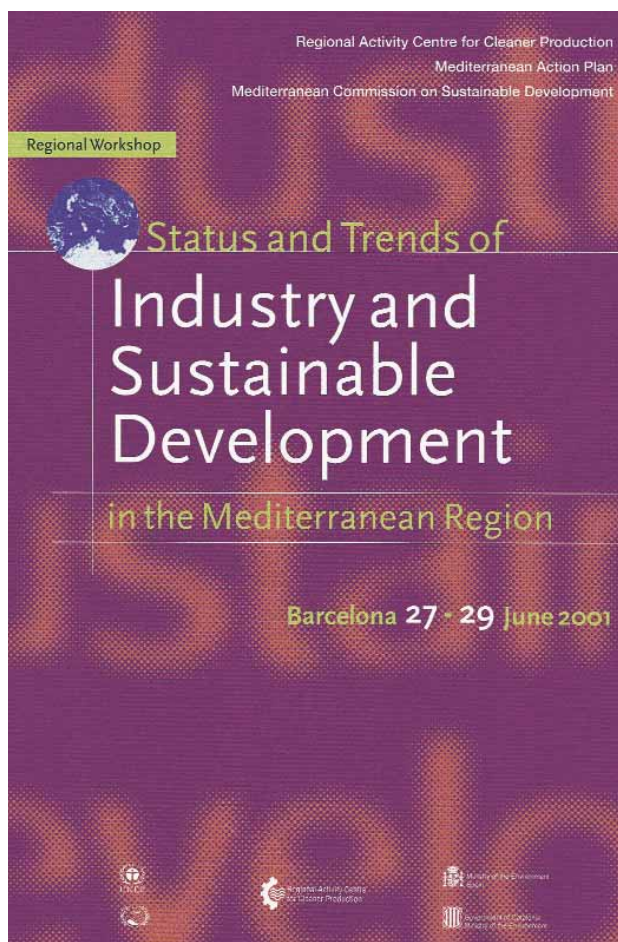
**A seminar on the "Status and Strategies of Industry and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region" organised by the MAP Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production focused on identifying actors, tools and legal framework.**

The seminar, held in Barcelona, Spain, from 27 to 29 June, examined the complex issue of how to improve the relationship between industry and the environment in the region.

It equally discussed ways to best achieve the co-ordination of the several related programmes and activities going on in the Mediterranean, to prevent duplicity and to increase effectiveness, through MAP.

The meeting was attended by 65 representatives of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) responsible for industry issues and / or national experts; UN agencies and international organisations dealing with the Mediterranean; Cleaner production centres, NGO's, consumer associations, chambers of commerce and industry and industrial associations.

A background paper on the Status and Trends of Industry and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean provided a first assessment. The agenda of the seminar included a presentation of 12 successful initiatives, while ad hoc working groups formulated suggestions on a national and regional level, on the



three main issues of the seminar (key actors, tools and legal framework).

The event is an important move forward by the Working Group on Industry and Sustainable Development, which was set up by the MCSD, while the proposals and recommendations coming out of the seminar will be presented at the 7th meeting of the MCSD in October

and the next Contracting Parties meeting in November.

The Barcelona-based Cleaner Production Centre (CP) joined MAP as one of its Regional Activity Centres (RAC) in 1996.

Its aim is to disseminate and promote the concept of cleaner production, a strategy to prevent pollution from the products, processes and services of industries and enterprises.

In so doing, reduce the risks to humans and the environment. Its aim is also to advise Mediterranean businesses on the opportunities offered to increase their competitiveness and guarantee their economic viability.

The CP/RAC coordinates a network of representatives –focal points– of each member State for cleaner production, promotes the exchange of technicians and experts in the field, publishes news and success stories of the

adoption of cleaner production by Mediterranean enterprises. It also prepares studies, manuals and guides on issues linked to pollution prevention in industrial sectors and activities specific to the region.

**ESTHER MONFÁ**  
CHEMIST

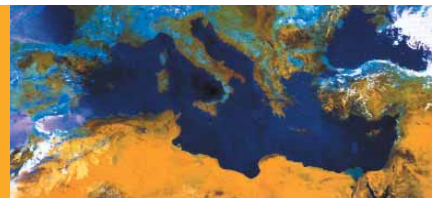
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## > HARMONISED IMPLEMENTATION OF CBD AND SPA PROTOCOL



### > FROM JAKARTA TO VALENCIA

Marine and coastal ecosystems were the first for which the Conference of the Parties of the CBD agreed on a work programme. This was adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia, and endorsed by the Ministerial Statement as the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity.

Conscious of the importance of this issue, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention focused the New (1995) Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean on the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal biodiversity in this sea.

The global CBD and the Mediterranean SPA Protocol are complementary instruments.

The co-ordination between the secretariats of the two conventions will help to ensure harmonised and synergic implementation of the two instruments in the Mediterranean region. Similarly, co-ordination, at national level, between the focal points of CBD and those of the Protocol on SPA would facilitate conservation efforts in a practical way.

### The Secretariats of CBD and SPA provide a good example of co-ordination for the implementation of global and regional conventions.

The Secretariats of two conventions, one regional –the Barcelona Convention, with its Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA Protocol), and one global– the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), agreed that the detailed obligations contained in these two instruments can serve provide concrete implementation, in the Mediterranean, of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity.

This would provide a good example for similar regional collaborative efforts.

Thanks to the support provided by the Spanish authorities, the two Secretariats convened a joint consultation meeting in Valencia, Spain, on 20 and 21 April. During this meeting, the Mediterranean Focal Points of both instruments considered the following main topics:

1. co-ordination, consultation and sharing of information, at national level, between the focal points of CBD and those of the SPA Protocol, when they are different;
2. guidance for the co-operation between the secretariats;
3. development of the clearing-house mechanism of the CBD in the Mediterranean at the regional level; and
4. co-ordination for the national process for reporting within the framework of the two instruments.

The meeting's recommendations will be submitted to the Contracting Parties to both instruments.

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## > MOTHER EARTH HAS A NEW CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION



The new GAIA Centre defines its tasks through **the double meaning of the word GAIA** as a planet and GAIA as earth as it first appears **in the Homeric epics**. The **earth**, as research into the soil for the protection and health of plants, animals and man. The **planet** as a novel education in self-awareness and an appraisal of the link between Man and Nature.

**T**he GAIA Centre for Environmental Research and Education of the Goulandris Natural History Museum was inaugurated on the 12th of June. President Constantine Stephanopoulos, and Prime Minister Costas Simitis, chaired the event, which was attended by numerous Greek and foreign personalities.

Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), addressed the

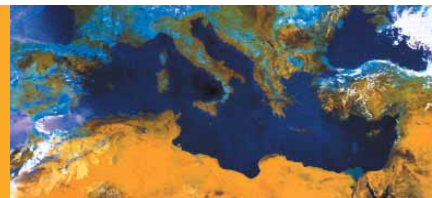
event through a message which was read in the inauguration ceremony by Mrs. Niki Goulandris.

The Goulandris Natural History Museum, a private, non-profit foundation, was set up in 1964 by Angelos and Niki Goulandris. In 1986, it was classified as a “Museum of Influence”, along with 37 of the world’s 35,000 museums. Over the last 25 years, more than three million people, mainly youth, have visited the museum.

### **Combining Nature with Culture**

The activities of the GAIA Centre for Environmental Research and Education focus on discovering and putting into practice new means of combining Nature with Culture.

Culture as, according to the founders, a position and attitude of responsibility towards life and the natural resources which nurture it and to the ethics which are often neglected by those who manage the technological and scientific

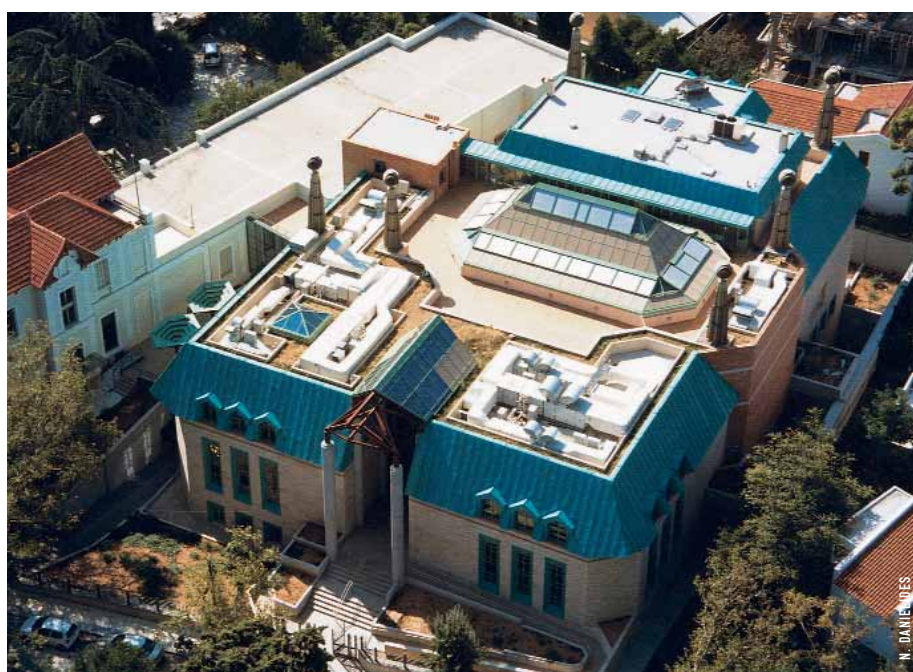


achievements of our times, either in ignorance, or distracted by the commercial motivation of the marketplace, threatening to lead to a devaluation of life.

“At the GAIA Centre, the visitor is invited to comprehend the processes and the time limits of life, the sources of its maintenance that are being exhausted, and to become aware of his / her responsibilities”.

### This is how the architects conceived it..

For the construction of the GAIA Centre, the choice of materials was made on the basis that maximum use should be made of those that are natural, recyclable, and renewable. In the entire building, the principles of a bio-climate, achieved through energy-saving electric engineering devices and state of the art systems for monitoring the various functions and security, have been applied.



Among other new architectural concepts, the Angelos Goulandris Conference Hall, with 270 seats, has been designed and constructed in such a way as to offer perfect acoustics and uninterrupted vision.

Six laboratories (Zoology, Soil Science, Ecology and Biotechnology, Analytical Chemistry, Hydrobiology and the Herbarium) have moved to the new building, offering greater space and the latest in high-technology research equipment.

### The GAIA sphere

The GAIA sphere is a hemispherical screen of 5 metres in diameter, with a surface area of approximately 40 square metres, on which satellite images of the rotating Earth are projected.

The rear-projection screen is animated by six video (digital image) projectors portraying Earth's rotation from three different geo-morphological aspects: full geo-morphological view with and with-



out cloud as well as daily and nightly views.

The museum also features a full presentation, “The Dance of the Continents”, which briefly depicts the geological evolution of the planet, from its birth, 4.6 billion years ago, up to the present.

This is accompanied by an explanation of Earth's geological activity and of the drift of the tectonic plates, the sun's influence on the Earth and the appearance of the Aurora Borealis. The short presentation concludes with facts about the effects of human activities on the environment, including the ozone layer, and the need for its protection.

### Educational works

The Museum presents its collections and the results of its research programmes through exhibitions, educational support (tours, screenings, printed material) as well as through

# > MOTHER EARTH HAS A NEW CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION



Mrs. Goulandris and Dr. Töpfer during his visit to Athens in March

scientific publications and high-level scientific gatherings.

Setting up the GAIA Centre has extended the educational work of the Museum, through increasing the space available for its exhibitions, the use of new methods and the application of new approaches to museology, with a special focus on the key environmental issues of our times.



## MESSAGE OF UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Your Excellency President Stefanopoulos,  
Your Excellency Prime Minister Simitis,  
Mrs. Goulandris,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It would have been my sincere wish and pleasure to be with you, here and now, not only to witness such an important event, but also to greet you, once more, in this unique land of history, civilization, beauty and hospitality.

Some three months ago, I came to Athens as a guest of the Greek Government in a highly constructive visit that gave me the opportunity to share with you our common concerns about the environment.

Thanks to your hospitality, I also had the chance to discuss with my colleagues in the Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan, generously hosted by your country, the achievements and aspirations of this plan - which is the spearhead of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.

But that visit also allowed me to assist in the final preparations, which lead to the inauguration, today, of this impressive development of the Goulandris Natural History Museum. Thanks to you, dear Mrs. Goulandris, I enjoyed a wonderful tour of the fantastic past, present and future of our "Mitera Ghi", surrounded by this impressive, innovative architecture.

I can assure all of you that the memory of that visit is still very vivid in my mind and in my heart.

What you are inaugurating today is more than a museum. It is a new way of accessing and learning about nature and its history. But not only: you are also inaugurating a new chapter in private initiatives, in public awareness, in ecological research, in educating our children; an example of how private non-profit foundations, like yours, can so positively contribute to a better future.

I have been informed by my colleagues in MAP that the World Environment Day was the subject of intensive activities, at all levels and of extensive and valuable coverage by the media in this great country.

Let me compliment all of you involved in this venture for this great occasion, which enriches each and all of us and which will benefit generations to come.

With my very sincere wishes for every success.

**Klaus Töpfer**

THE GOULANDRIS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM: GAIA CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

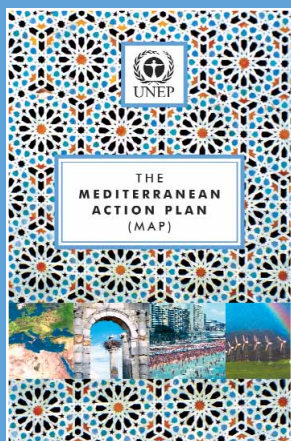
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## > A SELECTION OF PUBLICATIONS

for other publications, please check MAP's and RACs' websites



### > The MAP Brochure and Leaflet

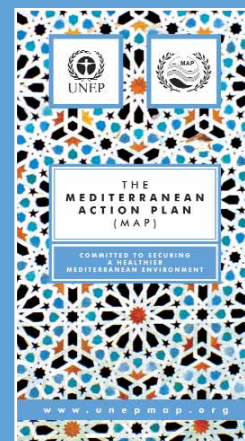


The MAP Brochure, in English and French and soon also in Arabic, provides a detailed background on the Mediterranean Action Plan and each of its components.

The brochure includes seven chapters, three of them dealing with MAP's structure and history and the future Mediterranean environment. The other four chapters focus on the issues of:

curbing pollution; safeguarding the natural and cultural heritage; managing coastal areas in a sustainable way, and integrating the environment and development. The publication also provides key MAP contact details.

The MAP leaflet, in English and French and soon also in Arabic, summarizes the contents of the MAP brochure, with a particular focus on MAP's priorities and its key environmental challenges.

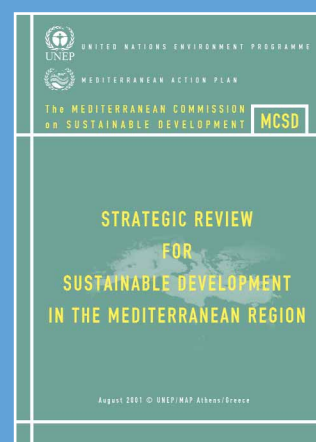


### > The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

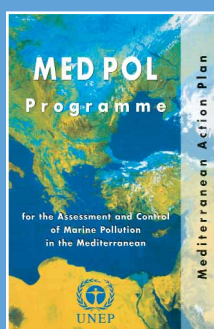


A brochure, in English and French, on the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) providing background information about its role, structure and activities. The brochure has been divided into four chapters: defining a Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development; the MCSD unique set-up; the MCSD output, and a rational future for Mediterranean sustainable development.

The "MCSD Strategic Review for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region", also published, includes seven main chapters, dealing with: objectives; the Mediterranean context and vital issues; instruments and regional actors; system and activities; activities of the Contracting Parties; performance and weakness, and recommendations for action.



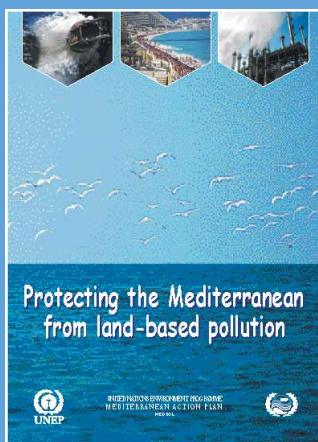
### > MED POL Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution



The MED POL Programme (Mediterranean Marine Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme) assists Mediterranean countries in the formulation and implementation of pollution monitoring programmes, including pollution control measures and the drafting of action plans to reduce and ultimately eliminate pollution from land-based sources. This leaflet describes how MED POL was born in 1975 (MED POL I) to answer the specific needs to better assess, qualify and quantify the marine environmental problems of the Mediterranean and, as important, how it developed leading to MED POL II (1981-1995), which concentrated on establishing national monitoring programmes, including the provision of assistance for their implementation. The new MED POL III, adopted in 1995, presents a stronger emphasis on the managerial aspects of pollution control and a more direct link with the implementation of the Dumping, LBS and Hazardous Wastes.

## > A SELECTION OF PUBLICATIONS

### > Protecting the Mediterranean from land-based pollution



The heaviest pollution load to the Mediterranean marine environment, around 80%, originates from human activities on land, confirms a report issued by MAP. These activities produce urban, industrial and agricultural wastes that are transported by airborne particles and river run-off carrying nutrients, pathogens, heavy metals, toxic persistent organic pollutants, oil and radioactive substances, and end up in this regional sea. The report, entitled “Protecting the Mediterranean from land-based pollution”, reviews the most important land-based pressures and their effects on the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment. It also traces the most important steps taken by these countries since the 1970’s to control land-based pollution, culminating in the recent revision of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from LBS. These steps also lead to the adoption of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), a timetabled schedule of activities for the implementation of this Protocol in the next 25 years. The report describes a number of important groundwork activities of the SAP envisaged for 2001-2003.

### > White paper: Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean



This White Paper, which has been prepared by the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), is the product of a thorough screening and analysis of a number of published studies, statements, workshop reports and manuals, most of them elaborated in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

The White Paper is intended to stimulate a lively debate around issues and policy options aiming at the promotion of Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) in the Mediterranean.

After presenting a detailed background reference to the pressures on the Mediterranean coastal zones, the White Paper divides its contents into three main chapters, focussing on issues at stake; management and action, and the future, including policy options, guidelines, and what is next. It also includes one section that outlines some of the key questions, which should guide the reader’s feedback.

### > The Mediterranean Technical Reports Series (MAP MTS)



The Mediterranean Technical Reports Series (MAP MTS) now has a new lay-out and thematic structure:

- > CURBING POLLUTION
- > SAFEGUARDING NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
- > MANAGING COASTAL AREAS
- > INTEGRATING THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Three MTS have been published in this new format:

- > MTS #131: MAP CAMP Project “Fuka-Matrouh”, Egypt.
- > MTS #132: Remedial Actions for Pollution Mitigation and Rehabilitation in Cases of Non-Compliance.
- > MTS #133: Atmospheric Transport and Deposition of Pollutants into the Mediterranean Sea.





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