

# SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE المتوسطة المستدامة

**Mediterranean Biodiversity highlighting implications due to Climate Change**

...

**Biodiversité Méditerranéenne mettant en relief les implications liées au Changement Climatique**



Quarterly newsletter produced by the **Mediterranean Information Office** for the **Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development**, in collaboration with the **European Environmental Bureau** and the **Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development**

**Issue: No 65**  
Issue No 65, 01/2011

This issue of Sustainable Mediterranean was financed by **MIO-ECSDE** with the support of the **European Commission**



## CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	3	AWARENESS RAISING ON THE ROLE OF BIODIVERSITY IN VRBJE POND   SOCIETY FOR BIRD RESEARCH AND NATURE PROTECTION (SLOVENIA)	19
INTERVIEW WITH JANEZ POTOČNIK, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT	4	IL MONDO È BELLO PERCHÈ È VARIO   ISTITUTO PER L'AMBIENTE E L'EDUCAZIONE SCHOLÉ FUTURO (ITALY)	20
LAST HOPE FOR SAVING WORLD BIODIVERSITY? A REFLECTION ON THE 10TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (18-29 OCTOBER 2010, NAGOYA, JAPAN)	6	THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON DEAD SEA BIODIVERSITY - THE DEAD SEA IS DYING   JORDAN ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY (JORDAN)	21
A MEDITERRANEAN REPORT ON THE 16TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CANCUN, MEXICO 29 NOVEMBER TO 10 DECEMBER 2010)	9	THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON BIODIVERSITY: AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN   LAND AND HUMAN TO ADVOCATE PROGRESS (JORDAN)	22
NATURAL RESERVES: A WEALTH THAT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERVALUED   ARAB OFFICE FOR YOUTH & ENVIRONMENT (EGYPT)	13	ACTIVITÉS DE SENSIBILISATION POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ   L'ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (TUNISIA)	23
SENSIBILISATION DES ÉTABLISSEMENTS SCOLAIRES POUR LA LUTTE CONTRE LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES PAR LA CONSERVATION DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ VÉGÉTALE LOCALE   ASSOCIATION POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DE LA MÉDINA DE GAFSA (TUNISIA)	14	RAISING AWARENESS ON THE VALUE OF BIODIVERSITY   LEGACY (TURKEY)	23
BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE   BALADY PORT SAID SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER (EGYPT)	15	CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY IN QANNOUBINE VALLEY   MAKHZOUMI FOUNDATION (LEBANON)	24
GREEN YOUR MIND - MAKE THE CHANGE   BIOSFERA (FYROM),	16	INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY: THE DAY AFTER AND THE GREEK REALITY   MEDSOS (GREECE)	25
LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES ET LEURS IMPACTS SUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ   CLUB MAROCAIN DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT (MORROCO)	18	CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF THE TAURUS MOUNTAINS   TURKISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE (TURKEY)	26
		Cover photo: female <i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i> , © Thomais Vlachogianni	

The views and opinions expressed in Sustainable Mediterranean by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect those of MIO-ECSDE or those of our sponsors.

## EDITORIAL

This issue of Sustainable Mediterranean is dedicated to Mediterranean biodiversity with a special focus on the added pressure exerted by climate change and is a contribution to the MIO-ECSDE efforts to safeguard the variety of life on earth, particularly within the framework of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

As an introduction, European Commissioner for Environment, Mr. Janez Potočnik, is interviewed on biodiversity and climate change related issues by MIO-ECSDE senior advisor on climate change, Ms. Vanya Walker-Leigh. Two contributions follow, which are reflections on the two relevant major global environmental events that took place and in which MIO-ECSDE participated: the 10th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (18-29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan); the 16th Conference of parties to the UN framework Convention on Climate Change (Cancun, Mexico 29 November to 10 December 2010).

The rest of the issue is dedicated to the activities of the MIO-ECSDE member NGOs that participated in the 2010 MEDITERRANEAN ACTION DAY which was entitled

“Mediterranean Biodiversity highlighting implications due to Climate Change”. This section is but a small tribute to the efforts of these NGOs and their capability and creativity in taking a small amount of seed money and organising events with a significant impact.

The MEDITERRANEAN ACTION DAY is an annual initiative of MIO-ECSDE, funded in part by the European Commission (through its annual activity funding of MIO-ECSDE), for its member organisations. It is a joint, small to medium-scale action conducted in many Mediterranean countries during the last four months of the year. The objective of the activity is to give the opportunity to the MIO-ECSDE member organisations to take action in the field, locally or nationally and be more visible to their target populations while tackling a “hot” environmental issue of their municipality, region or country.

The fifteen (15) Med Action Day events for 2010 took place in 10 different Mediterranean countries (Egypt, FYROM, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey), by 15 Member NGOs of MIO-ECSDE.

Photograph: © Thomais Vlachogianni



*Iphiclides podalirius* Linnaeus

## INTERVIEW WITH JANEZ POTOČNIK, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT

by Vanya Walker-Leigh, MIO-ECSDE Senior Advisor



The European Environment Agency stated in its recent [Assessing biodiversity in Europe – the 2010 report](#) that Europe is still far from meeting its 2010 target, and we risk missing future targets unless we change the way we are managing our environment. In your view, what are the most important lessons from this failure and the key changes needed in biodiversity management within the EU? Should the 6<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme be modified for 2011 and 2012, and how do you visualise the main lines of the 7<sup>th</sup> programme?

**J.Potočnik:** The assessment of the European Union's biodiversity action plan published in October 2010, has taught us some important lessons. The EU had to recognise that while significant progress has been made in a number of areas, we have not succeeded in reaching the target. But specific targeted actions to reverse the decline of endangered species and habitats have worked in many instances. The Natura 2000 network has been significantly expanded and now comprises around 26000 sites, covering 18% of the EU's land territory. Efforts to protect marine and freshwater ecosystems have been boosted by the new Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the EU committed to a new target in March 2010. The goal now is to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, restore them in so far as feasible, and to step up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

The integration of biodiversity and ecosystem concerns into other EU policies will be central to achieving this target. The planned reforms of policy areas, which have significant implications for biodiversity – such as the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy –, as well as the preparations for the next programming period for EU Regional Policy, offer important opportunities. These are significant both in terms of reducing impacts on biodiversity and as potential sources of financing for biodiversity conservation and restoration.

Before thinking about the design of a new Environmental Action Programme, I believe we first need a full and comprehensive assessment of the current programme, the environmental challenges we will be facing in the future, and how our European policies can best address them. Right now we have to focus on the questions that need our immediate attention such as key policy proposals on biodiversity, climate change, and resource efficiency. Attention will also have to be paid to the integration of the environment into other policies and coherence between policies that have an impact on the

environment. In this regard, the debate about the future Common Agricultural Policy, Common Fisheries Policy, Structural and Cohesion funds, the future of EU research and innovation policies, and last but not least the debate on next Financial Perspectives for the EU, are all of paramount importance.

**MIO-ECSDE's position paper on biodiversity sent to you last October expresses Member NGOs' strong advocacy for advancing the discussion on the adoption of a Soil Framework Directive and achieving a compromise with the countries opposed to its adoption. How do you plan to get Austria, Germany, France, Malta, the Netherlands and the UK on board?**

**J.Potočnik:** I believe that we will not meet our goals in terms of protecting biodiversity, fighting climate change, and safeguarding natural resources until we have the right approach to soil management and protection. Soil is a crucial part of the ecosystem, and it deserves the same care at European level as we are giving to water, air and nature. After all, we are talking about the world's largest terrestrial store of carbon and of biodiversity. We set out our stall here in 2006, with the adoption of the Soil Thematic Strategy and the proposal for a Soil Framework Directive.

Regarding latest developments, I am continuing to work with the other Institutions with a view to getting the Directive adopted. A number of Member States have been opposing the Directive at the Council, but I hope that this will change. Some oppose it for subsidiarity reasons, others because they think it is too costly (particularly on the contamination part). So we need to foster a change in political thinking in the Member States that oppose the legislation. One way to do this will be to reinforce and make more explicit the link between soil and other major issues like climate change and biodiversity loss. We need public opinion on our side, and that's going to mean stressing the links between environment policy and food production, and safeguarding human health.

Since the Council impasse of 2007 we have held two major conferences dealing with soil, climate change and biodiversity. Both conferences underlined the scientific basis for protection via legislation. We need to change minds and allay fears of subsidiarity and costs. My efforts go in these directions and I will continue these efforts in 2011 with a report on the implementation of the thematic strategy to date, and a report on soil sealing, its effects, consequences and mitigation approaches. I hope that, with support from the Presidency, we will achieve a positive outcome as soon as possible.

**Do you agree with the findings of the TEEB for Policy Makers Report, that subsidies are harmful to biodiversity, and that especially those for fishery, agriculture and energy are in urgent need of reform? Do you think such a reform, within the EU, could be completed rapidly enough to achieve an ambitious 2020 target?**

**J.Potočník:** The European Commission has been supporting the TEEB project from the start and will of course look into ways to implement in our policies the analyses developed in its reports. Regarding the reform of subsidies harmful to biodiversity, I would like to recall that the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have already agreed at their meeting in October in Nagoya to eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity by 2020. This is an excellent example of how the TEEB recommendations have been taken up on the global level. As I have already said, without further mainstreaming of environmental concerns into the Common Agricultural and the Common Fishery Policies, our objectives of improving the quality of the environment in the European Union will not be met. Currently both policies are in review and their respective reforms are to be finalised by 2013, which would still be early enough to ensure that they make a significant contribution to achieving our biodiversity objectives. But in order to do so we have to make the voice of our natural environment heard in the discussions, so that it will be reflected in the reform proposals expected in 2011. In this regard, the new EU biodiversity strategy that the Commission will soon adopt will help to set a benchmark for other policies.

**A recent OECD report entitled "Paying for Biodiversity: Enhancing the Cost-Effectiveness of Payments for Ecosystem Services" advocated a far more extensive use of this approach. Would this, in your view, be desirable within the EU, and how would it be implemented and financed e.g. could innovative financing mechanisms be set up?**

**J.Potočník:** I believe that the idea of paying for the services we get from nature is an important and valid one and will be essential in mobilising the resources we need to conserve biological diversity. Let's not forget that the European Union already has extensive experience from using payments for ecosystem services. Specific agri-environmental measures, forest-environment payments and payments to support the management of agriculture and forests' lands are already in place. But there is no doubt that the potential of the current financial programming

could be much better used. The possibility of increasing such payments is also under discussion in the context of the future reform of the EU's agricultural policy. However, payments for ecosystem services do not necessarily have to come exclusively from public sources, and payment schemes for services such as water cleaning can also be designed at local scale. We should also consider ways to better engage the private sector in such schemes, through public-private partnerships, for example. For global services such as carbon sequestration, international mechanisms such as the REDD and REDD+ proposals can provide substantial benefits.

**Do you agree with several NGO networks and others that nations should have adopted natural capital accounting by 2020?**

**J.Potočník:** Yes I do, and at the Nagoya conference Parties to the Convention I actually agreed that biodiversity values should be incorporated into national accounting by 2020. It will be a challenge to achieve this target, but it will be necessary if we want to ensure that the value of our natural capital is adequately reflected in our economic planning. The view that ecosystems are also economically productive systems, which produce a flow of beneficial goods and services, is gaining support and that is clearly a good sign. But policy makers won't be able to give adequate weight to nature considerations when they make decisions about projects and policies affecting land use and resource management until the values of our natural assets are properly reflected in economic indicators and national accounts.

**How do you visualise current and future EU actions on biodiversity benefiting EU neighbours within the European continent as a whole?**

**J.Potočník:** For countries seeking to join the EU, alignment with the norms and standards of the EU is the best protection we can have. Across the other neighbouring countries we will seek to use our financial assistance to address biodiversity priorities, when such assistance is requested by our partner countries. We will also continue with our efforts to ensure that assistance given in other sectors does not impact negatively on biodiversity. With our neighbours we have programmes such as TAIEEX, the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument managed by DG Enlargement, which support the transfer of know-how in response to requests from partner countries. This is a useful way of giving practical information to practitioners in the field.

**The Commission's 2009 White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change and similar documents warn of substantial impacts on European biodiversity in the coming decades. What is your strategic thinking on how to confront this challenge, in particular as regards adaptation of agriculture, forest management, marine management, changes in water resources availability and the increasing desertification of the EU's southern rim?**

**J.Potočník:** The Commission's paper on climate adaptation recognised that our adaptation strategies have to build on the sound management of water, land and biodiversity. Maintaining and restoring ecosystems.

## LAST HOPE FOR SAVING WORLD BIODIVERSITY? A REFLECTION ON THE 10TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (18-29 OCTOBER 2010, NAGOYA, JAPAN)

by Vanya Walker-Leigh, MIO-ECSDE Senior Advisor



The adoption by the 193-nation Nagoya conference of 47 consensus decisions renews hopes for the future survival and sustainable management of the world's terminally threatened biodiversity. Following the acrimonious failure of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen ten months before and subsequent disparaging comments on the questionable relevance of UN multilateralism, the Nagoya outcome showed that this cumbersome but at the same time inclusive and democratic process can produce results – sending a positive signal, it was hoped, to the subsequent UN climate conference in Mexico a month later.

Eight years before Nagoya, the world community pledged both within the CBD's first Strategic Plan and at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 'the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity'. Instead it achieved the contrary.

In his hard-hitting statement to the opening plenary on 18 October, the Algerian UNCBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Dhoglaf stated that "the 170 fourth national reports" by Parties to date, confirm that we continue to lose biodiversity at an unprecedented rate. The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook demonstrates that today, the rate of loss of biodiversity is up to one thousand times higher than the background and historical rate of extinction." ([www.cdb.int/the-outlook/gbo3](http://www.cdb.int/the-outlook/gbo3)). The report predicts that if we allow the current trends to continue we shall soon reach a tipping point with irreversible and irreparable damage to the capacity of the planet to continue sustaining life on Earth. The report warns that the status of biodiversity for the next million years will be determined by the action or inaction, of one species – humanity – in the coming decades.

However, achieving by 2020 the ambitions of the Nagoya outcome, albeit with many decisions in the name of compromise among highly divergent positions couched in far weaker and less constraining language than the dire state of world biodiversity requires, will depend on: sustained political will, proactive involvement of all stakeholders, especially business, and as yet unspecified but undoubtedly very large amounts of money.

Nonetheless, money alone will not be enough. The wholesale worldwide retooling of current accounting methods in both public and private sectors to accurately reflect, rather than largely ignore, as now, the value of our planet's natural capital and its related ecosystems services is a *sine qua non*.

Another "must" is far greater synergy and coherence at both national and international levels between actions to save biodiversity, halt desertification and combat climate change. In UN terms, this means an enormous expansion of the current interfaces between the three related 'Rio Conventions', their secretariats as well as between respective national focal points and delegates to negotiating conferences.

Extending the 2010 International Year for Biodiversity, with the declaration of 2011-2020 as the International Decade for Biodiversity by the UN General Assembly in December – endorsing a COP 10 recommendation based on a Japanese proposal – aims to ensure a decade-long focus. The UN Secretary-General leads the coordination of UN-system Decade-related activities.

The launch of UNEP's report 'Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication' ([www.unep.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy)) at the UNEP Governing Council this February and the preparations for and outcome of the Rio +20 conference (UN Conference for Sustainable Development, June 2012) will hopefully generate a strong global commitment to 'green growth' and thus sustain the drive for implementing the Nagoya goals.

Decisions 1-3 adopted at the final COP 10 plenary, grouped under 'The Nagoya Compact' comprise the text of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization ([www.cbd.int/cop10/doc](http://www.cbd.int/cop10/doc)). The Protocol only just emerged – following over ten years of difficult negotiations – in the wake of substantial concessions from developing country ministers made in the last day of COP 10. The final text was fiercely criticized by the Indigenous and Local Communities caucus (claiming to represent 800 million people). In fact, developing countries had predicated their support to the two other package elements on the Protocol's adoption. Open for signature on 2 February 2011, and entering into force 90 days after the 50th ratification, the

Protocol sets out a transparent framework governing research and development access to genetic materials (made contingent on respect of the source-nation's regulations), as well as a host of related issues such as benefit-sharing and the due rewarding of traditional knowledge. By mid-March, Algeria was the only Mediterranean nation amongst the six signatories (all developing nations).

The guiding philosophy of the Strategy is "Living in harmony with nature, where by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people." However, this last phrase constitutes a shift from the CBD COP 9 (2009) focus on benefits not only for humanity but for the planet as a whole. The Strategy comprises five cross-cutting goals each grouping four policy targets, called 'The Aichi Nagoya Biodiversity Targets'. The goals are:

- mainstreaming of biodiversity within government and society;
- reducing direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use;
- safeguarding of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;
- enhancing benefits to all of biodiversity and ecosystems services;
- enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Key goals with numerical targets include Target 5 calling for at least halving by 2020, and if feasible bringing to zero the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, with the significant reduction of degradation and fragmentation. Target 11 provides that by 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas (compared to 10 per cent now), and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, (compared to one percent now) are conserved through effective and equitable management, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

The Strategy for Resource Mobilization based on a COP 9 text contains no numbers, reflecting the huge divergences between developed nations with no mandate to negotiate quantified funding targets at COP 10, while developing countries insisted targets must be agreed there. Citing the economic recession and tight public financing constraints, developed countries moreover put much emphasis on the need to mobilize 'innovative financing mechanisms' and private sector investment – an approach not very welcome to developing nations.

Only the EU came prepared to consider an alternative route: to launch a process for establishing a funding baseline anchored in sound data and analysis which could lead to the eventual setting of a future funding target. The hard-fought compromise provided for a funding baseline to be determined according to a set of agreed indicators drawn up by 30 June 2011, with actual financial targets and related mechanisms to be adopted at COP 11 in September 2012.

Meanwhile however, Japan announced a \$2 billion (€1.4bn) Japan Biodiversity Fund to assist developing nations' implementation of key COP 10 agreements by organizing in partnership with the CBD and two other Rio Convention secretariats regional and sub-regional workshops for revising current national action plans and related regulations.

Adding to the €9bn, already granted since 2002 for biodiversity-related overseas aid, the European Environment Commissioner, Janez Potočnik pledged €1 bn to help developing nations implement the Compact. Smaller sums were offered by Norway, France and the UK. Although not a CBD contracting party, the US also committed (unspecified) financial support. In addition, some \$110 million from 16 donors were mobilised during COP 10 to support the CBD LifeWeb Initiative projects (launched at COP 9) for enhancing the protected-area agenda.

The remaining 47 decisions covered both provisions for periodic reviews of implementation and indicators, a huge range of issues complementing the Compact such as gender mainstreaming, technology transfer, poverty reduction, forestry, business involvement and awareness-raising. The COP endorsed the 131-developing nation Group of 77 and China's Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development (adopted on 17 October) with the National Institute on Biological Diversity in Korea offering to act as a collaborative centre of excellence for its implementation. Also agreed were a *de facto* moratorium on geo-engineering and a precautionary approach to the release of synthetic organisms.

Agreement that biodiversity values should be incorporated into national accounting by 2020 was complemented by the announcement by World Bank President, Robert Zoellink, of a 5-year pilot project entitled Wealth Accounting and Valuation for Ecosystems Services (WAVES) (<http://go.worldbank.org/PLo8P9FTN>). This project would develop methods for integrating ecosystems valuation into national accounts in ten nations, to be followed by worldwide scaling up of the results. The partnership is open to governments, international organisations and NGOs.

WAVES is a next step following on the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB) project which before COP 10 issued reports addressed to policymakers, business and local authorities. TEEB underlines the vulnerability of not only current consumer patterns and multinational business but also of the world's poorest, 500 million of whom derive up to 90 per cent of their livelihoods from nature's 'free goods'.

Presenting key findings of the latest UNEP CEO Briefing "Demystifying Materiality: Hardwiring Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Finance" ([www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/CEO](http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/CEO)) Achim Steiner, UNEP's Executive Director warned that "Critical natural capital underpins our economic activity and financial capital. A recent survey indicates that the risk from biodiversity loss and ecosystems decline is now higher than that from international terrorism and almost on a par with extreme weather events".

Other initiatives launched to support fulfilment of the Nagoya outcome were:

- The Nagoya Declaration on Biodiversity in Development Cooperation adopted by 34 leading bilateral and multilateral donor agencies attending the High-Level Forum on Biodiversity in Development Cooperation.
- Save Our Species Save Ourselves, ([www.sospecies.org](http://www.sospecies.org)) a coalition founded by World Bank, IUCN, Global Environment Facility, and Nokia and open to private companies, governments and NGOs to build the biggest species conservation fund for high impact projects identified by IUCN.
- The International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative ([www.satoyama-initiative.org](http://www.satoyama-initiative.org)) with 50 founder members (one from the Mediterranean) to promote and support socio-ecological production landscapes shaped over the years by the interaction between people and nature.
- The Nagoya Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity and the GLOBE Natural Capital Action Plan adopted by 122 legislators (7 from the Mediterranean) attending the GLOBE International Nagoya Forum.
- The Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity adopted by the 650 participants at the City Biodiversity Summit 2010.

No formal documents were adopted at two business events, the International Business and Ecosystems Day ([www.iucn.org/www.wbcsd.org](http://www.iucn.org/www.wbcsd.org)) and the Ministerial Dialogue with Business CEOs on Business Solutions to achieve the Aichi Nagoya Biodiversity Targets ([www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org)). However James Griffiths, sustainable ecosystems executive of the World Business Council on Sustainable Development confirmed to a press conference that business would play its part. WBCSD's report issued on 25 October, 'Effective biodiversity and ecosystems policy and regulation' ([www.wbcsd.org](http://www.wbcsd.org)) sets out detailed policy proposals. "While business favours 'smart regulation'", Mr. Griffiths emphasised, "biodiversity measures must be sector-specific with targets and timetables, clearly defined property rights and carefully designed to fit national and local circumstances. State-owned enterprises must give a strong lead".

For Mediterranean nations, the challenge from Nagoya is to respond to the many calls in COP 10 decisions for regional action whether through existing or new mechanisms, while building on separate EU and Arab processes already launched since Nagoya.

What can be achieved in coming months through either the Union for the Mediterranean or the Barcelona Convention is unclear. According to an EC senior official following regional environmental issues, nothing appears planned within the Union for the Mediterranean framework.

While the UNEP/MAP secretariat indicated to this author that the Nagoya outcome would be on the agenda of this year's Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (Montenegro, May 2011) and the Barcelona Convention COP 17 (France, December 2011) precise ideas remain to be refined and suggestions are welcome. The short duration of these gatherings, their bi-annual scheduling, together with current UNEP/MAP resource and staffing limitations would seem to constrain the degree of attention and action which can be expected under current arrangements.

Meanwhile, both the EU and the Arab nations have initiated follow-up actions. Conclusions by the European Councils at heads of government and environment minister level in December pledged implementation of the COP 10 outcome. Ministers also recalled the March 2010 Environment Council conclusions on biodiversity post-2010, committing the Union to halt biodiversity loss by 2020 and develop a long-term vision for 2050.

The European Commission aims to shortly issue a Communication on an EU post-2010 Biodiversity Plan, a non-legislative document not resulting in regulations or directives. The subsequent European Environment Council (17 June 2011) would hopefully welcome and agree to work with it. The text would be reviewed by a number of committees in the European Parliament with final endorsement taking up to a year. Meanwhile the Commission will continue to support the activities of the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform launched in 2008 ([www.ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business))

In Cairo on 29-30 November, a 16-point Arab Regional Statement for Action on the 2020 Biodiversity Targets, Funding Strategies and Innovative Financial Mechanisms was adopted by an Arab Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance in Support of the Nagoya Outcome, co-organised by UN CBD, the UNEP West Asia Office and the League of Arab states ([www.cbd.int/financial](http://www.cbd.int/financial)). The Statement advocates a regional strategy and action plan underpinned inter alia by operationalising the so far inactive Arab Environment Facility, accompanied by an Arab TEEB initiative, a programme for the three Rio Conventions as well as broadly based awareness-raising activities co-developed with UNEP as well as regional and global educational organizations.

In view of uncertain prospects for Mediterranean-wide action in the near future as well as the need to reflect on how to retool or add to current regional structures so as to effectively implement COP 10 decisions, an early EU-Arab Biodiversity dialogue on post-Nagoya actions seems to emerge as a useful first step. This could also inform discussions and decisions arising from the forthcoming Commission biodiversity strategy document as well as wider reflections expected on the future shape of EU-South Mediterranean relations.

Responding to the dramatic events in Tunisia and Egypt, as well as unrest elsewhere in the Arab world, the Joint communication of 3 March 2011 by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the President of the European Commission 'A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean' ([www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)) advocates "sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development". Unfortunately, the document does not evoke either the 2005 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and its subsequent implementation, nor indeed mention central topics such as climate change and biodiversity and the need to cast future regional actions within the evolving multilateral frameworks.

Ms. Walker-Leigh was accredited to the Nagoya conference as co-responsible of Sustainable Mediterranean.



# A MEDITERRANEAN REPORT ON THE 16TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (Cancun, Mexico 29 November to 10 December 2010)

by Vanya Walker-Leigh, MIO-ECSDE Senior Advisor



**C**OP16 succeeded the 15<sup>th</sup> COP in Copenhagen held in December 2009 attended by over 120 heads of state and government, which had failed to adopt an agreement on a post-2012 climate change regime in accordance with the guidelines of the Bali Road Map, adopted at COP 13 in Indonesia in December 2007.

In the acrimonious and chaotic last hours a three-page Copenhagen Accord, a list of generally worded agreements negotiated by a small closed group of leaders, was presented

to the final plenary on a “take it or leave it” basis, where delegates were given one hour to review the text. Due to the opposition of a small number of states, both regarding its content and the way it was produced, the Accord could not be adopted as a COP decision, due to the UN consensus rule. So far, 141 of the 194 UNFCCC parties support the Accord.

COP 16 was in contrast hailed as a success. However, its decisions were institutional and procedural, with the most challenging issues of binding emission reduction targets, especially the future of the UNFCCC’s Kyoto Protocol, long-term maximum global temperature targets, financial flows, intellectual property rights relating to technology transfer shunted forward to COP 17 in Durban, South Africa (27 November to 9 December 2011).

**Thus COP 16 did not adopt a post-2012 agreement either, and this seems unlikely to happen at COP 17 either, according to comments and analyses already emerging in the few weeks after Cancun.**

However, the outcome served to re-establish confidence in the UNFCCC process, in contrast to the many post-Copenhagen comments and speculations that it should be replaced by other approaches (non-UN bilateral, sectoral, regional approaches). Negotiations will continue at the UNFCCC intersessionals (Bangkok in April, Bonn in June and other meetings may also be scheduled).

## Mediterranean Aspects

### Level of representation

The delegations led by ministers (who came for the High Level Segment during the last three days) were, according to the List of Participants, seven EU Mediterranean, three other European Mediterranean and four South Mediterranean.

The European Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedeberg also attended the second week.

Speeches to the High-Level Segment (*very short and general, due to strict time limits*) were made by the heads of delegation of the following Mediterranean countries:

**EU:** Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain

**Non-EU:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Monaco.

**South Mediterranean:** Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Turkey

**The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative (MCCI)** launched in Athens on 22 October was only mentioned by Greece and Malta (passing reference).

Greece stated: “Last month, eighteen Mediterranean Countries including parties from many groups represented here in these negotiations gathered in Athens and launched the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative with the objective to address the challenges that lie ahead in our region. Understanding the added value of co-

operation, these countries decided to seek and utilize additional avenues for common action against climate change in the Mediterranean, especially in view of the extraordinary increase in temperature and reduction in rainfall that all models predict there”.

A proposal that Mediterranean delegates should have an informal meeting during the COP to discuss the MCCI did not prosper.

Note: Mediterranean nations do not meet as a group during COPs. South Mediterranean states (apart from Israel) belong to the 131 developing countries group, G77. Within this group there are regional sub-groups, so North African nations belong to the African group, while Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Turkey belong to the Asian Group. Turkey is also attached to the Western Europe and Other States Group, along with Israel. WEOG comprises most EU member states, as well as Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

### Country profiles

All UNFCCC contracting parties must submit periodic national communication on national policies. These can be viewed and downloaded from [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int). On the left hand sidebar click on *Documentation* and then on *National Reports*.

## NGOs

According to the list of participants, MIO-ECSDE was the only Mediterranean-wide network present. Nature Trust Malta is a member of the 500-NGO global Climate Action Network International. ([www.climatenetwork.org](http://www.climatenetwork.org)) which is extremely active both between and during COPs.

NGOs from Mediterranean nations (according to the List of Participants) were: France Nature et Environnement, Greenpeace France, Réseau Action Climat France, Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, Legambiente, Greenpeace Spain, Turkey-Green Thought Association, Eurosolar Turkey.

## Parallel events

Key events included:

- Climate and Development Days ([www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/dcd](http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/dcd))
- Agriculture and Rural Development Day (<http://www.agricultureday.org>) - a 10-year research initiative was launched by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP). [www.ccafs.cgiar.org](http://www.ccafs.cgiar.org)
- Oceans Day (<http://www.agricultureday.org>)
- Global Business Day ([www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/bd/](http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/bd/))
- World Climate Summit (business) ([www.wclimate.com](http://www.wclimate.com))
- Climate Change Communications Forum ([www.pewclimate.org](http://www.pewclimate.org))
- Farmers' Forum ([www.viacampesina.org](http://www.viacampesina.org))
- International Emissions Trading Association 'Climate challenges, business solutions' [www.ieta.org](http://www.ieta.org)

## EU/EC follow up

The conclusions of the Environment Council (20 December) assessed the conference results as 'generally positive' but warned that "there is still a lot of work to do. There is an urgent need to reach an outcome in the UN framework by the end of next year; to this end, a clear EU strategy is needed". ([www.consilium.europa.eu-press releases](http://www.consilium.europa.eu-press-releases))

In her speech to the European Parliament on 14 December (<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/755>) Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard stated that "We have a long and challenging journey to make[...]. In Europe we will do whatever we can to continue to play this very constructive role. [...] We have our 2020 target and we have also initiated the discussion about how we could eventually increase our ambitions in the short term. [...] In the spring the Commission will present a strategy for completing the transition to a low-carbon economy by 2050. That strategy will also include a 2030 objective."

A Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 was issued on 8 March: [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/documentation/roadmap/docs/com\\_2011\\_112\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/documentation/roadmap/docs/com_2011_112_en.pdf)

During a seminar on 18 February about climate change, the Hungarian government presented:

The EU's position for COP 17 will be developed at

successive Environment and European Councils during the year, and reflected in EU statements made at the intersessional UNFCCC meetings (Bangkok, April; Bonn, June). Discussions will also be conducted at bilateral level during both Commissioner Hedegaard's official visits and at multiple diplomatic levels.

## Arab region follow up

The regional forum in Rabat, Morocco (3-5 November) of the Arab Climate Resilience Initiative (ACRI [www.arabclimateinitiative.org](http://www.arabclimateinitiative.org)) set up by UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States adopted a Framework for Action for Climate Change for the Arab Region. Future activities will include three programmatic areas (at present under elaboration):

- supporting institutional capacity to address the impacts of climate change
- supporting local approaches to climate change adaptation
- enhancing resilience in the three priority areas of: water and food security, sea level rise and coastal erosion and sustainable energy

In response to an email query a UNDP BRAS official stated that "UNFCCC issues always come up in discussions around climate change, but that is not the focus of the initiative. Most certainly the eventual project team will be aware of the MCCI."

## Mediterranean follow-up

The MCCI ([www.medclimatechangeinitiative.org](http://www.medclimatechangeinitiative.org)) is scheduled to meet as from 1 October 2011 in Turkey, preceded by a working group on mitigation and adaptation in Malta before 1 July.

UNEP/MAP secretariat indicates that COP 16 outcomes will be on the agenda of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (30-31 May, Montenegro) but details of what will be discussed are pending. It will also be put on the agenda of the Barcelona Convention COP 16 (provisionally to take place in December 2011 in France). Should the latter dates be confirmed, they would either coincide with or occur immediately after COP 17.

The headline results of the four-year, 10 million Euro project Climate Change Impacts and Research: the Mediterranean Environment CIRCE ([www.circeproject.eu](http://www.circeproject.eu)) are due to be issued this year. Cherif Rahmani, the Algerian Minister for the Environment informed this representative that Algeria supported the convening of a ministerial-level meeting to discuss and implement CIRCE's recommendations.

No information is available from the Union for the Mediterranean secretariat about whether a regional meeting on climate change (or other environmental topics) is planned.

## Summary of key decisions adopted under the Cancun Agreements

### Background

The Bali Road Map provided for two tracks:

- the continuation of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on further Commitments for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol (KP) – AWG KP (set up in 2005) and propose any other related adjustments to the KP text. Such commitments could include the reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by the developed nations, with the exclusion of the US that is not a KP party.
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Co-operative Action under the Convention AWG LCA, *Topics covered under The Bali Action Plan being a shared long-term vision, mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology to be enshrined in an 'agreed outcome' – its exact legal nature.*

Both AWGs were supposed to generate agreed negotiating texts for adoption at the High-Level Segment in Copenhagen, something that did not happen. Agreed texts were not achieved either at COP 16, so the two working groups continue through 2011, and will submit reports to COP 17.

Developing nations made clear in Copenhagen and Cancun that the post-2012 international climate regime must include a second commitment period (CP2) of the Kyoto Protocol, providing for binding emissions reductions by the Annex 1 developed nations.

At COP 16, Russia and Japan publicly stated they would not enter into a CP2. Canada expressed the same position during the negotiations (although it did not include this in its minister's speech), advocating instead a new single legally binding agreement to cover topics of both AWGs.

Keeping the CP2 option open involved a huge fight. As stated by Commissioner Hedebergard in her 14 December statement: *"Finally, we managed to keep open the discussion about the Kyoto Protocol and a future legal outcome. I think that, if we had not had the prospect of having a second commitment period, it is very likely that the process would have been dead by now"*.

### Key decisions:

#### AWG KP

- **to register emission reduction pledges made by KP parties under the Copenhagen Agreement** (*Note: contrary to the first commitment period, these are 'bottom up' proposals by each country, thus neither in the form of legally binding obligations nor a result of an agreed aggregate figure for all industrialised nations, accompanied by a schedule of individual agreed targets for each one.*)
- **AWG KP 'should complete its work on the second commitment period as early as possible and in time to ensure that there is no gap between the first and second commitment period'**
- Even if the Kyoto Protocol contracting parties were to adopt a CP2 at COP 17, its entry into force on 1 January 2013 would require far speedier ratification by parliaments (i.e. one year) than that foreseen in Bali (three years).

- **need for 'a higher level of ambition, to reflect the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (*Note: The AR4 urged cuts of 25 to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020, placing the peak of global emissions in 2015 in order to have a 50/50 chance to limit the increase of global average temperature to +2 over pre-industrial levels. However current pledges would generate a reduction of only 11 to 16%, according to UN assessments and set the world on a course to +3-5).*)

#### AWG LCA

##### Shared long-term vision

- a +2C goal, but not supported by a peaking year or quantified emissions reduction long-term target for 2050 to achieve it. (*Note: Quoting scientific findings since the IPCC report (2007), the goal is opposed by nearly 112 developing nations, mainly small island and least developed states, as being too high to ensure their survival, who demand +1.5)*)
- recognition of *"the need to consider, in the context of the first review(...), strengthening the long-term global goal on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge, including in relation to a global average temperature rise of 1.5°C"*.

##### Mitigation

- note taken of emission reductions pledged under the Copenhagen Accord by developed nations. This covers USA, although not a KP party. While President Obama pledged at COP 15 that the US would reduce emissions by 17% below 2005, about 3% below 1990, the House of Representatives failed to pass a bill in 2010. The Republican majority in the newly-elected House as from January 2011, is not expected to do so, whilst attacks are being mounted both in the Courts and within Congress on existing legislation enabling the US government to mandate emission cuts in certain industries;
- improved developed country reporting of emission reduction actions and financing of mitigation efforts by developing nations;
- developing nations to draw up Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) supported by technology, finance and capacity building, to achieve a deviation from 'business as usual' emission levels by 2020;
- note taken of the (44) developing nations' pledges made under the Copenhagen Accord (*Med countries, Monaco, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia*);
- internationally supported developing nation mitigation actions will be measured, reported and verified domestically and will be subject to international measurement, reporting and verification;
- domestically supported developing nation mitigation actions will be measured, reported and verified domestically in accordance with general guidelines to be developed under the Convention;
- developing nations' biennial reports subject to a process of international consultation and analysis;

(Note: This was as far as high emitting developing nations, China, India, South Africa, Brazil, etc. would go in the face of US demands that they must undertake legally binding emission reduction commitments – not spelt out in the Bali text).

- developing nations encouraged to develop national plans to reduce emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, to conserve and enhance forest carbon stocks, sustainably manage forests -with adequate and predictable support, AWG LCA to explore and report to COP 17 on financing options;
- COP 17 to consider market and non-market based mechanisms to support mitigation actions proposed by AWG LCA.

#### *Adaptation*

- Establish The Cancun Adaptation Framework for action at all levels, with assistance to developing nations to draw up related national plans.
- An Adaptation Committee to promote coherent implementation of enhanced action. COP 17 is invited to adopt detailed rules on its composition, functioning etc.
- A work programme on loss and damage from climate change impacts in developing nations
- Strengthen and, where necessary, establish regional centres and networks, especially in developing countries.
- Establish or institute national-level adaptation arrangements.

#### *Finance*

- Collective commitment by developed countries to provide new and additional resources, during 2010-

2012, approaching \$30billion, ('fast start finance') balanced between mitigation and adaptation, the latter prioritised for the most vulnerable developing nations.

- Commitment by developed countries to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries; from a wide variety of sources.

(Note: Both commitments made under the Copenhagen Accord)

- Establishment of a Green Climate Fund under UNFCCC for developing countries, to be designed by a Transitional Committee, with operating rules, legal framework etc proposed for adoption to COP 17.

#### *Technology*

- Establishment of a Technology Mechanism under COP, to facilitate transfer for mitigation and adaptation, a Technology Executive Committee and a Climate Technology Centre and Network to facilitate a network of national, regional, sectoral and international technology networks, organizations and initiatives.

#### *Capacity building*

- Enhanced support to developing countries, strengthening of communication, education, public awareness.
- Legal options
- Discussion to continue about legal nature of Bali Action Plan 'agreed outcome'.

## "NATURAL RESERVES: A WEALTH THAT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERVALUED"



**Organising NGO:** Arab Office  
For Youth & Environment  
**Country:** Egypt  
**Contact:** aoye@link.net

Protected areas in Egypt cover more than 14% of the country's total area, made up of 27 natural reserves and representing a variety of habitats and ecosystems. These natural reserves comprise geological formations, cultural heritage and a wealth of biodiversity, shaping outstanding landscapes of breathtaking beauty.

Natural reserves represent a key tool used globally for the protection of natural resources and even serve as a barrier, in the face of the growing trend of human-induced impacts. These preserved areas offer wonderful examples of natural habitats and provide protection and shelter to endangered species of plants and animals.

Within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Day 2010, **AOYE** decided to implement an awareness raising activity at the "Wadi Degla Reserve", an area characterized by remarkable resources in terms of plant and animal life. The valley is covered with a protective permanent plantation layer containing 64 kinds of plants. Deer have been recently recorded in this area as well as 20 kinds of reptiles that include Egyptian turtles, which are threatened with extinction. There are also 12 kinds of the eastern desert birds, in addition to migrating and visiting bird species in winter as well as the resident and visiting birds in summer.

The aim of this activity was to raise awareness on the importance of Egypt's natural reserves, which are irreplaceable and the motto encapsulating this scope was "**Natural Reserves...wealth should not be undervalued**".

The main and specific objectives of the activity were to:

- Raise public awareness and spread the culture of environmental consciousness among school students and children as to the importance of their participation in conserving natural wealth.
- Contribute to the climate change mitigation efforts by planting trees or plants inside natural

reserves taking into consideration the unique ecosystems of each of the reserves.

- Educate school children on how to conserve the environment and protect it.
- Promote eco-tourism activities in one of the 27 natural reserves in Egypt.
- Encourage volunteerism among youth and children through their participation in clean-ups of natural reserves.
- Maintain the pristine status of natural reserves by encouraging the local population as well as visitors to reduce the disposal of waste in protected areas.
- Promote cooperation between local communities, government, NGOs and private sector to achieve sustainable development.

In the aforementioned framework, AOYE in cooperation with the Department of Protected Areas of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and the El-Maahed El-Aalmy Preparatory school organized a field trip to Wadi Degla Reserve.

Once the 43 participants arrived at the reserve and after walking in the desert for more than half an hour, the lecturers made presentations on topics related to natural reserves, the history and the importance of protecting them, etc. The presentations were followed by open discussions that focused on the negative impact of climate change and the ensuing threats to the ecosystem of the reserve. Afterwards, the students divided into groups and carried out the following activities:

- Identified the areas that needed to be cleaned-up and undertook clean-up activities;
- Gathered seedlings to plant flora, especially endangered, plus other types of trees, bearing in mind the unique and fragile ecosystem of the natural reserve;
- Designed a brochure with useful information on how to protect natural reserves;
- Developed the concept of a pilot campaign for protected areas.



Photos of the educational/awareness raising activities implemented at Wadi Degla Rese

## "SENSIBILISATION DES ÉTABLISSEMENTS SCOLAIRES POUR LA LUTTE CONTRE LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES PAR LA CONSERVATION DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ VÉGÉTALE LOCALE"



**Organising NGO:** Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Médina de Gafsa  
**Country:** Tunisia  
**Contact:** asm.gafsa@planet.tn

Dans le cadre du MAD 2010, l'ASM Gafsa en partenariat avec MIO-ECSDE a lancé une action de renforcement des capacités pour la lutte contre les changements climatiques à travers la conservation de la biodiversité végétale locale dans l'école préparatoire pilote dans la ville de Gafsa. Cette action a visé à démontrer l'importance de la conservation des espèces végétales et particulièrement de ceux qui ont des spécificités très intéressantes en matière d'aptitude aux conditions climatiques sévères comme la sécheresse, l'élévation de la température, la dégradation de la qualité des sols et la résistance aux maladies.

### Activités réalisées

**Organisation de deux sessions de sensibilisation et d'information** en présence des 20 élèves du club d'environnement scolaire, de l'animatrice du club et du directeur de l'école. Ces sessions ont été l'occasion pour discuter les modalités de la gestion durable et dynamique des ressources naturelles en matière de biodiversité végétale locale, les modalités de la préservation des arbres et des plantes aromatiques et médicinales dans les espaces verts scolaires et la nécessité d'avoir de bonnes pratiques dans ce domaine pour les diffuser auprès de la famille et dans d'autres milieux pour s'inscrire dans une approche d'adaptation aux changements climatiques.



Journées de sensibilisation avec les élèves du club d'environnement scolaire

**Aménagement de l'espace vert scolaire pour engager par la suite les opérations de plantation des variétés locales dans le jardin scolaire ainsi que choix des espèces végétales locales, des arbres fruitiers, des plantes aromatiques et médicinales** qui sont adaptées à la région et qui représentent les spécificités et les richesses en matière de biodiversité de la région de Gafsa, à savoir:

l'Abricot, le Figuier, le Cerisier, le Prunier, le Palmier Dattier, l'Olivier, le Poirier, le Pêcher, le Grenadier, l'Oranger, le Citronnier, le Pommier, le Néflier de Japon, l'Armoise, le Verveine, le Romarin, la Menthe et le Géranium.

**Plantation de ces espèces végétales par les élèves assistés par l'animatrice du club scolaire de l'environnement et l'équipe de l'ASM Gafsa** dans le jardin scolaire.

**Organisation d'une réunion de restitution pour évaluer les actions réalisées dans le cadre du microprojet** qui a groupé les parties prenantes, a mis l'accent sur la nécessité de continuer les opérations d'entretien du jardin scolaire aménagé et la multiplication des variétés locales d'arbres fruitiers et des plantes aromatiques et médicinales. Les participants ont sollicité l'équipe de l'ASM Gafsa à mettre en œuvre dans cette école, un autre projet pour l'année scolaire prochaine 2010-2011 à savoir la mise en place d'un système d'irrigation goutte à goutte et un système de collecte des eaux perdues des lavabos et des eaux pluviales.

**Réalisation des panneaux de signalisation à l'école sur le thème environnemental choisi, groupant les principales ressources phytogénétiques de la région de Gafsa**, afin de sensibiliser les élèves sur la richesse en matière de biodiversité végétale locale.

**Contrôle des plantations** par le club d'environnement scolaire et l'équipe de l'ASM Gafsa.

**Préparation et réalisation du CD interactif environnemental**, qui a servi comme matériel didactique et pédagogique pour les élèves, contenant toute la documentation nécessaire pour aider les élèves à contribuer dans leur milieu scolaire et universitaire de lutter contre le changement climatique par la conservation de la biodiversité locale. Les élèves ont pu également être formés sur les modalités de création d'un tel support en partant d'un ensemble de documentation diverse électronique ayant différentes thématiques.

### Les résultats de cette action

Cette expérience a pu montrer que les élèves sont toujours aptes à s'adhérer parfaitement dans une action environnementale dans leur milieu scolaire. La création d'un jardin de biodiversité locale a permis une formation par apprentissage à ces bénéficiaires et a été l'occasion d'avoir un sentiment d'appartenance de ces élèves par rapport à leur école. Les élèves ainsi que les instituteurs sont sensibilisés, formés et impliqués pour la préservation dynamique de la biodiversité végétale locale pour la lutte contre les changements climatiques dans leurs écoles. Cette action a porté essentiellement, au niveau scolaire, par la multiplication des espèces végétales locales et leur reproduction dans d'autres établissements scolaires.

## “BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE”



**Organising NGO:** *Balady Port Said Society for protection of the environment and consumer*  
**Country:** *Egypt*  
**Contact:** *zemo3000@yahoo.com*

**O**n the occasion of MIO-ECSDE’s Mediterranean Action Day 2010 dedicated to Biodiversity, the **Balady Port Said Society for protection of the environment and consumer** organized an awareness raising event on “Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage”.

The event targeted school and university students, teachers, NGOs, governmental organizations and decision makers and aimed at raising awareness on the threats posed on the natural resources of Port Said and on the ways to address them. The event used Ashtoum El-Gamil National Park as a case study.

The event, which took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2010, was successfully attended by fifty (50) participants. The two presentations of the event, made by Dr. Ahmed M. Abdel-Azeem and Mr. Hany Ageba focused on the

wealth of biodiversity and cultural heritage of Port Said, highlighting the critical inter-linkages between them, as well as the necessity for actions that should be undertaken at national level to protect them.

A discussion among the attendees followed and the final conclusion and key message to be further disseminated referred to the urgent need for Egyptians to realize that immediate action that should be undertaken in order to reduce the hazardous impacts on the Manzala Lake, as well as the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, the participants called for a strengthened enforcement of the existing national environmental legislation and decided to create a group in Port Said with the task to raise awareness on biodiversity and cultural heritage related issues.

In addition to the aforementioned event, Balady Port Said Society’s further efforts to raise awareness were supported by a 2011 calendar (printed in 2000 copies), which included major international environmental events and was decorated with photos demonstrating the natural wealth of Port Said.



*Manzala Lake After Sunrise - Egypt*

## “GREEN YOUR MIND - MAKE THE CHANGE”



**Organising NGO:** BIOSFERA  
**Country:** Former Yugoslav Republic  
**Contact:** biosfera@t-home.mk

**B**IOSFERA, one of the “youngest” members of MIO-ECSDE, implemented successfully its activities within the MAD 2010 framework, demonstrating exceptional ardour and commitment to push the borders of thinking at local and national level, and provoke/promote the necessary actions that should be undertaken, including participation in relevant global efforts, towards conserving the biodiversity of our planet.

The implemented activities were divided into three lines of action, which complemented each other and ensured synergies in terms of media coverage and public participation. The main aim of these activities was to raise awareness on biodiversity as a crucial natural asset and encourage people to commit themselves towards the conservation of biodiversity through various types of actions. It should be highlighted that for the first time elementary and high school students were one of the main target groups.

Some of the highlights of BIOSFERA’s MAD 2010 activities were:

- A Public awareness raising campaign that involved directly or indirectly more than 700 elementary school students and 200 high school students;
- A Drawing competition and exhibition held in cooperation with the National Museum, at the art gallery “Magaza”. The exhibition attracted more than 700 visitors and was covered by local media.
- A Poetry competition, with more than 127 entries.



*Ms. Emilia Ristevska Stefanovska (High School teacher and member of BIOSFERA) opening the public debate*

It was an excellent opportunity to motivate school students to think without borders and express themselves on the issue of biodiversity protection in the Mediterranean, as well as the implications of climate change.

- The dissemination of hand-made Christmas and New Year postcards with the message: GREEN YOUR MIND – MAKE THE CHANGE (Our Green Agenda for the Climate Change and Biodiversity Protection in the Mediterranean). This action was implemented in cooperation with the elementary school “St. Kliment Ohridski” in Bitola. The workshop took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2010.

### Overview of BIOSFERA's activities within the framework of MAD 2010

Line of action	Activities
Public awareness raising campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open public debate: Why it is important to have a Mediterranean Green Agenda for climate change and the protection of biodiversity.</li> <li>• Letter campaign: sending THE GREEN LETTER to official institutions calling for the protection of the environment and nature, adaptation and mitigation measures to address climate change and support for all relevant international conventions.</li> <li>• On line petition.</li> <li>• Use of the Social networks (Facebook) to promote MEDITERANNEAN ACTION DAY</li> </ul>
Art work and promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing competition and exhibition.</li> <li>• Poetry competition.</li> </ul>
Actions to link people and create a network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green your future – Plant trees on Tree Action Day: Biosfera members joined the campaign Tree Action Day with the aim to promote the protection of forests. Mediterranean forests suffer mostly from fires due to increased temperatures from climate change impacts.</li> <li>• Dissemination of hand-made Christmas and New Year postcards with the message: GREEN YOUR MIND - MAKE THE CHANGE (Our Green Agenda for the Climate Change and Biodiversity Protection in the Mediterranean).</li> </ul>



One of the very interesting outcomes of the aforementioned events was the enthusiasm expressed by

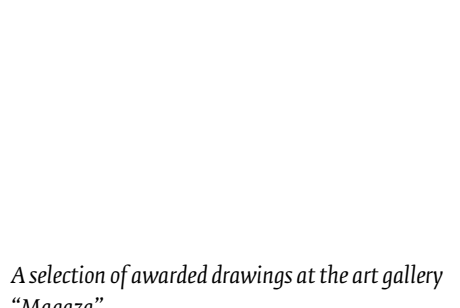


President of BIOSFERA, Mr. Neshad Azemovski, awarding one of the artists of the completion.

the Municipality of Bitola to support in every possible way, including financially, the activities planned for next year.



BIOSFERA members participating in the Balkan Tree Action Day



A selection of awarded drawings at the art gallery "Magaza".

## “LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES ET LEURS IMPACTS SUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ”



**Organising NGO:** CMED  
**Country:** Morocco  
**Contact:** cmepez000@yahoo.fr

Dans le cadre de la célébration du Mediterranean Action Day pour l'année 2010, le **Club Marocain de l'Environnement et du Développement** (CMED Section Ouezzane) a organisé une activité environnementale sous le thème: « Les Changements Climatiques et leurs impacts sur la Biodiversité ». Le CMED s'est entouré des partenaires tels que la Maison des Jeunes d'Ouazzane, le Conseil municipal, la délégation de l'Education Nationale de Ouazzane pour mener à bien ce projet.

L'ouverture officielle s'est déroulée dans la grande salle de la Maison des Jeunes. Monsieur le Président du Club Marocain de l'Environnement et du Développement de la section d'Ouazzane a ouvert ce séminaire par un mot de bienvenue destiné à l'assistance, aux responsables de la délégation du Ministère de l'éducation Nationale de la ville d'Ouezzane, aux membres du Bureau National du CMED et au MIO-ECSDE et il a présenté le contexte de l'organisation du MAD 2010 (les objectifs, le rôle du MIO et de l'UE tandis que leur appui organisationnel et financier).

Cette cérémonie d'ouverture s'est poursuivie par une allocution présentée au nom du Bureau National du CMED par Monsieur le vice-président du Club Marocain de l'Environnement et du Développement, qui a remercié les membres du Club de la section d'Ouezzane, ainsi que l'ensemble des participants à ce séminaire.

L'après-midi a été consacré aux exposés scientifiques et à la présentation des réalisations artistiques des élèves (expressions artistiques concernant la protection de l'

environnement et la biodiversité). Dr. Jamal Dine Mohammed s'est concentré sur l'importance du rôle de l'éducation et des médias dans la préservation de la biodiversité.

Monsieur Abdellah Rifai a traité le sujet de l'impact des changements climatique sur l'état de la biodiversité au Maroc et Monsieur Hamza El Ouedghiri, représentant du comité de communication dans la délégation régionale de la ville d'Ouazzane, a donné un aperçu sur la campagne nationale pour la collecte des sacs en plastique. Ensuite, le Professeur Mohamed Ftouhi, Président du CMED, a fait une intervention qui a mis l'accent sur l'intérêt et les différents rôles de la biodiversité; environnemental, économique et social. Il a souligné également l'impact des changements climatiques sur l'état de la biodiversité en insistant sur les différentes mesures de sa préservation. Par ailleurs, un atelier d'art plastique a été animé par l'artiste Kamal Didane et il a été marqué par l'exposition et la présentation des créations artistiques des élèves du lycée Moulay Abdallah Cherif ainsi que celle des adhérents du club (Expressions artistiques des élèves concernant la protection de l'environnement et la biodiversité). Une pièce théâtrale a été présentée par des jeunes lycéens portant sur le thème de l'utilisation des sacs en plastiques.

La journée s'est marquée par rendre hommage au Président et membres du Bureau National du CMED. Enfin, le Président, au nom des participants a remercié l'ensemble des instances qui ont contribué à la réussite de la journée du MAD 2010: le MIO-ECSDE, l'Union Européenne, la Délégation du Ministère de l'éducation Nationale Ouezzane, les intervenants, la section du CMED Ouezzane et l'ensemble de l'assistance.



La délégation du Club Marocain de l'Environnement et du Développement de Rabat, ainsi une partie de lors de l'assistance.

## “AWARENESS RAISING ON THE ROLE OF BIODIVERSITY IN VRBJE POND”



**Organising NGO:** Society for bird research and nature protection (DPPVN)  
**Country:** Slovenia  
**Contact:** milan.vogrin@guest.arnes.si

Lower Savinja valley in Central Slovenia is characterized by intensive agricultural activities mostly for the cultivation of hops. Very few places still preserve their natural assets and one of them is the pond Vrbje and the area near the town Žalec. The pond covers 13.5 hectares of land and generates its water source from the Savinja river, through the Struga and the Podvin-Žalec canal which was created to propel water mills and saws in the past.

In the area around the pond covering less than 50 ha, high concentrations of biodiversity occur. The pond itself provides shelter to different species of animals, among them birds, amphibians, reptiles, dragonflies and plants. This shelter is of utmost importance for some species, not only at local or regional level but at national level, too. Unfortunately, the area is under constant threat, mainly due to agricultural and fishing activities, as well as low water levels, probably caused by climate change.

In the past few years, DPPVN has carried out a number of activities in this area, such as field studies, research work and awareness raising through the development of appropriate materials with the support of the local community. This year, DPPVN within the framework of MAD 2010 has developed and distributed promotional material around the area of the pond, aiming to draw public attention to the value of the area's biodiversity and the need to conserve it, as well as to the opportunities derived from its conservation and sustainable use. The promotional material is developed in the form of a set (the second of a series) of three postcards with photos of endangered and rare fauna, as well as flora. The Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*, the typical and the most common snake of the pond, the Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*, typical plant for the marsh region of the pond and the pond itself together with the bird watching tower are presented. The postcards, available in English and Slovene, were printed in 1.000 copies each and distributed to students during school field trips in the area, as part of DPPVN's ESD activities, and to visitors.

Photograph: © Milan Vogrin



Pond Vrbje and the bird watching tower



*Iris pseudacorus*

## “IL MONDO È BELLO PERCHÈ È VARIO”



**Organising NGO:** Istituto per l'Ambiente e l'Educazione Scholé Futuro  
**Country:** Italy  
**Contact:** segreteria@schole.it

Within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Day 2010, the **Istituto per l'Ambiente e l'Educazione Scholé Futuro ONLUS** and the magazine “eco, l'educazione sostenibile» organized an awareness raising campaign aiming to inform and sensitize the public on biodiversity related issues.

The objective of the campaign was to stress the value of biodiversity, as well as the risks related to biodiversity loss and the implications of such loss in our daily lives. Specifically, it focused on the direct or indirect links between climate change and biodiversity loss. Information and communication is considered to be the key in engaging people and making them aware of the role they can play in slowing and preventing biodiversity loss.

The campaign started towards the end of 2010, which was also the International Year of Biodiversity, with the aim to make it an ongoing effort.

The main channels/tools developed and/or used to reach out to the wider public were a website, informative emails sent out to a wide mailing list and social networks, such as Facebook. In addition, SCHOLE published articles on the

theme of 'biodiversity and climate change in the Mediterranean area' on the website [www.educazionesostenibile.it](http://www.educazionesostenibile.it), in the blog <http://blog.schole.it> and on the WEEC website [www.environmental-education.org](http://www.environmental-education.org). The publication “Eight years of biodiversity on the pages of .eco”, a collection articles that have been published since 2002 on the magazine “eco, l'educazione sostenibile” was also made available for free download on the website. A card with information on the immense value of biodiversity was developed and uploaded on the website and a newsletter was sent to the “.eco” and WEEC database, in English and Italian, to a list of 40.000 Italian and 45.000 International contacts.

Thanks to Facebook, the communication was not just one way but the public was given the opportunity to interact and exchange views with each other and with l'Istituto per l'Ambiente e l'Educazione Scholé Futuro, thus ensuring the actual engagement of people.

In conclusion, the communication campaign was very successful sending out a clear message about the urgent need for action, highlighting how the loss of any link in the chain of life, however insignificant it may appear, can disturb the whole balance of nature. It is estimated that approximately 150.000 people took part in the 2010 Mediterranean Action Day activities, which are still running.



Promotional cards with information on the great value of biodiversity.



## “THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON DEAD SEA BIODIVERSITY - THE DEAD SEA IS DYING”



**Organising NGO:** Jordan Environment Society  
**Country:** Jordan  
**Contact:** jes@jes.org.jo

The Dead Sea is a salt lake bordering with Jordan to the east. Its surface and shores are 422 meters (1,385 ft) below sea level, the lowest elevation on the Earth's surface on dry land. The Dead Sea is 378 m (1,240 ft) deep, the deepest hyper saline lake in the world. It is also one of the world's saltiest bodies of water, with 33.7% salinity.

In the framework of the MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Action Day activities of 2010 the **Jordan Environment Society** organized an awareness raising campaign to highlight the impact of climate change on the biodiversity of the Dead Sea or the «Salt Sea», which is rapidly drying up, resulting in the creation of sinkholes. As the Dead Sea recedes, fresh water comes to the dried-up areas in the form of rain, runoff and underground streams. The fresh water soaks into the ground, dissolving the salts that had been deposited there, while opening up great underground caves. If immediate actions are not undertaken the sea is expected to shrink and lose another third of its area over the next century.



The campaign was built around the slogan «The Dead Sea Is Dying» and was launched in the area of Ghour Haditheh, Dead Sea on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.



The highlight of the campaign was a clean-up and awareness raising event targeted to school and university students as well as the wider public. However, specific focus was given to students. The event was covered by local media and was promoted via JES's newsletter, website and facebook page. Promotional materials were also developed such as t-shirts, caps, brochures, roll-up stands and posters.

The event was attended by 85 participants from the cities of Amman and Karak and included a field visit to the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea, as well as clean-up activities. An expert on the area made a presentation on the evolution of the Dead Sea over the past 50 years. The organizers guided the participants around demonstrating the severe impact of human activities on the biodiversity of the Dead Sea. Specific focus was given to climate change effects leading to the annual sea level to drop by approximately 1 meter. Fruitful discussions followed focusing on the type of actions that should be undertaken at national and transboundary level to address this issue effectively.

## “THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON BIODIVERSITY: AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN”



**Organising NGO:**  
Land and Human to  
Advocate Progress (LHAM)  
**Country:** Jordan  
**Contact:** Lhap@cyberia.jo

### Background



Jordan covers a rather small area of about 89,000 km<sup>2</sup>, 80% of which is arid and/or semi-arid. It is widely known that Jordan faces water scarcity problems; however its singular geography has led to the generation of a rich biological diversity (terrestrial, wetland and marine). A recent World Bank study on natural disasters risk recognizes Jordan as a hotspot. The observed increase of disasters can be partly attributed to climate change effects inducing more extreme weather events. Temperature increase in the region is about 50 percent higher than the global mean. During the last 30 years, temperatures in the region have increased between 0.5 and 1.5 degrees Celsius. Recent research foresees that temperatures in the region may increase by 6 degrees by the end of the century. By mid-century, water availability is predicted to decrease by 20-30 percent in most of the MENA region. The increased temperatures will inevitably lead to accelerated desertification with severe impacts on the biodiversity of the country. Therefore, a set of actions should urgently be undertaken in order to respond to biodiversity threats and challenges, including climate change.



Photos taken during the workshop

### Activities performed

Within the framework of the MAD 2010, LHAM implemented the following activities:

- The development of a brochure (printed in 1,000 copies) based on the outcomes of the fourth Report on the implementation of the Jordanian Biodiversity Convention. In the brochure clear reference is made to all impacts of climate change in the region including biodiversity loss. This brochure was widely distributed and was used as a means to raise awareness on the rich variety of life in Jordan and the implications of its loss, thus encouraging Jordanians to call for immediate actions at national level to address this issue. The brochure was circulated in e-format to the LHAM TAWASOL network (a network of NGOs and CSOs created within the project “Empowering CSOs to Country Policy Development), with about 100 member CSOs across the country, which are expected to increase to 375 by the end of the project. The brochure was further disseminated at various relevant LHAM activities and the media.
- The organization of a workshop on 9-11 December 2010, held in Jordan Valley focusing on the tools that can be used to effectively address climate change and biodiversity related issues. The event was attended by 50 NGO and CSO members. Participants were encouraged to join efforts and work collectively on advocacy and policy formulation at national and local level regarding biodiversity issues. One of the main ideas that came out of the workshop was that of a joint project focusing on the direct and indirect links between climate change and biodiversity loss to be implemented at the Mediterranean region. It was suggested by participants that the proposal could be submitted to donors such as the Anna Lindh Foundation.



## “ACTIVITÉS DE SENSIBILISATION POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ”



**Organising NGO:** *L'association nationale de développement durable et de la conservation de la vie sauvage*  
**Country:** Tunisia  
**Contact:** gharbi.alino@yahoo.fr

Au sein du MAD pour l'année 2010, l'Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage de Tunisie, a organisé des activités relatives à la sensibilisation du grand public sur le thème de la biodiversité. Plus précisément, ses activités se sont concentrées sur les espèces animales en voie de disparition.

Le braconnage intensif reste un fléau mondial qui plus ou moins inquiète la Société Civile. En Tunisie, tandis que des animaux tels les caméléons, les tortues, les fennecs, les verdiers, les faucons pèlerins, etc. sont en voie d'extinction, ils sont abattus et se vendent en grand nombre aux locaux et aux touristes dans des lieux publics; commerces spécialisés, souk, magasins d'artisanat et même à bord des autoroutes du pays.

Au sein de ces activités organisées par l'Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage, des affiches ont été imprimées en 5000 exemplaires, illustrant ces animaux menacés. Une manifestation a été organisée le 30 décembre au siège de l'Association club Abdalah Farhat des chasseurs et de tir radés, au niveau des péages de l'autoroute reliant Tunis à Sfax et Tunis Bizerte et Tunis Mjéz el Bab où les affiches ont été distribuées. Au cours de cette journée le plus grand nombre des automobilistes ont utilisé l'autoroute pour fêter le jour de l'an. Des affiches ont été également distribuées dans les établissements de l'enseignement du ministère de l'éducation nationale, dans les différents services de la gestion et de la conservation de la faune et de la flore relevant de la direction générale des forêts, et enfin aux postes de la police, de la garde nationale chargées du contrôle des marchés, souks et tout lieu public s'adonnant au commerce.

Cette action a principalement réussi à renseigner et sensibiliser le grand public en matière de la conservation et la protection de ces espèces animales.

## “RAISING AWARENESS ON THE VALUE OF BIODIVERSITY”



**Organising NGO:** LEGACY  
**Country:** Turkey  
**Contact:** legacy@superonline.com

LEGACY's activities within the framework of MAD 2010 aimed at raising awareness on the rich variety of life on this planet, which is diminishing at a startling rate. One of the key activities was the organization of a field visit to the Karagol Lake in Yamanlar Mountain, located in the eastern Black Sea region of Turkey. However, due to bad weather conditions the event was re-located to Izmir Bird's Paradise, 15 km west of Karşıyaka.

The Gediz Delta, also known as Izmir Bird's Paradise, is one of the most unique and important natural areas of Turkey. The delta stretches from Bostanlı shores to the Foca hills. Approximately 205 bird, 314 plant, many mammal, fish and reptile species find refuge in the delta. The delta is globally renowned as an important Bird Area (IBA) and Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). The globally threatened Mediterranean Monk Seal is one of the most outstanding residents of the delta. The Izmir Bird Paradise is also an important RAMSAR area and specially protected zone.

LEGACY's awareness raising event was targeted to school students, youth organizations, the city council, NGOs, media, and the local municipality of Karşıyaka. Part of the event was realized at the Karşıyaka Youth Center and part of it at Izmir Bird's Paradise. The event's presentations, made by four experts, focused on the significance of biodiversity while emphasis was given to the impact of climate change on ecosystem services. Participants learned how an ecosystem functions and how its balance can be



The certificate awarded to the participants of the event

disturbed by changing one single factor such as climate. In addition, information was provided on the characteristics of the area's ecosystem, its unique flora and fauna, as well as, its endangered species. During the last part of the event, a fruitful panel discussion took place on ways to effectively address biodiversity related issues. Finally, a press conference was held, where local (Yeniasir Newspaper, Karşıyaka Life Magazine, Yeniasir TV, Ege TV, SKY TV, Kanal 35, TRT Izmir TV), as well as, national (Posta & Cumhuriyet Newspaper) media participated.

The main outcome of the event was the acknowledgment by the participants of the need to extend such activities and repeat them at least twice a year, to provide the opportunity to more people to benefit.

## “CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY IN QANNOUBINE VALLEY”



**Organising NGO:** Makhzoumi Foundation  
**Country:** Lebanon  
**Contact:** s.namani@makhzoumi-foundation.org

Qannoubine valley, situated in Northern Lebanon, is a natural heritage site that extends over 35 km in length and is rich in biodiversity, mostly flora (trees, shrubs and flowers). «Qannoubine» is a word of Greek origin, which means «the community life».

Within the framework of the MAD 2010, a field visit to Qannoubine valley was organized on 13 November 2010 by the **Makhzoumi Foundation**. The activity was targeted in principle to students (most of them from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Lebanon) but also NGOs were invited to participate. Prior to the field visit, each participant received a brochure with background information (translated

and printed in English and Arabic) on the inter-linkages between climate change and biodiversity.

The event started with an informative presentation by Dr. Elsa Sattout (Forestry and Biodiversity expert), who introduced to the 45 participants the underlying concepts related to the functions of ecosystems and gave a brief overview of the Lebanese natural reserves as well as information on the native plant and animal species. The value of biodiversity was highlighted and specific focus was given to the effects of climate change. The presentation was followed by a fruitful discussion and exchange of views on the topic. The expert accompanied the group on a walk in the valley, where she presented the existing native plants and explained in detail how climate change could affect the ecosystem balance.



Photo taken during the field trip



## “INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY: THE DAY AFTER AND THE GREEK REALITY”



**Organising NGO:** MEDSOS  
**Country:** Greece  
**Contact:** info@emedsos.gr

Within the framework of the MAD 2010, the **Mediterranean SOS Network** organized a Conference on the 26th & 27th of November 2010, at the Goethe Institute of Athens, on the “International Year of Biodiversity: the next day and the Greek reality”.

The aim of the Conference was, as the Director of MEDSOS Mrs. Anni Mitropoulou mentioned, to “enlighten the novelties of the new legislative framework and the challenges ahead regarding its implementation, to push forward the importance of the until recently neglected marine and coastal ecosystems and to fill the gap between scientific knowledge, legislation, political decisions and the implementation of the appropriate measures for the conservation of biodiversity”.

Many interesting presentations were made during the two-day event and are briefly presented below:

- **The European Union’s target for the protection of Biological Diversity - The future of the marine environment:** Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.
- **The Convention of Biological Diversity and the Greek Reality. The main points of the new biodiversity law of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC), for biodiversity protection in Greece:** Eugenia Androukaki, Minister Associate, MEECC.
- **Traditional threats to biodiversity, interactions with climate change:** Niki Pardalou, Biodiversity and Natural Resources Projects Coordinator, MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network.
- **Knowledge gaps - The value of a Biodiversity Information System in Europe (Biodiversity Information System for Europe and Biodiversity baseline):** Rania Spyropoulou, Representative of the European Environmental Agency (EEA).
- **Ecosystem Services and development of proper tools for their determination - Application in the marine environment:** Nomiki Sympoura, Researcher, Hellenic Center of Marine Research (HCMR).
- **Microbial Diversity: natural wealth, exploitation for commercial purposes and future prospects:** Amalia Karagouni - Kyrtsou, Assoc. Professor of Microbiology, Faculty of Biology, School of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.
- **Economic crisis and the environment. What is the link between them?** Michael Skourtos, Professor of Environmental Economics, School of the Environment, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Aegean.
- **Green Natural Infrastructure:** Ioli Christopoulou, Environmental Policy Researcher, WWF Hellas.

- **Green jobs and their contribution to biodiversity protection,** Dimitris Ibrahim, Climate and Energy Campaigner, GREENPEACE Hellas.
- **Development of economic tools for Mediterranean wetlands,** Jean-Louis Weber, Representative of the European Environmental Agency (EEA.)
- **Sustainable production and consumption, environmental and biodiversity protection:** Harry Coccossis, Professor of Spatial and Urban Planning, UNEP/MAP Consultant.
- **The ‘gray zones’ of Greek Biodiversity:** Anastasios Legakis, Assoc. Professor of Animal Diversity, School of Science, Faculty of Biology, School of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.
- **The national Protected Areas System - current situation and future perspectives:** Eleni Tryfon, Department of Nature Management, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.
- **Comments on the new law for Biodiversity Protection,** Giorgos Politis, Lawyer, Member of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature.
- **The role of the “Nature 2000” Committee - Difficulties and Challenges,** Despoina Vokou, Professor in Ecology, School of Science, Faculty of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, President of the “Nature 2000” Committee.

More than 160 participants attended the conference and the event was covered by at least 33 different media channels.

One of the most important conclusions was once again the necessity for connection and cooperation between social partners, managing bodies and industries that are willing to take action in a protected area, according to a specific norm which will be linked to a common vision and will be the product of public participation to the benefit of society as well as the environment. Conflicts are always going to exist; nevertheless the search and survey of a “viable common ground” is actually possible...



Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

## “CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF THE TAURUS MOUNTAINS”



**Organising NGO:** Turkish Association for the Conservation of Nature (TTKD)  
**Country:** Turkey  
**Contact:** [ttkder@ttkder.org.tr](mailto:ttkder@ttkder.org.tr)

In the framework of the MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Action Day activities of 2010, the Turkish Association for the Conservation of Nature organized on 17-18 December of 2010 in the Adalya Resort Hotel, a workshop targeted to governmental and non governmental organizations, ministries, academia and the wider public. Two hundred and fifty invitations were sent out and announcements were made via TTKD's website and e-mails.

Despite the bad weather conditions and floods in the area, the event was well attended by 60 participants from local institutions and authorities, NGOs, representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, etc.

The workshop was organized under the direction of Prof. Dr. Ali Erdoğan, Akdeniz University and Prof. Dr. İlhami Kiziroğlu, Hacettepe University. During the two-day event the presentations covered issues related to:

- The biological dimension of global warming;
- The New Mediterranean Strategy Plan;
- Forest Ecosystems and Forest Fires;
- Invasive alien species;
- Climate change impacts on water products;
- Ecotourism.

The second day of the event was more interactive and discussions were held focusing on the Taurus Mountains. During the discussions a list of interesting conclusions and recommendations were made, which led to the following proposed actions that should be undertaken in order to protect biodiversity:

- With regards to endemic and endangered species of the Taurus Mountains, special protection and action plans should be prepared.
- Protected areas need to be re-planned to cover critical areas of biological diversity. Monitoring of changes regarding biological diversity, habitats, water quality and quantity is not sufficient. Institutional measures in this regard should be developed in the region.
- With regard to populations, the translocations of species should be considered.
- Installation of large numbers of hydroelectric power plants on the rivers in the basin should be considered and should be closely monitored.
- General budget resources allocated for rural development should be increased. In addition, projects in the region should be developed to take advantage of external funds such as TÜBİTAK, governmental resources and other international funds.
- Public awareness raising campaigns and educational activities should be strengthened especially in rural areas.
- Projects to increase awareness on alternative tourism activities in harmony with nature should be carried out.
- Sharing of information and publications are needed for the Taurus Mountains. A web site should be developed and a network established.
- An invasive alien species working group of experts should be established.
- The introduction of exotic species for landscaping and commercial purposes should be reduced and prohibited in endangered ecosystems.
- The establishment of an ecological research institute of the Akdeniz University should be considered.



## MIO-ECSDE Profile

The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, is a Federation of Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the Environment and Development. MIO-ECSDE acts as a technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene. In cooperation with Governments, International Organizations and other socio-economic partners, MIO-ECSDE plays an active role for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region.

### Background

MIO-ECSDE became a federation of Mediterranean NGOs in March 1996. Its roots go back to the early 80s, when the expanding Mediterranean membership of the European Community encouraged the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to form its Mediterranean Committee supported by Elliniki Etairia (The Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage). The Mediterranean Information Office (MIO) was established in 1990 as a network of NGOs, under a joint project of EEB and Elliniki Etairia and in close collaboration with the Arab Network of Environment and Development (RAED). The continuous expansion of MIO-ECSDE's Mediterranean NGO network and the increasing request for their representation in Mediterranean and International Fora, led to the transformation of MIO-ECSDE to its current NGO Federation status. Today it has a membership of 112 NGOs from 26 Mediterranean countries.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to protect the Natural Environment (flora and fauna, biotopes, forests, coasts, natural resources, climate) and the Cultural Heritage (archaeological monuments, and traditional settlements, cities, etc.) of the Mediterranean Region. The ultimate goal of MIO-ECSDE is to promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean.

### Major tools and methods

Major tools and methods used by MIO-ECSDE in order to achieve its objectives are the following:

- Promotion of the understanding and collaboration among the people of the Mediterranean, especially through their NGOs, between NGOs and Governments, Parliaments, Local Authorities, International Organizations and socio-economic actors of the Mediterranean Region.
- Assistance for the establishment, strengthening, co-operation and co-ordination of Mediterranean NGOs and facilitation of their efforts by ensuring the flow of information among relevant bodies.
- Promotion of education, research and study on Mediterranean issues, by facilitating collaboration between NGOs and Scientific and Academic Institutions.
- Raising of public awareness on crucial Mediterranean environmental issues, through campaigns, publications, exhibitions, public presentations, etc.

### Contact Information

POSTAL ADDRESS: 12, Kyrristou str. • 10556 Athens, Greece

T: +30210 3247267, 3247490 • F: +30210 3317127

E: [info@mio-ecsde.org](mailto:info@mio-ecsde.org) • W: [www.mio-ecsde.org](http://www.mio-ecsde.org)