

MedWaves 45

THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN MAGAZINE



CONTRACTING PARTIES
MEETING
IN
MONACO

MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION
FOR JOHANNESBURG

THE DECLINE OF THE TURTLES

THE ARAB ENVIRONMENT DAY IN SYRIA

NGOs PLANET MED FORUM | GREENPEACE | CLEAN-UP GREECE

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> DRAWING LESSONS FROM MONACO



LUCIEN CHABASON
CO-ORDINATOR,
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

It is generally felt that the XIIth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which was held in Monaco from 14 to 17 November 2001, marked an important milestone in the life of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

As for the form, the way in which the work was organised —the Ministerial segment in particular— allowed for a high level dialogue on the major environmental and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean region, on the preparation of the next Earth Summit, and on enhancing co-operation with the other co-operation mechanisms such as the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

- As for the substance, the Parties took decisions in highly important domains:
- > the adoption of a Reporting System for the Parties on the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;
 - > the green light for the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 2002, leading to the adoption of a new Emergency Protocol on the prevention of pollution from maritime activities;
 - > the adoption of an initial list of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs);
 - > a set of guidelines for implementing the MCS D recommendations; and
 - > the Mediterranean Declaration for the Johannesburg Summit.

Ministers and delegates did, however, express their concerns about the delays in the ratification of the revised or new instruments adopted since 1995.

The Secretariat has continued its assessment of activities and structures, and submitted a slightly increased budget in which the administrative costs have been restricted. The financial documents are more exhaustive and explicit.

Major decision: the Parties adopted the principle that, as of the next biennium, they would work in euros.

The Mediterranean Action Plan will go to Johannesburg having substantial achievements, among others, in combating marine pollution. But for as much, has it really enabled the countries to advance towards more sustainable development? The Strategic Review adopted by the MCS D and submitted to the Parties is quite explicit on this point.

In spite of what has been achieved since Rio, particularly in terms of capacity building, public awareness-raising and institutional progress, there is still a lot to be done to achieve sustainable development —pollution reduction is but one aspect of this major issue; urban development control, the sustainable management of natural resources, energy and transport control, promoting tourism with better respect to environmental and social balances, and economic and trade liberalisation conducted in such a way as to limit its negative environmental impact, represent today the major stakes for which indicators and tools for intervention still need to be produced.

But the Mediterranean countries are working on these questions collectively, clearly aware of their responsibilities towards future generations, in partnership; that is an important fact, and a source of satisfaction for the MAP.

> SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS,.. BUT VICTORY STILL FAR

In his key address, H.H. Prince Albert of Monaco recalled that for the first time since its entry into force over a quarter of a century ago, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are meeting in Monaco.

“This is also the first meeting of the Parties to the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, to which we all attach particular importance and for which you are well aware of the full commitment of my country. This all shows how happy and proud I am to gather together on our territory all those who are committed to safeguarding and enhancing the environment of the Mediterranean and who have for many years been combating pollution and its harmful effects on the populations, environments and economy of the regions affected” the Prince said.

Prince Albert then stressed that *“even though all the action taken for more than 25 years is far from being considered victorious, there can be no doubt that substantial progress has been achieved over this period”*.

Awareness

“I would like to mention first and foremost the progress made towards such an environmental awareness, unknown in the 1970s, and which led the Sovereign Prince, my father, and other eminent scientists to send out a cry of alarm from Monaco. This increased awareness can be seen today on all the shores of the Mediterranean and there can be no doubt that the Mediterranean Action Plan has in this respect acted as a particularly effective sounding board”.

In addition to the issue of awareness, Prince Albert highlighted that it is evident that very substantial progress has been achieved in combating pollution resulting from maritime accidents.

“In this respect, REMPEC plays a crucial role at the regional level, with the support of sub-regional agreements, such as the RAMOGEPOL Plan established at the initiative of Monaco”.

“However, it is indispensable to continue to go forward in this field, particularly with regard to prevention, and for this reason it is to be welcomed that the Emergency Protocol was completely revised in Monaco at a meeting held here at the beginning of the year. It is now necessary to ensure that it is signed and enters into force rapidly”.



“The problems of climate change, biological diversity, desertification and the pollution of seas are all matters which transcend frontiers and can only be addressed and resolved in a context of real international co-operation”

Prince Albert

Land-based pollution

On the subject of land-based pollution, Prince Albert said that the progress achieved on the two shores of our common sea, particularly in terms of the construction of waste water treatment plants, constitute real advances, although it is important not to let our guard down since, as well illustrated by the documents produced by the MAP, the number of hotspots is still considerable and their rehabilitation will still take several decades.

“For this reason, it is necessary to take rigorous action to ensure that the Strategic Action Programme, finalized and approved by your Meeting, can be implemented rapidly and that the political will of countries and international donors is mobilized in this connection with a view to achieving tangible and concrete progress”.

Environment is global

“On a planet which is going through difficult times, a Meeting of those who are concerned with the environment has to be seen as a manifestation of co-operation between nations and cultures. No-one can contest the fact the environment is global, that it does not belong to anyone in particular and that it depends on all of us, but that it cannot be cut up along political frontiers”.

Prince Albert added that Monaco has shown that it is convinced of the need, and for that reason committed, especially since the Rio Conference, to taking an active and determined stance in promoting international cooperation, particularly in the context of the Mediterranean basin, the birthplace of so many cultures.

“I referred earlier to the Rio Conference, which I had the honour to attend in the company of the Prince, my father,



nearly ten years ago. For the first time, governments linked environmental problems to development issues, as a result of the height and awareness that they cannot be separated”.

Sustainable development: The MCSD

“The decade which has just finished has further emphasized this feeling and everyone is now convinced that the major environmental problems at the global level will only be resolved if real sustainable economic and social development is achieved. For this reason it is necessary to take effective action to combat poverty, which is both the cause and effect of environmental degradation”.

“Heightened awareness has also been evident in this respect for a decade. The Mediterranean region offers an example in this regard, since a mere three years after Rio, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development was created as a body for reflection, study and advice to Mediterranean countries”.

“Since its creation, the MCSD has worked effectively and I am pleased to recall that Monaco, which hosted its fifth meeting in 1988, has the privilege to preside over it this year”.

“But the MCSD also illustrates the difficulties which can arise in including in development action, in addition to civil society, those responsible for the economy, who clearly have a fundamental role to play in safeguarding the environment, as well as in implementing sustainable economic and social development”.

The voice of the Mediterranean, to be heard in Johannesburg

In his conclusion, Prince Albert said “in the days to come, you will review the progress achieved and the action to be taken to improve still further our Mediterranean environment”.

“I have every confidence in the work that is carried out here and which, I am certain, will offer all those who live on the shores of the Mediterranean a better quality of life. I also cherish the hope that your work, in addition to its technical benefits, will deliver a message of peace and co-operation in these troubled times. The work that you are about to accomplish will be to the benefit of all those of different languages, cultures and religions who live around this sea”.

“Let this be an example to the rest of the world and, in particular, let the voice of the Mediterranean be heard next year in Johannesburg at the World Summit for Sustainable Development”.

> SEVEN FACTS ABOUT MONACO...

TERRITORY: Situated at the foot of the Southern Alps, bordering the shores of the Mediterranean, Monaco's surface area is 195 hectares; 20 % of which consists of land reclaimed from the sea.



POPULATION: There are some 30,000 residents. With the immediate surrounding areas, Monaco is part of a region of approximately 100,000 inhabitants.

LANGUAGE: The official language is French, but most residents also speak either Italian and / or English.

THE GRIMALDI: For seven centuries the Grimaldi family has presided over the Principality, one of the longest ruling families in Europe.

INSTITUTIONS: The political and institutional regime is governed by the 1962 Constitution. Monaco is a hereditary and constitutional monarchy. Executive power is retained by the Prince. Administrative responsibilities are the duties of the Minister of State, aided by the Government Council responsible to the Prince. Legislative and budgetary powers are exercised jointly by the Prince and by the National Council. The judiciary power, independent of Government, is exercised by the courts and tribunals.

ECONOMY: At the beginning of the twentieth century, Monaco's economy was based on luxury tourism trade and an embryonic industrial sector. Today the Principality is a dynamic economic centre and a great source of jobs. Unemployment is almost non-existent. There are more than 100 industrial enterprises, which employ 38,000 people. The Principality's budget comes from taxes on industry, trade, services, hotels and real-estate.

CIESM: International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea. Launched in 1910, it is one of the oldest and most enduring scientific organisations in the world. CIESM is currently funded by 22 Member states, which support the work of a large scientific network, some 500 institutes and over 2,500 researchers.

www.monaco.gouv.mc



> FOR A STRONG BARCELONA CONVENTION



Interview with Bernard Fautrier,
Minister of International Co-operation
for Environment and Development of Monaco
and President of the Bureau
of the Contracting Parties

MEDWAVES: *The Principality has been committed to the Mediterranean Action Plan since the very outset of MAP, but over recent years this commitment has grown still further, and you now hold the presidency of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties. How do you envisage the coming two years?*

BERNARD FAUTRIER: Thank you for recalling that fact. It is true to say that the more the Principality is involved in MAP's work, the more we become aware of how relevant it is to the stakes in our region. The meeting of the Contracting Parties has clearly set out along many paths, which we will have to follow. First and foremost, the implementation of the renewed Convention –the announcements made during the session provide us with the hope that we can expect it to come into force relatively quickly– we will then have to build upon these new bases.

MEDWAVES: *Have you any more specific ideas about these new bases?*

BERNARD FAUTRIER: The renewed Convention foresees certain instruments to facilitate its follow-up. We have to aspire towards a Barcelona Convention that is strong and well-respected, and an Action Plan that can act as a reference for the multilateral and bilateral funding Organisations, particularly the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. In this respect it is my wish –and Monaco as a “neutral” may well be in a position to facilitate this– to see better mutual understanding between the two banks of the Mediterranean.

Let me just add that there are two main areas of work which I would like to see materialising: on the one hand, satisfactory progress being made on the land-based sources SAP, leading to the funding of useful projects, and on the other, the implementation of a genuinely operational “Emergency” protocol.

MEDWAVES: *What about the MCSD?*

BERNARD FAUTRIER: It has its own Steering Committee, in which the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties takes part. I am very well acquainted with this Commission, which I was honoured to chair from 2000-2001.

My main concern is to ensure the effective participation of actors from economic life within it. For the time being, they are the “weak link” in sustainable development; in this respect, the Commission's composition as decided in Monaco is rather encouraging.

MEDWAVES: *All of this is just a vision of MAP's direction, but what of its role in the processes of environmental governance and relations between multilateral environmental agreements?*

BERNARD FAUTRIER: 2002 will be a year of intense international activity in which I will be involved not only as representative of the Principality, but also as President of the Bureau, and I would urge the delegations from the Mediterranean countries to get together during these major events to enable us to identify those subjects of common interest.

Obviously, as we decided in Monaco in the adopted Mediterranean Declaration for the Johannesburg Summit, I hope that we will be very much on the scene in Johannesburg, bringing the Mediterranean identity to the fore.

I would add that we should also closely monitor the reform of UNEP, which is root and branch and on the right track.

We should, however, ensure that the legitimate concerns of efficiency and good governance do not undermine those systems such as Barcelona, which are running smoothly. They should, on the contrary, provide them with even greater impetus.

> A REGION-LABORATORY CALLED THE MEDITERRANEAN



In his speech to the Monaco meeting, the UNEP Executive Director, referring to the Mediterranean as a region-laboratory, said *“here we find rich and less rich countries, ancient traditions and modern technologies, different cultures and diverse perceptions, political tensions and an uneven course of economic growth and social development, not to mention the environment challenges”*.

“In this semi-enclosed sea, we also have demographic pressures, disproportionate population growth, a dangerous, heavy maritime traffic, and an inappropriate or insufficient management of its vast coastal area, which has often witnessed rapid and chaotic development. It is a region that faces water scarcity, soil erosion, deteriorating ecosystems, desertification...”

“It has been the gravity of these and other challenges that has got the Mediterranean countries and the European Union working together, under the wing and the auspices of UNEP”.

Töpfer underlined that the MAP has always been more than a technical instrument to combat pollution. *“It is an exceptional forum where all parties in spite of all differences join their efforts for the safety of their shared basin, and common present and future”*.

Congratulating Monaco...

The UNEP Executive Director referred to the election of Monaco to lead the MAP for the coming two years. *“I congratulate wholeheartedly Monaco for its election, which is in line with its long tradition in favour of the environment”*.

“A tradition that started almost one century ago with the famous International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea, one of the oldest and most enduring scientific intergovernmental organisations in the world”.

“I am confident that the election of Monaco will provide a new drive to MAP’s commitment to the objective of protecting the region from all sorts of pollution while steadily promoting its course towards sustainable development”.

Klaus Töpfer underlined, in this regard, that awareness raising and the dissemination of information will have an increa-

sing importance. *“We have to do the right thing. But this would not be enough! We must also let the people know what is being done,.. after all we live in a media oriented society”*.

... and Malta

“Monaco succeeds Malta, under the presidency of which the MAP received a strong impetus. Malta led the MAP a long way ahead in its new approach, initiated in 1995, geared at not limiting its endeavour to the monitoring and control of marine pollution”.

“Malta encouraged all MAP partners in their efforts for the gradual integration of all environmental concerns in their policies and planning, in order to achieve the ultimate goal of sustainable development”.

The UNEP Executive Director expressed hope that the ratification process of all the legal instruments will be as dynamic as it should, so that they will be in-place very soon. I believe this would be very helpful for this specific region.

MAP, ten years after

“The MAP has always been dynamic. For instance, after the 1992 Earth Summit, the MAP took the lead in adapting its mandate, at the regional level, to the Agenda 21 resolutions. An Agenda MED 21 was adopted and the

Barcelona Convention was revised in 1995 to give legal substance to the commitments made in Rio”.

“In the same year, the MAP started giving priority to the implementation of the specific goals of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) in the region. Consequently, the LBS Protocol was revised the year after, leading to the setting up of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to control sea pollution from land-based activities”.

“This Programme has received a strong incentive from the Global Environment Facility, the GEF. I sincerely hope that it will be also possible to come to a very good replenishment of this instrument, the GEF, for the future. This is now under discussion and I believe we can prove through this project here, in the Mediterranean, how important it is to have this instru-



“The Mediterranean is a region rich with history, rich with cultural heritage, rich with marvellous landscapes and biodiversity. It attracts up to 200 million visitors a year, nearly one third of the world’s tourism. But the Mediterranean is not only this. It is a region-laboratory”

Klaus Töpfer



>> A REGION-LABORATORY CALLED THE MEDITERRANEAN

ment and its financial support". "This year, the SAP has moved from theory to practise through its operational strategy", the UNEP Executive Director underlined.

"At the same time, the MAP has upgraded one of its key legal instruments: the new draft of the Emergency Protocol. It covers the urgent need for prevention from accidents and spills. UNEP notes with great satisfaction that it will be signed soon".

The most successful, by far...

The UNEP Executive Director said that in all these fields, the Mediterranean has been the pioneering region, thanks to the commitment of the Contracting Parties. "Among the various regional seas programmes, the MAP is, by far, the most successful, maybe together with those of the Baltic Sea and the Caribbean. The MAP is THE pilot project". "That is why it is so important to ratify its Protocols, so that it can be, once more, a good example for other regions, for other regional seas programmes..."

In the light of the MAP's proven capacity to adapt to new environmental challenges and laws, its updated legal system should be completed, implemented and made known, Töpfer said. "Here, UNEP calls upon all parties to accelerate the ratification process so as to finalise as mentioned before the Johannesburg Summit".

MAP and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

Töpfer added that UNEP encourages the MAP to make progress in its co-operation with all concerned international and regional bodies, with an intensifying focus on Europe, namely through the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

"The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held in Brussels on 5-6 November, will lead to the Second Euro-Med Ministerial Conference on the Environment, next July in Athens".

"This will be an opportunity, among other things, to organise more efficient co-ordination and consistency between the various international fora. So, the road is paved and clear signals are set for both sides".

The courage of the MCSD

"My congratulations on the Strategic Review prepared by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD). It is an excellent document that reflects the experience and the commitment of this UNEP's spearhead Regional Seas Programme".

"Above all, the MCSD review pays due tribute to the contributions of major groups from within the civil society, reflecting

their views on an equal basis with those of the Governments". "I learned with great pleasure that the preparation of the NGOs for this conference was very successful and I encourage the private sector to also go in this direction".

The MCSD has had the courage of raising concerns, he said. "Its Strategic Review explains, for instance, that however important the effort made, environmental policies still have too little an impact on development policies, remaining too compartmentalised to address themes constituting integrated policy".

"It concludes that sustainable development policies depend too much on the public sector, when they need to foster partnerships between the public and private sectors. It also draws attention to the need for dynamic NGOs participation as a routine practice".

The MCSD expresses hopes that this balance will inject renewed political impetus into regional sustainable development endeavours and that it will represent a realistic guide to real challenges for other global regions seeking to translate sustainable development principles into concrete actions.

"Overall, it lays the ground for the forthcoming sustainable development strategy in the Mediterranean".

A summit on development, not on environment

All this reflects the deep awareness of the MAP that in Johannesburg we will not have an environment summit, we will have a summit on sustainable development, the UNEP Executive Director stressed.

"I believe we have to underline this again and again, this is the main topic. We should not disappoint the global public. We should address especially the inter-relation between environment and poverty, between environment and health, between environment and food security".

"Johannesburg must be seen as a momentum and as a step towards development with a human face. A new deal for responsible prosperity for all. I believe we should underline that we need this responsible prosperity for all people around the world".

"This has been the benchmark of all your activities. Through the MCSD, you conclude, among other facts, that the Mediterranean will become more important than ever a channel for the movement of vital resources..."

"...But you also ascertain that all economic forecasts require a sense of ecological stability, a sense for diversity, a sense of respect against the development in the past of cultural and spiritual diversity and within a framework of sustainable development. This is what it is about".

> MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION FOR THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT



THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION, MEETING IN MONACO FROM 14 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2001 IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN,

- Considering** the Draft Declaration prepared by the Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, meeting in Tunis from 14 to 17 November 2000,
- Having examined** the progress towards sustainable development at the regional level, in the light of the three pillars of sustainable development –economic, social and environmental– and the need for an integrated approach,
- Recognizing** that good governance, based on democratic processes, respect for human rights, especially of women and children, the promotion of justice and international law, the eradication of poverty and empowerment of concerned people, and the establishment of peace and security, based on international legitimacy, is a prerequisite for sustainable development,
- Stressing** the importance and unique nature of the Mediterranean as an eco-region and an arena for solidarity, as well as its vocation for bringing different cultures closer to each other,
- Also stressing** the need to promote sustainable development strategies for eco-regions such as the Mediterranean, as well as associated regional commissions,
- Recognizing** the contribution of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development's activities and recommendations to the promotion of sustainable development,
- Welcoming** the increasing role and the active networking of the Mediterranean non-governmental organisations, the socio-economic groups, the local authorities, the scientific educational community and the media as actors and partners in sustainable development,
- Stressing** the impact of globalization and the intensification of economic, cultural and tourist exchanges, and the risks to which the natural and cultural heritage and the unique character of the Mediterranean are exposed,
- Concerned by** the pressures on the environment and biodiversity, the deterioration of forests and wetlands, desertification and land degradation the persistence of practices that are not sustainable in the long term, such as littoralization, the excessive exploitation of vulnerable natural resources, and particularly of water, the concentration of tourist activities, the increased production of solid domestic and industrial waste, the growing consumption of fossil fuels, contributing to the greenhouse effect, and related natural and technological risks, as well as the spread of non-sustainable production and consumption patterns,
- Concerned by** the growing disparity between the human and financial resources available and the challenges to be faced,

AGREE THE FOLLOWING:

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The widening income gap between countries of the North and South of the region and between rich and poor sectors of society within each country should be addressed. They affirm their commitment to achieve and surpass the 2015 targets for poverty reduction of the Millennium Summit, by designing and implementing appropriate regional and national gender equitable policies, strategies and programmes to address poverty effectively. This will include issues emerging from migration trends and economic transitions, which have created new forms of poverty.

Health protection and development and the wise use of healthcare resources are essential components for the sustainable development of the region.

The region needs to invest in capacity building and empowering its young population. Mediterranean countries are committed to review, reform and / or develop sound educational and appropriate information, communication and training strategies to develop the human capital needed to fuel sustainable development. Access by all people to general education should be secured, including education for environment and sustainability.

>> MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION FOR THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT

MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND POLLUTION COMBATING

Actions at international, regional, national and local levels with collaboration between all the actors are needed in order to protect effectively the quality of this unique marine environment, to facilitate integrated management of coastal areas, to promote integrated management of water resources at watershed level, to sustain the precious biodiversity of the region and to combat desertification and land degradation efficiently.

Considering that the Mediterranean region attracts one third of international tourism, sustainable tourism respecting the environment and natural landscapes should be promoted.

Natural and technological risks should be systematically addressed, adopting prevention measures at all governance levels, ensuring safety for people and their property, as well as the natural environment and cultural heritage.

Clean and safe water, land productivity and food security should be addressed at regional and national levels by promoting sustainable agricultural practices and environmentally friendly consumption patterns.

The share of environmentally-sound renewable energy, particularly solar, wind and geothermal energy, in total primary energy production and use should be significantly increased, and energy efficiency technologies should be promoted.

Policies for safe management and, where possible, elimination of industrial pollution and hazardous chemicals in the region should be promoted and implemented.

Monitoring networks, observatories and data collection systems should be efficiently linked for the purpose of analysing long-term trends and elaborating appropriate management policies.

INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Sustainable development requires that economic, social and environmental considerations be integrated into decision-making processes, planning procedures and law-making at all levels.

Institutional and legal frameworks must provide for public access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and access to justice. The implementation of the precautionary and the polluter pays principles and the principle of common and differentiated responsibility is essential in all relevant policies.

The Contracting Parties support efforts to strengthen global environmental governance and will contribute towards it in the Mediterranean region.

Increasing the effectiveness of the international legal framework foreseen at the Rio Conference requires countries to implement their commitments under the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC, as well as to ratify and implement the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Kyoto Protocol. The progress made on the latter at COP 7 of the UNFCCC, hosted in Marrakech by a southern Mediterranean country, is a valuable contribution to sustainable development, to whose implementation the Mediterranean Action Plan should contribute.

The regional level is extremely important in promoting sustainable development. To this end, the Contracting Parties have renewed the Mediterranean Action Plan, revised the 1976 Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, adopted new Protocols and agreed on a reporting mechanism to monitor progress in implementing their commitments. The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development is proving to be a valuable instrument for promoting partnership with major groups, notably through its working groups on water, tourism, and industry. The Parties are also seeking to strengthen ties between the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Mediterranean Action Plan.

GOVERNANCE, DECENTRALIZATION AND PARTICIPATION

The role of Mediterranean regional, national and local levels of governance and participatory decision-making structures should be strengthened.

Countries should facilitate the implementation of recommendations and action plans deriving from local Agendas 21, establishing appropriate institutional frameworks by providing or facilitating access to adequate means by local authorities.

All countries and major groups of the region should develop and implement practicable and targeted Sustainability Strategies at various levels of governance, including Integrated Water Resources Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, in particular aiming at decreasing pressures on coastal areas.



CO-OPERATION, PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCING

As globalization is a rapid, irreversible, powerful process, Mediterranean countries are determined to reap its benefits and address effectively any adverse side-effects on social cohesion, environmental quality and cultural identities in order to promote sustainable development, in particular in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the forthcoming Free-Trade Area and the proposed enlargement of the European Union.

Scientific knowledge on achieving sustainable development and promoting eco-efficiency should be shared and the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies should be encouraged; Mediterranean regional centres have an important role to play in this regard.

Domestic resources, trade liberalization compatible with environmental protection and private financial flows, notably foreign direct investment, are fundamental in generating resources for sustainable development. National financing should be considerably increased while incentives for environmentally and socially responsible investments should be promoted and environmentally damaging subsidies should be gradually removed.

Multilateral and bilateral international or regional funding available under public development aid should be considerably increased and better adapted to the programmes for the protection of the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

The international community should strive to reach the accepted UN aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as soon as possible. The commitment of the European Union Heads of States and Governments, in June 2001, to make concrete progress towards reaching this target before the Johannesburg Summit is welcomed.

New and additional resources of funding and innovative financial mechanisms respecting sustainable development principles, such as debt for nature and sustainable development swaps, as well as the Clean Development Mechanisms in the Kyoto Protocol, should be promoted.

These initiatives constitute innovative mechanisms of solidarity for real and effective Mediterranean partnership.

TO THIS END, THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DECIDE TO:

- draw up or revise their own sustainable development strategies in the light of the results of the Johannesburg Summit and the agreements reached above;
- elaborate policies for regional development, including an efficient management of natural capital;
- implement appropriate institutional, fiscal and legal reforms to promote the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan as renewed in 1995, with due attention to socio-economic considerations particularly in eastern and southern Mediterranean countries;
- promote the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and its contribution to the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and take the necessary measures to implement its recommendations and proposals for action;
- promote the establishment of information, monitoring and evaluation systems on the State of the Environment and sustainable development at regional, national and local levels;

AND INVITE:

The Mediterranean Governments to increase the resources devoted to meet these commitments;

The international organizations and the European Community to improve allocated resources, increase synergies and mutual support between their programmes of intervention in the Mediterranean, so as to meet more effectively the needs of the region;

The United Nations to consider the needs and resources of eco-regions, such as the Mediterranean, when addressing sustainable development issues.

> SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR THE MOST ENDANGERED

A network of natural sites of particular importance for the Mediterranean people is now being set up. They will be under special protection by all Mediterranean countries. A first batch of twelve marine and coastal areas forms the nucleon.

In their Monaco meeting, the Contracting Parties took a step further towards the regional governance for the conservation of the Mediterranean natural heritage, by including 12 marine and coastal natural sites in the list of the known as Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs).

The SPAMIs are intended to be a network of protected natural sites of particular interest for the Mediterranean people and, thus, their conservation should be “supervised” by all Mediterranean countries.

In fact, they could be established not only in the marine and coastal zones subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of a country, but also in zones that are partly or wholly on the high seas.

Also intended to have a value of example and model for the protection

of the region’s natural heritage, the SPAMI list can only include sites that meet specific criteria.



A. BOUJAINA / ASSOCIATION GEX

They must be unique and representative

To this end, the Mediterranean Action Plan’s Protocol regarding Specially Protected Areas (SPA) provides a set of criteria for the selection of sites. Uniqueness, natural representativeness, adequate legal status, protection measures, and management methods, are among the key features.

Once a protected area is included in the SPAMI list, its importance becomes recognised by all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. In other words, they should comply with the related measures and not authorize or undertake any activities that might harm its natural features.

Non-party States and the relevant international organisations are invited to join the conservation measures applicable to the SPAMIs.

But the role that the SPAMIs are called-upon to play is particularly important as far as high sea zones are concerned.

The SPAMIs are expected to contribute to the protection of species and habitats in high sea zones. The enforcement of measures to protect high sea will be the challenge of the near future.

> THIS IS THE SANCTUARY OF THE DOLPHINS AND THE WHALES



N. CHATZIGEORGAKIOU

In the 87,000 km² of waters shared by France, Italy and Monaco, there are 12 different species whose populations range between several tens of thousands of individuals (for certain dolphins) to only one thousand (for the fin whale, a flag species of the area).

The Sanctuary is now declared a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance.

The French-Italian-Monegasque Sanctuary has been set up by an agreement between the governments of the Mediterranean Action Plan partner countries, signed in Rome on 25 November 1999.

Located in the Tyrrhenian-Corsican-Provençal part of the Mediterranean, including the littoral waters and pelagic domain of the area. It is within the area defined by the following limits:



N. CHATZIGEORGAKIS

The following twelve protected areas have been included in the SPAMI List:

1) **Isla de Alborán (Spain)**. This area is known for its very high richness in flora and fauna, with the presence of Mediterranean and Atlantic species

that are not found in the other parts of the Mediterranean.

2) **The Sea Bottom of the Levante de Almería (Spain)**. This area represents a strip of marine territory parallel to the coast, which includes the most impor-

tant *Posidonia* meadows of the Spanish coast.

3) **Cabo de Gata-Níjar (Spain)**. This zone extends from the sea floor to coastal mountains of volcanic origin, passing through wetlands and coastal

To the West, a line running from La Pointe Escampobariou (west headland of the Giens Pininsula to Capo Falcone) located on the western coast of Sardinia;

To the East, a line running from Capo Ferro, located on north-eastern coast of Sardinia to Fosso Chiarone, located on the western coast of Italy.

The establishment of the Sanctuary is a culmination of several years of efforts and initiatives by the concerned governmental authorities with significant support from university laboratories, scientists and many

NGOs through international meetings, media operations or studies made at sea.



S. PANIGADA

The physical and climatic features of the area create particular hydro-dynamic conditions that develop vertical current systems (upwellings), which mobilise waters from the deep and give rise to areas.

Upwellings are very favourable for the development of primary production.

Around this primary production complex food chains are formed, and the cetaceans constitute the most remarkable final links in the chain.



>> SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR THE MOST ENDANGERED

areas. Its climatic context is almost unique in Western Europe, with rather mild temperatures, absence of frosts and, overall, extreme aridity.

4) **Mar Menor and the oriental coast of Murcia (Spain).** The Mar Menor is the biggest interior lagoon in Spain. There are coastal salt marshes, salt flats (salt steppes) and some volcanic mountains.



R. TIMARELLI

5) **Cap de Cresus (Spain).** The Cap de Cresus peninsula is the last spur of the Pyrexes chain. The coastline is abrupt and jagged with cliffs and deep inlets.

6) **Islas Medas (Spain).** The karst-type geo-formation of the land of these seven islands with its many tunnels and caves along with the richness of organic substance are at the base of the abundant marine fauna in this area.

7) **Islas Coulembretes (Spain).** These islands, characterised by a small surface and isolation, hosts both endemic species and breeding colonies of rare marine birds.

8) **Port-Cros (France).** The Port-Cros territory has, since 1963, been listed as a National Park extending over terrestrial and marine environments. The underwater area extends over 1,300 hectares and it is known for its fascinating variety of species and habitats.

9) **The Kneiss Islands (Tunisia).** This archipelago, that lies about two miles off the continent, is characterised by the tide area ecosystem believed to be almost unique in the Mediterranean.

10) **La Galite (Tunisia).** The La Galite archipelago, made up of six islands and islets, has a varied geology and topography (steep slopes, underwater sloping cliffs) with many caves that can serve as shelter to the monk seals.

11) **The Zembra and Zembretta.** These islands lie to the north-east of Tunisia and comprise several marine habitats such as the Posidonia meadow, rocky bottoms and caves.

12) **The French-Italian-Monegasque Sanctuary,** set up by a tripartite agreement between the governments of France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco (Rome, 25 November 1999), covers 87,000 km² in the Tyrrhenian-Corsican-Provencal part of the Mediterranean, including the littoral waters and pelagic domain of the area.



The Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas will inform the competent international organisations of the List and of the measures taken in the SPAMIs, and will promote harmonisation between SPAMIs and other relevant networks.

>> THIS IS THE SANCTUARY OF THE DOLPHINS AND THE WHALES

It is in this vast pelagic realm that the cetaceans, this area's main subject of protection, develop in all their diversity. There are 12 different species whose populations range between several tens of thousands of individuals (for certain dolphins) to only one thou-



S. TORCHIA

sand individuals (for the fin whale, a flag species of the area).

Although the cetaceans are especially targeted by the establishment of the Sanctuary, it is expected that other species will benefit from the protection and management measures.

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> COUNTDOWN FOR POLLUTION REDUCTION



The adoption of the operational strategy for the implementation of the SAP launches a phased 25-year process to reduce pollution from land-based sources and activities.

The Contracting Parties adopted the Operational Strategy for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the control of the land-based sources (LBS) of pollution.

This Operational Strategy sets up a timetable, which will commence by the Mediterranean countries estimating the amount of every SAP-targeted pollutant being released from the coastal areas, namely from the industrial sites. This milestone, technically known as “base-line budget”, should be set-up by the year 2003.

With this inventory in hand and once each country has elaborated its own National Action Plan (NAP), the process of actual reduction of pollutants should start by the year 2005.

This has been the culmination of a long process. In fact, in order to elaborate the NAPs, it was agreed that the Mediterranean countries, with the support of the MAP, would implement, during the years 2001-2003, a comprehensive capacity building programme financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the French GEF and the Contracting Parties. The NAPs should be elaborated on the basis of the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) that would be implemented during 2002-2003.

The adoption of the “base-line budget” concept has not been an easy task. The question was whether the Medi-



Grab sample, Eastern Mediterranean, showing 30 cm of plastic waste deposited on sea-bed at 200 m depth.

F. ABOUSAMRA

well as its relative share in the degradation of the marine environment.

However, as a result of a complex calculation of the various criteria of differentiation it was concluded that this approach is unconceivable in the current Mediterranean context. Simply, it is not quantifiable nor is it traceable. Neither at national nor at regional levels.

terranian countries should follow a “differentiated approach” or a “flat rate approach”, when it came to formulating an operational strategy aimed at complying with their commitments to the SAP.

At first glance, the differentiation concept, in its various forms of application based on volumes of releases, volumes of reduction and on the cost of reduction, seems to be the “golden rule”. It would allow to partially take into account the situation of each single country regarding its releases of pollutants into the Mediterranean as

Then it came to the “flat rate” approach. It consists in adopting the same rate of reduction that was agreed upon under the SAP provisions, for all the Mediterranean countries, regardless of their national circumstances. In this context, the estimation exercise shows that the adoption of the “flat rate” approach would enable the countries to fulfil their SAP commitments in a much more traceable and equitable effort.

FOUAD ABOUSAMRA
ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMIST
MED POL PROGRAMME OFFICER

> EGYPT PROCEEDS TO AN INVENTORY OF POTENTIALLY HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

Egypt launched the first Mediterranean pilot project, in Alexandria, for the implementation of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), an environmental database of potentially harmful substances released or transferred into air, water and soil by industries, the agricultural and transport sector, as well as wastes transported off-site for treatment and / or disposal.

In a workshop in Alexandria on 10-20 December, 34 participants from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Authority, media, NGOs, industrial partners and observers, from Tunisia and Syria, reached a consensus on a list of 51 chemicals plus some laboratory substances released into air, water and soil or transferred off site, and on a reporting format.

CO-ORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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> FOCUS ON URBANISATION, INDUSTRY, AND FREE TRADE

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development presented in its extraordinary meeting in Monaco the fruits of the research of three Working Groups.

> URBAN MANAGEMENT

After half a century of intensive urbanisation, and the associated transformation of lifestyles and consumption patterns, Mediterranean societies have become predominantly urban.

By 2025, over 70% of Mediterraneans are likely to be urban dwellers, with the greatest growth rates predicted for the countries on the southern and eastern shores.

The pitfalls of urbanisation in the region are well documented. These include the concentration of polluting economic activities such as industry, an increase in waste production, degraded neighbourhoods, greater consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources, and competition for space.

The Working Group on Urban Management and Sustainable Development offers four sets of proposals, which were adopted by the Contracting Parties.

The Group's proposals aim towards the proactive integration of sustainable development and urban management.

These involve countries in mobilising actors and means of action towards achieving sustainable urban development, and aiming for better management to steer urban dynamics. The proposals also involve them in improving the management of public urban services, and strengthening Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean co-operation for sustainable urban development.

> INDUSTRY

The pressure from Mediterranean industrial activities, particularly around pollution hotspots, calls for an integrated approach to help Mediterranean industry stay competitive, and reduce adverse impacts arising from pollution.

Overall, the Working Group on Industry and Sustainable Development calls for a greater integration of industry and the environment so as to attain ecologically sustainable industrial development, notably via cleaner production. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises need support to comply with their legal obligations, to make voluntary agreements, to abide by the Precautionary and Polluter Pays Principles, and to adhere to MAP's Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

States need to play a stronger role in facilitating sustainable industry, mainly through financial incentives, enhanced information-sharing, the recognition of model companies, strict licensing criteria, and effective inspectorates by entities independent of the financing and executing agencies of sustainability-related projects.

They can also be pivotal in encouraging companies to internalise the environmental costs of production (e.g. by progressively reducing subsidies for water and energy costs, so as to better reflect the environmental costs of production). Consumer pressure also has a strong role to play. The Contracting Parties adopted this Working Group's proposals.

> FREE TRADE

Free trade has already made its mark on the region. Four Mediterranean countries are EU members, with a further four negotiating membership. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, currently combining the 15 countries of the EU and 12 countries or authorities of the South and East Mediterranean, is focused on creating a common free trade zone by 2010, in addition to the existing bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements.

The region is characterised by countries at different stages of development. While eliminating customs revenues, free trade has historically been shown to amplify developmental inequalities between countries. It is likely to expose Southern Mediterranean markets, particularly small local producers, to the full force of competitive foreign imports. Traditional food crop farming has proven most vulnerable to free trade, which also brings rising consumption patterns and associated rises in waste production.

Positively, free trade is likely to lead to easier, cheaper access to environmentally-friendly technologies, the introduction of environmental standards for exports, and easier access to new markets for products derived from less polluting processes. This Group will strengthen the methodology for monitoring impacts, focus on the effects of the liberalisation on sectors such as agriculture and transportation, and identify tools for upgrading SMEs, the handicraft sector and public urban services.

> CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE MAP AND THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP



Port facilities to reduce sea pollution and the development of marine and coastal protected areas are now among the co-operation projects launched by the EU, through the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and the Mediterranean Action Plan.

> DEVELOPING MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS

The promotion of the management of protected areas, as a tool of the integrated coastal zone management, as well as of the conservation of Mediterranean cultural marine heritage through the development of protected areas, are the main objectives of the Regional Project for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region.

The project was signed between the MEDA Programme, financial tool of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and the MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).

Partners in this project are:

- > Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca scientifica e tecnologica Applicata al Mare (ICRAM), Italy,
- > Unidad de Biología Marina, Universidad de Alicante: Instituto Universitario del Agua y de las Ciencias Ambientales (Universidad de Alicante), Spain, and
- > Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels (ATEN), France.

SPA/RAC has invited all Mediterranean countries eligible to financing by the EU Short and Medium-term Action Programme (SMAP) to participate in this project. Algeria, Cyprus, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia, have applied for participation.



A. DEMETROPOULOS

> REDUCING POLLUTION BY SOLID WASTES AND OILY WATERS FROM SHIPS

The project on "Port reception facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily wastes" aims at reducing the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by ship-generated solid wastes and oily waters and residues.

More specifically, it aims at promoting the installation of port reception facilities for the collection of garbage, bilge waters and oily residues generated by ships.

It aims, as well, at identifying the present situation and needs regarding the reception facilities for oily ballast waters in the Mediterranean countries.

The project will also focus on identifying proper methods for treatment of collected solid and liquid wastes and for their final disposal. The results and outputs are meant to be applicable throughout the Mediterranean region.

The activities will be largely based on works already carried out within the framework of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

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> THE DECLINE OF THE TURTLES

Green and Loggerhead turtles in the Mediterranean were abundant in the past. As a result of intense exploitation, populations have declined dramatically and both species are now endangered, even though they are protected by Conventions.



About 100,000 turtles were killed from 1920 to 1965 in the eastern Mediterranean, mainly for turtle soup. The turtles' demise has since been aggravated by incidental catches in fishing gear.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has declared the Mediterranean Green turtles as critically endangered.

Turtles are protected by a number of conventions, CITES, Bern, Bonn (CMS) and Barcelona, and a revised Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles, was approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 1999.

Where the turtles nest!

Loggerhead turtles now nest mainly in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. There is dispersed nesting in Israel and sparse or dispersed nesting in Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon and southern Italy,

with some nesting reported in other parts of the region. Nesting in Libya could apparently be significant but nesting levels there are still uncertain.

Green turtles currently nest mainly in Cyprus and Turkey.

Nesting of both species has reduced drastically or even ceased, in several areas, reflecting the demise of turtle stocks.

About 4,000-5,000 Loggerheads and 500-1,000 Green turtles nest now in the Mediterranean.

Lights and sounds of tourism

In the last two or so decades, tourism development in the Mediterranean has added serious new threats to the survival of turtles.

This is having its main impact in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus where many nesting beaches are now tourist resorts.

Lights and movement near the beaches prevent females from nesting

and disorientate hatchlings, which often die of desiccation or overheating.

Trampling of the sand by bathers and the driving of vehicles on beaches can compact sand or cause nests to collapse, while sun-beds and umbrellas can obstruct nesting or reduce sand temperature, influencing the determination of hatchlings' sex. These are just examples of the threats.

The list is much longer. Strategies and actions to conserve turtles need to take into account not only the complex biology of turtle reproduction but often also local socio-economic factors and political interests. The problems faced so far bear witness to the fact that this is no easy or simple task.

The first ever Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles

Guided by the concern about misused and over-exploited turtle populations, on the verge of extinction, and now threatened by economic forces,



A. DEMETROPOULOS

such as tourism and recreation, the Barcelona, Bern and Bonn Conventions, agreed to further co-operate and get their act together.

They jointly organised the first Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles from 24 to 28 October 2001 in the Italian capital and pledged to organise follow-up conferences. The Barcelona Convention, through the MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), took the lead.

The conference was hosted by ICRAM (Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica Applicata al Mare) and supported by IUCN's Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Mediterranean Sea.

It proved to be a very successful five-day conference, with some 200 participants from all over the Mediterranean and some from outside it, with 80 presentations, with nine invited speakers and three workshops.

Conclusions

The main points that came out of the conference were that much information is already available, certainly enough to base, urgently needed, turtle conservation measures on.

It was underlined that turtles in the Mediterranean are genetically isolated, and that their fidelity to their natal beaches results in the evolution of independent rookeries.

These need to be protected individually, as conservation efforts in one area, say in Zakynthos, will not help the turtles elsewhere in Greece or in Turkey or Cyprus. Key points emerging included the setting up of protected areas, including Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest (SPAMI), preferably before development starts, enforcing legislation in existing protected areas and implementing appropriate management plans.

The involvement of stakeholders at an early stage was stressed, as was the need for commitment by governments through appropriate funding, spatial planning and tourism policies.

Research and monitoring priorities, to fill-in gaps, included the identification of key marine habitats, long-term monitoring programmes, as well as migration, genetic, and population studies. More research was also needed on the impact of fisheries.

A follow up is needed

This first Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles was a bold new initiative that needs to be followed up with practical measures at the national level, not only by the scientific and conservation community, but mainly by administrations which determine, to a large degree, the fate of the coastline and that of turtles.

Tourism development and spatial planning policies have the potential for flexibility, as to which areas, and to what degree, to develop.

Turtle biology gives turtles no such options for if they cannot nest on their natal beaches they will have no offspring.

ANDREAS DEMETROPOULOS
MARINE BIOLOGIST



A. DEMETROPOULOS



> THE MAP IS A GOOD TOOL, BUT...



THE MAP IS A GOOD TOOL FOR CO-ORDINATING ACTION TOWARDS THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ENVIRONMENT. IT VIRTUALLY EMBRACES ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE BASIN, AND IT INVOLVES BROAD SECTORS OF CIVIL SOCIETY. NEVERTHELESS, **MED FORUM**, WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER 115 NGOs FROM 23 COUNTRIES, FEELS THAT THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE ENORMOUS POSSIBILITIES PROVIDED BY THIS TOOL IS NOT BEING TAPPED.



For decades, the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and ecological associations have spoken out against the environmental problems affecting the Mediterranean.

The Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) are the result of social pressure and of the Mediterranean States awakening to the fact that something needs to be done.

Ties between NGOs and MAP go back a long way. The meetings of the Contracting Parties, in which NGOs take part, and the unique composition of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD), which involves the NGOs as well as other sectors on equal, are clear examples of the joint effort undertaken.

The Barcelona Convention has interesting legal instruments for the protection of the Mediterranean.

The criticism which we, the NGOs, or at least MED Forum would make, however, is that there is a lack of political will on the part of some of the signatories to actually apply their content, or at least to ratify what was signed back in 1994, 1995 and even later.

MED Forum is the Network of Mediterranean NGOs for Ecology and Sustainable Development.

TELEMAT project for environmental education

During the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Monaco, in November 2001, the MAP and MED Forum signed a co-operation agreement to develop a project on environmental education for young people aged between 14 and 18.

The TELEMAT project consists of three main activities:

1. A virtual centre to disseminate eco-cultural material to be identified by an assessment committee made up of individuals from various walks of life,
2. A Network of Schools at secondary education level connected via Internet. This will help provide pilot schools in countries to the South and East of the Mediterranean with telematic means,
3. A School-ship to bring young people taking part in the project into contact.

The project is an old idea of Eco-Mediterrania, MED Forum's founder organisation, which has now made it available to the MED Forum Network, and which targets the participation of most Mediterranean NGOs, as well as students, teachers, local and national administrations, and international bodies.

Rafael Madueño, Secretary General of MED Forum

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> IT IS ABOUT TIME TO RATIFY!

GREENPEACE

SOMETHING SPECIFIC AT LAST? WHATEVER THE CASE, THE INSTRUMENT WITH WHICH THE 21 CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION EQUIPPED THEMSELVES IN MONACO, STRIPS THEM OF ANY FURTHER EXCUSE FOR DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON THE POISONED MEDITERRANEAN ISSUE. WHAT THEY ACTUALLY DID WAS ADOPT THE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTIONS PROGRAMME (SAP) TO COMBAT POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES.



The SAP operational plan, concocted by MED POL sets out a clear strategy for reducing emissions from land-based sources, starting with a baseline assessment being drawn up in each Mediterranean country (see MedWaves #44).

This is simply an inventory of emissions and waste for each of the pollutants covered by the SAP, from now until the end of 2003, which will then enable each country to programme and measure the gradual reduction of waste, the aim being to eliminate by 2025.

Whilst welcoming this decision, the WWF and Greenpeace stressed how important it was not to wait until 2004 to start reducing toxic waste.

Indeed, certain deadlines in the SAP, which was adopted in 1997, have already gone by, without the objectives having been met.

Others, such as the elimination by 2010 of the "dirty dozen" POPs (persistent organic pollutants), is not something which can be achieved in a blink of an eye*.

A Lebanese lung specialist, a worker in the Turkish petrochemical industry, and an Israeli fisherman, all members of the Greenpeace delegation, came along to Monaco to bear witness to the already disastrous effects of industrial pollution on human health.

The delegates from Algeria, Greece, Spain, Syria and Slovenia promised to ratify the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols with no further ado.

The Israeli delegate promised straight out that the amendments to the Convention and the dumping and land-based sources protocols (which gave rise to the famous SAP) would be ratified within the next three months.

And about time too! Six years after their adoption, these documents have still not come into force for lack of ratification, with the very credibility of the Barcelona Convention already having been seriously undermined.

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* The Barcelona Convention's approach largely inspired the adoption in Stockholm last May of the Global Convention for the elimination of POPs (persistent organic pollutants). This convention, which has already been signed by 91 countries, provides for a ban on the creation and production of the same 12 priority POPs (DDT, aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, toxaphene, PCBs, hexachlorobenzene, dioxins and furans), as well as the production and use of any new substances having the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants. Thus the Mediterranean riparian states are required to take account of these two international commitments when drafting their own national legislation.



> YOUTH TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS



Ελλάδα Καθαρή

CLEAN-UP GREECE PLANS A MULTINATIONAL **YOUTH SYMPOSIUM ON THE ENVIRONMENT** NEXT MAY IN ATHENS, WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE **MEDITERRANEAN** REGION. THE EVENT IS INTENDED TO BRING TOGETHER YOUNG DELEGATES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS MAINLY FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP) PARTNER COUNTRIES.



The objective of this youth symposium on the environment is to create a platform for exchange between all the Mediterranean youth groups so as to strengthen communication, build support and motivate future collaboration on environmental concerns in the MAP partner countries.

Discussions on problems of particular concern to the Mediterranean as well as creative workshops for the sharing of ideas, information, strategies and solutions to environmental issues faced by the different countries in the region, will be on the agenda of the symposium.

The main focus of the group discussions will be how each organization is tackling and overcoming particular environmental problems in its respective area of action.

In conjunction with Agenda 21 of the United Nations, topics relating to decision-making and the implementation of long-term sustainable programs will be highlighted.

The agenda will also include a beach clean-up and, in order to circumvent the language barrier of this multinational event, the participants will have the opportunity to express their views, thoughts and feelings in several non-verbal activities.

A mime theatre production, a photographic competition as well as an exhibition of charcoal sketches and watercolour artwork, produced by the participants, will be proposed to the delegates.

The youth symposium is to be part of the "Clean-Up the Mediterranean" Day, and will be incorporated in Clean-Up Greece's Eco Festival.

Clean-Up Greece is a Greece-based environmental association whose main purpose is to raise public awareness towards the country's environmental issues.

Every year, in May, Clean-Up Greece organises an "Eco Festival", an environmental and cultural event, bringing together schools, businesses, organizations and the general public, to involve them in a wide range of activities geared to promoting environmental consciousness and responsibility.

Beginning on May 5th, which is European Cultural Day, the "Eco Festival" has an extensive programme of events during the entire month of May. It closes on June 5th with the celebration of World Environmental Day.

Photene Kalpakioti, Clean-Up Greece



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> THE EARTH... WE DO NOT INHERIT IT... WE BORROW IT



Environmental festivals and carnivals; beach and river cleaning-up activities; art, audiovisuals and book exhibitions; children paintings; lectures and awards, with a wide involvement of youth.



Lattakia, the main Syrian seaport on the Mediterranean, witnessed the main events that marked in Syria the celebrations of the 2001 Arab Environment Day, on 14th October, organised in a joint venture between the public and the private sectors and NGOs, with a strong participation of youth organisations.

National and regional personalities participated in the celebrations, held under the auspices of the President of Syria, Bashar Al-Assad.

In his address, the Syrian Minister of State for Environment, Farouk Adli, recalled that the slogan of the Arab Environment Day is: *“Let’s Work Together for the Protection of the Environment”*.

The Minister called upon all Arab countries, at the institutional and popular levels, to work hand in hand to protect the earth with belief in the saying: *“We don’t inherit the Earth from our grandfathers. But we borrow it from our children”*.

He also stressed that the Mediterranean, which witnessed great cultures and civilisations, such as the Egyptian, the Greek, the Roman, the Byzantine, and the Arab, *“is facing heavy pressures from human activities related to the uncontrolled and unplanned development”*.

On his turn, Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), addressed the celebrations underlining that today is a special occasion for the MAP, for three good reasons: *“One, because the MAP is actively sharing with you the celebrations of the Arab Environment Day, an event that involves as many as one significant third of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention,*

Two, because the MAP can witness today that, through these celebrations, this important part of the Mediterranean region has been keen about celebrating its Environment Day in spite of the latest developments in the international scenario. A strong testimony, this,

of the importance that the Arab countries give to the safety of the environment as an irreversible undertaken.

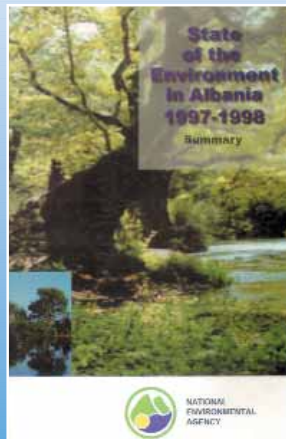
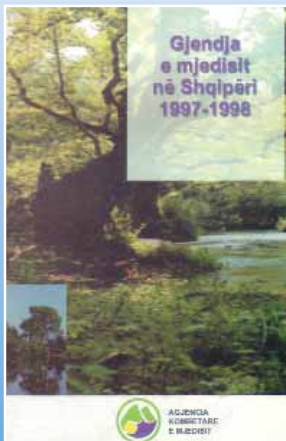
The third good reason is that the MAP is sharing these celebrations in Syria, a great partner in the collective Mediterranean environmental venture. A partner that has succeeded, in quite a short period of time, to gradually but surely put the various environmental concerns among the high priorities of its dynamic development process”.

Chabason also stressed that regional co-operation is therefore a key factor in all efforts aimed at alleviating the environment of the heavy pressures. He also underlined the successful action undertaken by Syria in the field of protecting the environment while promoting sustainable development and expressed full hope and confidence that Syria will further contribute to the cleaning up and protection of our Mediterranean region for the sake of present and future generations.

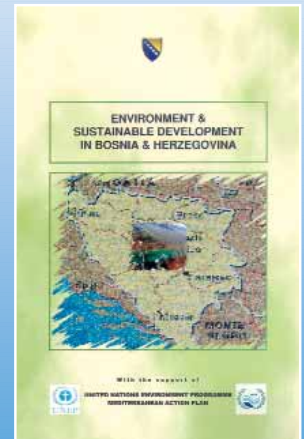
> EIGHT NATIONAL MIRRORS

> State of the environment and sustainable development in MAP countries

> Albania



> Bosnia & Herzegovina



Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Malta, Slovenia and Syria have been the first MAP countries to present their latest state of the environment and sustainable development, in the form of national publications following an initiative by the Mediterranean Action Plan.

Other MAP countries, such as Algeria, Croatia, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey, are expected to come out soon with their respective publications.

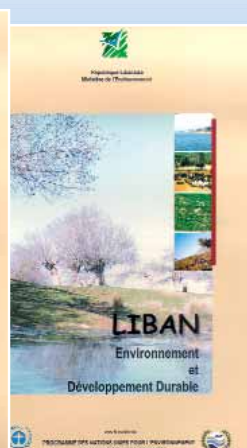
These national publications have a same preface stating their intention to be a mirror reflecting the rather complex

however interesting mosaic of relations between environment and sustainable development in the concerned country and each of its components.

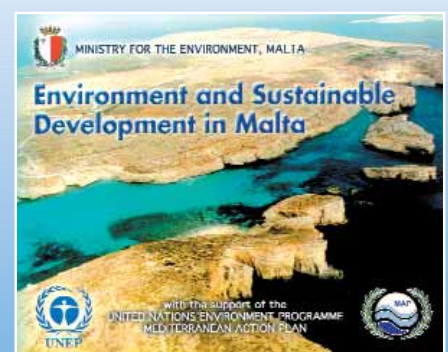
The national publications are addressed to all actors in all areas and at all levels: being all of us part of the problem, we should all be part of the solution as well.

They are also a further step towards the implementation of the various activities geared at promoting wide public awareness on environment and development issues at the national and local levels. More specifically, they represent one of the

> Lebanon



> Malta





> Egypt



> Greece



key activities in this regard, approved by the 20 Mediterranean countries that, together with the EU, constitute the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

A Convention launched over one fourth of a century ago, through the Mediterranean Action Plan, as a concrete, efficient means to protect the Mediterranean from all sorts of pollution and degradation.

Being as well among the major activities boosted by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development in the field of information and public awareness, this series of publi-

cations has been prepared and published by the concerned national authorities in the Contracting Parties.

No wonder then that they come out as a joint initiative, incited by the MAP and supported by it, aimed at backing the continuous efforts undertaken by the respective national authority towards the full integration of the environment and the sustainable development issues.

All the publications were printed in the respective national language, in addition to English and, in some cases, also French.

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> Slovenia



> Syria





> A SELECTION OF PUBLICATIONS

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

> MCSD Synthesis of the Strategic Review

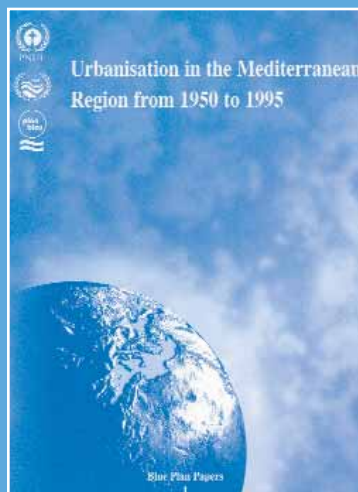


The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) has published the Synthesis of its Strategic Review, in English and French (the Arabic edition is under printing).

The Synthesis presents a brief, but detailed analysis of the teething problems and assesses how the measures agreed upon by the Mediterranean community have effectively been implemented. While underlining the fact the environmental policies still have too little an impact on development policies, the Strategic Review lays the ground for the forthcoming sustainable development strategy in the region.

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> Urbanisation in the Mediterranean

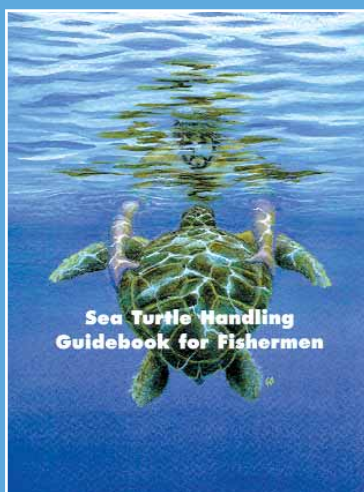


The quantitative and qualitative population distribution in the Mediterranean countries and their coastal areas are of considerable importance to sustainable development. Being at the same time cause and effect of ongoing mutations in today's societies, urbanisation needs to be better known, better analysed and better understood.

In this publication, Blue Plan offers an in depth analysis of the status of Urbanisation in the Mediterranean from 1950 to 1995, based on the works carried out by François Moriconi-Ebrard, designer and creator of the "Géopolis" data bank.

e-mail planbleu@planbleu.org

> Sea Turtles Guidebook for Fishermen



This "Sea Turtle Handling Guidebook for Fishermen" offers indications, mainly to fishermen, aimed at preventing unnecessary turtle deaths.

The publication intends to be an easy manual, proving simple procedures on how to handle marine turtles caught in a fishing net or hooked.

It also includes general information about the biology of marine turtles.

The guidebook is now available in English. The Arabic, French and Spanish versions are under preparation.

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> The MAP Technical Reports Series



Two new MTS have been published:

- > MTS #134: MAP CAMP Project "Israel" in English.
- > MTS #135: Programme d'aménagement côtier (PAC) de la "Zone côtière de Sfax" in French.

e-mail library@unepmap.gr

{ PHOTO OF THE ISSUE }



SOMEWHERE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN...

For over one year now, this half-sunken ship could be photographed by anybody, from any angle: from the deck of your cruise, from the window of your hotel, from your car, from the beach...



MAP

{ COMING UP... }



MEDITERRANEAN INITIATIVE TO PREVENT SHIP ACCIDENTS AND OIL POLLUTION!

The MAP takes the lead, again. In one day, the 25th of January 2002, Ministers and Senior Officials from 15 countries and the European Community signed, in Malta, the most advanced legal instrument aimed at preventing ship accidents and oil pollution.

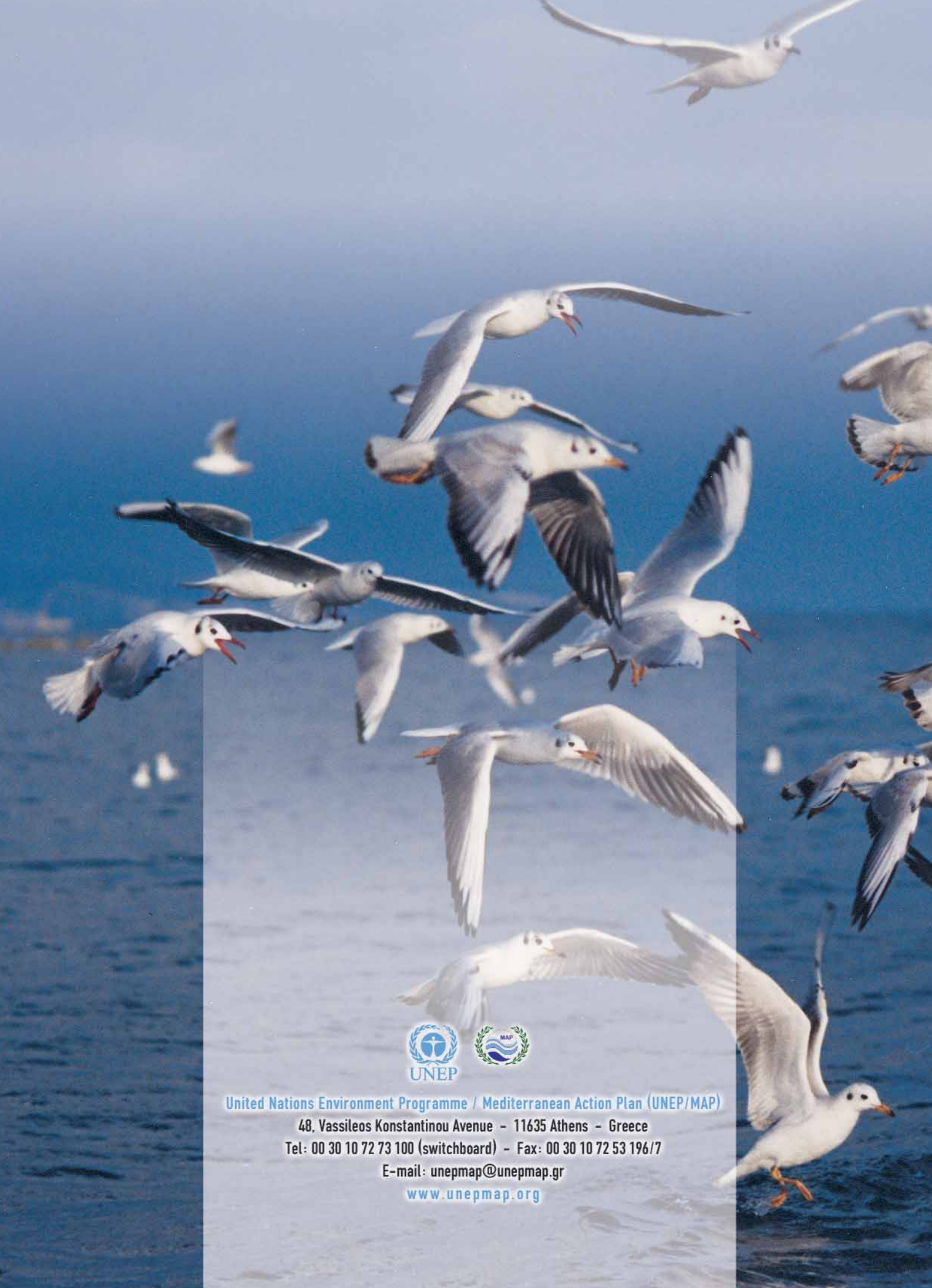
This is the “[Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea](#)”.

A Protocol made ready a mere two years after the “Erika” oil tanker accident that led to the dumping, in the sea, of up to 20,000 tonnes of oil, two thirds of the total cargo.

**THANK
YOU,
BOB!..**



Dear **Robert Easton Pickering**, for the first time in seven years, the MAP family missed your efficiency and your friendship, in our big events. You were one of our most solid pillars, we could rely upon your impeccable drafting, translations, revisions, your commitment, your advice, your patience and, above all, your amiability. Our most sincere sympathy to your family. And our deepest gratitude, dear Bob. **May your soul rest in peace!**



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