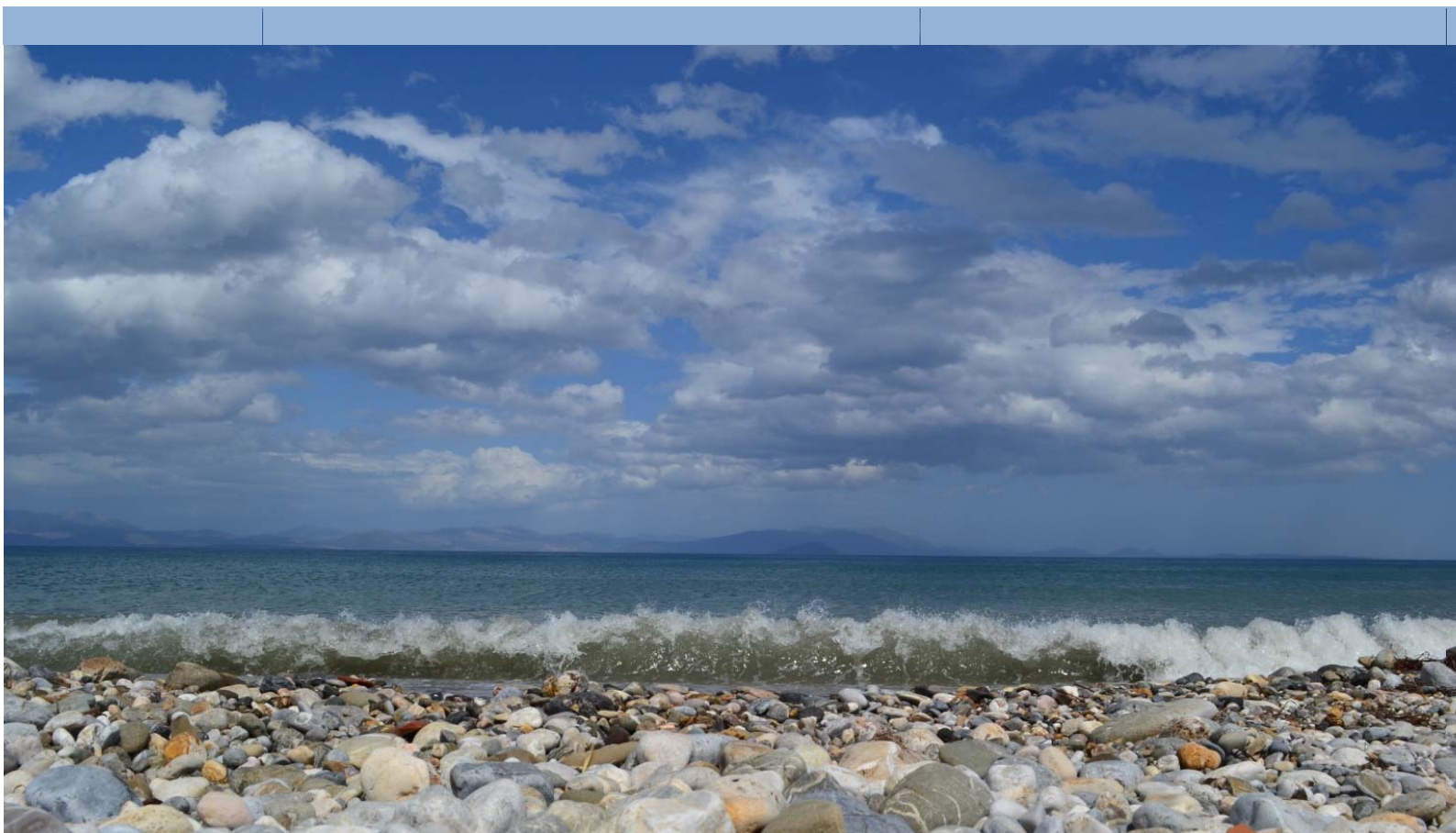




**MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE
FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

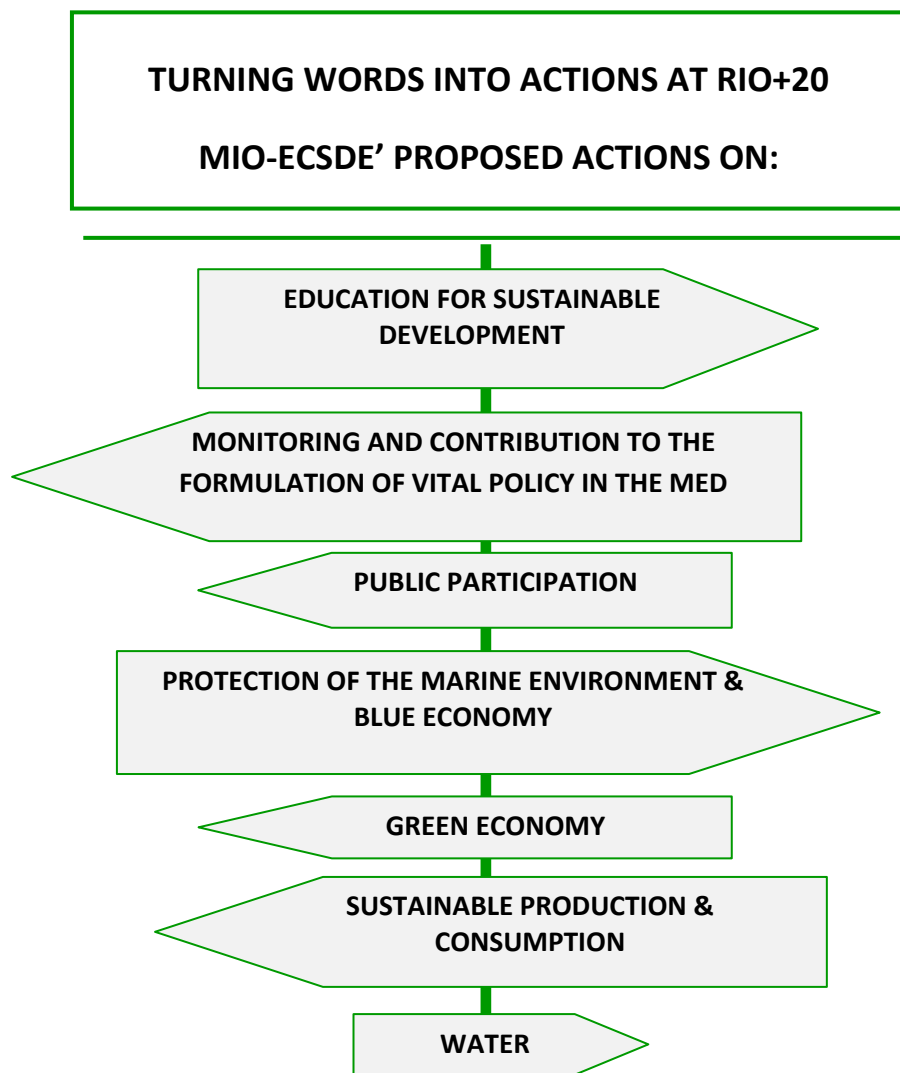
Key messages for RIO+20

**Concrete proposals to effectively promote green growth in the
Mediterranean**



June 2012





MIO-ECSDE is a non-profit Federation of 121 Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for Environment and Development. In co-operation with governments, international organisations and other socio-economic partners, MIO-ECSDE plays an active role for the protection of the environment and the promotion of the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region and its countries.



A few words

For more than 20 years, MIO-ECSDE has been very active as a useful partner for its members, international organizations and countries of the region, by contributing to collective efforts towards achieving sustainable development in the Mediterranean eco-region. Being actively involved in all major environmental events at regional/global scale, MIO-ECSDE has presented its views, aspirations and concerns and organized the Mediterranean events at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio 1992 (UNCED) and during the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

Now, once again, at Rio+20, MIO-ECSDE is bringing together the major institutions and stakeholders from the Mediterranean to present an overview of the joint efforts for strengthened cooperation, a common vision and shared strategies towards achieving sustainable development, through the official Mediterranean side event entitled:

“Challenges and Opportunities for a Mediterranean Green Growth”

19 June, 15:30 - 17:00, T-3, Rio Centro, Rio de Janeiro

**Don't miss the upcoming issue of
MIO-ECSDE's publication
“Sustainable Mediterranean”
dedicated to the developments
in Rio!**





EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is undoubtedly a very powerful tool for obtaining sustainable development. Today, more than ever before, it can contribute significantly in promoting peace and stability. Progress in ESD at national and international level, is closely linked with the potential of achieving agreed targets for sustainable development and poverty reduction and could facilitate the reduction of inequalities between countries and within societies.

MIO-ECSDE has been in the forefront of developments in Environmental Education (EE) and ESD since its establishment. The International Conference on Environment and Society: Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability held in Thessaloniki in 1997, was co-organised by UNESCO and the Greek Government and facilitated by MIO-ECSDE and the University of Athens, concluding with the “Thessaloniki Declaration” and marking the transition of Environmental Education towards ESD.

Following Thessaloniki, MIO-ECSDE launched the ERA-21 Campaign (*Education Re-Affirmation for the 21st Century*) prior to the Johannesburg WSSD and the MEdIES as a Type II Initiative during the Summit (2002). **MEdIES** is today a **major e-network of approximately 4000 educators** working jointly on common ESD projects (www.medies.net), promoting and developing ESD within the educational community of the region.

In view of the UN Decade on ESD (2005-2014) MIO-ECSDE has contributed substantially to the drafting of the Strategy on ESD adopted by the Ministers of Environment and Education of the UNECE member states (2005) and has a leading role in ensuring the Strategy’s implementation in the Mediterranean region. Along this line, in November 2005, MIO-ECSDE in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Education, UNEP/MAP, UNESCO, UNECE, etc. organised in Athens the “*Official Launching of the UN Decade of ESD in the Mediterranean*”. The participants mandated the Government of Greece and MIO-ECSDE to develop a **Mediterranean Strategy on ESD**, inspired by and utilising the UNECE Strategy for ESD, as an input to the UN Decade on ESD.



The text of the draft Strategy was presented and preliminarily agreed in a meeting organised in Athens (December, 2011). The Strategy is expected to be completed soon.

MIO-ECSDE has collaborated closely with UNESCO/BRESCE, GWP-Med, the University of Athens, UNEP, the Anna Lindh Foundation and other institutions and organizations in carrying out projects, in organizing workshops and in producing a wide range of educational material and supporting methodological and other documentation. Among them particularly noteworthy are the publications of *Water in the Mediterranean*, *Waste in our lives*, *Mediterranean Food*, *ESD in MAB Biosphere Reserves and other designated areas in the Mediterranean*, *YouthXchange Guide for Sustainable Consumption*. Furthermore the **HYDRIA** Project uses water as a «vehicle» to unfold the diverse, yet common, **tangible and intangible Mediterranean water cultural heritage**, through reviving representative ancient water management visions, concepts and techniques of the distant and more recent past through an interactive webpage (www.hydraproject.net).

MIO-ECSDE, as a major partner of the EU funded Horizon 2020 Mediterranean Environment Programme has organized throughout the Mediterranean several capacity building workshops on ESD, being a prerequisite for sustainable development and an essential tool for good governance, informed decision-making and for the promotion of democracy and environmental concerns into other sectors.



MONITORING & CONTRIBUTION TO THE FORMULATION OF VITAL POLICY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Throughout its existence, MIO-ECSDE has put substantial effort in monitoring and formulating international and European policies relevant to the

MIO-ECSDE ...

...is a **Founding Member** of:

- The European Seas Environmental Cooperation (ESEC)
- GWP-Med
- Resource Efficiency Alliance

...is a **Member** of:

- The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
- The *Comité de Suivi* of Euro Mediterranean environmental policies
- The EuroMediterranean NGO Platform
- The Anna Lindh Foundation

...holds “**Accredited Organization**” status for:

- ECOSOC
- UNESCO
- The Convention to Combat Desertification

...is a **partner** of:

- UNEP/MAP

...**facilitates** regional circles of:

- Parliamentarians (COMPSUD)
- Educators (MEDIES)
- Journalists (COMJESD)

Mediterranean and most specifically the Barcelona Convention, UNEP/MAP and its RACs (CP/RAC, SPA/RAC, etc.), the European Union through its DGs that elaborate and implement policies, programmes and projects in the Mediterranean within the European Neighbourhood and sectoral policies, the Union for the Mediterranean as well as relevant UN bodies such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UNESCO and other UN bodies and conventions.

This cooperation is obtained through following on a daily basis the most important developments and via regular participation in major international meetings and events.

With a track record which includes presence in regional bodies such as the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly and the League of Arab States and major national institutions such as the Parliaments of Mediterranean Countries (e.g. Croatia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, etc.) MIO-ECSDE has

remained in the forefront of policy-making in the region.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIO-ECSDE has since its establishment promoted the Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and the principles of the Aarhus Convention in all EuroMediterranean political fora, as key to environmental integrity in the region. Recognising the crucial importance of awareness and participation in the achievement of social and economic well-being of the Mediterranean people, MIO-ECSDE has invested considerable time in research, development and amelioration of participatory techniques leading to consensus among social partners and eventually to action. The participatory processes that MIO-ECSDE has initiated among NGOs since 1991 have contributed considerably to consensus building, mutual trust and solidarity in the Mediterranean and to the improvement of North-South, South-South and East-West cooperation.

Within this framework, MIO-ECSDE has produced multiple publications, Guidelines for Public Participation and toolkits for journalists, has organized special seminars as well as joint conferences of Civil Society Organizations with parliamentarians and the press.

Rio+20 is expected not just to reaffirm Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, but also to address its weaknesses in implementation. Engaging the public in decision making and during implementation is a prerequisite. Under the light of recent political and social developments taking place in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, great emphasis should be placed on promoting institutions able to ensure environmental rights, thereby contributing to building democracy and good governance, creating an enabling environment for civil society organizations and enhancing environmental performance in countries throughout the region. This will be achieved by:

- (i) Promoting the establishment and/or strengthening of the legal and institutional frameworks supporting environmental rights;
- (ii) Raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of non-State actors to promote and safeguard active participation in environmental decision-making;
- (iii) Inviting all Mediterranean countries to recognize and implement the principles of participation, free access to environmental information and access to justice and join the Aarhus Convention as soon as possible.



PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT & BLUE ECONOMY

The protection of the marine environment and the promotion of clean, healthy and productive seas/oceans have been recognized during the Rio+20 preparatory work as key for the future economic and social development and vital in the fight against poverty.

MIO-ECSDE has been following developments in legislation, research and initiatives related to the assessment and challenges of the impact of anthropogenic activities while being active in promoting legislation and policies to address marine pollution issues. More specifically, MIO-ECSDE has been monitoring and contributing on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the European Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), the EU Integrated Coastal Zone Management, the new Maritime Strategy for Growth and Jobs, the UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean, etc. On the issue of marine litter, MIO-ECSDE together with HELMEPA and Clean-up Greece and with the support of MED/POL of UNEP/MAP have launched the "Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free Campaign" to raise public awareness on the causes and impacts of the pollution of the sea from solid waste. On the same issue and preparing for Rio+20, it prepared a Joint Paper with the other partners of ESEC, participated in the relevant forum and within the framework of Horizon2020 and the 2012 European Maritime Day, organized a major training on the subject with the participation of major actors.

Further on and leading up to Rio+20, MIO-ECSDE, together with its other Resource Efficiency Partners (European Partners for the Environment, European Water Partnership, etc.) organised in the Economic and Social Committee of the European Union in Brussels the meeting on "Europe and the Global Blue Economy: Oceans, New Frontier, Sustainable Use", which contributed significantly to the formulation of the EU and other partners' positions concerning the oceans, the marine issues under discussion in Rio+20 and their direct link to the blue/green economy.

MIO-ECSDE has advocated for the efficient coordination between EU policies such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive with the existing international structures under the UN, such as the Regional Sea Conventions, to reduce bureaucracies and enhance effectiveness at the regulatory, monitoring and enforcement of practical measures.



GREEN ECONOMY

MIO-ECSDE has been working since its early days on the promotion of the prerequisites of Green Economy: peace, stability through social cohesion, integrity and functioning of its ecosystems as well as the safeguarding of biodiversity and cultural diversity in the region.

Sustainable Development and the proper understanding of what is Green Economy, the concept of “inclusion” and the interlinkages between them are the starting points for all policies.

The past two years MIO-ECSDE has made more concrete and intensified efforts to promote the pivotal shift towards a Green Economy in the Mediterranean (see booklet “Towards an Inclusive Green Economy: Visualisation of the Concepts”). Together with the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP CP/RAC) and within the framework of the EU funded Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme, it has carried out capacity building workshops and field visits on green economy and explored how national strategies can be developed and implemented through sustainable financing and green banking. These activities will be closely linked with the SWITCH-MED project, which will address the need to promote sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency in the Mediterranean.

The necessary actions to create the enabling environment and necessary momentum towards a Green Economy in the Mediterranean include the identification and eradication of what is generally agreed on as unsustainable in order to alleviate/reduce the pressures; the encouragement of the development and rapid implementation of no regret measures; the utilization in a wise and sustainable way of all natural and cultural assets.

Green Economy is, obviously, a horizontal issue touching upon the management of seas and oceans as well as sustainable consumption and production (see below).



SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

The promotion of environmentally and socially sustainable production patterns is a critical pathway of the green growth paradigm but so is the encouragement of sustainable consumption habits and demand-side management, in critical sectors such as food, housing, tourism, manufacturing, mobility, which are reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

MIO-ECSDE efforts to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) are mostly carried out within the framework of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). A recent example is the "YouthXChange in the Mediterranean: A joint project with UNESCO-UNEP to challenge our consumption behaviours and inspire responsible consumer choices"; however a vast array of other activities have been focusing on sustainable use of natural resources. Quite recently, MIO-ECSDE together with UNEP/MAP CP/RAC, have launched the "Sustainable Events in the Mediterranean" initiative, within which a web-based toolkit has been developed. In parallel, demonstration activities to empower civil society as key SCP drivers and to implement specific priorities identified by the SCP National Action Plans and a networking function to allow for exchange, lesson learning and further scaling up of SCP activities are to be implemented in the near future. The need to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and resource efficiency in the Mediterranean has also been addressed by H2020 CB/MEP.





WATER

MIO-ECSDE has been a contributing partner, representing views of the Mediterranean NGO community and providing technical expertise, in several key regional water initiatives and processes, such as the works of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (since 2003), the works of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process on Transboundary Water Resources Management in Southeastern Europe (since 2005), the elaboration of the draft Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (2009-2010) for the discussion and finalisation of which it has organized two civil society meetings, one at the Dead Sea and one in Barcelona.

Furthermore, it has led or contributed to regional and sub-regional dialogues on water governance issues, including public participation, civil society engagement, access to information as well as on climate change adaptation, joint IWRM/ICZM planning, transboundary water resources management, and capacity building and networking of targeted groups like decision makers, parliamentarians, the media and civil society. Among others, the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MedIES) serves a range of activities in the water agenda, with emphasis on the overall water cycle, water demand management, the rain water harvesting and other non-conventional water resources.

Most recently, MIO-ECSDE has engaged in the Drin Dialogue that aims at promoting collaboration among the riparians of the Drin River (Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro) towards sustainable water management in the extended Drin River Basin and is a member of the Drin Core Group.



OUR MEMBERS

●Friends of the Earth Middle East●Alliance Maghreb Machrek pour l'Eau●Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles - International●European Environmental Bureau●Arab Network for Environment and Development●Centre International de Droit Compare de l'Environnement●Mediterranean Scientific Association of Environmental Protection●A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity - Hellas●Environmental Center for Administration and Technology●Environmental centre for Development, Education and Networking (EDEN centre)●Protection and Preservation of the Natural Environment in Albania●Association de Volontariat TOUIZA de la wilaya d'Alger●Association Ecologique de Boumerdes●Association Memoire de SETIF●Eko Kvarner●Euromediterranean Forum●Croatian MAB Committee ●Federation of Environmental & Ecological Organisations of Cyprus●Friends of Akamas●Arab Media Forum for Environment and Development●Balady Association, Port Said Branch●Nature Friends Association●The Arab Office for Youth and Environment●Association MerTerre●Association U. MARINU●Ecomed 21●France Nature Environnement●Languedoc Roussillon Nature Environnement●Société de Protection de la Nature de AGDE●Union Régionale pour la Sauvegarde de la Vie, de la Nature et de l' Environnement●BIOSFERA●Athens Environmental Foundation●Athens Network of Collaborating Experts●ELLINIKI ETAIRIA ●Hellenic Association of Educators for Environmental Education●Hellenic Ornithological Society●Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature●Interdisciplinary Institute for Environmental Research●Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles - GREECE●Mediterranean SOS Network●Society for the Environment and Sustainability on Earth●SOLON for synthesis and ecological civilization on 21st century●WWF - Hellas●ECOCITY●New Ecologia Society●Israel Society for Ecology and Environmental Quality Sciences●Sustainable Development for the Negev●The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel●Centro Regionale d' Intervento per la Cooperazione●Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni non governative per la Cooperazione Internazionale allo Sviluppo●Forum per la Laguna●House of Social Rights FOCUS / Casa dei Diritti Sociali FOCUS●Istituto per l'Ambiente e l'Educazione Scholé Futuro●Italia Nostra●LEGAMBIENTE●MAREVIVO Associazione Ambientalista●Aqaba International Laboratories●Arab Network for Environment and Development●Jordan Environment Society●Land and Human to Advocate Progress●The Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development●AMWAJ of the Environment●Association Liban Nature Environnement●Association Libanaise pour la Maîtrise de l'Energie et de l'Environnement●Lebanese Environmental Forum●Makhzoumi Foundation●The Union of Northern Associations for Sustainable Development●Window to Environment Association●International Energy Foundation●Birdlife Malta●Nature Trust Malta●Association pour le Développement Durable●Club des amis de la nature et la protection de l'environnement●NGO Greens of Montenegro●Association Femmes et Jeunesse dans l' Environnement Maghrebien ●Association Marocaine pour la Protection de l' Environnement - Moroccan Association for Environment Protection●Club Marocain pour l'Environnement et le Développement●Maison de l'Environnement-Association Atlas Saïs●National Drought Observatory of Morocco/Observatoire National de la Secheresse●Société Protectrice des Animaux et de la Nature●SWAT YOUTH FRONT●Palestine Wildlife Society●Palestinian Hydrology Group for Water and Environmental Resources Development●Amigos da terra●ETNIA - CULTURA E DESENVOLVIMENTO●Liga para a Proteccao da Natureza●DPPVN - Society of bird research and nature conservation●Amigos del Mediterraneo●Asociacion Malaguena para la Protection de la Vida Silvestre●Centro Mediterraneo de Estudios para el Uso y Concervacion de las Costas-Centro Mediterraneo EUCC-EUCC Mediterranean Centre●Consejo Iberico para la Defensa de la Naturaleza●Eco-union●Fundacion Iberoamerica-Europa●Itaca Asociacion defensa Naturaleza y Medio Ambiente●MEDITERRANIA, Centre d' Initiatives Ecologiques●Syrian Coast Society for Environmental Protection●Alliance Femme et Environnement●APENA●Association de Developpement et de Protection de l'Environnement-La Marsa●Association de l'Environnement de Kelibia●Association de Sauvegarde de la Medina et du Patrimoine de Kelibia●Association des Amis du Belvedere●Association des Habitants d'El Mourouj II●Association du Reseau Mediterranen Pour le Developpement Durable●Association for Sustainable Development●Association for the Protection of Nature and Environment - Kairouan●Association 'Les Amis des Oiseaux'●Association Nationale Tunisienne de la Protection de la Faune Sauvage●Association pour la Protection de l' Environnement et la Nature du Gouvernorat de Bizerte●Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Médina de Gafsa●Association Tunisienne pour la Protection de la Nature et de l' Environnement●ATMT ENVIRONNEMENT●Centre de Recherches, d' Etudes, de Documentation et d'Information sur la Femme●Conservation de la Nature - Developpement●Femmes pour le Developpement Durable / Women for Sustainable Development●Youth and Science Club of Hammam-Lif●Green Steps for Environmental Literacy●Legacy●The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats●Turkish Association for the Conservation of Nature●Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association●

