

SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE

المتوسطة المستدامة

CONSERVING MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HERITAGE



CONSERVATION DE LA BIODIVERSITE ET DU PATRIMOINE NATUREL MEDITERRANEENS

Quarterly newsletter produced by the
Mediterranean Information Office
for the **Environment, Culture** and
Sustainable Development,

the **European Environmental
Bureau** and
the **Arab NGO Network for
Environment and Development**

Issue no **35**
October • Octobre 2004

This issue of Sustainable Mediterranean was
financed by **MIO-ECSDE** with the support of the
European Commission and the **Italian
Ministry for Environment and Territory**



EDITORIAL

Biodiversity, the variability among living organisms including diversity within species and between them and their ecosystems, has made Earth a uniquely habitable place and provides innumerable goods and services that sustain our lives. Biodiversity is essential to our planet and is closely interlinked to human well-being and to the livelihood and cultural integrity of people.

The current rate of loss of biodiversity is very high, phenomenal for the entire history of our planet. This is due mainly to anthropogenic pressures and the shrinking of the necessary vital space for natural ecosystems.

The importance of sustaining biodiversity was universally acknowledged at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that entered into force the following year. In 2002 the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the UN General Assembly endorsed the target of achieving by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national level. The Summit also highlighted the crucial role of biodiversity in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially the targets to halve poverty and hunger by 2015.

The essential function of protected areas, parks and natural reserves as instruments able to protect biodiversity and to promote conservation of rare and endangered species linking also the protection of natural heritage with economic and social development has been recognized in many international fora. Recently, (February 2004) it was reiterated by the Global Programme of Work on Protected Areas adopted by the CBD COP VII. The overall objective of this Programme is the establishment and maintenance by 2010 and 2012 respectively, of terrestrial and marine areas, of comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas that collectively, *inter alia* through a global network, could significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss.

La biodiversité, c'est-à-dire la variabilité parmi les organismes vivants comprenant à la fois la diversité entre espèces et celle entre espèces et écosystèmes, a fait de la Terre un espace habitable unique et fournit d'innombrables biens et services nécessaires à notre subsistance. La biodiversité est essentielle pour notre planète et est étroitement liée au bien-être de l'homme et à l'existence et l'intégrité culturelle des peuples.

Le taux actuel d'appauvrissement de la biodiversité est très élevé, phénoménal par rapport à l'histoire entière de la planète. Ceci est principalement dû aux pressions anthropiques et à la réduction de l'espace vital pour les écosystèmes naturels.

L'importance du maintien de la biodiversité a été reconnue universellement au *Sommet de la Terre* qui eut lieu à Rio de Janeiro en 1992 et par la *Convention sur la diversité biologique* (CDB) entrée en vigueur l'année suivante. En 2002, le *Sommet mondial sur le développement durable* (SMDD) de Johannesburg et l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies approuvèrent l'objectif de réduire de manière significative le taux actuel d'appauvrissement de la biodiversité au niveau mondial, régional et national d'ici l'an 2010. Le Sommet mit également en relief le rôle crucial joué par la biodiversité dans l'achèvement des *Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement* (MDGs), en particulier de ceux ayant pour but de diminuer de moitié la pauvreté et la faim d'ici 2015.

La fonction essentielle des aires protégées, parcs et réserves naturelles en tant qu'instruments capables de protéger la biodiversité et de promouvoir la conservation d'espèces rares et menacées tout en liant la protection du patrimoine naturel au développement économique et social, a été reconnue à de nombreux forums internationaux. Récemment (en février 2004), celle-ci a été réitérée par le *Programme mondial de travail sur les aires protégées* adopté par la CDB COP VII. L'objectif général de ce programme est l'établissement et le maintien respectifs d'ici 2010 et 2012 des aires terrestres et marines, de systèmes nationaux et régionaux complets d'aires protégées, gérés efficacement et représentatifs du point de vue écologique, qui, en commun, pourraient réduire de manière significative - notamment par le biais d'un réseau mondial - le taux actuel d'appauvrissement de la biodiversité.

Conformément aux engagements mondiaux, de nom-

In line with global commitments several initiatives/strategies of Mediterranean significance have been developed in order to protect the rich natural environment and biodiversity of the region, characterized by the second highest percentage of endemic species in the world.

This issue of *Sustainable Mediterranean* presents some of the on-going regional and national initiatives in the region promoting biodiversity conservation and protection of the Mediterranean natural heritage. Existing good practices from different Mediterranean countries, especially in terms of successful local sustainable development schemes and participation of concerned stakeholders are also presented as they may be of interest for practitioners and other stakeholders involved in similar efforts.

The next issue of *Sustainable Development (issue 36)* is thematically linked to this issue and will present the recently launched MIO-ECSDE initiative relating to the past and present forms of interaction between biological and cultural diversity in the Mediterranean.

breuses initiatives/ stratégies significatives pour la Méditerranée ont été développées afin de protéger le riche environnement naturel et la biodiversité de la région, caractérisée par le second pourcentage le plus élevé d'espèces endémiques au monde.

Ce numéro de «*Méditerranée Durable*» présente quelques-unes des initiatives régionales et nationales continues entreprises dans la région, qui visent à promouvoir la conservation de la biodiversité et la protection du patrimoine naturel de la Méditerranée. Des bonnes pratiques mises en œuvre par divers pays méditerranéens, en particulier celles se rapportant à des schémas de développement durable local réussis et à la participation des parties concernées, sont également présentées, dans la mesure où elles pourraient intéresser des praticiens et d'autres parties prenantes impliquées dans des initiatives similaires.

Le prochain numéro de «*Méditerranée Durable*» (no. 36) est lié à celui-ci du point de vue thématique et présentera l'initiative récemment lancée par MIO-ECSDE concernant les formes passées et présentes d'interaction entre la diversité biologique et culturelle de la Méditerranée.

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REGIONAL INITIATIVES AT A GLANCE

In the Framework of UNEP/MAP there is a specific Protocol for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (SPA Protocol) under which the Contracting Parties (CPs) commit themselves to establish coastal and marine protected areas to be managed in a sustainable way. The Protocol was adopted by the CPs of the Barcelona Convention on June 1995, and entered into force on December 1999. Over 140 marine and coastal PAs have been identified in 19 riverine Mediterranean countries. The action plan for this Protocol is supported by the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas in Tunisia (RAC/SPA: www.rac-spa.org.tn). Moreover, during their last meeting in Catania, Italy (November 2003) the CPs to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the region (SAP BIO) and recommended the undertaking of immediate actions towards its actual implementation. Overall, the SAP BIO advocates 30 priority actions aimed at ensuring biodiversity conservation and helping reconciling the socio-economic development of the Mediterranean coastal area with the vital need to protect its biological diversity. However, it should be noted that there is a general articulation that the RAC/SPA should have a more active role in the processes needed to achieve the objectives of the Protocol.

Under the mentioned Protocol one of the most relevant issues was the creation of the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) "in order to promote cooperation in the management and conservation of natural areas, as well as in the protection of threatened species and their habitats" as well as in order "to constitute the core of a network aiming at the effective conservation of the Mediter-

anean heritage". Unfortunately, after five years of implementation only 13 countries have ratified the Protocol, and only 14 areas have been declared as SPAMIs, all of them in the Western Mediterranean and most of them (9) in the same country (Spain).

The Ramsar Convention for wetlands of international significance also plays an important role in the Mediterranean and it is implemented in the region by the MedWet initiative (www.medwet.org/), the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee of which consists of representatives of all 25 countries of the region, UNEP, UNDP, the European Commission, three international Conventions, 4 international NGOs and 4 Wetland centers.

Other initiatives of Mediterranean significance relating to the establishment and management of protected areas or of regional networks of these, include the Man and Biosphere (MaB) Programme of UNESCO (www.unesco.org/mab/) with its World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the EU-wide network of protected sites 'Natura 2000' (considered to be the cornerstone of EU nature protection policy), established under the Habitats and Birds Directives and the Emerald Network, including Central and Eastern European countries and some few African countries, including Morocco and Tunisia on the Mediterranean side, which are signatories of the Bern Convention on the conservation of Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

Furthermore, several other initiatives exist such as Parks for LIFE, the Cilento Declaration, the Mediterranean Wetland Strategy, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (www.strategyguide.org/fulltext.html) and the EU-ROPARC Federation.

TWO INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO GIVE STRENGTH TO THE PARKS

Dr. Matteo Fusilli • President of *Federparchi*

In line with its international commitment related to protected areas and as a result of the development of intense relationships with stakeholders from other Countries, Federparchi (the Italian Federation of Parks and Nature Reserves) has decided to promote two important initiatives: the establishment of

the *Observatory for the Protected Areas* and the creation of a *Mediterranean Parks Association*.

Both initiatives derive from the need of conferring to the national systems of protected areas and to their whole in the two considered geographical areas – the united Europe and the Mediterranean

Basin – the capacity to influence the choices of supranational institutions and to undertake a role enabling them to multiply the efficacy of their actions. The latter depends more and more on the possibility to act in a non-isolated manner and to be an essential part of comprehensive programs regarding territory management, biodiversity conservation, landscape safeguard, and long-lasting local development.

The Observatory aims at analyzing anything that might be relevant for the protected areas in the work of EC institutions, identifying/evaluating in particular the level of consideration that strategies, directives and measures give to the parks. This work of analysis, combined with the monitoring of the EU funds' utilization by the protected areas and the collaboration among the parks of the Union, is directed to formulate suggestions and proposals leading parks to undertake the role of institutional subjects associated to the Community policies for conservation and sustainable development.

The 25 Member States have more than 27.000 protected areas – among which more than 600 are parks and about 15.000 are nature reserves – for a total surface of 64 million hectares, equivalent to 16,2% of the whole EU territory. The latter is characterized by the evident contradiction existing between the big extent of general and very long-term programs – reflecting international environmental agreements and demanding multilateral summits– and the limited spaces provided for the sites by the extremely detailed directives on natural *habitats* and on the safeguarding of bird species (Natura 2000). Europe must find a way to solve this contradiction by focusing its attention on the complex territories and the several landscapes managed by the parks, i.e. by the subjects owning the most adequate instruments to realize many of the complicated guidelines that have been elaborated.

The Observatory, with its seat in Cinque Terre National Park (Liguria region) is now forming its own Scientific Committee. The experts of this Committee will be appointed by those organizations and associations that have committed themselves to contribute to the Observatory's work with research, proposals and an active participation.

The Mediterranean Basin is facing the urgent problem of conferring to protected areas a much more significant clout and role than the current ones. These could be asserted through a deeper and permanent collaboration among protected areas themselves and be enhanced through the creation of common platforms, programs and actions. This possibility, scant-

ily considered by numerous relevant ongoing initiatives and actions, could promote the sharing of available intellectual and material resources and contribute to the finding of possible solutions for the environmental management of a geographical area that represents one of the most complex and delicate realities in the whole planet.

Protected areas can contribute through ideas, experiences, passion and competence in facing the most delicate axle of the problem, i.e. the relationship between the safeguarding of biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes and the promotion of a self-generated and participative development by the local communities.

The Mediterranean Parks Association aims at joining and coordinating as much as possible the strength of more than 500 parks and of thousands of nature reserves existing in the Mediterranean area that represent – it is important to stress it - one of the highest concentrations of protected areas in the world.

Its functions meet a primary need, also confirmed by the most recent IUCN statements adopted in Durban during the 5th World Parks Congress ("*...enlarge and strengthen the system of protected areas in the whole world, by establishing the priorities according to the immediate threats menacing the biological diversity and the natural and cultural heritage*" and "*consider the protected areas among the general purposes of development*") and reasserted in Naples, in the Final Declaration of the IUCN Mediterranean Members Meeting ("*...urge all Mediterranean countries to coordinate their actions to promote specific strategic plans for the conservation of the major Mediterranean environmental systems...*" and "*...support the establishment of an association of Protected Areas of the Mediterranean*").

The proposal that is presently taking shape and will soon be officially formalized, relates to the creation of an organization based on voluntary adhesion and on shared statutes and/or regulations. The organization will associate those stakeholders that represent systems of parks and of protected areas according to their legislative or administrative competence or to what is established by the association agreement.

The aims should be original, i.e. not expressed by any other association, so that it might represent a value added for each participating stakeholder and for the whole community of protected areas. Among the main aims should be included:

- influencing the choices of international authorities, so that the elaboration of strategies and pro-

grams regarding the Mediterranean area might take into consideration the needs of the whole of the protected areas in the Basin;

- elaborating, promoting and suggesting – to the in-

ternational community and the competent bodies – specific policies at Mediterranean level supporting and enhancing the advanced and experimental role of the parks.

SUSTAINING PROTECTED AREAS TO ENRICH MEDITERRANEAN LIVES

Andrés Alcántara • Protected Areas Senior Officer • UICN-Centro de Cooperación del Mediterráneo

The Protected Areas Programme of the IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation has launched a process aiming to further collaboration and understanding between the Mediterranean members of the World Commission for Protected Areas (WCPA), organisations and experts involved in the protection and management of natural areas throughout the Basin. In this framework Mediterranean workshops are being organised on focal issues such as training, governance, cooperation and financing while relevant documentation and information material is being produced. Two important conferences organised recently in this framework are the Mediterranean Protected Areas Conference realized in Murcia in March 2003 and the Durban Mediterranean Vision in September 2003.

The starting point was combining the Mediterranean reality, characterized by the scattered networks of protected areas with the idea of perceiving "protected areas" as an opportunity and not as a restraint for local development. In other words, conservation and development is dealt with within all IUCN categories of Protected Areas, including those that are relevant in terms of their use, such as categories V and VI.

The aims of the programme are based on renewing commitments and on forging alliances that will enable efforts to be pooled, through different forms of management and planning, as well as to devise strategies for political stakeholders and tools for managers. The added value generated by investment in protected areas in terms of tangible and intangible values - such as quality of life enhancement for the population, increase in biological diversity or water and air quality - must not be overlooked either. The mid-term scenario for Mediterranean protected areas and their future depends on their capacity to adapt to changes and on the fruitful interaction between regions in the north, south and east of the basin, as Murcia Conference and Durban World Park Congress showed us.

It is a period that encompasses changes in natur-

al and political processes, ranging from adaptation to climate change, the introduction of invasive species or the changes that will occur in actions to be implemented for the conservation and development of land and marine protected areas in line with international conventions and meetings.

The relationship between species and protected areas conservation in the Mediterranean is linked to the dual conservation concept of species - space. Hence the reason for working towards a vision for the marine and land environment that enables science-based sustainable development plans to be set in place with appropriate social support.

Training at all levels, as well as local stakeholder participation from an interdisciplinary perspective that bears in mind the Mediterranean idiosyncrasies, is a variable that must be included in all actions undertaken.

The question of scale is a further component to be considered, as conservation and management are not the same on a local level as when seen from the Mediterranean regional standpoint.

Topics that should always be included in protected area management encompass both the population and its impact on issues such as the "littoralization" imposed on the coastal strips, as well as the antagonism between "urban" and "rural".

There is also a need for increased participation and collaboration between administrations so as to encourage Mediterranean experiences along the lines of the pioneer example of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest (SPAMI).

Work must be made on projects and programmes that can impact on the ecosystem vision and that link protected areas together through their multifunctionality, respecting cultural, historical and socio-economic issues for the local population. Our mission is to comply with the motto: "work with people and for people".

The private sector should also be engaged in the management and governance of protected areas while the positive impact on the conservation of sensitive

land and marine areas brought about by the change in trends in two key sectors, namely tourism and fishing, should be kept in mind.

For these reasons, we, at the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, would like to encourage everyone involved in the conservation/management of

protected areas to promote the conclusions reached at the Mediterranean Conference on Protected Areas held at Murcia and the World Parks Congress at Durban so as to overcome the boundaries of traditional conservation and accept the challenges posed by these events in building a Mediterranean vision for the 21st century.

WORKING FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

Anne Rémy • WWF Mediterranean Programme Office • Head of communications

WWF Mediterranean was set up in 1992 to protect the natural wealth of the Mediterranean and to promote environment-friendly practices for the benefit of all. At present the organization works on the conservation of forests, freshwater and marine ecosystems. This includes promoting protected areas and sustainable resource use by sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism. In addition WWF lobbies for eco-friendly EU policy and supports the development of environmental NGOs in the region.

Saving forests

The Mediterranean forest mosaics of cork and holm oaks, cedars, pines and olive trees are home to about 25,000 species of flowering plants of which 13,000 are endemic. They also host an amazing faunal diversity with large mammals such as brown bear, wolf, leopard, endemic Barbary ape, Barbary deer, Sardinian deer, Iberian lynx and mouflon. Forests originally represented 82% of the total Mediterranean land cover. Today, only about 17% remains. WWF's aim is to establish new protected areas, to improve the management of existing ones, and to initiate restoration plans for degraded forest landscapes. Conservation and sustainable development approaches are being integrated for local communities to gain economic benefits from their environment. The main forest areas where WWF Mediterranean is active are in Croatia, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia. A new five-year programme has recently been launched for the protection of cork oak forests in the southwest Mediterranean. This programme aims to promote sustainable markets, improve governance, influence policy and demonstrate solutions through field projects.

Protecting a scarce resource

More than half and in some areas up to 90% of freshwater ecosystems in the region have been lost or are

extremely threatened. In the last century, increasing population and the dominance of unsustainable policies on agriculture, tourism, urban and industrial development, fishing and energy use, have all caused great loss to Mediterranean freshwater sources. WWF's conservation efforts in southern Spain and Portugal, central Turkey, North Africa and the North Balkans focus on protecting important sites, establishing water basin management systems and influencing water management policies.

Safeguarding marine biodiversity

The Mediterranean's enclosed sea has the world's second highest percentage of endemic species, including the Posidonia sea grass and the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal. Species also include 28 cetaceans, loggerhead turtle, and the commercially important blue-fin tuna and swordfish. Currently, less than 1% of the Mediterranean Sea is protected. WWF is working to establish marine and coastal protected areas, to promote fisheries management systems which do not adversely affect marine productivity and to ensure that measures against pollution agreed in international conventions, such as the Barcelona Convention, are endorsed and implemented. Currently WWF Mediterranean has projects running in Croatia, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

Protecting nature from the negative impacts of tourism

In less than 20 years, the number of tourists to the Mediterranean, the world's leading tourist destination, is expected to increase from the 220 million today to 350 million. Currently, mass tourism is one of the main causes behind ecological loss in the region. Mediterranean coastal areas, which receive 30% of international tourist arrivals, are already seriously damaged. Some locations which were once pristine are now beyond repair. WWF's work is geared

towards protecting nature from the negative impacts of mass tourism and promoting models of responsible tourism in key areas. Efforts are focused on four field projects, in Croatia, Libya, Tunisia, and Turkey with simultaneous work on sustainable fisheries and creating marine protected areas.

Building capacity

Given the incredible diversity of ecosystems, countries and cultures in the Mediterranean, WWF's mission in the area can only be achieved through a collaborative approach and with the support of stakeholders. Breaking down barriers, building bridges of understanding and acting together for the protection of the environment are the three main requirements in the creation of long-term partnerships, through which WWF works. Capable people and good organizational skills in the partner NGOs are also needed. All this is achieved through capacity building, an ongoing process of helping people, or-

ganizations and societies improve and adapt to changes around them. WWF Mediterranean is working to strengthen environment and development NGOs in the region by helping them build their operational skills and develop their institutional capacity.

WWF is continuously developing new projects and programmes to meet the growing and changing environmental needs in the region. The organization will continue to work for the protection of nature's special places and species, and work with market mechanisms to ensure that the utilization of natural resources is sustainable. WWF sees the private sector as a critical partner in these endeavours, as well as those governments and individuals willing to take courageous decisions in support of the environment. Through conservation successes in a few well chosen areas, and effective communication of the results, the global conservation organization aims to create the momentum necessary to challenge the root causes of the degradation of our environment.

UNESCO EFFORTS IN PROTECTED AREAS OF CROATIA

Dr. Dra_ko_erman • SEMEP National Coordinator

UNESCO – Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme has established in Croatia the Biosphere Reserve of Velebit Mountain (BR).

- › The major ecosystem: Evergreen sclerophyllous forests, woodlands or scrub.
- › Major habitats and land cover types: Coastal forest characterized by *Carpinetum orientalis*, *Seslerio ostryetum*, *Pinetum nigrae submediterraneum*, etc.; karst zone supporting *Fagetum subalpinum*, *Pinetum mughi* and *Picetum illyricum subalpinum*; inland areas with *Fagetum abietosum*, *Picetum montanum*, *Fagetum montanum*, etc.
- › Location: 44_15' to 44_45" N; 15_00' to 15_45'
- › Area (hectares) Total: 200,000: Core zone: 21,868, Buffer zone: 178,132, Transition: Not defined.
- › Year designated: 1977
- › Current principal research/monitoring activities: Climate, Geomorphology, Flora/fauna, Black pine forest succession, Forest management, Anthropogenic effects, Mountaineers in popularization and environmental protection of NP Paklenica.

Public awareness aiming for the protection of the Nature Park and BR Velebit has proven in the "SOS

Velebit" initiative to be of highest efficiency and capability in protecting the natural values against the encroachment of industry, even the powerful energy sector.

Rehabilitation of environmental quality

- › Coastal marine and small island ecosystems are suffering from land based pollution resulting in eutrophication processes in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea, with expansion of alien species (*Caulerpa taxifolia* and *C. racemosa* vs. *Posidonia oceanica* beds).
- › Urban and industrial wastewater treatment systems are urgently needed in cities in the karstic areas.
- › Rural wastewater treatment plants are needed to prevent groundwater contamination in karstic areas.
- › Land-mine decontamination for allowing entry into agricultural land, forests and wetlands.
- › Karstic mountain ecosystems need urgent protection to conserve vast underground water resources.
- › Prevention of forest fires and improvement in fire fighting along the Adriatic coast and islands.

- › Reforestation efforts in areas which suffered from recent fires.
- › Reduction of industrial scale agricultural plants (large pig farms, chicken farms, etc.).
- › Study, inventory and monitoring of the sea underwater freshwater upwellings ("vrulje") in Velebit Channel as an enormous freshwater resource untapped so far.

Sustainable socio-economic development

- › Use of traditional know-how and practices to sustain the livelihood of surviving rural communities.
- › Introduction of education programs on organic agriculture and permaculture (*permanent agriculture*) of Dr. Bill Mollison into these rural communities is a pressing priority. The Croatian MAB Committee has initiated the formation of the NGO "Croatian Permaculture", Medical School University of Zagreb, and already organized several rounds of successful Permaculture Courses in Croatia offered by authorized Permaculture Teachers: architect Professor Declan Kennedy (Germany), agricultural engineer Patrick Whitefield (United Kingdom) and architect Tony Andersen (Copenhagen, Denmark).
- › Deserted schools on Adriatic Islands (for lack of children) should be repaired, equipped and used as cultural/educational centers for existing rural island communities, and ideal destinations for educational tourism, for European students and teachers in their on site Mediterranean environmental education efforts.
- › Promotion of eco-tourism, mountaineering, climbing, bird watching, canoeing, rafting, and wealth of other activities – for economic benefit and sustainability of local rural communities.
- › Gear Sustainable Development Plans to the benefit of the local community, as to alleviate poverty and reverse the depopulation processes in the islands and in the mountainous hinterland.
- › Conservation of coastal land and marine ecosystems using Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) of UNEP.
- › Biodiversity education, public awareness programs, and Education for Sustainable Development are to be initiated at all levels of the formal and non formal educational system.

UNESCO – SEMEP (South Eastern Mediterranean Environmental Education Project) is now internationally managed by the Section for Science, Technology and Environmental Education (STE) of UNESCO, and has undertaken some of these educational tasks in the formal education system, at the level of elementary and secondary education. Efforts in implementing education for sustainable development for the benefit of society at large and the protected areas in particular, will be streamlined with the initiatives of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in partnership with UNESCO, UNEP, MIO-ECSDE, etc.

The World Heritage Center of UNESCO has designated several Croatian historical cities and localities in the List of the World Heritage Sites (e.g. Dubrovnik, Split, Poreč, Trogir – as the Cultural Heritage of Humanity) and in Croatia so far only the National Park "Plitvice Lakes" has been successfully enrolled in the List of the World Natural Heritage Sites.

UNESCO – ROSTE (Regional Office for Science in Europe – ROSTE Venice Office) has initiated the process of establishment of the first Transboundary Biosphere Reserves in South Eastern Europe (SEE-countries). In two preparatory workshops for these processes, Mr. Phillipe Pypaerts of ROSTE and Professor Angheluta Vadineanu of the University of Bucharest, Romania (Sinaia, 2001 and Rome, 2002) produced a report (Biodiversity Conservation and Management in Protected Areas and Biosphere Reserves, Ars Docendi, Bucharest 2003) and the Republic of Croatia proposed the Nature Park "Kopacki Rit" (wetlands in the mouth of Drava into Danube) as the single highest priority conservation transboundary effort in protecting the wetland areas of major European importance for ornithofauna and ichthyofauna resources. Most recently the World Conservation Union (IUCN, Gland, Switzerland) and the expert Dr. Martin Schneider Jacoby of Europäische Naturerbe have prepared the draft document for these processes, which describes the natural and cultural wealth in South Eastern Europe as the natural and cultural treasure chest of Europe.

LES ACTIVITES TOURISTIQUES ET LES LOISIRS AU PARC NATIONAL D'ICHKEUL (TUNISIA)

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Introduction

L'Ichkeul a été décrété parc national en 1980, après avoir déjà été reconnu, par l'UNESCO, d'importance internationale. Nommé *Site du patrimoine mondial naturel* en 1980, et inscrit sur la liste des *zones humides d'importance internationale* (RAMSAR) la même année, cet écosystème fragile avait aussi été retenu comme noyau central d'une *réserve de la biosphère* par le Bureau du Conseil International de Coordination du programme sur l'Homme et la Biosphère (MAB), en 1977. L'intérêt international accordé à ce site se justifie pleinement par son importante valeur tant écologique que culturelle, et même socio-économique.

Les potentialités touristiques du Parc National de l'Ichkeul

Abstraction faite des problèmes majeurs auquel est confronté, depuis quelques années, le parc national de l'Ichkeul¹, ce site demeure unique sur plusieurs plans.

Les ressources naturelles

Un rapide inventaire des principaux éléments naturels pouvant constituer une curiosité touristique mentionne:

- ▶ La paléontologie
- ▶ L'hydrologie
- ▶ La géologie
- ▶ La faune
- ▶ L'avifaune
- ▶ La flore
- ▶ L'ichtyologie

Cependant, le parc national de l'Ichkeul n'est pas qu'un lac et des oiseaux, il représente surtout une *grande énigme historique*.

Les ressources historiques et culturelles

Une fouille minutieuse de l'histoire du site valorisera encore plus ceci :

- ▶ L'exploitation de la roche du djebel²
- ▶ Les techniques de pêche

- ▶ Les pèlerinages aux sources thermales
- ▶ L'archéologie : des trésors encore enfouis³
- ▶ La symbiose entre population et nature
- ▶ Les marabouts

Le classement sur des listes internationales

Le Parc National de l'Ichkeul est un des rares sites au monde à être classé à la fois sur trois listes : RAMSAR, Patrimoine Mondial et MAB. Ces nominations sont une sorte de *label* dont le site peut et doit faire usage dans le cadre de sa promotion touristique. Cependant, il devrait pour cela répondre aux multiples *cahiers des charges*, relatifs à chaque titre honorifique attribué.

Les visiteurs du Parc National d'Ichkeul

Les recensements effectués au niveau de l'entrée du parc national depuis 1990 ne constituent pas une référence exhaustive pouvant indiquer les flux réels de visiteurs. Néanmoins, ces données chronologiques permettent déjà de voir l'évolution *quantitative* de ce public. Ainsi, le parc aurait reçu : 38.742 visiteurs en 1990; 54.029 en 1993 ; 60.425 en 1996 ; 39.057 en 1999 et 34.577 en 2000. L'enquête approfondie, menée directement auprès des visiteurs entre 1990 et 1999-2000, permet de noter une plus large provenance territoriale et une évolution comportementale.

Une typologie des visiteurs du parc national de l'Ichkeul a pu être avancée, relevant la présence de différents groupes d'appartenance. Les visiteurs viennent principalement dans un but récréatif, contemplatif et par suite ont une attitude assez *passive*. Les tunisiens, en général, paraissent manquer encore de la maturité requise en matière de *prise de conscience environnementale*. Ce qui nous amène à dire qu'il s'agit ici beaucoup plus de parler de pratique d'activités de loisirs de plein air au sein du parc national, que de tourisme, et encore moins d'écotourisme. Le visiteur ignore souvent l'importance écologique et culturelle du parc national qu'il parcourt.

Ce constat souligne le rôle important d'éducation

* cf. Dr. Selma ZAÏANE, ouvrage « Tourisme et loisirs dans les parcs nationaux tunisiens. L'exemple du parc national d'Ichkeul », CPU, Tunis, 2004, 600 pages.

et de sensibilisation que doit encore jouer le parc national de l'Ichkeul. Le parc devient, pour le tunisien, un simple espace vert de promenade dominicale en famille ou entre amis.

Concernant les visiteurs *touristes étrangers*, il s'agit d'un *tourisme de passage*. Le temps consacré à la visite est trop court pour permettre une réelle découverte des richesses patrimoniales du site.

Conclusion

L'étude réalisée a permis de confirmer la présence d'un nombre important d'intervenants. L'absence

d'un chef de file bien identifié et reconnu, d'un *chef d'orchestre*, apte à suivre et à coordonner les différentes initiatives et les différents projets lancés au niveau du parc national de l'Ichkeul, freine l'envol d'une autonomie de gestion du parc. La mise en place d'un plan de gestion et d'un comité d'administration, présidé par un directeur du parc possédant les qualifications et le niveau de formation requis, pourrait offrir une solution pour aboutir à une autonomie de l'Ichkeul. Ceci permettrait un réel développement durable du tourisme et des loisirs au parc national, compatibles avec ses objectifs de conservation.

1. Diminution des sources d'alimentation en eau douce, suite à la construction de divers barrages.

2. F. RAKOB, éminent archéologue allemand, mentionne que le marbre de l'Ichkeul a servi au niveau de constructions antiques découvertes à Carthage.

3. Cf. T. GHALIA, Colloque Africa Romana, Sassari, 2000.

DWEJRA – A COASTAL NATURE PARK (MALTA)

Vincent Attard • Nature Trust (Malta)

Dwejra is situated on the North West coast of the island of Gozo which is found in the North of Malta. It is an area of around 8 square kilometres made up of cliffs, valleys, agricultural land, garigue habitats (shrubs) and rocky shores. Dwejra is an important site known for its geology, palaeontology, ecology, and ornithology and landscape value. It is an area of natural scenic beauty. Over the years this place has unfortunately been degraded due to heavy human activity, tourism and quarry operations. The site has also seen illegal buildings mushroom in the area together with illegal dumping and other irresponsible activities, all of which have contributed to irreparable damage to the area.

Today the area is open to the public without any sort of control and management of visitors. Thousands of tourists arrive in coaches (estimated at 720,000 per year), whilst locals visit the area with cars which at times are parked on the sensitive areas within Dwejra. Once on site, people roam the area without any proper management / supervision. This has resulted in heavy trampling over the fossil beds and the flora and fauna of the site. The habitual picking of what is often rare or endemic flora found on site further exacerbates the negative effects.

Many of the visitors also climb on top of the 'Window' known as It-Tieqa, which is a geological feature and a sort of landmark to the area. This has resulted in the accelerated erosion of the 'structure'. Unless drastic action is taken this particular feature will

soon be lost for good.

With no surveillance of the area, illegal dumping of waste is also increasing. On one particular area, so much rubble waste had been dumped over a short period that debris was falling off the cliff edge and finding its way to the inland sea, another interesting feature of Dwejra.

The authorities are aware of such problems and have promised to take remedial action. However, if no holistic approach is taken to the problems of the area, little or nothing will be achieved.

With regards to marine activities, operators offering boat rides to the tourists have constructed illegal jetties within the inland sea, while the diving clubs often drive with their cars right to the shore to reduce the inconvenience of carrying their aquatic and diving equipment. Here, once again, erosion is the main result together with damage to the marine ecology and the fossil beds.

The quarries found near the site, some of which are operating outside the permit limits, emit fine particles generated by their activities, which are often the cause of ecological harm. These quarries are also a stark eyesore and in general have a very negative effect on the value of the area.

Proper site management is essential and the need for such management is now glaringly evident.

Way back in April 2002 when Nature Trust (Malta) – NTM, was involved as a partner in the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) pro-

ject for limited restoration works on the area through the EIPP (Environmental Initiatives Private Partnership), the NTM council decided to take this project further and try to have a full conservation plan. Of course the main problem was to secure the financial resources needed. It was for this reason that NTM decided to concentrate all its focus and resources into making a good proposal to the European Union for consideration under the LIFE Third Countries Programme. Months of hard work and long hours of paperwork and research followed till in October 2002 the proposal was submitted to the EU LIFE. In May 2003, the LIFE office announced that few projects had managed to be approved out of the many that had been submitted. To NTM's relief the Dwejra project was one of the accepted projects

The Dwejra LIFE Project was launched on 1 April 2004. The project will be instrumental to reverse the degradation process and organise the site for the equal benefit of the local community, the environment, and a better tourist product. The main partners in the LIFE project are Nature Trust (Malta) as the beneficiary together with MEPA and WWF Italy as the main partners. Apart from the main partners, discussions and the involvement of the main stakeholders will be underway throughout all the project's process. The stakeholders shall include the Ministry of Gozo, San Lawrenz Local Council, the Tourism Authorities of Gozo and Malta, the diving associations, the boat owners, the fishermen, Din L-Art Helwa (a heritage NGO), the tour operators, the boat house people, the church and others that may be identified in the course of the task towards the creation of a Natural Park

The project will not only create awareness on the need and importance to conserve such a site for all the stakeholders utilising it but will also aid in showing that such management will result in long term economic benefits for all.

The project is set to be done in four stages.

Stage one will be the consultation stage. All stakeholders will be brought together, and meetings will be held with all to plan the way forward. NTM wants to make all stakeholders feel that they own the project and feel ownership of the success, while at the same time appreciate that such a project will be of economic benefit to all those sectors that make a living from the site.

With this in mind NTM hopes that, for example, the diving clubs will realise that with Dwejra be-

coming a nature reserve and with the inclusion of a Marine Protected Area (MPA), more quality diving tourists will visit the site to enjoy the marine ecology. The fishermen will appreciate that outside the MPA zone, the fish population will increase as has happened in other MPAs in the Mediterranean region. The tour operators will feel that the site offers value for money with additional facilities such as guide tours and interpretation panels, etc. encouraging more eco tourists to visit the area, the boat owners will be included in the tours of the area improving in this way their operation, etc.

The locals will eventually realise that the long term sustainability of the project will enable them to continue enjoying the beauty of the site for many years to come and, it will also have positive commercial spill-over effects as it will continue to be a prime attraction for quality tourism.

With Dwejra being the first nature reserve on the island of Gozo, schools could also make use of the site for environmental education events. Nature Trust is also the FEE Malta co-ordinators for Green Flag running the EkoSkola programme in Malta. This site can be used as an example of nature conservation for Gozitan school children in the EkoSkola project.

Quarry owners would appreciate how they can make alternative use of their existing quarries by turning them into tourist attractions as was the case on the mainland where lime stone heritage parks were created.

Stage two will involve the compilation of data and evaluation of existing data. This stage will lead to the drafting of a 5 year management plan which will take the project beyond the three years of the LIFE contract. The Management Plan will be drawn up with all stakeholders directly involved and at the same time keeping in mind the EU directives and Natura 2000.

Stage three will be the actual works which will look into the conservation of the site, cleaning of rubble, restoration of rubble walls and the creation of a full-fledged visitor centre to offer the Dwejra experience to all who visit the site. The zoning of the Marine Protected Area will be established.

The fourth and final stage will include the setting up of markings and information panels (in various languages), visitor flow measurement, an exhibition, a video, information and education leaflets, training of wardens and site guides. During this stage a *sustainability plan* will be compiled to take the project

beyond the March 2007 date and into the future. NTM is also working on other possible funding opportunities for the area such as funding for alternative energy for the visitors centre.

NTM now looks forward to the challenge of conserving one of Malta's best ecological sites and hopes

that once this project is completed, Dwejra will qualify as a World Heritage Site and Natura 2000 site. NTM feels that with the support of MEPA, WWF Italy and all stakeholders involved these targets will be reached.

PROTECTION OF MIGRATORY RAPTORS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Michele Panuccio • MEDRAPTORS (Mediterranean Raptor Migration Network)

The migration of raptors is a very spectacular event. In some places, in autumn and spring, it is possible to see thousands of birds of prey in few hours – a very impressive sight.

In the central Mediterranean area, although studies on the migration of raptors started at the end of the 60s, it wasn't till the late 80s that many ornithologists focused their attention on the event. Nevertheless, thanks to this we have collected a lot of information about migration through Italy, Malta and Tunisia. Some of these areas are now included in the "Important Bird Area" (IBA) list of all strategic areas for the protection of birds (1).

In the beginning, studies concerned only counts of migrating raptors but during the last years some researchers have started studying the behaviour of birds in relation to atmospheric conditions, water crossings, flocks, age and sex classes, navigation, orientation and information transmission.

Now we know at least 20 sites in Italy, one in Malta and another one in Tunisia. These places during the migration periods are visited by hundreds of birdwatchers coming from several countries (Table 1). Of these sites at least seven satisfy the conditions to be IBA.

Unfortunately, in many of these sites migrating raptors face dangerous threats and in particular certain hunting traditions that remain even though they were forbidden by national and international laws decades ago. This poaching is particularly serious in two sites: the Strait of Messina and in Malta.

The former is the most important "bottle-neck" in the central part of the Mediterranean, every spring an average of 20.000 raptors and tens of thousands of white and black storks cross the Strait (2). Birds concentrate along the Peloritani Mountains on the eastern side of northern Sicily and then they move along the coasts of Calabria. In this area, up till the 80s thousands of hunters used to wait for raptors in

bunkers built on the slopes of the foothills of Aspromonte. They used to shoot also from villages and towns along the coast. Since the mid-80s the actions of environmental associations with people coming from different parts of Italy, the Mediterranean and European countries, has assured a presence in the territory during the periods of migration working also as a deterrent for poachers. As a result, the situation is now improved and only around one hundred poachers continue to kill raptors.

During spring 2004, i.e. from the 27th of March to the 1st of June I counted "only" two hundred shots against the 4.000-6.000 counted ten years before (3). This may be because every year the Italian government organizes a team of agents working only to prevent and stop illegal hunting. This team spends a month in Calabria equipped also with two helicopters, and during this period the situation is not bad. Problems occur before and after their presence in the area, because the migration period goes on from the end of February to the end of June and along more than 60 Km of coast.

Given that in southern Calabria most hunters don't poach because they fear legal repercussions, if the situation were to change, with less control, they could start shooting raptors again. This type of hunting tradition is in fact still alive in parts of the population and, although significantly less than in the past, also among young people.

In Malta, the situation is worse. Bird hunting occurs with few limitations. Both in spring and in autumn hunters shoot at migrating raptors. On the 26th of April 2004 at least one thousand honey buzzards stopped at the Buskett Gardens, where 120 individuals were killed by poachers. Some years ago ornithologists estimated that half of the raptors migrating in autumn via Malta were shot (4). In recent years environmental associations have started systematic activities such as international camps in the mentioned sites in an attempt to improve the situation.

As time and research progress, we discover new sites and new threats against birds. In the central and southern parts of Italy illegal shooting activity occurs in most of the areas where raptors pass (less intense than in Malta or the Strait of Messina). Up to now we know that such sites are (from North to South): Circeo Promontory, the islands of Ponza, Ischia, Procida, some areas in Apulia, the Calabrian Appenines and several areas and small islands of Sicily and Sardinia.

Poaching of migrating birds of prey combined with the natural threats that raptors face during migration, like the sea and the desert, can present throughout the years a serious threat that can lead to

a decreasing population size in some species in central, northern and eastern Europe and greatly hinder the species conservation work in the breeding areas.

In order to change this trend, intervention at international level is necessary, not only to repress poachers, but also to establish long-term actions and activities in order to change the threatening culture and mentality of the population in those areas. Moreover, further studies on migration patterns are needed so as to improve knowledge concerning this natural occurrence and to chart all the sites which combine raptor migration and hunting traditions.

Table 1.
Sites with valuable concentrations of migrating raptors in the central Mediterranean area (5 modified).

SITE	PERIOD	SPECIES	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS	THREATS
MALTA	Spring/Autumn	HB, MH	1000	Yes
CAP BON	Spring/Autumn?	HB, MH, BK, MNH	Indeterminable	None ?
PANTELLERIA (6,7)	Spring/Autumn	HB, BK, MH	>4000, >5000	Yes
MARETTIMO	Spring/Autumn	HB, BK, MH, MNH (Spring), EV (autumn)	>2000, >5000	None
USTICA (8)	Spring/Autumn	HB, MH, BK, MNH, PH	>3000, <500	Yes
PANAREA (9)	Spring/Autumn ?	HB, MH, BK	>4000	None
STRAIT OF MESSINA	Spring/Autumn ?	HB, MH, BK, MNH, PH, K, RFF	Average of 18.494	Yes
ASPROMONTE (10)	Spring ?/Autumn	HB, MH, BK	<10.000	Yes
M. COVELLO	Autumn	HB, MH, BK	>2000	Yes
CAP OTRANTO	Spring	MH, HB, MNH, PH	>1000	Yes
CAPRI	Autumn	HB, MH	500	None ?
CIRCEO	Autumn	HB, MH	<2000	Yes
M. CONERO	Spring	HB, MH	>3000 ?	None
M. S BARTOLO	Spring/Autumn	HB, MH, K	>3000 ?, >500	None
M. COLEGNO	Autumn	STE	<500	None
ARENZANO	Spring/Autumn	HB, MH, STE	>3000 ?, >500	None
STURA VALLEY	Autumn	HB, STE	>5000	None
M. CIARM	Autumn	HB	>1500	None
ASOLANI HILLS	Autumn	HB	>5000	None

(HB = Honey Buzzard; MH = Marsh Harrier; BK = Black Kite; MNH = Montagus Harrier; PH = Pallid Harrier; K = Kite; EV = Egyptian Vulture; STE = Short Toed Eagle; RFF = Red Footed Falcon; K = Kestrel)

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INTO THE SOLAR AGE, AT LAST?

By **Vanya Walker-Leigh in Bonn**

The four-day International Conference for Renewable Energies (Bonn, 1-4 June) "Renewables 2004" hosted by Germany (1) with over 3500 participants from 147 governments and a broad range of stakeholders, hopefully marked a historic turning point in over 20 years' efforts to establish renewable energies as a major energy source. The conference was proposed by the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder to the 2002 UN World Summit on Sustainable Development to overcome its failure to adopt ambitious plans for developing renewable energies, due to fierce opposition from the United States, OPEC countries, a number of other nations and to heavy lobbying by the oil multinationals.

Unlike the unimplemented declaration and programme of action of the 1981 UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Nairobi, the outcome of Renewables 2004 is not likely to fade away into oblivion.

In addition to the very strong support manifested in Bonn for ambitious renewables development from a wide range of stakeholders, including for the kind of targets and timetables which did not figure in the final conference Declaration, several pressing concerns converge to impel nations to diversify their energy sources. These include rising oil prices, the threat of terrorist attacks on vital oil supply lines and uncertain political developments in the Middle East - where over 50% of world oil resources and reserves are concentrated.

Another driver is the need to drastically reduce fossil-based carbon dioxide emissions, in particular from their major sources - energy production and transport systems - so as to slow the rate of climate change. In addition, meeting the world's growing energy needs by replacing the ageing fossil-based energy infrastructure with similar technologies will cost at least 20% more than a proactive combination of energy efficiency plus renewables development, according to the inter-governmental International Energy Agency.

Moreover, several presentations by scientists at Bonn countered official optimism fed by oil company forecasts that fossil fuels could last comfortably through the 21st century, warning that economically usable supplies and exploitable reserves would 'peak' by 2010, depleting rapidly thereafter. (2)

While the total potential of renewable energies (solar, wind, biomass, ocean power, geothermal energy) could supply 20,000 times the world's present energy needs, 1.6 billion people have no electricity at all and are forced to use firewood and crop wastes for cooking and heating, kerosene and candles for lighting. Industrial countries use two-thirds of the world's electricity supply, deriving 82% primary of their energy supplies from fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal), 12 % from nuclear energy - and only 5.5% from renewables.

Unfortunately, the share of renewable supplies in world energy supplies has actually declined since the 1980s while two-thirds of primary energy is wasted in the transformation process to electrical energy. Energy production from 'conventional' sources - oil, gas, coal and nuclear fuels - is annually subsidised by governments at over Euros 200 billion, also receiving over 90% of national and international (including EU) research and development funds. The World Bank lends 25 times more to fossil based energy projects and massive dams in developing countries than to renewables. In addition, financial instruments to overcome the renewables high upfront costs are underdeveloped, while only a few countries so far give adequate incentives to power suppliers and consumers to use these energies.

The same pattern emerges for Mediterranean energy supplies, as well as plans for future development as reflected in outcomes of the two Euromediterranean energy ministers' meetings last year (3). Indeed, alone of the major world regions, the Mediterranean countries did not meet in a regional preparatory conference for Bonn. At their two conferences last year, Euromediterranean energy ministers, merely affirmed 'their full support' for the Bonn conference, and 'the interest they attach to the need to substantially increase the role of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in order to secure a sustainable energy future as recommended... at the WSSD'. However, on the initiative of Yemen, Arab countries convened in Sana'a in March, adopting a Sana'a Final Statement on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development (4).

During the Bonn conference, the Algerian and Moroccan ministers both told 'Sustainable Mediterranean' that they wanted to see a far more proactive regional approach to renewable energy/energy efficiency. How-

ever, the only Mediterranean (in scope) initiative listed in the International Action Programme was the MEDREP project (see separate article) launched by the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory as a Type II Partnership at WSSD, which now has 14 partners and recently opened a centre in Tunis (MEDREC). There were few national initiatives listed by south Mediterranean nations, all referring to on-going initiatives: Cyprus (3), Egypt (2) Jordan (1) Morocco (1), Tunisia (2), Turkey.

In his keynote speech to Renewables2004, the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder urged rapid action on renewables development. The recent oil price hike had meant an extra \$ 60 billion (LM 19 billion) cost for oil-importing developing countries—equivalent to rich countries' annual development aid. Overcoming strong resistance, Germany had strongly developed its renewables sector, dramatically reduced carbon dioxide emissions, and created 120,000 jobs, while greatly expanding German technical assistance to the developing world. During the conference, Germany launched a number of renewables partnerships, including a Global Market Initiative to instal large-scale solar power stations in several countries, starting with Morocco, Algeria, Jordan and Egypt.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Klaus Toepfer, warned that with a business-as-usual energy investment of US\$ 8 trillion in developing countries up to 2030, 1.4 billion people would still be without power, while over 2.6 billion would continue using firewood, crop wastes, candles and kerosene.

EU countries would not reach their goal of deriving 10% of primary energy supplies and 21% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 on present trends, according to the European Environment Commissioner Margot Wahlstrom. (Shortly before Bonn, the EU had failed to adopt targets for 2020 as urged by EU environmental groups). She stated that the Commission would submit proposals for further action, as well proposing post-2010 targets by 2007 and meanwhile launched two significant new initiatives additional to the EU Energy and Poverty Initiative of 2002. These were the Global Renewable Energy Fund of Funds (Patient Capital Initiative) and the Renewable Energy Policies and Measures Data base to serve the 88-nation Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition, JREC (7) launched by EU in 2002, which met at ministerial level in Bonn, and includes all EU and some Mediterranean countries. During the conference, formal sessions, including multi-stakeholder dialogues and ministerial roundtables, were paralleled by a technical exhibition and dozens of side-events, seminars and dedicated 'special days' for

bankers, business leaders, scientists, local authorities, regional governments, parliamentarians and youth organisations.

Immediately prior to the official opening, the large-scale 3-day Second World Renewable Energy forum organised by the World Council on Renewable Energy adopted two declarations i) "The World Renewable Energy Agenda - Civilization at the Turning Point" and ii) "Solar Habitat in Cities and Villages - Future Urban Development with Renewable Energy" (5). Some 350 parliamentarians gathered at the International Parliamentary Forum on Renewable Energies also adopted a visionary final resolution: "Renewable Energies, Challenges for the 21st Century" (6).

The European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future (7) in partnership with sister organisations in the UK, US, and Australia launched two initiatives i) Investment Security for Renewable Energies and ii) the "Sustainable Energy Accelerator". UNEP's Sustainable Energy Finance Initiative (SEFI) a partnership between UNEP and more than 275 financial institutions to develop links between the environment and financial performance (8) co-hosted with the Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy a 2-day conference over 260 investment and insurance executives as well as government officials.. Their views are informally reflected in the final conference communique: 'Creating the Climate for Change, Sustainable Energy Finance' (9) emphasising "*The challenge ... to provide the right policy frameworks and financial instruments that will enable RE and EE to achieve their market potential and move from the margins of energy supply to the mainstream,.. (Market) barriers help status quo energy technologies that impose external costs on society and impede cleaner and more sustainable energy sector development. The result is market distortion, environmental destruction, and loss of natural capital.*

Environmental NGOs acted through the recently established and fast-growing network Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability, CURES – (some 300 NGOs worldwide have so far signed the CURES Declaration), which held daily strategy sessions, issuing a final evaluation of the conference. CURES also established a co-ordinating group (comprising representatives of major environmental networks and regional focal points, including one for the Mediterranean) to monitor and lobby on conference follow-up (10).

To facilitate a fast-growing role for renewables in the world's future energy supplies, the Bonn conference adopted an International Declaration, took note of a list of Policy Recommendations, and endorsed an International Action Programme of nearly 200 initiatives (mostly on-going) announced by governments, international

organisations and a few NGOs/civil society actors. Implementation of the conference outcome will be monitored both by a high-level global policy network, and by the UN Commission for Sustainable Development's 2006/2007 sessions, possibly preceded by another international renewables conference.

The rather weak language on some key points in the Declaration reflected the German government's insistence on consensus texts. As a result there are no time-bound targets or timetables for increasing the role of renewable energies, described as 'a major source of energy in the future', instead of 'the major' as in the pre-conference draft. In fact, with known technologies this could reach from 50% to 100% by 2050 according to various forecasts. On the insistence of Uganda, Brazil and a few other states, large hydropower schemes were also included into the Declaration's definition of renewable energies – a concept strongly opposed by environmental groups.

Numerous civil society groups and developing countries also criticised insufficient focus in the conference outcome and technical exhibition on simple and low-cost energy solutions for the third world's rural poor (over 1 billion people). However, the final Declaration *stated that Ministers and government representatives also reaffirm their commitment to achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goals to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty*

and to achieve environmental sustainability by 2015. Reaching these goals will require significantly expanded access to and supply of energy in developing countries. It is estimated that up to 1 billion people can be given access to energy services from renewable sources, provided that market development and financing arrangements can be enhanced as intended through the Conference's "International Action Programme".

Frequently criticized for low renewables lending as opposed to conventional power sources, both the European Investment Bank and the World Bank group pledged more loans in the future, but in language condemned as too vague by NGOs. However major World Bank shareholders such as Germany indicated that they opposed proposals of the Extractive Industries Review, (11) conducted by a panel chaired by the former Indonesian minister of the environment, Dr. Emil Salim, that the Bank should phase out all loans to conventional power by 2008, and concentrate on renewables, Although not invited to Renewables 2004 by the German government, Dr. Salim was hosted by German NGOs, giving presentations outside the formal conference and holding talks with a number of government delegations (12).

In his upbeat assessment to the press at the closing of the conference, the German Environment Minister, Juergen Trittin, stated that "we have broken the unholy alliance and overcome organized interests opposing renewables. The future is solar".

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- (1) All documents relating to the conference can be downloaded from the conference website <http://www.renewables2004.de>
 - (2) see especially WCRE presentations "The Decline of the Oil Age " by Dr. Roger Bentley (<http://www.world-renewable-energy-forum.org/2004/download/Bentley.pdf>) "Why natural gas is not an alternative " by Dr. Julian Darling (<http://www.world-renewable-energy-forum.org/2004/download/Darling.pdf>), as well as "Ten Steps to a Renewable Energy Future" by Rudolf Rechsteiner, MP at the International Parliamentary Forum (www.ipf-renewables2004.de). Click to 'Contributions by speakers'.
 - (3) http://www.renewables2004.de/pdf/sanaa_Declaration_040424.pdf
 - (4) <http://www.wcre.org>
 - (5) <http://www.ipf-renewables2004.de>
 - (6) <http://www.e5.org>
 - (7) http://www.sefi.unep.org/sef_bonn
 - (8) <http://www.sefi.unep.org/docs/Communiquefinal.doc>
 - (9) <http://www.cures-network.org>
 - (10) JREC <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/ctf/home>.
 - (11) Striking a Better Balance, the Extractive Industries Review. November 2003. <http://www.eirreview.org>

LE NOUVEAU GROUPE DIRIGEANT (BOARD) DU CERCLE DES PARLEMENTAIRES MEDITERRANEENS POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (COMPSUD)

(English version below)

COMPSUD, le Cercle des Parlementaires Méditerranéens pour le Développement Durable ayant comme objectif la protection de l'environnement et la promotion de modes de développement qui peuvent adresser les besoins actuels urgents dans la Méditerranée sans compromettre la capacité des générations futures dans

la région a organisé sa **3^{ème} Rencontre** annuelle à Istanbul (Turquie) le 12 Octobre 2004. Le **3^{ème} Dialogue Régional Méditerranéen de Parlementaires, ONG et d' autres parties prenantes sur la Protection de l'Environnement et les Perspectives de Développement Durable dans la Région** a suivi le 13 Octobre.

Les Rencontres précédentes ont eu lieu à Athènes, en Grèce (2002) et à Cartagena, en Espagne (2003).

On a élu un nouveau Groupe Dirigeant (Board) qui comprend:

- SE M. Nikos Georgiadis, MP de la Grèce comme Président
- SE Prof. Dr. Hoda Rezkanna, MP de l'Égypte comme co-président
- SE Dr. Yousef Abu Safieh, MP/Ministre de l'Environnement (Palestine)
- SE Dr. Yasar Yakis (Turquie), MP/Ex Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et actuellement Président du Comité d'Harmonisation de l'UE.
- SE M. Ahmed Zaidi, MP du Maroc
- SE M. Kareem Al-Rassi, MP du Liban
- Ce dernier a invité formellement la 4^{ème} Réunion du COMPSUD au Liban en 2005. Une invitation pour la Réunion du 2006 a été aussi faite par Israël et a été acceptée en principe.

Le professeur Michael Scoullas, Président du Bureau d'Information Méditerranéenne pour l'Environnement, la Culture et le Développement Durable (MIO-ECSDE) et du Partenariat Global pour l'Eau (GWP-Med) est aussi le Secrétaire Général du COMPSUD. Le Secrétariat du COMPSUD se trouve à Athènes.

La Réunion du COMPSUD a été centrée en particulier sur les développements actuels des arrangements institutionnels existants au niveau régional (Méditerranéen) et national pour promouvoir le développement durable et pour réaliser les obligations prises à Johannesburg en 2002 et en d'autres fora internationaux de réduire à moitié jusqu'à 2015 le nombre de personnes qui n'ont pas accès à l'eau propre et aux mesures sanitaires de base et de promouvoir la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau (GIRE) jusqu'à 2005.

Les MP ont remarqué qu'il y a eu des progrès mais ils ont aussi exprimé leur anxiété vis-à-vis du lent rythme d'amélioration et de nombreux problèmes existants inclus ceux qui sont causés par une gouvernance non effective.

Ils ont confirmé leur volonté de contribuer activement à la « Stratégie Méditerranéenne de Développement Durable » qui est en train d'être préparée par la Commission Méditerranéenne de Développement Durable (CMDD) et PNUE/PAM et de faire les liaisons nécessaires entre cette Stratégie et les stratégies Nationales, où elles existent. En plus ils encourageront la création et le bon fonctionnement des Commissions Nationales

pour le Développement Durable, des parties relevantes dans les Parlements et encourageront aussi le renforcement du Dialogue entre les MP et d'autres acteurs comme celui-ci a été développé dans les trois dernières années par MIO-ECSDE, COMPSUD et GWP-Med.

«COMPSUD renforcera ses liens avec le Parlement Européen, l'Assemblée Parlementaire Euro-Méditerranéenne et le Concile d'Europe, mais aussi avec les Parlements Nationaux dans la Région» a affirmé le nouveau Président du COMPSUD, MP M. N. Georgiadis.

Une des occasions pour réaliser ce programme sera l'inauguration de la version arabe du Kit éducatif «l'Eau dans la Méditerranée», produit par le Programme MEDIES qui est dirigé par les Ministères de l'Environnement Grec et Italien, le PNUE/PAM, l'UNESCO et le MIO-ECSDE, l'8 Décembre 2004 au Caire dans les bureaux de la Ligue Arabe pendant la Rencontre des Ministres Arabes pour l'Environnement, comme a souligné le MP, Prof. Dr. Rezkanna.

«Quand je rentrerai dans mon pays je parlerai sûrement avec le Comité Environnemental de mon Parlement des résultats de cette Rencontre. A Chypre nous avons déjà inauguré un dialogue avec les ONG et les media pendant le procès d'accession à l'UE et les préparations pour conformer notre législation nationale à celle-ci et réaliser l' 'acquis communautaire' sur l'environnement. Nous pouvons continuer ce dialogue et inviter le COMPSUD dans le futur proche pour examiner comme nous pourrions étendre cette expérience» dit SE Mme. A. Papadopoulou, MP de Chypre et membre de la Délégation de Chypre au Concile d'Europe.

«Je crois que cette réunion a atteint un résultat très important, c'est-à-dire de fonder la base pour la participation active des Membres des Parlements Méditerranéens dans le travail de la CMDD que nous voulons maintenir vif, fort et influent» a affirmé le Secrétaire Général du COMPSUD, Prof. M. Scoullas se referant à l'invitation à participer au procès de préparation de la SMDD étendue formellement par le Député Coordinateur du PNUE/PAM, Dr. Hoballah, aux MP Méditerranéens qui ont participé à cette 3^{ème} Rencontre du COMPSUD.

Les deux Rencontres ont été organisées à l'Université Kadir Has par le MIO-ECSDE et le GWP-Med qui facilitent ensemble le fonctionnement du COMPSUD, en coopération avec la Fondation du Group Marmara comme partenaire local et avec le support du PNEU/PAM.

THE NEW BOARD OF THE CIRCLE OF MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (COMPSUD)

COMPSUD, which is the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development aiming at promoting the protection of the environment and modes of development that can address present urgent needs in the Mediterranean without compromising the ability of future generations in the region held its 3rd annual meeting in Istanbul (Turkey) on the 12th of October. The 3rd Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other stakeholders on the protection of the Environment and Prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Region followed on the 13th. The previous meetings were in Athens, Greece (2002) and in Cartagena , Spain (2003).

A new 5 person Board/Core group was elected which includes:

- HE Mr. Nikos Georgiadis, MP from Greece as Chairman
- HE Prof. Dr. Hoda Rezkanna MP from Egypt as Co-Chair
- HE Dr. Yousef Abu-Safieh, MP/Minister for the Environment (Palestine)
- HE Dr. Yasar Yakis (Turkey), MP/Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and current Chairman of the EU Harmonization Committee
- HE Mr. Ahmed Zaidi, MP from Morocco
- HE Mr. Kareem Al-Rassi, MP from Lebanon
- The latter has invited formally the 4th COMPSUD meeting to Lebanon for 2005. An invitation came also from Israel for 2006 which was at this phase in principle accepted.

Secretary General of COMPSUD is the Chairman of MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med Prof. Michael Scoullos. The Secretariat of COMPSUD is based in Athens.

The COMPSUD meeting focused mainly on the current developments in institutional frameworks at regional (Mediterranean) and national level for the promotion of sustainable development and the fulfilment of the obligations undertaken in Johannesburg in 2002 and other international fora about reducing to 1/2 the people who have no access to clean water and basic sanitation by 2015 and the promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management by 2005.

MPs noted the progress occurred but they expressed their anxiety about the very slow pace of improvement and the still many accumulated problems including those related to ineffective governance.

They confirmed their willingness to contribute actively in the "Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development", currently under preparation by the Mediter-

anean Commission of Sustainable Development (MCSD) and UNEP/MAP and to make the necessary links between this strategy and the National ones, wherever they exist. Furthermore, they will promote National Commissions for Sustainable Development, relevant bodies in the National Parliaments and confirmations and enhancement of the Dialogue among MPs and other stakeholders as this has been developed over the last three years by MIO-ECSDE, COMPSUD and GWP-Med.

"COMPSUD will develop and strengthen its links with the European Parliament, the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe, but also with the National Parliaments of the Region" said the new Chairman, MP Mr. N. Georgiadis.

A major opportunity for that will be the launching of the Arab version of the "Water in the Mediterranean" educational package produced by the Programme MEDIES under the leadership of Greece, Italy, UNEP/MAP, UNESCO and MIO-ECSDE on December 8th in Cairo at the Arab League Premises during the Meeting of the Arab Ministers of the Environment as it was said by MP, Prof. Dr. Rezkanna.

"When I go back I shall certainly discuss with the Environmental Committee of our Parliament about the results of this meeting. In Cyprus we have already started a dialogue with NGOs and the media during our accession process to the EU and the preparations to harmonize our national legislation and implement the 'acquis communautaire' on the environment. We may continue this dialogue and invite COMPSUD in the forthcoming future to examine how we could extend this experience" said Ms. A. Papadopoulou, Member of the Parliament of Cyprus and of the Cyprus Delegation in the Council of Europe.

"I think that the present meeting has succeeded a very important thing, namely to set the basis for the involvement of Mediterranean Members of Parliaments in the work of MCSD which we want to keep alive, strong and influential" stated the General Secretary of COMPSUD Prof. M. Scoullos referring to the invitation extended formally by the UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator Mr. Hoballah to Mediterranean MPs attending this 3rd Meeting of COMPSUD to get involved in the MSSD drafting process.

All the meetings were organized at Kadir Has University by MIO-ECSDE and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), which jointly facilitate the operation of COMPSUD, in cooperation with the Marmara Group Foundation as the local host and with the support of UNEP/MAP.



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 98 NGOs from 22 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.

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