

# SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE المتوسطة المستدامة



THE PROMOTION OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING  
AND WOMEN'S ROLE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

• • •

INTÉGRATION DE LA DIMENSION GENRE ET  
PROMOTION DU RÔLE DE LA FEMME DANS LE  
DÉVELOPPEMENT RURAL EN MÉDITERRANÉE

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 **53**  
3/2008

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



**T**his issue of the Sustainable Mediterranean Newsletter is intended to present initiatives promoting gender mainstreaming, particularly improving/strengthening women's roles in rural development in the Mediterranean.

**W**hile the need for a gender-based approach is receiving increased attention in regional strategies, policies and programs, female populations continue to experience disadvantaged situations at most levels of cultural, social and economic life when compared with their male fellows. This concern is reflected in many gendered activities focusing, to a great extent, on the enhancement of women's status and it is especially the case of rural development projects, considering that most poor and deprived populations are concentrated in rural milieus and that women account for the largest percentage of these populations.

**T**his issue highlights in particular: the achievements of the GEWAMED Project (Mainstreaming Gender dimensions into Water resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region) in which MIO-ECSDE participates as a partner; best practices from ONILFA, the Italian Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture, including its contribution to the creation of an Observatory for Rural Women in Lebanon (NOWARA) in the framework of the TERCOM Project; efforts by FAO/CAWTAR (Center of Arab Women for Training and Research) towards the development of Gender Sensitive Indicators in water management, particularly in the agricultural sector for the North Africa sub-region; activities to promote information and communication in rural areas by FAO Dimitra, a project directed to improve the living conditions of rural populations and especially of women; the opportunities for women's development in rural areas through ecological agriculture, researched in the framework of the ECOELLAS Project by the Andalusian Institute for Women and the Foundation for the Develop-

**C**ette édition du Bulletin d'Information Méditerranée Durable présente des initiatives promouvant l'intégration de la dimension "genre" et particulièrement le renforcement du rôle des femmes dans le développement rural en Méditerranée.

**T**andis que stratégies, politiques et programmes régionaux sont en train de donner une importance accrue aux approches fondées sur les considérations de genre, les femmes continuent à être désavantagées dans la plupart des secteurs de la vie culturelle, sociale et économique si on les compare avec la population masculine. Ce souci se reflète dans beaucoup d'activités sur le genre qui sont surtout centrées sur le renforcement du statut de la femme. C'est surtout le cas des projets de développement rural, étant donné que les populations les plus pauvres et déshéritées sont concentrées normalement en milieu rural et que les femmes en représentent le pourcentage majeur.

**C**ette édition met en évidence en particulier: les accomplissements du Projet GEWAMED (Intégration des dimensions de Genre dans le Développement et la Gestion des ressources en Eau en Méditerranée) auquel MIO-ECSDE participe comme partenaire; les bonnes pratiques de l'ONILFA, l'Observatoire Italien pour l'Activité d'Entreprise et le Travail des Femmes en Agriculture, incluant sa contribution à la création d'un Observatoire pour la Femme Rurale au Liban (NOWARA) dans le cadre du projet TERCOM; les efforts de FAO/CAWTAR (Centre de la Femme Arabe pour la Formation et la Recherche) vers le développement d'indicateurs "genre" concernant la gestion de l'eau et particulièrement le secteur agricole de la sous-région Nord Africaine; les activités pour l'information et la communication dans les zones rurales du FAO Dimitra, un projet ayant comme objectif l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations et surtout des femmes dans ces milieux; les opportunités pour le développement des femmes dans les zones rurales à travers l'agriculture écologique, recherchées par l'Institut Andalous pour la Femme et la Fondation pour le développement Agroalimentaire (Fundación para

ment of the Agro-Food Sector (Fundación para el Desarrollo Agroalimentario) in Spain; and the results of a project realized by TEMA, the Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats, to preserve saffron gene resources, improve the income of villagers by saffron export and also protect the land against soil erosion, salinization and desertification.

el Desarrollo Agroalimentario) en Espagne dans leur projet ECOELLAS; et les résultats d'un projet réalisé par TEMA, la Fondation Turque pour la Lutte contre l'Erosion du Sol, pour la Reforestation et la Protection des Habitats Naturels, au but de préserver les ressources génétiques du safran, améliorer les revenus des villageois à travers l'export de ce produit et aussi protéger le sol contre l'érosion, la salinisation et la désertification.

## CONTENTS

### THE PROMOTION OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND WOMEN'S ROLE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

THIRD YEAR OF OPERATION OF THE GEWAMED PROJECT 3

THE ITALIAN OBSERVATORY FOR FEMALE ENTERPRISE AND LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE (ONILFA) 5

LAUNCHING OF THE LEBANESE OBSERVATORY FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS (NOWARA) 6

DÉVELOPPEMENT D'INDICATEURS «GENRE» DANS LA BASE DE DONNÉES (AQUASTAT) 8

DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER SENSITIVE INDICATORS (GSI) IN THE DATA BASE AQUASTAT 9

DIMITRA DANS LE BASSIN MÉDITERRANÉEN: L'INFORMATION ET LA COMMUNICATION AU SERVICE DE POPULATIONS 10

ECOELLAS PROJECT: INSTITUTO ANDALUZ DE LA MUJER 11

SANLIURFA PROVINCE, HARRAN DISTRICT, CÜTLÜK PROJECT: THE PROTECTION OF SAFFRON GENE RESOURCES AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF SAFFRON AGRICULTURE 12

### MISCELLANEOUS MEDITERRANEAN NEWS

RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF MARINE LITTER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 14

2ND ENCOUNTER OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH IN LEBANON "ENVIRONMENT IN A GLOBAL FRAMESET" 17

CLIMATE ALERT - RESEARCHER'S WEB IN SOCIETY 18

PILOT FOR PROMOTING THE USE OF RAINWATER HARVESTING 19

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

## THIRD YEAR OF OPERATION OF THE GEWAMED PROJECT

Ms Vittoria Pinca – ONILFA Secretariat

The GEWAMED Project (Mainstreaming Gender dimensions into Water resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region - [www.gewamed.net](http://www.gewamed.net)) is in its third year of operation. Many activities have been successfully carried out in the last two years and many others are in the process of being implemented. The Project is largely contributing to the building of an extensive knowledge base for mainstreaming gender dimensions into Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Mediterranean Region by building networks at both the regional and national levels using the Internet and undertaking national seminars in the countries of the South East Mediterranean Region (SEMR), as well as regional workshops to disseminate project results and achievements, and encourage dialogue, coordination and exchange of experiences among partners. Acquired information is then disseminated through several different means of communication including international, regional and national events. In addition, the project has used other means such as articles in periodicals, posters and brochures.

In the last two years very good progress has been made in the implementation of national websites in the SEMR countries. Seven websites have already been established, a result going beyond the contractual obligation. Besides that, the regional website is constantly being improved and updated with relevant information. For example, a new and important section with Country Profiles has been added that gives a brief but complete overview of water availability and the gender situation in the water sector in the countries examined. So far, most of the country profiles of the project partners have been completed, namely Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Turkey and Greece. The three missing countries will be progressively added. It is also worth mentioning that the website is visited by more than 800 users per month on average.

As already stated, the project has continued to disseminate information about its activities and results to wider audiences through the participation and collaboration in the organization of conferences and meetings. The project partners have been involved in 21 events totalling approximately 1800 participants. The number of events is only a relative indicator, however, since some required greater organizational efforts (see below).

In the last two years two major workshops have been organized. The Second Regional Coordination Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions

in Water Management for Food Security and Food Safety was held from 12 to 14 March 2007 in Larnaca and it was voluntarily hosted by the Agriculture Research Institute (ARI). Many papers were prepared by partners and consultants to cover the “food security and gender” topic. The meeting also had an ample participation of Cypriot professionals, government decision makers and partners.

The Third Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Rural Development took place in Tunisia from 19 to 22 May 2008 and it was organized by the Center for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR). All the topics covered promoted an intense exchange of views and experiences and the workshop provided a good opportunity to exchange national and regional experiences.

GEWAMED has collaborated with AQUASTRESS, another European Project, and both Projects recently organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) course on Gender Aspects of Water Resources Management in Kairouan, Tunisia, which took place from 7 to 9 May 2008. Interesting presentations were made by local stakeholders and managers, gender experts and professionals in the water sector who participated as instructors in the course. Participants were keen to set up strategies for the promotion and strengthening of gender aspects in water management and, in turn, will be able to transfer the knowledge into local society.

Some partners are currently committed to carrying out field surveys and questionnaires with the main aim of gathering actual information and data about the rural milieu, with particular attention to women’s role in agriculture, water management and the household, and have developed representative gender sensitive indicators.

The Italian Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture (ONILFA), one of the GEWAMED partners, is intensively collaborating with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, specifically with the TERCOM Project, with the main aim of implementing sustainability actions for rural territories and communities in Lebanon. Following the positive experience of ONILFA, an Observatory for female entrepreneurship in agriculture has been created very recently in Lebanon with the aim to support and improve the activities of women entrepreneurs, particularly of those living in remote villages.

## THE ITALIAN OBSERVATORY FOR FEMALE ENTERPRISE AND LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE (ONILFA)

Ms. Vittoria Pinca – ONILFA Secretariat

**R**ural women entrepreneurs comprise a considerable percentage of all women living and working in rural areas either in agriculture or in other productive sectors (tourism, handicraft etc) characterizing the economic structure of such areas.

**E**U programmes and policies for rural development are increasingly more oriented towards promoting an integrated approach and a multifunctional agriculture able to create synergies with other productive sectors. In particular, these policies aim at increasing the presence of women in the socio-economic and institutional fabric of rural areas by promoting gender equality in several fields: the labour market, professional training, entrepreneurship, working and family life and decision-making. These are among the main reasons why the Italian Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture (ONILFA) was founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies (MiPAF) after an official request by female representatives of the national agriculture federations to create a point of connection among the several initiatives and actions in support of female labour and entrepreneurship in agriculture.

**T**he Observatory, headed by the Minister, is made up of 30 members, who represent the main and lesser institutions connected with the national agricultural and rural sectors. In particular, there

is a high participation of women representatives of Ministries, Regions, Agriculture Federations, the National Institute of Agrarian Economy and the National Institute of Statistics.

**T**he Observatory undertakes research activities on issues related to women's functions in agriculture and rural development; it promotes and supports their role in improving rural areas in general and Italian agriculture in particular. Furthermore, the Observatory carries out awareness and information activities on all relevant issues regarding women in agriculture and, more specifically, in relation to their employment opportunities. Its aim in this field is to activate the right tools in order to provide rural women with accurate and timely information.

**P**articularly, within the Observatory there are three specific fields of action: statistical, legal and international, and consequently three different working groups have been organized. The statistical group collaborates with the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and aims at collecting and elaborating data on the actual employment opportunities for women in the rural sector in order to formulate the necessary strategies. The legal group aims at analysing and monitoring the existing legislation and actions in the field of female employment, entre-



Photo: Angela Klauschen, GWP-Med.

preneurship and equal opportunities at European, national and regional level, with particular attention to Law No 215/92.

From an international point of view, the Observatory aims at creating partnerships with developing countries in order to establish similar bodies abroad and create a network of women as a fundamental means of support that strengthens their position at global level. Particularly relevant is the support ONILFA is giving to the Mediterranean countries thanks to its active and fruitful collaboration with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari within the framework of the GEWAMED and TERCOM Projects. The latter is a joint action, financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose main objective is to set up a National Observatory in Lebanon, whose name is NOWARA, following the positive experience of ONILFA.

“We think that the establishment of an international network of rural women is fundamental in order to encourage the acknowledgement of their role as entrepreneurs as well as of the quality of their products. Through an active exchange of experiences we could quickly help

women find the right solutions to reconcile work and family life.

Thanks to this network a constant monitoring over men’s and women’s different position in rural society could be carried out, not only by means of scientific data analysis but also by seriously taking into consideration women’s real needs”.

Among the yearly initiatives of the Observatory it is worth mentioning the Italian celebration of the World Rural Women’s Day, a worldwide event considered a practical way of obtaining recognition and support for the multiple roles of rural women who comprise more than one quarter of the total world population. Within this event, since women’s vital contributions to food security and safety as well as to the development of rural areas all over the world go largely unnoticed, ONILFA has been organizing since 2001 another event called the “De@Terra” Award at the end of which the Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies will reward five women entrepreneurs in recognition of their contribution to the development of Italian agriculture and as a way to encourage female entrepreneurship in the rural sector.

## LAUNCHING OF THE LEBANESE OBSERVATORY FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS (NOWARA)

[www.nowaralebanon.org](http://www.nowaralebanon.org)

Mrs. Rosanna Quagliarello – Responsible External Relations Office  
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (IAMB)

On October 28th 2008, on the occasion of the International Rural Women Day and under the high patronage of the first lady of Lebanon, TerCom officially launched the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas (NOWARA).

The launching ceremony took place in the presence of H.E. Mrs. Wafaa Michel Sleiman, First Lady of Lebanon, H.E. Mrs. Randa Berri, President of the Lebanese Association for Development, Training and Rehabilitation and vice President of the National Commission for Lebanese Women, H.E. Mr. Elias Skaff Lebanese Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Andreas Ferrarese, First Counsellor of the Italian Embassy in Lebanon, Mr. Cosimo Lacirignola, Director of IAM Bari, Mrs. Silvia Godelli, Apulian Regional Minister for Mediterranean Policies, H.E. Mrs. Mervat Tallawy, President of

the Economic Committee of the Arab League and Mrs. Wafa’a Dikah Hamzé, Former Minister and NOWARA Program Director.

The event was attended by around 300 people and aimed at presenting the work carried out in the framework of TerCom projects, the steps implemented up to now to create NOWARA, as well as the objectives and activities that the Observatory will undertake in the future.

Mr. Lacirignola, stressed on the importance of such an initiative, which represents one of the essential tools to promote real conditions of “equal opportunities” for Mediterranean women and can become a reference model for the developing Countries of the Mediterranean area. He also reminded

that, last September, the project “Socio-economic Development of the rural people in South Lebanon” developed in collaboration with IAM Bari and the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture, was presented to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**T**he project aims at carrying on and empowering what has been done by the TERCOM project and, in specific will reinforce the National Observatory of Women in Agriculture (NOWARA) and support the Local Action Group in Tyre for the improvement and development of South Lebanon communities and territories. NOWARA, having an additional social and cultural dimension, could play a role in animating debate at the national level to enhance a lobby movement for the promotion of agriculture and rural territories integrating civil society and professional organizations.

**I**n the afternoon session, a round table on the future orientation for NOWARA took place to define priorities and funding mechanisms of the Observatory. All the participants agreed in defining the activities of NOWARA as a tool to sustain good agricultural practices through women’s activities in their territories and stated their commitment to keep supporting the Observatory in the future.

**P**articularly, Mrs. Veronica Navarra, President of ONILFA (the Italian National Observatory for female enterprise and labour in agriculture,

which is one of the main Institutional partners of NOWARA) reasserted ONILFA’s commitment to sharing experience with the Lebanese partner, in activating a continued assistance through the web, exchanging visits in order to transfer knowledge, assure and build an international characterization and acquire innovative approaches.

**T**he IAMB Responsible of External Relations Office, Mrs. Rosanna Quagliariello, also presented the Mediterranean perspectives of gender empowerment in rural development programmes. NOWARA has to work at national level (local action) but with a Mediterranean perspective for the Arab world (global vision), identifying programs and initiatives of high impact that could spread the activities and germinate the perception that NOWARA targets to women in remote rural areas; in this regard the award to women workers and entrepreneurs should be used as a tool to promote NOWARA in neglected rural areas.

**T**he final recommendations of the round table were presented by Mrs. Daniela Tonon, First Secretary of the Italian Embassy in Lebanon.

**B**eside the ceremony, an exhibition of traditional products was organized with the collaboration of several women producers and cooperatives targeted by NOWARA.



## DÉVELOPPEMENT D'INDICATEURS «GENRE» DANS LA BASE DE DONNÉES (AQUASTAT)

Mme. Alia Gana – CNRS/LADYSS

Le projet Développement d'indicateurs « genre » dans la base de données AQUASTAT s'inscrit dans le cadre des programmes de recherche du CAWTAR\* et bénéficie de l'appui de la FAO. Ses objectifs sont de trois ordres :

1. Cerner la relation « genre, eau et agriculture »;
2. Développer un cadre méthodologique, un outil pratique utilisable par les services statistiques, les décideurs, les responsables et les associations de développement ;
3. Proposer des indicateurs pouvant être intégrés dans la base AQUASTAT.

Partant du constat de la rareté des données spécifiques sur le thème « genre et eau » dans les trois pays associés au projet (Algérie, Maroc, Tunisie), l'équipe régionale a opté pour une démarche méthodologique intégrant deux approches complémentaires :

1. Une approche documentaire, basée sur l'étude des données statistiques existantes (recensement de la population, enquêtes agricoles...) et l'analyse de rapports de projets de recherche ou de développement,
2. Une enquête par questionnaire commun aux trois équipes associées au projet, permettant d'approfondir la connaissance des réalités de terrain et de conduire une analyse comparative des relations genre et eau dans les pays concernés.

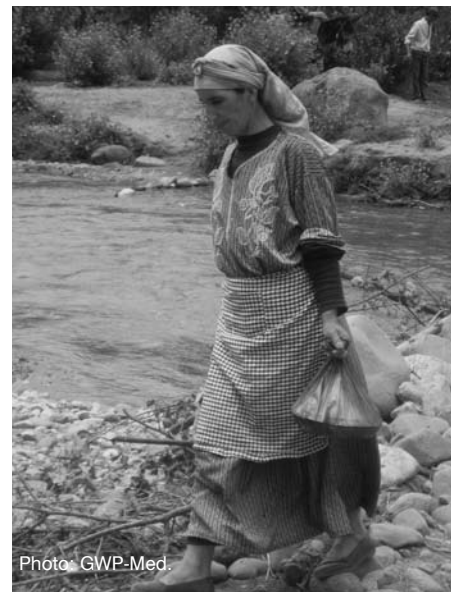
L'analyse des informations statistiques et documentaires réalisée dans les trois pays fait ressortir des situations contrastées en matière de disponibilité de données chiffrées et qualitatives sur la relation « genre et eau ». Mais dans l'ensemble, la contribution des femmes à l'activité agricole, y compris la participation à la gestion des exploitations, reste largement sous-estimée. Ainsi d'après les statistiques officielles, les femmes constituent 18% de la population active agricole en Algérie, 36,5% au Maroc et 32% en Tunisie. Par ailleurs elles ne représentent que de 3 à 5% du total des chefs d'exploitations dans les trois pays. L'enquête par questionnaire (passée auprès d'une centaine de femmes) a été réalisée dans quatre terrains :

1. En Algérie, à Tizi-ouzou.
2. Au Maroc, à Belksiri dans le périmètre irrigué du Charb.
3. En Tunisie, (a) dans la commune de Korba, et (b) dans les périmètres irrigués de Nadhour à Zaghouan.

Les données des enquêtes ont été réunies dans une base de données commune permettant une analyse comparative à l'aide du logiciel SPSS. Elles permettent notamment de mieux cerner la contribution des femmes à la gestion de l'eau domestique et agricole, la division sexuelle du travail, leur participation aux associations d'usagers de l'eau, et leur perception de la ressource en eau (quantité, qualité). Elles font ressortir une implication massive des femmes dans la production agricole en irrigué, avec des journées de travail très longues (en moyenne plus de 10 heures/jour) et une prise en charge de l'essentiel des tâches liées aux cultures irriguées : du semis, en passant par l'installation du matériel, l'irrigation, l'entretien des cultures, jusqu'à la récolte et la préparation des produits pour la vente. Cependant les femmes restent quasi-totalement exclues de la gestion de l'eau au niveau local, puisque seules deux d'entre elles (sur un total de 100) adhèrent à une association d'usagers de l'eau agricole. Il en est de même de l'accès à la formation et à l'encadrement dont aucune des femmes interviewées ne déclare avoir bénéficié.

Les indicateurs (une quarantaine au total) identifiés sur la base des résultats de l'enquête distinguent (a) ceux indicateurs basés sur des données statistiques nationales et pouvant être immédiatement intégrés dans la base AQUASTAT et (b) ceux à développer à partir de données d'enquêtes spécifiques à l'échelle locale ou régionale. Ils concernent les domaines suivants : l'accès à l'eau (potable et agricole), la contribution économique à l'agriculture irriguée, l'accès à l'éducation, à la formation et à l'encadrement, la participation à la gouvernance de l'eau, l'accès aux ressources économiques et aux projets de développement de l'agriculture irriguée, les compétences, l'accès à la formation et à l'information, enfin le rapport à la ressource en eau (perception de la quantité et de la qualité).

Les résultats de cette recherche exploratoire (base de données, outil méthodologique) conçue comme un projet pilote, devraient permettre, outre l'intégration d'indicateurs genre dans la base AQUASTAT, de tester dans d'autres pays de la région la démarche méthodologique mise en œuvre et de compléter la base de données comparative à partir de nouvelles enquêtes.



\* Center of Arab Women for Training and Research



## DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER SENSITIVE INDICATORS (GSI) IN THE DATA BASE AQUASTAT

Mrs. Alia Gana - CNRS/LADYSS

The project Development of Gender Sensitive Indicators for AQUASTAT is inscribed in the framework of CAWTAR (Center of Arab Women for Training and Research) research programs and is supported by the FAO. It has three main objectives: 1. Investigate the interlinkages between "gender, water and agriculture"; 2. Develop a methodological framework, a practical tool, to be used by statistical services, decision-makers, relevant actors and organizations concerned by development issues; 3. Propose indicators that could be integrated into FAO's global information system on water and agriculture, AQUASTAT.

Taking into consideration the lack of available data on "gender and water" in the three countries associated with the project (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia), the regional team has opted for a methodology based on two complementary approaches: 1. A documentation approach, based on the study of existing statistical data (population census, agricultural inquiries, etc) and the analysis of reports from research or development projects, 2. An inquiry via a questionnaire, standardized for the three associated teams, to gain increased knowledge from the field about existing realities and make a comparative analysis of gender and water relations in the concerned countries.

The analysis of statistical and other available information realized in the three countries shows dissimilar situations in terms of availability of quantitative and qualitative data relating to the relationship between gender and water. In the sum, however, they show that women's contribution to agriculture, included their participation in the management of agricultural exploitations, is largely underestimated. Also, based on official statistics, women represent 18% of the population active in agriculture in Algeria, 36.5% in Morocco and 32% in Tunisia. In spite of this, they don't represent more than 3-5% of the managerial level in the three countries taken together.

The inquiry via the questionnaire (of 100 women approximately) has been realized in 4 regions: 1. At Tizi-ouzou, Algeria. 2. At Belksiri, Morocco, in the irrigated area of Charb. 3. (a) in the municipality of Korba and (b) in the irrigated area of Nadhour in Zaghuan,

Tunisia. Inquiry data have been integrated in a common data base to make a comparative analysis through the SPSS software. The data collected makes it easier to identify women's contribution to domestic water and agricultural management, the sexual division of work, their participation in water users' associations and their perception of water as a resource (quantity, quality). The data also shows the massive involvement of women in irrigated agriculture, with very long working days (on average more than 10 hours/day) and responsibilities in all tasks related to the irrigated crops: from sowing and the fixing of materials, irrigation and maintenance of crops to the collection and preparation of products for sale. However, women are almost totally excluded from water management at the local level and, in fact, only two out of one hundred surveyed are members of a water users' association. The same assumption seems valid in relation to training and guidance, which none of the women interviewed claimed the benefit of.

The indicators (approximately 40) identified on the basis of the inquiry's results include (a) indicators based on national statistical data that could be directly integrated in the AQUASTAT data base and (b) indicators to be developed on the basis of specific inquiries' data gathered at the local or regional levels. They relate to the following issues: water access (both for drinking and for agriculture), economic contribution to irrigated agriculture, access to education, training and guidance, participation in water governance, access to economic resources and irrigated agriculture development projects, competences, access to capacity building and information, perception of the resource water (quality and quantity).

The results of this exploratory research (data base, methodological tool) conceived as a pilot project should allow, in addition to the integration of gender sensitive indicators in the data base AQUASTAT, the testing of implemented methodology in other countries of the region and completion of the comparative data base with the results of new inquiries.

## DIMITRA DANS LE BASSIN MÉDITERRANÉEN: L'INFORMATION ET LA COMMUNICATION AU SERVICE DES POPULATIONS

Ms. Alexandra Hostier, Associate Professional Officer – DIMITRA/FAO

**D**imitra est un projet d'information et de communication de la FAO. Il a pour but de valoriser la contribution des femmes au sein de leurs communautés et fonctionne sur le mode du réseautage. En effet, afin de partager les expériences diverses, en particulier les bonnes pratiques, Dimitra s'appuie sur un réseau de partenaires situés en Afrique et au Proche Orient. Ces partenaires sont bien souvent des ONG qui possèdent elles-mêmes un réseau de membres dans leur pays. C'est par ce système de partenariats que le projet Dimitra parvient à atteindre les populations les plus reculées, à faire circuler l'information et à favoriser les échanges. Le projet facilite également la mise en réseau des groupements, permettant aux groupements de s'associer et d'être ainsi plus forts et plus visibles.

**L**es activités de Dimitra se caractérisent, d'une part, par la récolte d'informations sur les organisations sensibles au genre agissant sur le terrain et, d'autre part, par la publication d'un bulletin semestriel ainsi que l'organisation d'ateliers thématiques. Dimitra a, dès lors, créé une base de données accessible à tous sur son site Internet. Cet outil permet de fournir des informations sur des ONG et des organisations à la base en décrivant leur champ d'activités. Le projet Dimitra promeut l'échange d'information de la base vers le sommet afin que les populations puissent faire entendre leurs problèmes, et du sommet vers la base afin que le contenu technique puisse arriver jusqu'aux populations qui en ont besoin : ce contenu peut être de nature diverse ; de la manière d'obtenir des boutures de manioc saines, à des préoccupations plus sociales sur l'accès des femmes à la terre ou la lutte contre l'impunité ou le VIH/SIDA.

**S**ituée dans le bassin méditerranéen, AMSSED, Association Marocaine de Solidarité et Développement, est active au Maroc. Ce partenaire intègre les activités de Dimitra dans ses objectifs à savoir, le renforcement des capacités des organisations locales. AMSSED porte, comme tous les partenaires de Dimitra, une attention toute particulière à la promotion du genre. En 2004, Dimitra et AMSSED ont organisé à Rabat un atelier dont le thème était la promotion de la femme dans les nouvelles tech-

nologies de l'information et de la communication. Le but était d'échanger des expériences et des bonnes pratiques servant à promouvoir économiquement, socialement et politiquement la femme en intégrant toutes les nouvelles technologies de l'information aux outils traditionnels déjà utilisés par les populations locales. Ce schéma d'atelier a été reproduit ensuite à de nombreux pays en dehors du Maghreb, comme récemment au Sénégal, au Niger et en République Démocratique du Congo.

**L**es autres partenaires de Dimitra au Proche Orient, le CARDNE (Regional Center on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East) et le CREDIF (Centre de recherches d'études, de documentation et d'information sur la femme), opèrent de la même manière. Pour Dimitra, ils ont pour tâche de recenser les organisations locales sensibles au genre et de dynamiser le réseau afin de diffuser l'information et les techniques de communication à la base, permettant ainsi de renforcer de façon participative les communautés locales aux enjeux de la société. Le thème de la dynamisation de réseaux était en outre l'objet d'une réunion de tous les partenaires de Dimitra à Bruxelles en 2005. Ce genre de réunion a permis de faire le point sur les activités du réseau, de redéfinir les objectifs communs et de relancer les synergies entre les partenaires.

**E**n septembre une nouvelle réunion de tous les partenaires de Dimitra a été organisée à Bruxelles. Cette fois, le thème était centré sur l'accès à la terre, problématique commune quoiqu'envisagée de manière différente, au sein de Dimitra.

**L**e résumé de ces événements ainsi que ceux des années précédentes est accessible sur le site internet de Dimitra, à l'adresse suivante: [www.fao.org/dimitra](http://www.fao.org/dimitra). Le site rassemble toutes les publications, bulletins ou les présentations des ateliers qui ont eu lieu depuis le début de l'aventure, ainsi que la base de données du projet. Ce précieux contenu est à la disposition des associations ou groupements qui veulent faire de la promotion du genre leur cheval de bataille.

## **ECOELLAS PROJECT INSTITUTO ANDALUZ DE LA MUJER**

The Andalusian Institute for Women of Spain (Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer) has for years been developing specific employment programmes for rural women with the main aim of contributing to local development and improving women's employment opportunities by helping them reconcile work and family life. Communication and information are increasingly lacking in rural areas and this forces women to be more marginalized to the domestic field. In such a context, training has a crucial role, like in any development process, since it provides women with more and better employment opportunities and independence, as well as personal growth.

For all these reasons, the Andalusian Institute for Women and the Foundation for the Development of the Agro-Food Sector (Fundación para el Desarrollo Agroalimentario) carried out a training project on ecological production entitled "ECOELLAS". The Project mainly aims to promote and boost the development of ecological agriculture by involving women both in the production and consumption process, and facilitating their access to the labour market.

This kind of agriculture largely contributes to the generation of a higher degree of sustainable development in rural villages and populations both at local and global level. Its impact is more environmental and human-friendly and the economic benefits are greater than those provided by traditional agriculture. Such a production system allows farmers to gain considerable profits from a small piece of land, thus contributing to preserve agricultural activity in the rural areas.

Consequently, this system encourages a higher level of participation in agriculture and provides women with micro-enterprise development opportunities.

As far as training is concerned, the Project includes specific activities that enable women to receive education and training and to interact with other people, thus encouraging the creation of new social networks.

The development of the training process is characterized by four axes or lines of action that allow the formulation of a global strategy of development. Awareness Days on the benefits obtained by producing and consuming ecological products have already been organized in five selected rural villages within the framework of the first axis. The second axis includes free training courses on ecological production organized in each selected village. In addition to the topics related to ecological production other issues have been covered, such as digital literacy, environmental awareness and gender equality. Within axis no 3, trade exhibitions of ecological products have been organized in four selected places from January to March 2008.

Now that the project activities have been completed, a follow up phase is being carried out to monitor and evaluate the degree of involvement of the women beneficiaries of the Project.

For more information on the ECOELLAS Project: [proyectos2@centrocafa.com](mailto:proyectos2@centrocafa.com)

## SANLIURFA PROVINCE, HARRAN DISTRICT, CÜTLÜK PROJECT: THE PROTECTION OF SAFFRON GENE RESOURCES AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF SAFFRON AGRICULTURE

*The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats- TEMA*

**S**affron (*Crocus sativus* L.), which was known as "Turkish Saffron" until the beginning of the 20th century, is one of the oldest and most expensive spices in the world.

TEMA Foundation, together with Harran University, developed this project in order to protect the saffron gene resources, improve the income of the villagers by saffron export and protect the land against soil erosion, salinization and desertification.

The project started in Çütlük, located in the Harran Plateau in south-eastern Turkey, at the borders with Syria and Iraq. The Harran Plateau was home to different civilizations, empires and cultures from the Hittites to the Ottomans. Çütlük is an area that belongs to Kuruyer Village and it is a plain ready for cultivation. The climate in Çütlük is semi-arid. The distribution of agricultural production in Kuruyer and Özlü Villages is 70% cotton, 20% wheat and 10% corn. 90% of the agricultural fields in the villages have irrigation capacity.

Saffron, a locally growing plant in the Çütlük village, can be developed in alternative to irrigation-based cotton monoculture as it requires 10% of the water used for cotton which has been cultivated in the region for centuries and needs to be irrigated 7-8 times a year. Because of the climate of the region, there is high vaporization, which causes soil salinization, while the loss of labile minerals, such as N ( $\text{NO}_3+\text{NO}_4$ ), P and S, is increased by leaching. In order to avoid this, it is necessary to cultivate other products requiring less water and with a higher economical value.

Saffron is among the locally growing plants but the main problem in saffron agriculture in Turkey is the lack of related research and the fact that people are not well informed about the benefits of saffron and saffron agriculture. Therefore, the main strategy of the project has been to enhance saffron research and cultivation.

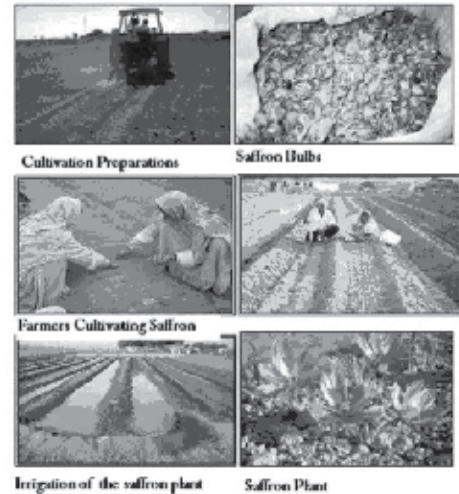
The project aimed specifically to: enhance saffron cultivation for sustainable agriculture; promote saffron cultivation as an alternative product for small enterprises; improve social, economic, employment and educational opportunities in the village; convince the Ministry of Agriculture to give incentives to farmers willing to produce saffron; encourage universities, research institutes and public bodies to focus on saffron cultivation; attract buyers for the crops and; contribute to making Turkey a Saffron exporter country.

The main activities undertaken during the project are:

- Soil analysis in order to determine the characteristics of soil and cultivation methods;
- Information of villagers on saffron cultivation techniques through trainings;
- Provision of villagers with saffron bulbs;
- Protection of saffron fields with fences;
- Construction of seed protection rooms within the project field to protect saffron bulbs;
- Harvesting and selling of saffron bulbs.

The first Saffron flowers were harvested in October 2003. In 2005, 500 kg Saffron seeds were planted in 2 decares area (1 decare=10 ares). After the harvest of the matured saffron plant, 200 gr saffron flowers have been produced.

Among the achievements of the project figure:



- 2-3 times increase of villagers' agricultural income through proper cultivation techniques;
- well-informed and trained farmers about saffron agriculture techniques;
- increased awareness raising of mothers and improved social status of women through trainings. The social status of women, who make the biggest effort in rural areas, is improved, including sanitary conditions, and women are trained to raise healthy and conscious future generations.
- Significant social development thanks to the support by the Yapı Kredi Emeklilik company and the payment modes adopted by landowners: as there are people living in the villages who don't own land, landowners and farmers cultivated the saffron together in the landowners fields and received the payments in equal shares.

At the beginning of the project, saffron was produced in less than 5da area while today it is produced in around 15 da in Turkey.

The Ministry of Agriculture provides educational support to the region. However, the project is also executed in Hilvan, Hepir Village, by EU financing. Saffron is also produced in Viran village by farmers who use their own economic resources. At the same time, saffron agriculture continues in Safranbolu with the support of the Safranbolu administration.

The project won the first prize award in the environment category of the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) 2005 Golden World Award and the "United Nations Special Prize", Active Academy Corporate Social Responsibility Prize and Platin Magazine Social Responsibility Prize. Also, in the environmental research report of GFK Market Research Company, Saffron Project was chosen as one of the four most known environmental projects in Turkey.



### RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF MARINE LITTER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Responsibility for the preparation of this assessment was entrusted to WHO/MED POL (Dr. G. Kamizoulis, Senior Scientist). The final draft, which was prepared by the following non-governmental organizations: the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA), and Clean up Greece Environmental Organization, was reviewed by international experts and in house.

The main objective of this assessment is to understand the current status of the marine litter problem in the Mediterranean, how it is dealt with by the countries of the region and to make practical recommendations in view of the Regional Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean being prepared by MED POL within the Global Marine Litter Initiative of UNEP (GPA and the Regional Seas Programme). It is the result of a joint effort of relevant authorities, IGOs, NGOs, scientists, and economic sectors in several Mediterranean countries, and has taken full consideration and can be regarded as the follow-up of the collective previous initiatives and activities of UNEP/MAP in its efforts to adequately address the problem of marine litter in the Mediterranean.

The assessment relied on the information collected from the completed questionnaires of fourteen Mediterranean countries, analysis of beach clean-up data mainly from the period 2002-2006, the monitoring and recording of litter floating on the sea surface for the duration of the study by HELMEPA member companies with ships traveling in or transiting the Mediterranean, existing literature and initiatives and the direct contacts with local authorities, non-governmental organizations and associations, as well as scientists and individuals, who could provide reliable data on marine litter (recorded or unrecorded). Efforts were made to provide useful statistics that could be further extrapolated to give a quantifiable estimation of the marine litter problem in the Mediterranean.

The main findings of the assessment can be summarised as follows:

- Although useful data on marine litter exists in the region (types, quantities, etc.) it is inconsistent and geographically restricted mainly to parts of the North Mediterranean. Standardized research data for statistical purposes concerning the problem of litter in the Mediterranean is a necessity. Furthermore, information sharing between and among NGOs, IGOs, research institutes, relevant authorities, etc. in the Mediterranean regarding litter data needs to be improved.
- Previous deductions that most of the Mediterranean marine litter is from land-based sources, rather than ships, were confirmed.
- Marine litter on beaches in the Mediterranean originates from shoreline and recreational activities and is composed mainly of plastics (bottles, bags, caps/lids etc.), aluminium (cans, pull tabs) and glass (bottles) (52% - based on item counts). This figure is in line with the global average in the same period (2002-2006). Marine litter from smoking related activities accounts for 40% (collected items) which is considerably higher than the global average.
- In terms of marine litter floating in the sea, plastics account for about 83.0%, while all other major categories (textiles, paper, metal and wood) account for about 17% (no. of items observed).
- Most of the countries that provided input to this assessment are undergoing a series of policy reforms relating to marine litter, covering the whole range from waste prevention practices all the way to environmentally sound disposal of waste, with a view to involving a wide range of stakeholders. Administrative coordination, budget allocation, technical capacity and weak enforcement remain the main obstacles. On the up-side, there is a clear indication that private sector involvement is increasing. No country has any

kind of cross-border collaboration scheme on the issue of marine litter management.

- With the signing of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol in January 2008 by Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Tunisia, and the coming into effect in 2009 of the Mediterranean Sea as a Special Area (under Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)), marine litter management will be further strengthened.
- The economic impact of marine litter has not been addressed in the region while the specific to the region impacts on nature and humans need to be further identified and explored.

### The general framework: UNEP'S Marine Litter Programme

**M**arine litter is a complex and multi-dimensional problem with significant implications for the marine and coastal environment and human activities the world over. It originates from many sources and has a wide spectrum of negative environmental, economic, safety, health and cultural impacts. Despite efforts made internationally, regionally and nationally, there are indications that the marine litter problem continues to worsen.

**T**he lack of global and regional strategies, deficiencies in the implementation and enforcement of existing international, regional and national programmes and lack of regulations and standards that could improve the situation are the main reasons that the marine litter problem persists.

**T**he problem of marine litter was recognized by the UN General Assembly, which in its Resolution A/60/L.22 - Oceans and the Law of the Sea - of 29 November 2005 in articles 65-70 calls for national, regional and global actions to address the problem of marine litter. This GA resolution notes the lack of information and data on marine litter, encourages States to develop partnerships with industry and civil society, urges States to integrate the issue of marine litter within national environmental strategies, and encourages States to cooperate regionally and sub-regionally to develop and implement joint prevention and recovery programmes for marine litter. In response to the GA call, UNEP (GPA and the Regional Seas Programme), through its Global Marine Litter Initiative took an active lead in addressing the challenge, among others, by assisting 11 Regional Seas around the world in organizing and implementing regional activities on marine litter (Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa, Mediterranean Sea, Northwest Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South Asian Seas, South East Pacific and Wider Caribbean).

**T**aking into account the United Nations General Assembly Resolution, the Global Programme for Action framework, ongoing regional activities organised through the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and the outcome of the 2nd Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme for Action, it has been agreed that the strategy to address the problem of marine litter at the regional level be based on the development and implementation of the Regional Action Plans for Marine Litter or Regional Strategies for the Sustainable Management of Marine Litter. It has also been agreed that the development and implementation of a Regional Strategy should pass through the following three phases:

- Phase I Assessment of the regional situation;
- Phase II Preparation of the Regional Strategy; including a regional meeting of experts and national authorities; and
- Phase III The integration of the Regional Strategy into the Programme of Work of the respective Regional Seas Programmes and the Implementation of the Regional Strategy at the national and regional level.

### The Mediterranean context

**M**arine litter has been an issue of concern in the Mediterranean since the 1970s. The Mediterranean countries adopted the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (the Barcelona Convention) in 1976. Within the framework of this Convention the Mediterranean countries adopted in 1980 a Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources. In the Protocol the importance of dealing with the problem of marine litter is recognized. In Annex I marine litter is defined as "Persistent synthetic materials which may float, sink or remain in suspension and which may interfere with any legitimate use of the sea". The Protocol was amended in 1996. Protocol Annex I defines as one of the categories of substances "Litter as any persistent manufactured or processed solid material which is discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment".

**T**he Mediterranean was designated a Special Area for the purposes of Annex V of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention. However, this provision has not entered into force. Only very recently did the Mediterranean coastal States Parties to the MARPOL Annex V present a joint submission to the IMO's MEPC, notifying that adequate reception facilities for garbage were provided in their respective ports

**U**NEP/MAP, jointly with IOC and FAO, recognizing the lack of information on marine and coastal litter in the Mediterranean, convened in 1987 an ad hoc meeting on persistent materials. The meeting recommended that a pilot survey be

initiated in selected Mediterranean areas. The pilot survey was organised in 1988 by UNEP/MAP, in cooperation with IOC and FAO, with five participating countries: Cyprus, Israel, Italy, Spain and Turkey. Results of the survey were reviewed at the IOC/FAO/UNEP Review Meeting on the persistent synthetic materials pilot survey, which was held in 1989. This pilot survey is considered as a landmark activity for the assessment of coastal and marine litter in the Mediterranean.

A Comprehensive Bibliography on Marine Litter containing 440 references and an Assessment of the State of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Persistent Synthetic Materials, which can Float, Sink or Remain in Suspension were published by UNEP/MAP in 1991.

The Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols, 1999, asked the Secretariat to begin action on coastal and marine litter and to prepare a relevant assessment. It also decided to include a budget line for the assessment of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by litter.

Following the decision by the Contracting Parties, a Consultation Meeting on Marine and Coastal Wastes in the Mediterranean was held in 1999 and several documents were prepared. The meeting outlined a project on Marine and Coastal Litter Management, to be implemented in five phases. A general Questionnaire about Litter Management in Coastal Zones of the Mediterranean was sent to Mediterranean countries and the answers were analysed. The results of the assessment showed that the main sources of coastal litter in the region are river runoff, tourist activities and coastal urban centers. This result indicates that it is the inadequate management of coastal solid waste that is responsible for the presence of litter on the beaches, floating in the water and on the sea bed. In addition to the above mentioned results, almost all the Mediterranean countries have policies for the management of coastal solid waste but the enforcement of the policies is weak because of the poor coordination between different national and local administrations dealing with solid waste issues. However, only few countries have policies related specifically to marine litter. Local administration and municipalities are the ultimate responsables for the management of coastal litter in the region. The role of the Ministry of environment is limited to the control aspects.

Based on these facts, MEDPOL built up a strategy to assist coastal local authorities to improve the management of coastal solid waste and prevent the introduction of litter into the marine environment. Along this line, MEDPOL implemented in 2004-2005, with the cooperation of RAMOGE and UNADEP, a pilot project at the Municipality of Tripoli, Lebanon in

which direct technical and legal assistance has been provided together with a public awareness campaign. A national replication strategy has been, as well, developed and agreed upon by all Lebanese coastal municipalities.

In 2003, UNEP/MAP, in cooperation with WHO, prepared Guidelines for Management of Coastal Litter for the Mediterranean Region. These guidelines were prepared within the framework of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Mediterranean and are intended to help the responsible authorities, planners and field operators to place their national and regional development strategies within a context, which will allow them to protect the Mediterranean environment as best possible.

The Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP with the support of the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP in 2006 developed a medium-term public awareness and education campaign on the management of marine litter in the Mediterranean with the overall objective to contribute to the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean. UNEP/MAP opted to work with partner NGOs of the region, namely the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA) and Clean Up Greece - Environmental Organisation, in the context of a project entitled "Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free Campaign" carried out by the three partner organizations with the support of UNEP/MAP. The outcome of the project was a brochure produced in 11 Mediterranean languages, a series of awareness events and clean-ups and a publication which is a proposal of MIO-ECSDE, HELMEPA and Clean Up Greece to UNEP/MAP for a common regional approach on how to raise awareness and appropriately educate about marine litter with implementation at national and local level. The latter has been developed for the general public as well as for all other stakeholders such as the maritime industry, the tourism sector, agriculture, regional and national authorities, NGOs, the media, etc.

Numerous international organisations and NGOs have conducted surveys and beach cleanup campaigns yielding data and information on marine and coastal litter pollution of the Mediterranean Sea. These efforts, which continue to present, are considered as a reliable source of data and information.

This assessment is a follow-up and contribution to ongoing efforts in the development and implementation of a Regional Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean, i.e. to fulfill Phase I: assessment of the Mediterranean regional situation.



## 2ND ENCOUNTER OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH IN LEBANON “ENVIRONMENT IN A GLOBAL FRAMESET” (September 10-14, 2008)

EuroMed Non-Governmental Platform – Lebanon

Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung – Lebanon

Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

On the 10th of September 2008, 41 young people from Egypt, France, Greece, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Spain and Tunisia came together for the 2nd Encounter of Euro-Mediterranean Youth in Broumana – Lebanon. The participants were all members of civil society organizations with different focus areas like economics, politics, social and gender issues or environmental topics. Even though – as the title of this year’s encounter “Environment in a Global Frame-set” already indicates – the spotlight was on environment, the aim was to address organizations which are not explicitly specialized in environmental activism. The organizers intended hereby to widen the attention for environmental issues and to include them into the work of the various organizations.



Taking into consideration the strong desire for an annual event which was expressed at last year’s 1st Encounter, the organizers set out again to bring together different young people for discussing issues and developing solutions which are highly relevant to their everyday life.

Several environmental activists and academics from the Arab World and Europe assisted them in this event through lectures, workshops and presentations in order to put the idea of this encounter into practice. The main lectures were given by: Dr. Chafic Choueib from the Lebanese University on Concepts and Frameworks on Sustainable Development; Mrs. Carol Chouchani Cherfane from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of West Asia (ESCWA) on Promotion of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Euro-Med region: policies and institutions; Mrs. Morgan Strecker from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP/DTIE) on the youth training kit “YouthXchange”, which is designed to help individuals to understand and communicate on sustainable ways of life; Mr. Salman Abbas (environmental activist) on NGOs Advocacy and Lobbying tools.

Four parallel workshops were also organized focusing on different crucial issues: Climate change and renewable energies, The Mediterranean Sea and the preservation of its marine and coastal environment, Forest Fires and sustainable forest management, Trade and Environment.

A role play game was also organized by MIO-ECSDE/MEDIIES staff. Whether putting oneself in the role of an environmental activist dealing with river management or in the shoes of a politician working against the demands of the civil society, the role play game provided the participants with ample opportunity to experience the functions and dealings of different agents in a process of lobbying for their respective aims.

The one day field visit gave participants the possibility to learn about initiatives and projects promoting the protection and valorization of the Lebanese environmental and cultural heritage. They visited an eco-village in DMIT (Chouf area) where the group experienced a guided visit through the self-sustained and organically cultivated village, while at the National Public Library in Baaklin, Mr. Pascal Abdallah from the eco-tourism organisation “Responsible Mobility” gave a short presentation of his eco-friendly tourism campaign which aims at providing groups with guided trekking tours through the beautiful scenery of the different Lebanese regions and, amongst others, in areas which are part of the Lebanese Mountain Trail (LMT). The LMT was introduced by Mr. Nizar Hani: it is an itinerary extending from the north of Lebanon to the far south, covering a distance of 440 km and transecting more than 75 towns and villages. The aim of this project is to showcase the cultural wealth of Lebanon’s mountains as well as to encourage local communities to engage in conservation measures of this heritage.

At the evaluation session held on the last day before the farewell, participants praised the high level of the interventions from both the lecturers and their fellow participants. The balance of theory and practical experiences in role plays and workshops was highly appreciated as well as the opportunity to meet different people with different cultural backgrounds and thus to learn the European and Arab point of view.

The participants also expressed their strong desire to establish a network in order to follow up the encounter’s results as well as to establish a durable cooperation among the different organizations and countries. Overall, there was a strong wish for continuing the successful encounters by a third one next year.

## CLIMATE ALERT - RESEARCHER'S WEB IN SOCIETY (RE.WEB.IS)

This year was the 3rd time that the University of Athens and the Greek Oceanographer's Association undertook the organization of the RESEARCHERS NIGHT, this time in close cooperation with MIO-ECSDE and MEDIES. The aim of the Climate Alert Campaign was to link the scientific community to society, to push forward the environmental sciences as a means to compensate the climate change phenomena, and also to highlight the value of environmental sciences themselves as an inseparable part of society that contributes to the quality of life. The partners to the campaign included also the Laboratories of Zoology & Sea Biology, the OPAM team (Ocean Physics and Modelling group), the Laboratory of Physical Geography, and the Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry of the UoA.

These bodies interacted in an interdisciplinary way under this year's RE.WEB.I.S. project (= «Researchers' Web In Society»), within which a series of coordinated events took place, including visiting schools and giving lectures to students (estimated

~ 500 in total), a media campaign (TV and Radio), the production of a series of posters and a leaflet, etc. The campaign was completed with a large scale event that took place on September 26, 2008 in the centre of Athens, just outside the Central University Hall. During the event all participating Laboratories and Institutions presented their work in the field of Climate Change, by means of experiments, sophisticated monitoring equipment, models, etc. Furthermore, a series of activities for children took place aiming to increase awareness and sensitise them, such as experiments, word games, collective paintings, role play, etc. The event ended in a festive atmosphere with live music, etc. appealing both to children and grown ups. The Climate Alert & REWEBIS campaign was organised in the framework of the European funded programme Researcher's night 2008. The campaign was actually, part of a series of events that took place on the same day all around Europe (2 more in Greece), undertaken by various scientific bodies in order to highlight scientific research.

## PILOT PROJECT FOR PROMOTING THE USE OF RAINWATER HARVESTING

A new multi-stakeholder pilot project for promoting the use of rainwater harvesting in the Cyclades Islands, Greece, has recently been launched. The project is conducted by the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med), in collaboration with various municipal authorities and in coordination and with the financial support of the "Mission Water" corporate responsibility programme of Coca-Cola HBC Greece & Coca-Cola.

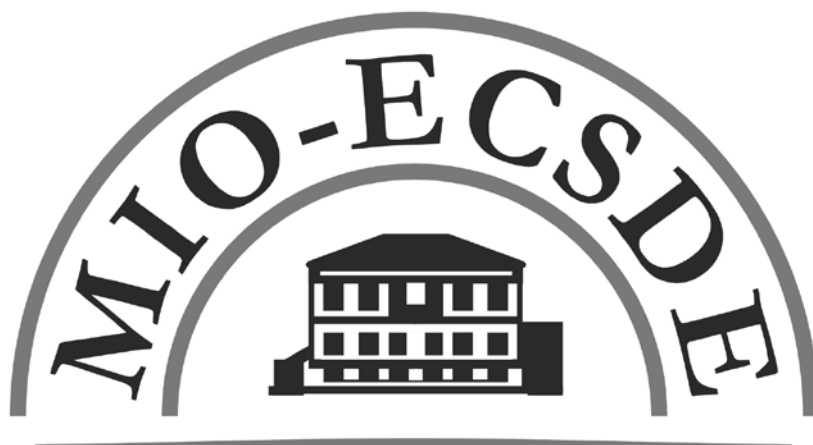
The main objective of this programme is to sensitize and motivate the public towards water conservation and this is achieved through an awareness raising campaign and programmes that promote integrated management of water resources such as the rain water harvesting component or the clean up campaigns in rivers and wetlands near major urban centers.

The main tasks and objectives of this project include:

- Installation of water harvesting systems in selected public buildings of water-scarce insular communities,
- Enhancement of related technical skills through training of local workers and technical services of local authorities, drawing on traditional know-how as well as on modern technologies,
- Awareness raising of local communities on the importance of such alternative, traditional and low cost techniques,
- Implementation of related education activities in selected schools in the Cyclades, using adapted educational material.

The activities conducted in the framework of the project could constitute a model / best practice to be replicated in other local communities in Greece and other countries of the Mediterranean.





## 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 104 NGOs from 25 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, Kyriistou 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)