

EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter
11th issue
February 2007

EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter is a three-monthly newsletter published by EUCC – Mediterranean Centre for EUCC members in the Mediterranean Region and other interested groups. Readers and Network Members (only entitled to newsletters) are encouraged to join EUCC – The Coastal Union as a Private or Professional Members, who are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: check in www.eucc.net/en/members. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions to this newsletter, please contact med@eucc.net. If you no longer wish to receive EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter, you can reply to this e-mail and mention "unsubscribe".

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Editorial

EUCC MC facing new challenges

The year 2007 will be full of new, exciting challenges for EUCC Mediterranean Centre! We are not only one of the work package leaders of the new 10 mill EUR project SPICOSA, which was kicked off in Rome in February, but also of the project CONSCIENCE, which is about to start. Both projects are being funded under the 6th Research and Development Framework Programme of the European Commission. SPICOSA aims at developing and testing a conceptual methodological framework for achieving sustainable development along Europe's coasts, while the strategic objective of the CONSCIENCE project is to develop and test concepts, guidelines and tools for the sustainable management of erosion along the European coastline, based on best available scientific knowledge and on existing practical experience. These and other ongoing and new projects will improve the standing of EUCC Med as one of the key players in coastal management in Europe, but also make it possible to strengthen the Mediterranean perspective in these initiatives. We will of course keep our readership up to date on these projects – so stay tuned!

The EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter
Editorial Team

EUCC News

1. EUCC MC will contribute to the GUIFORMED project, Turkey

EUCC MC is involved in the EU funded project **GUIFORMED – GUI**delines for the **FOR**mation of Managers and Operators of **MED**iterranean Coastal Wastewater Treatment Systems. This 3-years project, led by GATAB (Union of Municipalities of South Antalya-Turkey), has the scope of preparing the guidelines for a common, workable training plan for managers, technical

personnel and operators of coastal wastewater treatment and discharge systems of small and medium size municipalities in the Mediterranean area, aimed at the dissemination of updated operational, control and monitoring techniques for the prevention of marine pollution from domestic and industrial land-based sources. The kick-off meeting of this project took place in Kemer, Antalya, 15-18th February 2007.



EUCC MC, as associated partner, will contribute with its expertise and advice regarding capacity building and awareness raising project components.

For more information please contact Carolina Perez at c.perez@eucc.net

2. Wetlands Day Celebration in Nador brought together environmental teachers

With the occasion of the international Wetlands Day (2nd February), a focus group meeting with teachers took place in the city of Nador, Morocco, within the framework of the EU funded project Coastal Action Plan Nador (CAP Nador), whose lead partner is EUCC – The Coastal Union.

The event was organized by two local NGOs, FUED and AESVT. It brought together app. 60 teachers of science in order to inform them about the activities of CAP Nador (with special emphasis on wetlands) and to invite them to participate. There was a participative appraisal in order to know their priorities for the area and their possible contribution to the project in the

education and awareness field, key components of the future Action Plan for the Coast of Nador.

Further information can be found at (in French): <http://www.nador.ma/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=1843&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0> and <http://www.eucc.net/en/policy/index.htm>

3. SPICOSA meeting kicked-off with EUCC-Med participation

EUCC-MC is partner to the new four-year Integrated Project SPICOSA, which was kicked off in Rome. It is being funded under the 6th Research and Development Framework Programme of the European Commission and aims at developing and testing a conceptual methodological framework for achieving sustainable development along Europe's coasts. This goal will be achieved by

- **creating an operational Systems Approach Framework (SAF)** of the coastal zone for assessments of policy alternatives. The SAF must emerge from existing knowledge and evolve with new knowledge.
- **overcoming two critical challenges** facing multidisciplinary science, that of creating a working science-policy interface and that of qualifying and quantifying complex systems, in order that the SAF is scientifically credible and operationally functional.
- **implementing and testing the SAF** over eighteen diverse Study Site Applications throughout the European region, such that its operational use is not limited to any specific policy issue, socio-economic condition, or Coastal Zone type.
- **generating a SAF Portfolio** consisting of generic assessment-methodologies, decision-support tools, models, and new knowledge useful for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, in a manner that is user-friendly and updateable.
- **improving the communication and integration** among the main actors and infrastructures of coastal zone systems

that promote sustainable development in a manner that is self-perpetuating.

- generating new opportunities for academic and professional training in Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Five of the Study Site Applications are located in the Mediterranean and one in Portugal, while several of the 54 SPICOSA partner organisations are based in the region. EUCC-Med is responsible for communication and media relations and supports the process of stakeholder involvement. A public website will soon be launched at www.spicosa.eu. For more information, contact Irene Lucius at i.lucius@eucc.net

EU Policies

4. The controversial Council decision on 2007 fish quotas: sustainable fisheries?

The Commission's proposal for the 2007 total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas has been unanimously adopted by the Presidency.

This proposal aimed at reinforcing the gradual but sustained approach that offers the best chance of reconciling the need to rebuild depleted fish stocks with the needs of fishers whose livelihoods depends on continued fishing activities. According to Joe Borg, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, the result has been a proposal that has been severely criticised by all sides as being for some too drastic, and too weak for others. For instance, the international organisation Oceana has declared that the TACs and quotas for 2007 agreed at the Fisheries Council are disastrous, disregarding scientific advice and with scant regard for the long term conservation of fish stocks.

Yet, despite the difficulties, the Commissioner believes that the reached agreement reinforces the gradual but sustained approach to deliver sustainable fisheries.

More information at: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/press_releases/archives/com06/com06_97_en.htm

and

[http://www.oceana.org/index.php?id=933&no_cache=1&L=2&tx_pressrelease_pi1\[pointer\]=2&tx_pressrelease_pi1\[showUid\]=553](http://www.oceana.org/index.php?id=933&no_cache=1&L=2&tx_pressrelease_pi1[pointer]=2&tx_pressrelease_pi1[showUid]=553)

5. Reactions at International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' allocation of bluefin tuna

The European Commission welcomed the outcome of the meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in Tokyo in January. ICCAT agreed, at a meeting in Dubrovnik, last November, to put in place a 15-year recovery plan for the overfished bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Among the main measures agreed at this meeting was a gradual reduction in the overall total allowable catch (TAC) from 32,000 tonnes to 25,500 tonnes in 2010. The allocation of this TAC was to be decided at the last meeting in Tokyo. The EU quota will be as follows: 16,820.10 for 2007; 16,249.92 for 2008; 15,679.75 for 2009 and 14,539.41 for 2010. (The EU quota for 2006 was 18,301 tonnes). The new EU quota now also includes the allocation for Cyprus and for Malta (155.06 tonnes and 356.45 tonnes respectively for 2007). The Commission will shortly table proposals to transpose the decisions taken in Dubrovnik and in Tokyo into EU legislation.

However, from the conservationist NGOs' perspective such as WWF, the Tokyo conclusions are considered as catastrophic for bluefin tuna. ICCAT members have failed to agree on quota allocation – with Libya and Turkey setting their own quotas outside of agreed catch limits. This would mean an annual catch of 32,414 tonnes in 2007 – beyond the 32,000 tonnes allowed in 2006, whilst WWF and international scientists had called for a total allowable catch of 15,000 tonnes if the species is to survive in the long term.

More information at:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/press_releases/archives/com06/com06_88_en.htm

and

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/mediterranean/index.cfm?uNewsID=93280

6. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean builds on last year's progress towards sustainability in the region

The European Commission has welcomed the measures adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region at its annual general meeting, in Rome in January. The Commission led the process that will offer greater protection to fisheries resources, improve the application of existing measures, enhance the development of reproductive aquaculture, continue to support regional projects and develop new initiatives to increase cooperation in fisheries management in the Black Sea. This will be made possible thanks to the decisions that will now secure the administrative and budgetary basis of the GFCM making it fully operational.

More information at:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/press_releases/com07_01_en.htm

7. Commission welcomes Council action on REACH, climate change and marine protection

Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas welcomed the outcome of the Environment Council which adopted the new Regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restrictions of chemicals (REACH), reached political agreement on the framework directive for EU action on marine environment policy and adopted conclusions on climate change. REACH, a single EU regulatory system for chemical substances, will improve the protection of citizens' health and the environment. The marine framework directive aims to ensure that all EU marine waters are environmentally healthy by 2021 and it is the main component of the

Thematic Strategy on the protection and conservation of the marine environment, which the Commission adopted in October 2005. On climate change, the Council stressed the need to significantly accelerate global negotiations on a post-2012 agreement, with a view to completing them by the end of 2009 at the latest.

More information at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/1826&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Mediterranean Organisation Profile

Each issue of EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter presents one Mediterranean Organisation, its activities, and its contribution to the region's development. In this issue we present the Turkish Marine Research Foundation:

8. Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)



The Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), *DENİZ VAKFI* in Turkish, was founded in 1996 by a group of researchers, maritime workers and nature lovers, in order to enhance marine research, education and environmental protection in Turkey. The major purpose of TUDAV is to collect scientific information and thereby develop understanding of the Turkish marine environment.

ACTIVITIES OF TUDAV

a) Database

Although much scientific data on the Turkish waters has been collected, much of this is scattered, making it difficult to find information

when needed. For this reason, TUDAV is developing a computerized database to bring existing data under a unified umbrella.

b) Research

TUDAV conducts several research projects, especially on biological diversity in marine environment. It is particularly interested in the vulnerable species, such as Mediterranean monk seal, dolphins and sturgeons. It also gives priority to study marine pollution, which is one of the major concerns for our seas at the moment. Besides these, research in physical, chemical and geological aspects of related problems are considered.

c) Publication

TUDAV publishes the result of research not only in scientific journals but also in popular magazines and newspapers. In addition, it publishes its own popular books on the marine ecosystem for the general public. TUDAV has published over 30 books on various marine issues, such as marine biodiversity, fisheries, maritime law and policies.

d) Education

TUDAV particularly emphasizes to share all the information concerning the sea with the general public. The fundamental problems of the sea and conservation effort is explained at seminars and summer schools.

e) Special protected areas

TUDAV aims to establish special protected areas or marine parks for research and for the protection of particular marine ecosystems. It has already designated Gokceada in the northern Aegean Sea as the first marine park in Turkey. Such areas should also serve as a link between TUDAV and the public through educational activities.

More information at:

www.tudav.org

Research and Projects

9. LIFE-Third Countries 2006: Commission funds 16 environment projects with more than €6 million

The European Commission has approved funding for 16 new environment projects in the Mediterranean and Baltic regions (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey), under the LIFE-Third Countries programme 2006. These projects were selected from 100 proposals and represent a total investment of just under €10 million of which the EU will cover up to €6.5 million.

More information on the projects at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/index.htm>

10. ENCORA project team develops Coastal Wiki

The ENCORA Theme Workshop from 29 November to 1 December 2006 brought together about 120 coastal professionals from across the European Union and kick-started the process of developing the European Wiki Coastal Directory or "Coastal Wiki". The ENCORA project is being funded under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development of the European Commission and EUCC – The Coastal Union is among its partners, with the responsibility for the work package on the clearing house and dissemination. Furthermore, EUCC will also refine various Action Levels of the ICZM Progress Indicator set.

The Coastal Wiki will provide a web-based survey of existing coastal knowledge and experience in Europe, with references to the most relevant sources published in the literature and on the Internet. It is intended to support professionals in coastal science, practice and policy in their daily work. The user-friendly WIKIMEDIA software allows expert users to update the directory at any time with new knowledge. The Coastal Wiki is expected to

become a major tool for keeping coastal professionals informed on recent developments and new major knowledge sources in their field. Coastal experts or practitioners who are not yet an ENCORA member but would like to get involved in the Coastal Wiki production process should join one of the national networks and thematic networks of ENCORA. For further information, visit www.encora.eu and in particular www.encora.eu/aboutwiki.php or contact the project manager Edwin Snippen: E.Snippen@rikz.rws.minvenw.nl

11. Jordan, Palestinians, Israel launch Dead Sea study

Jordan, the Palestinians and Israel agreed to proceed with a feasibility study of a US\$ 2-4 billion project to top up the Dead Sea with water from the Red Sea, officials said on 10 December. They said the tripartite meeting, attended by World Bank officials, agreed to tender out soon the World Bank-sponsored feasibility study of the project to reverse a 25 metre (82 feet) fall in the level of the Dead Sea in the past century. Officials said Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority were committed to the 180 km (110 mile) "Two Seas Canal" plan despite stalled peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians. The Dead Sea, the lowest point on the earth's surface, has been shrinking because of increased use of water upstream from the Jordan River, the Dead Sea's main source.

France, the United States, the Netherlands and Japan have so far signalled their willingness to contribute to the cost of the two-year study. The study would also examine environmental impacts. The Dead Sea was too salty for all but a few salt-loving micro-organisms. It is unclear whether the sea would be affected by less salty Red Sea water.

More information on:
www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39417/newsDate/11-Dec-2006/story.htm

12. Biodiversity Foundation and Oceana presented proposal to triplicate protected marine habitats

The scientific report "Habitats in danger. Oceana's proposal for protection" has been presented. This is the result of the research carried out by Oceana with the support of the Biodiversity Foundation. It is a proposal for protection of thirty habitats, most of them not included at the Habitats Directive, which, due to their natural value, Oceana considers that they must be taken into account.

More information on:

[http://oceana.org/index.php?id=327&no_cache=1&L=2&tx_pressrelease_pi1\[pointer\]=0&tx_pressrelease_pi1\[showUid\]=581](http://oceana.org/index.php?id=327&no_cache=1&L=2&tx_pressrelease_pi1[pointer]=0&tx_pressrelease_pi1[showUid]=581)

Latest Mediterranean News

13. Launching of the Coast Day website

On February 2007 the Coast Day site has just been launched. This is the new web-site that promotes the value of the coast and the necessity of using an integrated approach in managing the coastal area. It has been developed by PAP/RAC within the MAP/METAP SMAPIII project.

The launch of the Coast Day is planned for September 2007 in ten Mediterranean countries. Afterwards, the intention is that the Day lives on in the years to come.

More information on: www.coastday.org

14. Discovery of sperm whale "paradise" in Sicilian coast

An experiment of the Nuclear Physical Institute of Italy has discovered by chance along the littoral of Catania, Sicily hundreds of sperm whales which were considered in danger of extinction in the Mediterranean Sea.

Biologists consider this discovery as "great news" since up to now just around ten

individuals were identified. The discovery of the "paradise" of sperm whales, the biggest odontoceti (toothed whale) of the oceans, happened when the Italian Institute was experimenting on the neutrinos.



Photo: Agefotostock (Source: El mundo.es)

More information on:

<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2007/02/13/ciencia/1171361704.html?a=ba470d8139a9ca9fa489127f56417fbc&t=1171380757>

15. Protected migrating birds are massively hunted down above Malta

Malta has the bleakest record of all Mediterranean EU countries in maintaining its hunting legislation, according to Birdlife Malta. Despite legal restrictions birds are being shot in Malta the year round, with a sad peak during the official autumn hunting season. Eighty species of EU-wide protected birds, among them falcons (common kestrels), ospreys and purple herons are hunted down heavily. Under European Commission pressure Malta has sharpened its hunting legislation this year, but this has only increased the number of violations. With a general election looming, the Maltese government is treating the hunters with velvet gloves, Birdlife Malta states. It calls upon the Maltese environment minister to take a firm stand towards the hunters and enforce the hunting restrictions.

More information:

www.birdlifemalta.org/

16. WWF launches fishing gear competition to reduce marine bycatch



WWF has launched its third annual international Smart Gear Competition, seeking new designs for fishing gear that reduces marine bycatch — the accidental catch and related deaths of millions of marine species in nets and longlines each year.

The international competition will award a US\$30,000 grand prize and two US\$10,000 runner-up prizes to the designs judged to be the most practical, cost-effective methods for reducing bycatch of any species.

More information on: www.smartgear.org

17. ICZM Protocol near completion

The Working Group (WG) on the ICZM Protocol met for the third time in Loutraki, Greece, on 12-15 February. The meeting was attended by the representatives of all Mediterranean countries (except three) and the EU. Experts continued the task assigned to them by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, in 2005, on reviewing and drafting the final version of the Protocol. However, there are still some pending, more difficult, articles that will need more in order to come to a satisfactory agreement for everyone. It is only in this way, when the parties have no reservations or doubts of a specific wording that the draft can be presented at the Contracting Parties Meeting to be held in December this year. Therefore, it was concluded to gather the WG for the fourth time in June.

More information at: http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/itl_news.php

Events and Training

March 6-9, 2007

Seminario "La Gestión Integrada del Litoral Terrestre y Marino"

Mallorca, Spain

[http://www.hispacosta.org/descargas/Programa%20Seminario_Mallorca\(1\).pdf](http://www.hispacosta.org/descargas/Programa%20Seminario_Mallorca(1).pdf)

March 21-24, 2007

Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns

Sessions devoted to ICZM and climate change
Sevilla, Spain

www.sevilla2007.org

March 22-26, 2007

International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean (ICCCM07)

Hammamet, Tunisia

[Http://www.fe.up.pt/ihrh/icccm07/](http://www.fe.up.pt/ihrh/icccm07/)

May 21-23, 2007

5th International Conference & Exhibition for Environmental Technologies, Management & Funding

Special Focus: Water & Wastewater, Energy Conservation & Renewable Energies

Cairo International Convention Center, Egypt

<http://www.eeaa.gov.eg/English/main/Env2007.asp>

May 29-30, 2007

IX Jornadas Españolas de Costas y Puertos
Donostia - San Sebastián

<http://www.azti.es/JECyP2007/home.htm>

June 17-30, 2007

International Summer School Hydro- and morphodynamics of coastal seas and estuaries
Aldiana Tropical, Motril, Spain

The deadline of application is March 1, 2007.

motril07@phys.uu.nl

October 3-5, 2007

ICCD07 – International Conference on Management and Restoration of Coastal Dunes

Santander, Spain
<http://www.iccd07.com>

October 8-10, 2007

COAST GIS 07: GIS technologies and spatial data infrastructures for the integrated management of coastal zones and the marine environment

Santander, Spain
www.coastgis07.com

November 13-17, 2007

Eight International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment - MEDCOAST 07

Sheraton Montazah Hotel, Alexandria, Egypt.

DEADLINES:

Abstract Submission: 16 April

Acceptance Notification: 30 April

Camera -Ready Final Paper: 17 September

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Colophon

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Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Euro Mediterranean Newsletter No 12 2007: 15th May 2007.

Established in 1989, EUCC – The Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2500 members and member organisations in 40 countries. EUCC Mediterranean Centre is an association aiming at serving the EUCC Southern European and Mediterranean membership and at developing new EUCC initiatives in the region. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POB 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands, tel: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.net>, email: info@eucc.net
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