

SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE

المتوسطة المستدامة

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY



DIVERSITE CULTURELLE ET BIODIVERSITE

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 **36**
December • Décembre 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

Diversity, in most cases, is linked in our minds with nature as *biodiversity*, the importance of which has been widely recognised (see also relevant International Conventions). Recently, *cultural diversity* is also considered as an asset and a major resource. The link between the two is a relatively new issue. So, the connection between *cultural diversity* and *biodiversity* starts to appear on agendas of international organisations at global level particularly after Johannesburg and after the 22nd UNEP Governing Council meeting in Nairobi (February 2003). Some countries have even mentioned the need for a convention on the issue of Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity, while the better understanding of the link between the two is more and more referred to as a prerequisite for the effective protection of both and for the promotion of sustainable development.

MIO-ECSDE has recently launched a Mediterranean-wide initiative aiming for the conservation of passed and present forms of interaction between biological and cultural diversity. Bearing in mind these interactions, MIO-ECSDE proposes on the one hand the use of cultural values and assets to preserve biodiversity in the Mediterranean and promote sustainable development, and on the other to obtain for many sites in the region simultaneous protection of cultural and natural diversity and goods. The establishment of the necessary partnerships, a framework for action and the use of appropriate financial instruments are necessary.

This issue of *Sustainable Mediterranean* aims at introducing to its readers the objectives of the new MIO-ECSDE field of action on Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity and briefly present the outcomes of the *Introductory Workshop on Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity* that was co-organised by MIO-ECSDE, RAED and AOYE (Cairo, 9 December 2004).

This issue may further contribute in clarifying the concepts and critical interlinks between cultural diversity and biodiversity and stimulate fruitful cooperation among the many concerned stakeholders.

Dans la plupart des cas, la *diversité* est associée dans notre esprit à la nature, sous forme de *biodiversité*, dont l'importance est largement admise (voir aussi les Conventions internationales relatives). Récemment, la *diversité culturelle* fut aussi considérée en tant qu'avantage et ressource majeure. La relation

entre les deux constitue un sujet relativement récent. C'est ainsi que le rapport entre *diversité culturelle* et *biodiversité* commence à apparaître à l'ordre du jour des organisations internationales, sur le plan mondial, essentiellement à la suite de Johannesburg et après la 22ème réunion du Conseil directeur de PNUE à Nairobi (février 2003). Certains pays ont déjà fait allusion à la nécessité d'une convention au sujet de la Diversité culturelle et de la Biodiversité, alors que l'on se réfère de plus en plus à la meilleure compréhension de la relation entre les deux en tant que condition préalable pour leur protection efficace et pour la promotion du développement durable.

MIO-ECSDE a récemment lancé une initiative recouvrant l'ensemble du bassin méditerranéen, qui vise à préserver les formes passées et actuelles d'interaction entre la diversité biologique et culturelle. Ayant à l'esprit ces interactions, MIO-ECSDE propose d'utiliser d'une part les valeurs et avantages culturels pour préserver la biodiversité en Méditerranée et promouvoir le développement durable, et d'obtenir d'autre part pour plusieurs sites de la région une protection simultanée de la diversité et des biens culturels et naturels. Pour ce faire, il est nécessaire de mettre en place les partenariats appropriés, ainsi qu'un cadre d'action, et faire usage des instruments financiers pertinents.

Ce numéro de *Sustainable Mediterranean* souhaite introduire ses lecteurs aux objectifs du nouveau champ d'action de MIO-ECSDE en matière de Diversité culturelle et de Biodiversité, et de présenter succinctement les résultats de l'*Atelier d'Introduction à la Diversité culturelle et la Biodiversité* qui a été conjointement organisé par MIO-ECSDE, le RAED et l'AOYE (Caire, 9 décembre 2004).

Ce numéro pourrait contribuer davantage à la clarification des notions et des interrelations critiques entre diversité culturelle et biodiversité, tout en stimulant une coopération fructueuse parmi les nombreuses parties prenantes concernées.

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

CONTENTS

■ CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY.....	4	■ NGO COMMENTS ON THE SIA-EMFTA PHASE 1 REPORT FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY	17
■ CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN • THE MIO-ECSDE APPROACH	4	■ THE LAUNCHING OF THE ARABIC VERSION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE "WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN".....	19
■ PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY.....	6	■ TRAINING SEMINAR FOR EGYPTIAN EDUCATORS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN"	17
□ MISCELLANEOUS MEDITERRANEAN NEWS	15	■ THE 9TH AGM OF MIO-ECSDE	17
■ CONCLUSIONS DE LA 3EME RENCONTRE DU CERCLE DES PARLEMENTAIRES MEDITERRANEENS POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (COMPSUD) ET DU 3EME DIALOGUE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN DE PARLEMENTAIRES, ONG ET AUTRES PARTIES PRENANTES SUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LES PERSPECTIVES DE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DANS LA REGION.....	15		

Links between biological and cultural diversity

There is a strict interdependence - in time and space - among cultures and the natural environment in which they develop. This linkage is witnessed by the origin of the world 'culture' itself. In fact, in Latin, the word *cultus* - or worship - is related to culture, which means **cultivation**. The words "cultivation", "tillage", "worship" and "honoring" are all related and find their roots in the natural environment.

A specific natural environment determines a definitive type of society characteristic of particular economic patterns, based on the exploitation of specific natural resources. For example, cultures developed on salt-pans are based on salt extraction, as in the case of Alava, Spain, where the A_ana salt pans are an unusual salt mine of Roman origin featuring staggered wooden terraces on the hillside. In South Mani, Peloponnese, Greece, salt has been collected from small natural basins existing or carved in the coastal rocks since antiquity.

In providing livelihood to a society, the natural environment also becomes a source of adoration, awe and respect. It finds its expressions in the wide ranging variety of rituals, religions, languages, dances, music, songs, tales, myths, pictorial art, etc. Thus, the natural characteristics of the environment influence lifestyle, philosophy, emotions, and the spirituality of the various peoples. Studies have shown that wherever biodiversity is rich, there is also a higher variety of cultures and languages (dialects included).

In its turn, each type of society forges in a differentiated way the landscape, modifying it more or

less, depending on the level of technology reached. The devices used to facilitate the organization of social life and the exploitation of natural resources also form tangible expressions of culture. The various systems of canals (the North African *quanats* or the underground canals of Siena in Italy), from the simplest forms to the more sophisticated ones, are good examples of tangible components of the water culture of the past as also are various types of aqueducts, dams, pile works, all kinds of water mills, roads, wells, drills, terraced fields, etc.

Interactions between humans and their environment are quite many and go back to the dawn of humanity. They are more or less permanent. It is a fragile balance in perpetual evolution. All the more fragile at the dawn of globalization and its dominating culture whose model, in spite of constant scientific progress, is unable to ensure protection of the environment, peace and economic security for all and/or social equity (the pillars of sustainable development) but, on the contrary, widens the gap between the richest and the poorest, the latter being all the more numerous.

Profit, as a virtue, has to a large extent, replaced wisdom and respect for nature. We misuse nature and, as a consequence, its resources are drastically depleting. We have become strangers to nature resorting to expensive technology to solve problems. Technology, in its turn, often needs incredible amounts of energy or has a dreadful impact on nature. This vicious circle is making us drift further away from nature and sustainable development.

Some definitions

Culture: Manifestation of human existence (foods, tools, laws, art, music, myths etc.) transmitted from one generation to the next.

Cultural diversity is the expression of multiple forms of adaptation, characterized by history, ethnic origin, language, spirituality, knowledge, technology, creativity, artistic expression and ethical values, which together form the common patrimony of humanity.

(Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development. Juan Mayr-Jan.2003).

Biodiversity refers to the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems and their interrelations.

Diversity is the degree or difference between the components of a system.

Promoting cultural diversity conservation on the way to sustainable development.

Today the close interaction between cultural diversity and biological diversity is a worldwide acknowledged fact. During the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), culture was proposed as the fourth pillar of sustainable development along with social stability, economic viability and protection of the environment.

At the 22nd Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF, February 2003), UNESCO was entrusted a mandate to promote and preserve a fruitful diversity of cultures and collaborate with UNEP and relevant stakeholders, on the state of current work and possible developments on environment and cultural diversity, with particular attention to human well being.

Besides the importance of biodiversity to nature's health and therefore to ours, these Fora have recognized that cultural diversity is by itself also very important. Each culture holds a specific knowledge on a specific place. This specific knowledge can give answers for the benefit of the entire humanity and contribute to its survival. Traditional and indigenous cultures which have been developed closer to nature can teach us a lot: wise use of natural resources, forgotten properties of plants and animals, alternative solutions, respect for nature and many of its features that we have lost. Traditional knowledge is often enshrined in songs, tales, dances, music and rituals. We must study the multiple expressions of it and secure this precious knowledge often existing only in oral form. Significant effort is being made in preserving languages and dialects, many being in direct danger of extinction, but also in reviving them as part of the overall traditional culture of each place and making young people proud of it in order to use it.

Linking traditional knowledge and modern needs

Traditional and indigenous cultures being closer to nature and more respectful towards it, can offer to our modern civilization practical knowledge on managing our resources in a more sustainable way.

In order to find sustainable solutions for many environmental problems respecting both the needs of people and nature, we have to understand better cultural (intellectual, moral, spiritual and social) interactions with the management of natural resources

and their evolution throughout centuries.

Water, the common vital element in all cultures is a distinctive example. Understanding why and how diverse beliefs and practices have evolved, yields precious lessons for today's urgent need to move towards a sustainable global water culture. To this purpose scientific and archaeological knowledge combined with an open dialogue on vital cultural functions of water (or any other natural resource) among experts, practitioners, indigenous people and the general public should be promoted and supported.

Lessons coming from oral traditions or old practices can support a wide array of modern disciplines proposing viable interactions among humans and their environment, such as environmental architecture, bioclimatic architecture and ecological design. Moreover, they can provide good examples related to the sustainable management of natural resources that may be useful for many human activities, including organic agriculture, soil use, water and waste management etc.

Environmental archaeology, a relatively new discipline, can be supportive of this process. Through the analysis of archaeological data in relation to earth morphology, climate, flora, fauna and natural resources for the studied territory environmental archaeology's main objective is to assess the evolving interactions among man and the environment in different eras. This type of research allows us to learn from the past through many paradigms of balanced coexistence and management of natural resources that could be recuperated in our days and whose application, eventually amplified and ameliorated through available modern technologies, could solve or help us avoiding some of the problems of our days. Even examples of major mistakes and catastrophes happened in the past can be instructive in this process.

The MIO-ECSDE position and proposal on approaching the Cultural and Biological Diversity issue

MIO-ECSDE interest on Cultural and Biological Diversity is in line with the joint efforts of UNESCO and UNEP mentioned above and focuses on the Mediterranean region.

Through this initiative MIO-ECSDE intends to encourage the creation of a pool of interested organizations, institutions, universities and individual experts and scientists around the Mediterranean in order to register and study the various forms of in-

teraction between culture and biodiversity in the Mediterranean countries, collect interesting examples and propose ways in which these interactions can best contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable development.

The MIO-ECSDE extended NGO network provides a common basis and gives us the ability to join our efforts, exchange experiences easily and carry out a comparative study in the Mediterranean. Our region, the cradle of western civilization, gave birth to numerous cultures and thus can provide us with lots of examples of how civilizations of the past coped with environmental problems and how their behavior and development choices affected or not the environment.

The introductory workshop on Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity, held in Cairo (December 9th 2004), a city with a rich cultural heritage, aimed to:

- present to the MIO-ECSDE member-NGOs these complex and interesting issues through selected presentations by invited experts from Egypt, Greece and Spain,
- to trigger a discussion on ways to approach this subject,
- to set a series of questions like:
Are you aware of relevant examples in your countries' culture?
Do relevant programs exist in the various Mediterranean countries?
Do Universities or other research institutes work on these issues in your country and what is their approach?
Is there relevant interest in the state authorities of your countries?

Based on the outcomes of this introductory workshop, we propose to start a survey identifying already existing sustainable development practices that present a strong cultural dimension in which our

NGO Members are directly involved or are aware of.

Based on this we can examine case studies of cultural and biological diversity interactions practiced at present or in the past and extract good practices and methods that can be applied in modern societies. The results of this initial survey can form the background of a Major Conference on Culture and Biodiversity to be organized at Mediterranean level with the support of UNESCO, UNEP, the French and/or the Greek government and eventually other Governments, provided that adequate funds can be raised.

The wide spectrum of interactions between culture and biodiversity makes it necessary to rely on a multidisciplinary approach while conducting our research.

To this purpose it is considered extremely important to improve the cooperation of MIO-ECSDE with experts in various relevant sectors and disciplines, including environmental archaeologists, environmental architects as well as other cultural and artistic institutions and stakeholders

Longer-term objectives of our joint efforts could include:

- the creation of a 'map on diversity', based on an inventory of existing information on cultural diversity and biodiversity interactions in the region highlighting also the most threatened forms of diversity and their causes.
- the creation of a Circle of NGOs and experts working on the issue of Culture and Biodiversity and its various aspects e.g. environmental archaeology, bioclimatic architecture, etc.
- the promotion of the value of traditional and indigenous cultures to the public, especially to young people, through the organization of a series of cultural activities and events in the region based on traditional and/or forgotten practices with a positive effect on the environment.

"Cultural diversity – as a source of innovation, creativity and exchange – is humanity's guarantee for a mutually enriching and sustainable future. As such, it ranks alongside biodiversity as a key means of securing the sustainability of every form or expression of development, tangible and intangible. Together, cultural diversity and biological diversity hold the key to ensuring resilience in both social and ecological systems (...).

However, few people still appreciate the degree to which biological and cultural diversity are interconnected. Common actions for safeguarding both forms of diversity have to be undertaken, through a comprehensive approach based on the understanding that cultural and biological phenomena should not be dissociated, as it is too often the case."

Excerpts from: UNESCO Background document for the high-level Roundtable on Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, WSSD, Johannesburg 3 September 2002.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY

9 December 2004, Cairo, Egypt

The introductory Workshop on Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity was organized by MIO-ECSDE in cooperation with AOYE and RAED in Cairo on the 9th of December 2004. It was attended by 24 participants, mainly representatives of MIO-ECSDE member organizations and experts from 11 different Mediterranean countries.

The general objectives of the introductory workshop were to:

- Present the complex and critical correlation between cultural and biological diversity through selected examples by MIO-ECSDE and invited experts;
- Trigger a discussion on ways to approach effectively this subject;
- Come out with a series of proposals for a more active involvement of MIO-ECSDE members in this issue;

Prof. M. Scoullou, Chairman of MIO-ECSDE, introduced to the participants the subject of the workshop and set the general framework for the discussion to follow.

The importance of lessons coming from local, traditional, and/or forgotten practices, manifestations of the mutual interaction between man and its environment, was at the focus of the presentations.

Barbara Tomassini, Programme Officer at MIO-ECSDE presented two relevant case studies, the Mediterranean Salinas and the watermills of Dimitiana (Greece) which have been transformed in an open-air museum.

The role of Environmental Archaeology was presented by Ms. Lilian Caralli, Associate Professor of Prehistoric and Environmental Archaeology at the University of Athens, Faculty of Letters - Department of Archaeology, expert in the field. Through a study of the evolving interactions between man and its environment major environmental mistakes and disasters caused by humans can be pointed out and serve as lessons for future interventions while successful paradigms on the balanced coexistence between man and nature can be eventually recuperated, 'reinvented' and applied to solve modern environmental problems.

Prof. Carmen Alfaro from the University of Va-

lencia, expert of ancient history, presented as a relevant example of biological and cultural diversity interaction an economic practice of antiquity consisting of the use of the sea mollusk "murex" to produce purple, a pigment extensively used for luxury textile dyeing.

Finally, the contribution provided by traditional and indigenous practices to modern disciplines, proposing viable interactions among humans and their ecosystems, such as environmental and bioclimatic architecture, ecological design etc. was highlighted by Dr. Dimoudi, Civil Engineer, expert on energy saving from the Greek Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works in her presentation on the sustainable design of settlements.

The second part of the workshop was dedicated to investigate the opinion and interest of participants on the issues presented and eventually to come out with some proposals for action.

General acknowledgments

- Recognition of existing clear and strong links between Biological and Cultural diversity that should be further promoted as an asset for the Mediterranean potential.
- Importance of conserving present and past expressions of Biological and Cultural diversity interactions as potential sources of good practices for modern times.
- The concept of *bio-cultural diversity* should be promoted as a transversal and key issue in all sectors and fields relevant to Sustainable Development.
- MIO-ECSDE intervention on the issue, especially at Mediterranean level, should be enhanced. This intervention shall be based on the main means available to the MIO-ECSDE Federation, i.e. extensive networking, information, demonstration and political pressure.
- Education is a basic means for promoting the integrated concept of bio-cultural diversity. It was proposed to emphasize the bio-cultural diversity in the MEDIES Initiative.
- Art is one of the vehicles to motivate people towards the protection of bio-cultural diversity.

Framework of action for a MIO-ECSDE approach to biological and cultural diversity

- Sensitization of NGOs and grass-roots organizations working mainly on environmental issues about cultural topics and, vice-versa, sensitization of cultural institutions and groups about environmental issues.
- Awareness raising of the public through the organization of new cultural projects presenting an environmental dimension and of campaigns directed to highlight the importance of protecting bio-cultural diversity.
- Information and sensitization of decision-makers on the issue.
- Intervention at legislative levels (international, regional and national) so that the protection of bio-cultural diversity can become an integral part of existing and future laws or policies.

Future steps

- Formation in the near future of a critical group of experts within the MIO-ECSDE network working on the issue. This could include MIO-ECSDE members already active or interested in getting more involved in bio-cultural diversity issues, experts and other stakeholders working in relevant fields (i.e. environmental archaeologists, historians, architects, engineers etc.).
- Drafting an action plan for the MIO-ECSDE approach to bio-cultural diversity in the Mediterranean.
- Fund-raising in order to secure adequate funds to start activities and interventions. Several funding agencies have been named and they will be contacted accordingly as soon as a full MIO-ECSDE proposal will be shaped.
- Building partnerships with business to raise a part of the funds.
- Building partnership with local authorities in order to promote actions or simple projects at local level.
- Identification and collection of good practices from the past or present about the interaction among biological and cultural diversity that could be further promoted or transferred in the region as good models. The year 2005 could be dedicated to this task and to the production of a list of such practices identified in the various countries of the Mediterranean and eventually also in other regions of the world with potential interest for the Mediterranean.
- Organization of a big conference, possibly in 2005, during which good practice examples gathered at regional and international levels could be presented to relevant stakeholders, including politicians and legislators, NGOs and grass-roots groups, the business sector etc. The MIO-ECSDE approach to bio-cultural diversity would be presented in this occasion to International Organizations and potential funding agencies invited to attend the conference.
- The scope of the conference could be broader, i.e. including examples and practices related to many different bio-cultural issues or limited to specific selected themes (i.e. environmental archaeology and ancient practices related to soil use and agriculture; particular products that present clear connections among environmental and cultural features; tourism and the promotion of regional development through alternative and 'green' tourism activities -eco-tourism, agro-tourism etc- based on the conservation of local bio-cultural diversity features). The working group on bio-cultural diversity will elaborate further on this point and propose a suitable structure for the conference.
- Organization of projects and activities able to promote awareness raising and sensitization of the public on bio-cultural diversity at country or regional levels.

It was proposed to start with simple, low budget projects having though a high visibility. One of these could be the promotion of viable codes of conduct related to the organization of big cultural events (festivals and others) that might produce severe impacts on the environment and cultural/historical heritage of the places in which they are hosted and the realization of awareness raising activities to inform the public on how to behave more sustainably in these circumstances.

A second immediate intervention for MIO-ECSDE is to promote the use of protected areas with considerable natural interest to safeguard simultaneously also the cultural heritage and vice-versa.

CONCLUSIONS

DE LA 3EME RENCONTRE DU CERCLE DES PARLEMENTAIRES MEDITERRANEENS POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (COMPSUD)

ET

DU 3EME DIALOGUE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN DE PARLEMENTAIRES, ONG ET AUTRES PARTIES PRENANTES SUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LES PERSPECTIVES DE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DANS LA REGION

1. La 3ème Rencontre du Cercle des Parlementaires Méditerranéens pour le Développement Durable (COMPSUD) et le 3ème Dialogue Régional Méditerranéen de Parlementaires, ONG et autres parties prenantes sur la Protection de l'Environnement et les Perspectives de Développement Durable dans la Région ont été organisés le 12-13 Octobre 2004 à Istanbul, Turquie (Université Kadir Has).
2. 18 Membres de Parlements Nationaux et politiciens de 12 pays Méditerranéens (Membres et non de l'UE), 29 représentants d'ONG de 15 pays Méditerranéens et 7 journalistes de 7 pays Méditerranéens ont participé à ceux rencontres.

Le nouveau group dirigeant (Board) du COMP-SUD a été élu pour une période de 2 ans et comprend : SE M. N. Georgiadis (Grèce) et SE Prof. Dr. H. Rezkanna (Egypte) respectivement comme président et co-président, tandis que les nouveaux membres du Groupe Dirigeant sont SE Dr. Y. Abu- Safieh (Palestine), SE M. A. Zaidi (Maroc), SE M. K. Al-Rassi (Liban) et SE. M. Yasar Yakis (Turquie).
3. MP et ONG ont reconnu les efforts, les initiatives et les progrès actuels dans la protection de l'environnement et la promotion du développement durable dans la région et dans leur pays. Cependant, il a été aussi reconnu que la dégradation de l'environnement et de la biodiversité, plusieurs types de pollution ainsi que la pauvreté et l'absence de paix, qui sont des conditions tout à fait importantes pour l'état et le partage des ressources naturelles, représentent encore les problèmes majeurs dans la Méditerranée.
4. Pour cette raison le travail du COMPSUD et du Dialogue Régional de Parlementaires, ONG et d'autres parties prenantes sur la Protection de l'Environnement et les Perspectives de Développement Durable dans la Région qui ont été inaugurés il y a deux ans, sont encore très importants et peut être même plus nécessaires aujourd'hui qu'avant. En d'autres mots, il a été décidé de maintenir et de renforcer le dialogue entre les MP et la Société Civile, surtout pour les questions régionales. Cependant, si nous voulons observer des progrès tangibles, ces dialogues devraient être effectués aussi au niveau national et même local.

C'est là la responsabilité des MP, ONG et d'autres acteurs dans chaque pays et MIO-ECSDE et GWP-Med sont prêts à faire tout le possible pour supporter et faciliter ce processus.
5. Pour renforcer l'efficacité de l'intervention du COMPSUD il est aussi nécessaire d'en améliorer le profil et la visibilité. Il a été proposé d'adresser les Présidents des Parlements dans la région pour les informer de l'existence du COMPSUD et de ses dialogues dans le but d'avoir de leur côté le maximum support possible et la volonté d'y participer.
6. Parmi les instruments qui peuvent aider les MP et les ONG dans ce but au niveau national et régional sont inclus :
 - la présence d'information sur l'existence de Commissions Nationales pour le Développement Durable et sur leur fonction.
 - la récolte de bons exemples relatifs à l'organisation de dialogues dans les divers pays.Les participants se sont engagés à recueillir ce genre d'information dans leur pays et à la communiquer au Secrétariat. En suite cette information en forme d'un petit livre ou d'un CD-Rom sera mise à disposition des parties prenantes dans la région pour en favoriser la sensibilisation.
7. Pour rendre plus effective l'intervention politique du COMPSUD et du Dialogue dans les majeurs processus déjà en place des recommandations ont été formulées (Voir Appendice I).
8. Le Dialogue a convenu de préparer une résolution

adressée en particulier à un de ces processus, le Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen (Voir Appendice II). Le Président et le Secrétariat ont été autorisés à faire tout le nécessaire pour présenter ces recommandations aux parties relevantes.

9. Il a été aussi suggéré de supporter la promotion du Développement Durable dans la région à travers :

- la facilitation de l'accès des journalistes et des autres Parties prenantes à l'information sur les thèmes environnementaux et relatifs au développement durable dans la Méditerranée.
- la formation des capacités à tous les niveaux et la promotion de méthodologies plus efficaces.

Dans ce but MIO-ECSDE est prêt à faire dans sa page web les liens nécessaires avec toute une série de parties recueillant et traitant l'information.

10. Il a été reconnu que l'augmentation de la sensibilité sur les thèmes méditerranéens relatifs à l'environnement et au développement durable dépendent non seulement des journalistes mais aussi – et peut être en mesure majeure- des propriétaires des médias et des éditeurs qui ont des critères différents, surtout commerciaux et politiques, de choix et présentation de l'information.

Les forces du marché sont toujours importantes. Cependant, il faut qu'un cadre légal adéquat soit en place pour qu'elles soient utilisées dans une manière productive. Le COMPSUD cherchera à promouvoir la coopération avec les journalistes et les médias et contribuera à mettre en place le nécessaire cadre légal.

11. Il a été décidé que les MP seront assistés où possible, directement ou indirectement, dans leur training, sensibilisation et développement à travers la facilitation de Dialogues Nationaux. En plus, des efforts coordonnés par les MP assistés par COMPSUD dans les domaines de l'éducation et de la législation sont aussi nécessaires dans le but d'intégrer les concepts de Développement Durable et de citoyenneté responsable et à les promouvoir au niveau national.

Concernant l'organisation de la prochaine (4ème) Réunion du COMPSUD celle-ci sera organisée au Liban, par invitation officielle du Parlement National du Liban, tandis qu'il y a eu une invitation à organiser la 5ème Réunion du COMPSUD en Israël en 2006, proposition qui a été acceptée en principe.

Appendice I : Décisions du COMPSUD et Recommandations du Dialogue

Pour rendre plus efficaces les interventions politiques du COMPSUD et des membres du Dialogue dans les processus existants dans la Méditerranée il a été recommandé de

- 1 Préparer dans le futur immédiat un document de stratégie commune à présenter au PNEU/PAM dans le cadre des préparatifs de la Stratégie Méditerranéenne pour le Développement Durable (SMDD).
- 2 Intervenir au niveau Euro-Méditerranéen (Processus de Barcelone) pour assurer que la SMDD soit prise en considération dans les décisions sectorielles (agriculture, énergie, etc.) du Partenariat. Dans ce but il a été prévu d'intervenir dans les proches événements /réunions tels que:
 - a Le Concile de demi-terme des Ministres des Affaires Etrangères du Partenariat Euro- Méditerranéen (PEM) qui aura lieu le 29-30 Novembre aux Pays-Bas.
 - b La Réunion Barcelone VII des Ministres des Affaires Etrangères du PEM qui aura lieu en Mai 2005 au Luxembourg.
- 3 Se relier au Décennie des Nations Unies concernant l'Education pour le Développement Durable et la Stratégie UNECE sur l'Education pour le Développement Durable (EDD). Le COMPSUD participera aux réunions programmées par MIO-ECSDE et à d'autres réunions régionales (Méditerranéennes) sur l'EDD. Cette intention sera présentée à Genève le 14 Octobre lors de la réunion de l'UNECE et en d'autres fora relevantes.

Les interventions politiques de ce type sont essentielles pour intégrer le concept de Développement Durable dans les processus régionaux et nationaux.

L'expérience montre que la politique pour l'environnement et la durabilité peut être promue plus facilement au niveau national à travers des mécanismes de 'solidarité environnementale', c'est-à-dire à travers des bonnes pratiques promues à partir du niveau régional ou sous-régional jusqu'au niveau national et local.

Appendice II : La Résolution du Dialogue adressée aux Ministres des Affaires Etrangères du Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen en vue de leur rencontres

- a La Réunion de demi terme qui aura lieu le 29-30 novembre 2004 à Le Hague
- b La Réunion Barcelone VII des Ministres des Affaires Etrangères du Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen (PEM) qui sera organisée en Mai 2005.

Le Dialogue presse les Ministres des Affaires Etrangères du PEM à exprimer clairement leur support aux Objectifs de Développement du Millénaire (ODM) et à la future Stratégie Méditerranéenne de Développement Durable (SMDD) au sein des conclusions formulées dans leur réunions de demi terme aux Pays Bas et de Barcelona VII en Mai 2005.

Le Dialogue presse le Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen à lancer à Barcelone VII un cadre régional facilitant la réalisation au niveau national des Objectifs de Développement du Millénaire (ODM) et à s'engager formellement à déraciner complètement la pauvreté affligeant 100 millions de citoyens des Partenaires du Sud.

Le Dialogue considère que cet unique Partenariat Nord-Sud doit présenter un engagement régional très fort dans l'éradication de la pauvreté et la promotion du Développement Durable en occasion de la session Spéciale de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies en Septembre 2005 qui évaluera le progrès dans la réalisation des ODM.

NGO COMMENTS ON THE SIA-EMFTA PHASE 1 REPORT FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership launched in 1995, in its effort to secure peace and prosperity for the region, is promoting trade liberalization. Building upon the negotiation of bilateral association agreements, and taking other steps leading to the setting up of the EuroMed Free Trade Area (EMFTA).

Trade liberalization in the Euro-Mediterranean area will undoubtedly have environmental and social implications for millions of people who live around the Mediterranean. The first objective of the Sustainable Impact Assessment (SIA), in the opinion of civil society groups, is therefore to inform decision makers and the public at large whether the type of trade liberalization proposed will indeed advance the objectives of the EuroMed Partnership. The SIA study must clarify who is likely to gain from the EMFTA and who is likely to suffer. The SIA report must therefore present clear recommendations highlighting the most likely scenarios from alternative measures.

The undersigning organisations welcome this high-level consultation meeting organized today in Brussels as a necessary opportunity to exchange views but more importantly to better influence the process.

There are two levels of recommendations made in this common position addressed to the European Commission as the sponsors of this process and the authors of the ToR of the SIA document. The recommendations are divided into recommendations for immediate action

as a result of the findings of the interim SIA report and on recommendations concerning the methodology and ToR of the SIA study itself.

A. Findings Requiring Immediate Action

1) **SIA Finding:** That the Association Agreements negotiated by the EU and its southern and eastern Mediterranean partner countries are lacking in detail (if not completely ignore) environment and workers' rights issues (SIA report page 12). In comparison, US trade agreements with Mediterranean countries include significant sections on environmental protection and workers' rights (SIA Report page 11).

Corrective Action Required: Negotiation of a regional environmental and social Side Agreement should be agreed at the EuroMed Foreign Affairs Meeting (Barcelona VII) in May 2005, to provide a common framework on these issues for all association agreements signed to date. The negotiations should start without delay and in this process the findings of the SIA need to be taken into account. The Side Agreement should be completed by the end of 2006.

2) **SIA Finding:** That the environmental regimes – regulations, funds, qualified staff and environmental management in the partner countries are very weak (SIA report page 16). That lessons from past experience with the accession into the EU of European Mediter-

anean states reveals economic and environmental impacts (SIA report page 22) (and that is despite strong support for the respective environmental regimes and large EU funds allocated).

Corrective Action Required: Current EU initiatives to strengthen environmental regimes as well as regional cooperation to promote environmental protection and sustainable development are hardly as successful as they should be, neither in their operation nor in the minimal funds allocated by the EU. All EU MEDA funds as well as EIB loans should be screened to ensure they promote sustainability and have support for environmental regimes as a priority issue. Integration of environmental concerns needs to take place in the other sectoral programmes, industry, energy, agriculture, etc. of the EuroMed process, as recommended by EuroMed Environment Ministers at their 2nd conference in 2002. The SMAP programme should be strengthened and broadened, to fulfil one of its original mandates to promote environmental integration throughout EMP activities, and should receive significantly increased funding.

- 3) **SIA Finding:** That current healthy consumption patterns relating to the Mediterranean diet will be negatively impacted and northern consumer habits, production processes and mobility patterns will be exported with social and environmental impacts (SIA report page 26).

Corrective Action Required: MEDA funds should be allocated through the various activities of the Partnership to counter harmful changes already taking place to consumption patterns in the south and eastern Mediterranean that are likely to be further intensified by further trade liberalization.

- 4) **SIA Conclusion:** That non EU Mediterranean countries need to undertake their own studies and consultation process to evaluate the EMFTA and not solely rely on the EU sponsored SIA report (SIA report page 28).

Corrective Action Required: That matching funds be provided by the EU to support non-EU member states to undertake their own SIA studies.

B. Comments Concerning SIA Methodology and ToR

1) Links between the SIA-EMFTA and MSSD and the Barcelona Convention

The links with the forthcoming Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) are not made. No methodology is proposed to demonstrate how EMFTA

would enhance overall sustainability, in line with the goals of the MSSD, themselves reflecting the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, 2002. Yet, EuroMed Environment Ministers recommended in 2002 that the MSSD should become the "vehicle" for the sustainable development strategy of the partnership, and the conclusions of their conference were endorsed by Foreign Ministers at Barcelona VI in December 2003.

Also, there is no identification either of ways in which the proposed EMFTA would contribute to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention 1975 and its Protocols – of which the European Community and seven EU member states are Contracting Parties.

2) Basic scenario of the SIA

The SIA only contemplates one scenario i.e. trade liberalisation in the EuroMediterranean region. This is contrary to normal practice of Strategic Impact Assessments as well as cost-benefit analysis, which contemplate 'with' and 'without' scenarios, and compare the net benefits from each scenario. The report claims that a range of studies gives a clear message of the *"potential for large welfare gains associated with the EMFTA... (which) is dependent on the success of related national domestic policies"*. Is this the 'welfare' of classical and neo-classical economics? If so, what is the forecast distribution of these welfare gains a) amongst countries or at least North and South viz both EU and south Med b) amongst income groups i.e. its net contribution to poverty reduction in the South Med, and *a fortiori* to achieving the Millennium Development Goals targets for 2015?

"Social and environmental effects" are mentioned, but it appears that no effort will be made to make an extended cost-benefit analysis which will compare social and environmental effects (which many studies indicate could be highly negative) with the imputed economic benefits - but benefits for whom exactly? – to arrive at an assessment of overall net benefits.

3) Only primary impacts are mentioned, not secondary impacts

Page 27 states that: *"The SIA will not attempt to make value judgments on the relative importance of different impacts, or trade-offs between adverse and beneficial effects."*

Then the SIA emerges not as an impact ASSESSMENT, but merely a checklist of impacts. Clarifying trade-offs should be one of its central functions and surely the basis for designing a coherent and integrated set of 'mitigation and enhancement' measures referred to.

The evaluation of potential impacts generally employs a combination of logical analysis and empirical evidence

from the literature. Empirical evidence will be sought from other countries' experience of integration with the EU, as well as studies of past trade liberalisation in the region, and the effects of liberalisation more generally.

This approach ignores the self-evident truth of the very divergent levels of development of South Med Partner states (with the exception of Israel) with those of the EU, or even of pre-accession Spain, Greece and Portugal. The closest approximation to what is contemplated in EMFTA is NAFTA, in operation for a decade

As stated in the Carnegie Endowment's study (2003): "NAFTA: Promise and Reality: Lessons from Mexico for the Hemisphere".

NAFTA has accelerated Mexico's transition to a liberalized economy without creating the necessary conditions for the public and private sectors to respond to the economic, social, and environmental shocks of trading with two of the biggest economies in the world. Mexico's most vulnerable citizens have faced a maelstrom of change beyond their capacity, or that of their government, to control.

According to the last paragraph of section 5.6.3, "The presentation of findings will be as specific as possible in relation to affected economic sectors, environmental characteristics and particular social groups. In order to avoid key results being lost in the description, a summary table or other approaches will be used to draw out the key findings."

What is meant by 'environmental characteristics' (water resources, air and soil quality, land use, etc.). Which 'particular social groups' (women, youth, the poor, farmers, industrial workers, etc.)?

Moreover, monitoring gender indexes is not an adequate approach to address the specific gender impacts, whether in industry, services or agriculture, of trade liberalisation.

The impact of climate change on water resources is not mentioned (page 15) as a factor expected to progressively limit water resource availability in the region.

4) Mitigation and enhancement measures

What such measures would involve is not clarified. Development aid programmes "could contribute to the identification of practical mechanisms to implement mitigation measures that may be proposed based on the SIA findings" (page 28). Elsewhere in the text, identification appears as the responsibility of the contractor.

The report also states, "For details of the agreements which have yet to be defined, the SIA will additionally provide information for negotiations." Why not recommendations?

5) Product coverage of SIA

• Industrial goods

It appears that the SIA will refrain from suggesting any change in liberalisation schedules (whether tariff or non-tariff barriers) for industrial goods enshrined in Association Agreements, even in cases where such a measure would be the most cost-efficient in terms of avoiding negative impacts. Page 30 states: *For those aspects of the agreements which are already defined, the main purpose of the SIA is to contribute to the design of complementary mitigation and enhancement measures. The effects of the agreements will be assessed by comparison with a baseline scenario, which reflects the situation that would exist if the agreements had not been made.*

• Agricultural goods

The methodology (p 11 par 3) appears to contemplate a limited range of agricultural products, but does not reflect the much broader agricultural trade liberalisation foreshadowed by the final conclusions of the Barcelona VI conference of EMP Foreign Ministers, December 2003 viz:

"Ministers expressed their common commitment to achieving a free trade area, including trade in agriculture by the target date of the Barcelona Declaration of 2010."

• Services

Page 11 par 4 does not reflect more recent commitments to wide-ranging services liberalisation according to the two most recent conferences of EuroMed Trade Ministers viz:

"Ministers reaffirmed the objective of liberalisation of trade in services across the EuroMed area, taking into account the obligations arising from GATS article V. (3rd Conference of EMP Trade Ministers July 2003, final conclusions)

(Ministers) reiterated their commitment to liberalisation in this important sector and to the ultimate aim of complementing the Euromed liberalisation of trade in goods with an integrated free trade area for services. (4th Conference of EMP Trade Ministers, July 2004, final conclusions)

6) Future mechanisms

The report (page 28) indicates "Proposals for a participatory and practicable monitoring mechanism to assist EMP countries and stakeholders to promote sustainability during the evolution of EMFTA will be prepared in Phase Three".

The MSSD and its supporting institution MCSD are apparently not considered for the monitoring exercise posited below. Why not? Close consultations (page 28) "with EU's MEDA representatives" are proposed. Stakeholder participation in such consultations is not clarified.

7) Language of publications

The absence of an Arabic language version of the proposed newsletter is extremely unfortunate and will not be well

received in Arabic-speaking South Mediterranean Partner countries (i.e. 9 out of the 10 South Mediterranean partners). This decision should be reviewed.

Submitted by:

ENDA Europe, ENDA Maghreb, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Friends of the Earth MedNet, Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), RAED-Arab Network for Environment and Development, WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature)-Mediterranean Programme

URGENT NEED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS OF MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTANCE (SPAMI) NETWORK

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) was established in 1975 as the first Regional Seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). One year after the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) and two annexed Protocols were signed giving a solid legal support to MAP activities.

During its first period MAP objectives were mainly to assist Mediterranean countries to assess and control marine pollution. To facilitate this work a Coordinating Unit was created and a specific programme for pollution monitoring and research was established (MEDPOL).

This original focus on pollution was considerably widened when it became evident for the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties that marine pollution was originated predominantly on land and that the impact of human activities, including pollution, was generating serious damages on the rich biodiversity of the region.

The Genoa Declaration (1985) of the Mediterranean Governments and the revision of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in 1995, provided MAP with new instruments to address problems like degradation of coastal areas and coastal area management, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity or a more integrated approach to development and environmental issues in the region.

This second phase of MAP was renamed Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean. Accordingly the Convention and its Protocols were modified to meet the new objectives.

In this context a first attempt to protect the Mediterranean natural heritage under MAP was put forward with the signature in 1982 of a Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas. The scope of this Protocol was considerably consolidated in a new text after the 1995 revision (Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean) signed in 1995. This new protocol entered into force in December 1999 together with its annexes.

Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)

It is clear that the principal instrument to achieve the above mentioned objectives is a consistent system of Natural Protected Areas that have necessarily to go beyond the simple addition of the existing National Networks due to the weakness of most of them and to the need of common criteria and coordinated action.

For this purpose a new category was created – Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) – that will act as the vertebrating structure of all the system.

In consequence, the SPAMI list should include sites which fulfil at least one of the following general criteria:

- are of importance for conserving the components of biological diversity in the Mediterranean;
- contain ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area or the habitats of endangered species;
- are of special interest at the scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational levels.

The establishment of the SPAMI list wishes to reinforce and not to substitute the existing national networks.

In that sense countries are encouraged to create new protected areas in zones subject to its sovereignty or jurisdiction, as well as to implement common approaches for protection measures, planning and management.

Taking into account the very different quality of the existing Protected Areas Networks in the region, the SPAMI listing procedure acts as a catalyst at national level to upgrade the planning and management measures not only of the concerned areas but as well as of all the rest of the SPAs.

At regional level the SPAMI network is supposed to facilitate cooperation, sharing of information and capacity building. To that purpose a specialized Coordinating Office has been proposed to work in close cooperation with SPA / RAC.

The SPAMI List

In 2001 several countries proposed the first areas to be included in the SPAMI List. As a result the meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Monaco (October 2001) approved the listing of the following twelve areas.

NAME	AREA HAS	LEGAL PROTECTION CATEGORY	MAIN VALUES
Isla de Albor_n y Fondos Marinos de su Entorno	26.457	Natural Site	Presence of endangered mediterranean species (endemic fauna and flora)
Cabo de Gata – N_jar	49.547	Natural Park	Presence of 22 habitat types of the EU Habitats Directive and 43 annex I species of EU Bird Directive
Fondos Marinos del Levante Almeriense	6.313	Natura 2000 Area Natural Monument	Posidonia oceanica meadows and associated species
Mar Menor y su Entorno	26.000	Protected Landscape, Natural Park and	Coastal lagoon; seagrass meadows; protected species of fauna end flora
Islas Columbretes	12.306	Nature Reserves	Important presence of rare and endangered Mediterranean species of flora and fauna
Cap de Creus	13.886	Nature Reserve and Marine Reserve	Marine and coastal rare habitats. Protected species of fauna and flora
Illes Medes	511	Natural Park including Nature Reserves	Posidonia oceanica; marine protected species, marine birds reproductive colonies
Port – Cros	2.988	Marine Reserve	Seagrass meadows; protected species
Archipel des Kneiss	5.850	National Park	Seagrass meadows, very important area for wintering of birds
Archipel de la Galite	2.715	Nature Reserve	Posidonia oceanica meadows; endangered bird and fish species; former habitat of monk seal
Zembra et Zembretta	5.090	National Marine Park	Posidonia oceanica: former habitat of monk seal; protected bird species
Marine Mammals Sanctuary of the Tyrrhenian – Corsican – Provençal Mediterranean	8.700.000	Proposed National Marine Park Sanctuary	Marine mammals; protected species

In 2003 the meeting of the Contracting Parties (Catania, November 2003) decided to include two new areas both in Spain: Archipiélago de Cabrera and Acontilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo.

It is clear that in the present situation there is no balance at all at geographic and ecosystems level, and that it is urgent to create SPAMIs especially in the southern and eastern countries of the region.

MIO-ECSDE members and other MAP partners could play a crucial role pushing their national authorities to ratify the Protocol, if they have still not done so, and

proposing appropriate areas to be included in the SPAMI list.

There is a need as well of a more active role of RAC/SPA in implementing the SPAMI network and supporting those countries that have difficulties for the declaration of SPAMIs. MAP Partners could insist on that need contacting Natinal Focal Points for RAC/SPA, RAC/SPA Director and MAP Coordinator.

Institute for Research and Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region
"Friends of the Mediterranean"

THE LAUNCHING OF THE ARABIC VERSION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE "WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN"

League of Arab States, Cairo, 8 December 2004

The Official Launching (Press event) of the educational material was organised by MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med, RAED and AOYE under the auspices of HE the Secretary General of the League of the Arab States (LAS), Mr Amr Moussa, at the premises of the LAS on the 8th of December 2004. The new publication was launched and its significance underlined by a number of high level representatives from Egyptian Authorities, as well as by representatives of the MEDIES Core Group. The event was attended by approximately 100 participants who were politicians, officials, interested formal and non-formal educators and of course journalists.

Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP officially opened the launching noting that in 2002 he himself had also launched the initial English version of "Water in the Mediterranean". Dr. Toepfer stressed the importance of addressing the critical issue of water through education, especially in light of the new UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (UN DESD). As **Dr. Emad Adly**, chairman of RAED underlined, this publication is not restricted to the theme of water, as water serves as a means for addressing more general environmental and sustainable development issues. **Prof. Michael Scoullis**, chairman of MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med and MEDIES Coordinator explained that at the beginning the idea of a common book for students of all the Mediterranean countries was considered almost impossible due to the different languages, cultures, etc. However, through the MEDIES Initiative, this common book is becoming a reality, since after the English, Italian, French, Hellenic and Turkish versions, the Arabic version of "Water in the Mediterranean" is ready for the use of Arabic speaking educators, available also on the MEDIES web-page. **Ms. Fatma El Mallah**, Head of the CAMRE Secretariat - League of Arab States (LAS), underlined that it is important to hold this launch in the premises of LAS and that the League will continue to support such meetings of the civil society. **Mr. Paul Mifsud**, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP marked that it is an honour for UNEP/MAP to take part in the Core Group of the MEDIES Initiative and announced that UNEP/MAP's new web-site will also be in Arabic. **Minister Mr. Youssef Abu Safieh**, Chairman of the Environment Quality Authority of Palestine, and Member of the Board of COMPSUD, noted that informing young people about the various environmental challenges may be done rather successfully by the civil society. He supported the need to address the issue of

water because it is a real problem for many parts of the Arabic world and he expressed his wish that MIO-ECSDE and MEDIES will continue their efforts in this field. **Dr. Emad Hassoun**, Assistant to the Minister of Local Administration and Environment in the Arab Republic of Syria, welcomed the new publication and drew attention to the fact that water may have a destructive effect because of floods and other natural disasters. **Dr. Ibrahim Shabaka**, Ministry of Education, stressed that "Water in the Mediterranean" is a publication that is consistent with the Ministry's objectives, suitable for formal and non-formal education, and particularly important because it addresses water through many aspects. He described it as comprehensive, flexible, well designed, balanced and inclusive. **Dr. Magdy Allam**, Ministry of Environment, Egypt, underlined that water is at risk in Egypt and presented indicative data proving this. He pledged that the Egyptian Government, through his Ministry will make sure that this material will reach all relevant sectors, and particularly the schools. **Eng. Abdel Rahman Shalabi**, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation underlined that water is a main vehicle for achieving sustainable development, and he agreed that for the case of Egypt there are risks both in the quality and quantity of water. **Mr. Salvatore D'Angelo**, Italian Ministry for Environment and Territory, which is a member also of the Core Group of MEDIES, noted that sustainable development requires the collaboration of many actors and underlined the importance of this publication in view of the UN DESD. **Mr. George Hatzimihelakis**, Greek Embassy in Egypt stated that the Greek Government contributes and supports the MEDIES Initiative and will continue to do so; **Dr. Radwan Al-Weshah**, UNESCO Cairo Office underlined the need to hold training seminars and courses for the sustainable management of water and **Dr. Mahmoud Sherif**, President of the General Federation of NGOs in Egypt also welcomed the new publication that will be particularly supportive to the work of NGOs. Finally, **Ms. Iro Alambei** and **Ms. Vicky Malotidi** MIO-ECSDE Programme Officers presented in brief the MEDIES Initiative and the educational material "Water in the Mediterranean" and the floor was open to questions and comments. Several journalists asked whether the new material is going to be implemented in the formal or informal level and when it is estimated that it will reach the Egyptian schools.

TRAINING SEMINAR FOR EGYPTIAN EDUCATORS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN"

Cairo, 9 December 2004

The training seminar was co-organised by the Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE), the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) and MIO-ECSDE. The approximately 200 participants, formal and non-formal educators, followed theoretical presentations on the evolution of Environmental Education and the role of Environmental Education in Tertiary education. The participants were introduced to the objectives of the MEDIES Initiative and the contents of "Water in the Mediterranean" and were instructed on how to download it from www.medies.net

During the second part of the Seminar, there was an

introductory presentation on how to construct Concept Maps, a methodology widely used in Environmental Education Programmes. The participants constructed a "map" by attempting to link, in the correct sequence, all steps in the journey of water from its source to our homes. In closing, the CD version of the Arabic water kit was distributed to the participants. According to their evaluation of the seminar, the participants stated they would wish more active participation on their behalf and they asked as a follow up to be further trained in all methodologies used in Environmental Education.

THE 9TH AGM OF MIO-ECSDE

The 9th AGM of MIO-ECSDE took place in Cairo on the 9th of December 2004 at the Pyramisa Hotel. 30 Member Organisations from 14 countries were represented. The AGM decided that from 2005 six additional seats will be added to the Executive Bureau of MIO-ECSDE because of the EU Enlargement: one for Cyprus, one for Malta, one for Slovenia and an equal number (three) from non-EU Mediterranean countries given that Member Organizations from these countries express interest. France, Italy, Greece and the two non-EU Mediterranean seats held by Tunisia and Morocco as well as the EEB appointee had reached the end of their two-year term. The 9th AGM unanimously approved the new Executive Bureau which is as follows:

Chairman:	Prof. Michael Scoullos (Greece)
Co-Chairman:	Prof. Mohammed Ftouhi (Morocco)
Members:	Dr. Emad Adly (RAED)
	Mr. Georges Cingal (EEB)
	Ms. Bessie Mantzara (Elliniki Etairia)
	Mr. Mario Alves (Portugal)
	Prof. George Aillaud (France)
	Mr. Ziyad Alawneh (Jordan)
	Prof. Youssef Nouri (Tunisia)
	Mr. Malek Ghandour (Lebanon)
	Ms. Michela Presta/Ms. Patricia Bonelli (Italy)
	Ms. Marta Puigdomenech (Spain)

LA 9ème AGA DE MIO-ECSDE

La 9ème AGA de MIO-ECSDE s'est tenue le 9 décembre 2004 au Caire, à l'hôtel Pyramisa. Des représentants de trente (30) organisations membres de 14 pays ont fait acte de présence. L'AGA a décidé que six sièges supplémentaires seraient ajoutés à partir de 2005 au Bureau Exécutif de MIO-ECSDE, en raison de l'élargissement de l'UE: un pour Chypre, un pour Malte, un pour la Slovénie et un nombre paritaire (trois) pour les pays méditerranéens n'appartenant pas à l'UE, vu l'intérêt manifesté par les organisations membres de ces pays. La France, l'Italie, la Grèce et les deux sièges de pays méditerranéens en dehors de l'UE, occupés par la Tunisie et le Maroc, ainsi que le représentant nommé par le BEE, avaient atteint la fin de leur mandat de deux ans. La 9ème AGA a approuvé à l'unanimité le nouveau Bureau Exécutif qui se compose de la manière suivante :

Président :	Prof. Michel Scoullos (Grèce)
Coprésident :	Prof. Mohammed Ftouhi (Maroc)
Membres :	Dr Emad Adly (RAED)
	M. Georges Cingal (BEE)
	Mme Bessie Mantzara (Elliniki Etairia)
	M. Mario Alves (Portugal)
	Prof. George Aillaud (France)
	M. Ziyad Alawneh (Jordanie)
	Prof. Youssef Nouri (Tunisie)
	M. Malek Ghandour (Liban)
	Mme Michela Presta/Mme Patricia Bonelli (Italie)
	Mme Marta Puigdomenech (Espagne)

SUB-REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON WATER: FOLLOW UP OF THE JOHANNESBURG PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION "JPOI"

Cairo, 6-8 December 2004

RAED and AOYE co-organised, with the support also of MIO-ECSDE, the *Sub-Regional Consultation on Water: Follow up of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation "JPOI"*, Cairo, 6-8 December 2004. The meeting took place in the League of Arab States (LAS) and was attended by Mrs. Fatma El Mallah, Director for Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development - League of Arab States (LAS), on behalf of H.E. Mr. Amr Mousa, the Secretary General of LAS; Prof. Youssief Abu Safieh Minister for Environment in Palestine; Prof. Emad Hasoon, Assistant of the Syrian Minister of Local Administration and Environment; Dr. Magdy Allam, Representing the Egyptian Minister of State for Environment; Dr. Abdel Rahman Shalaby, Representing the Egyptian Minister for Water Resource and Irrigation; Dr. Mahmoud El Sherif, Chairman of the General Federation of Civil Society Organization and NGOs in Egypt; Dr. Habib El Habr - Vice Regional Director for the United Nations Environment Program in West Asia, UNEP/ROWA; Representatives of the civil societies in the Arab countries

members of RAED (Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Sudan) and representatives of the civil society working in the field of water in Egypt.

The main goals of the meeting were:

- to explore the outcomes of the Johannesburg summit concerning water in the region.
- to explore the Millennium Development Goals concerning water supply and sewage.
- to define the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management.
- to explore the status of water in Arab Countries and the Mediterranean.
- to give an idea about water Aid and access to it.
- to determine the main characteristics of the regional partnerships and the role of civil society in the field of managing water resources.
- to activate the Arab initiative for sustainable development particularly the parts concerning the water and sanitation.



Mediterrània CIE and MIO-ECSDE are calling for candidates to be considered for the **5th MEDITERRANEAN HONORIFIC AWARD**, which will be given to innovative projects relating to **Education for Sustainable Development**.

3rd of June 2005, Tarragona

REQUIREMENTS

This award is open to all those organisations in the Mediterranean region working on the protection and improvement of the environment. This year any innovative project in the field of education for sustainable development can be submitted.

DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED:

1. A summary description of the project (maximum 10 pages). It has to include the objectives of the project, the budget, the resources needed and a list of the educational or awareness-increasing material published and/or to be published.
2. A file with information on the organisation.

LANGUAGE

English

ENTRY DATES

until the 29th of April, 2005

PRIZE

MIO-ECSDE will offer the winner a cheque for a token amount so as to support the diffusion of the outcome of the project (e.g. educational or awareness-increasing material, a publication, etc.).

JURY

- **Prof. Mohammed Ftouhi**, Co-Chairman of the Executive Bureau of MIO-ECSDE.
- **_ngel Ju_rez**, President of the MARE TERRA Foundation

- **Prof. Drasko Serman**, University of Zagreb Medical School
- **Vicky Malotidi**, MEDIES Secretariat
- **Marta Puigdomenech**, Secretariat of Mediterrània-CIE

DELIVERY TO

the projects can be delivered by post or by e-mail to:

MEDITERRÀNIA, CENTRE D'INICIATIVES ECOLÒGIQUES
C/Franco_, 56-58 Tarragona 43006
TEL: (+34) 977 55 13 00
FAX: (+34) 977 55 09 28
E-MAIL: cooperacion@mediterrania-cie.org Web: <http://www.mediterrania-cie.org>

MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR 2005		
CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE ON THE MSSD	ROME	11-12 MARCH
2nd INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION ON WATER AND ENERGY	MARRAKESH	21-23 MARCH
LUXEMBOURG EUROMED CIVIL FORUM	LUXEMBOURG	1-3 APRIL
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON "WATER AND LAND MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE"	ADANA	4-8 APRIL
REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON THE MSSD	ROME	5-7 APRIL
CSD-13	NEW YORK	11-22 APRIL
INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND POLICIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION	NICE	9-11 MAY
SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION: ACTION FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION	ATHENS	9-11 JUNE
10th MCSD MEETING	ATHENS	20-22 JUNE
WORLD CONGRESS ON EDUCATION	TORINO	3-6 OCTOBER
4th MEETING OF THE COMPSUD	BEIRUT	OCTOBER-NOVEMBER
4th DIALOGUE OF NGOs, PARLIAMENTARIANS, JOURNALISTS, ETC. ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN	BEIRUT	OCTOBER-NOVEMBER
14th MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION	SLOVENIA	NOVEMBER
HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT OF THE EMP	BARCELONA	NOVEMBER

In the last week of December 2005 MIO-ECSDE relocated to new premises. For thirteen great years the organisation was hosted in the hospitable building of its co-founding Greek national NGO *Elliniki Etairia* (Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage) situated in the historical centre of the city of Athens. The new offices are very close to the old ones and have been designed to fit the needs and functions of the Federation. It is with great pleasure that the Chairman, Executive Bureau and Secretariat of MIO-ECSDE look forward to welcoming you in its new space. The inaugural celebration of the new MIO-ECSDE premises is scheduled for the 21st of February 2005.

New address

12 Kyrristou str • 10556 Athens, Greece



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.

Contact Information

POSTAL ADDRESS: 12, Kyrristou str. • 10556 Athens, Greece
T: +30210 3247267, 3247490 • F: +30210 3317127
E: mio-ee-env@ath.forthnet.gr • W: www.mio-ecsde.org