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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

EU AND EUCC FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

EUCC NEWS

1. **EUCC MC PRODUCES BROCHURE ON CATALAN NATURA 2000 COASTAL SITES**
2. **CONSCIENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE MOVES AHEAD**
3. **COASTGIS'07 HOSTED FINAL MOTIIVE PROJECT WORKSHOP**
4. **EUCC MC ATTENDED CATALAN CONVENCTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

EU POLICIES

5. **COMMISSION PROPOSES INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY FOR THE EU**
6. **GREEN PAPER: ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN EUROPE**
7. **COMMISSION CLOSES EU BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY FOR 2007**

MEDITERRANEAN ORGANISATION PROFILE

8. **TOUR DU VALAT**

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

9. **MYTILOS PROJECT COMPLETED: MUSSELS, SENTINELS OF MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL WATER**
10. **WATERS TO WARM: MEDITERRANEAN AT RISK**
11. **FIRST GUIDE FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE**

TENDERS, PROPOSALS & VACANCIES

LATEST MEDITERRANEAN NEWS

11. **MEDITERRANEAN COAST DAY, 24TH OCTOBER**
12. **OCEANA AND THE FONDAZIONE ZEGNA CONDEMNS THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS OF CORALS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**
13. **MOROCCO CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL FISHING**
14. **"TURTLES IN TROUBLE", A DVD TO HELP TURTLES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**
15. **LYBIAN INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

EVENTS AND TRAINING

COLOPHON

EU and EUCC for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean region

Guest editorial by Magdalena Ariadne Kim Muir (EUCC Advisory Board Member)

On November 5 and 6, I attended in Lisbon the fourth and final regional stakeholder workshop on the EU Green Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change in Europe. This workshop focused on the specific concerns of southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. Within the green paper and at the workshop, there was the recognition of the disproportionate impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean region, particularly with regards to coasts and marine areas, and key economic sectors affecting the coasts like agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

As there will be disproportionate impacts, there will also be needs to adapt coastal uses and management in the Mediterranean to allow for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The clearest impact that is already occurring is that land and sea temperatures will rise, and water availability will decrease. There will also be other unanticipated changes such as the extinction of some species and the introduction of others, ecosystem shifts, potential greater eutrophication events and related algal blooms, and even changes in air and water circulation.

The EUCC is committed to continuing its effort to consider and influence climate policy and funding in relation to coasts and marine areas, and to highlight the greater impacts that will be felt in the Mediterranean. Nowadays it is involved in a Moroccan project dealing with adaptation in the coastal zone of two Mediterranean provinces, and it will continue to participate in discussions on the green paper, and the resulting white paper that is expected for January 2009. In the interim, the DG Environment will be releasing a summary of all the consultations on the green paper in January 2008, and will be releasing a draft white paper and consulting on it in the spring to early summer of 2008. Please check this newsletter or the DG Environment website for further information.

1. EUCC MC produces brochure on Catalan Natura 2000 coastal sites



EUCC MC received a grant by the Fundació Territori i Paisatge to develop the publication "Descobreix Natura 2000 des del Mar" on Catalan coastal Natura 2000 sites, which has been completed by the end of the summer. Around 6000 copies have been distributed to strategic information and distribution points along the Catalan coast, including nature parks info points, tourist info offices, museums, associations and administrations. The brochure also invites to answer a questionnaire on the social perception of these sites.

The publication and the questionnaire are available at our website: www.eucc.net/medcentre

For more details:

Pedro Fernández, p.fernandez@eucc.net

2. CONSCIENCE research initiative moves ahead

The Project Steering Group met, early October, to discuss and agree on ways to proceed after six-month start of the project. The preparation and finalization of relevant project reports and the set up for the framework of the pilot study areas have been largely discussed. The preliminary results and information will be made available at the website soon. Furthermore, the project website also provides access to summary information in all partner languages, such as Spanish, Romanian, Polish, Croatian and Dutch, in addition to English.

The engagement of one of the participants of the Advisory Group of CONSCIENCE has resulted in the official publication of the EUROSION project final report in Italian language.

This and more information is available at www.conscience-eu.org and www.euroSION.org

3. COASTGIS'07 hosted final MOTIIVE project workshop

At the recent COASTGIS conference held in Santander, Spain, between 7th -10th October, the final workshop of the MOTIIVE project took place. Particular attention has been given to issues dealing with data and information harmonisation and its relevance for coastal planners and managers and the findings of the cost benefit analysis, among others. EUCC's role has been actively communicating about the importance of INSPIRE application in the coastal and marine environment and to facilitate stakeholders' involvement in the process. We will seek to continue this role by keeping the coastal community informed and engaged in the process of INSPIRE.

In this sense, we would like to inform about the INSPIRE Draft Implementing Rules for Metadata open for public consultation. The Rules for Metadata are now available for public view and comments. The call for comments is open until 21 December 2007. For more details please visit the INSPIRE website at http://www.ec-gis.org/inspire/public_consultations/metadata/index.cfm

Further information about the MOTIIVE project and results available at <http://www.eucc.net/en/motiive/index.htm> and www.motiive.org

4. EUCC MC attended Catalan Convention on Climate Change



Aiming at initiating the participatory process for the elaboration of an Action Plan for Climate Change Mitigation, the 1st Catalan Convention on

Climate Change took place in Barcelona on 17th October. More than 500 participants representing scientific and economic institutions, local and regional administration, associations and the business sector, gathered in order to listen to the objectives of the Catalan government regarding climate change mitigation and to make their proposals for reducing greenhouses emissions. EUCC Mediterranean Centre participated with other associations and will attend the upcoming participatory sessions.

For more information on the Catalan Convention on Climate Change:

http://mediambient.gencat.net/cat/el_medi/C_climatic/occc/html/index_occc.html

EU Policies

5. Commission proposes Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU

On 10th October, the European Commission adopted a Communication setting out its vision for an Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU, together with a detailed action plan setting out an ambitious work programme for the years ahead. Scientific discoveries, huge strides in technological development, globalisation, climate change, and marine pollution are rapidly altering Europe's relationship with the seas and oceans, with all the opportunities and challenges that this presents. An integrated maritime policy will enable the Union to meet the challenges head on. This proposal is grounded in an extensive public consultation which ended last June, and represents the work of a Steering Group of 10 Commissioners chaired by Joe Borg. The Communication and Action Plan are accompanied by a report on the results of the consultation which revealed strong stakeholder support for the Commission's initiative.

More information on:

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/press_releases/101007_en.html

6. Green Paper: Adapting to Climate Change in Europe

Climate change poses a double challenge: Europe must not only make deep cuts in its greenhouse gas emissions but also take measures to adapt to current and future climate change in order to lessen the adverse impacts of global warming on people, the economy and the environment. This is the key message of a Green Paper published by the European Commission last June which sets out options for EU action to help the process of adaptation to climate change across Europe. Adaptation means taking action to cope with changing climatic conditions, for example by using scarce water resources more efficiently or ensuring the frail and elderly are properly cared for during heatwaves. The Green Paper aims to stimulate a broad public debate on adaptation in Europe, which started with a major stakeholder conference hosted by the Commission last 3 July in Brussels.

More information on:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm

7. Commission closes EU bluefin tuna fishery for 2007

Last 20th September, the Commission decided to close the fishery for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean for 2007. On the basis of the catch returns received from the Member States, the EU 2007 quota for bluefin tuna of 16,779.5 tonnes had been exhausted. The Commission must therefore close the whole EU fishery. This closure concerns Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Portugal and Spain as the other two Member States involved, Italy and France, closed their own fisheries in July and August respectively.

Besides, the Commission has opened infringement procedures against the seven Member States which take part in the EU bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Letters of formal notice have been sent to Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain for failings in their obligation to send catch data to the Commission. In the case of France and Italy, the infringement procedure also concerns shortcomings in their control in this

fishery. Member States have a month to respond to the Commission.

The Commission will also come forward with measures in time for the 2008 fishery to prevent the problems experienced this year.

More information on:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/press_releases/com07_60_en.htm and http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/press_releases/com07_62_en.htm

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 la Tour du Valat.

8. Tour du Valat

Founded more than 50 years ago by Luc Hoffmann, the Tour du Valat has since then developed its research activities for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands with a major focus: "*Better understanding of wetlands for better management*".



Convinced that it will only be possible to preserve wetlands if human activities and the protection of the natural heritage can be reconciled, the Tour du Valat has for many years been developing programmes of research and integrated management that promote interchanges between wetland users and scientists.

The Tour du Valat mission is to halt the loss and the degradation of Mediterranean wetlands and of their natural resources, and to restore them.

La Tour du Valat, located in the heart of the Camargue (France) is a private research organization. It has the legal form of a charitable foundation recognised as a non profit-making association since 1978.

The Tour du Valat employs around fifty employees and associated researchers who are

involved throughout the Mediterranean. Our scientific team, comprising around thirty specialists in Plant Ecology, Ornithology, Aquatic Macrofauna, Hydrology, Geomatics, Socio-economics, Geography and Integrated Management, are working on programmes of research into the functioning of wetlands, and are testing out methods of management. The results are communicated via training, partnerships, and the implementation of innovative projects being carried out in collaboration with a wide range of partners.

To learn more about their programs and projects, please visit www.tourduvalat.org

Research and Projects

9. Mytilos project completed: mussels, sentinels of Mediterranean coastal water

Carried out by Toulon Var Technologies and coordinated scientifically by Ifremer, the project MYTILOS started in 2004. The objective was to take a "photography" of the chemical contamination along the coast of the Western Mediterranean and the development of an interregional coastal water quality monitoring network through biological indicators (mussels), for the sustainable protection of the Western Mediterranean Sea. This 3-year project was launched in January 2004 and is an integral part of the INTERREG III B MEDOCC programme.

The results were presented and commented by the scientific and institutional partners of the program (France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco) last 21st June in Marseille.

More information on: http://mytilos.tvt.fr/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=68

10. Waters to warm: Mediterranean at risk

The depths of the Mediterranean Sea have grown warmer by up to 2 degrees Celsius recently, according to the Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM) of Rome, Italy. In the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Adriatic Sea, especially,

temperatures at a depth of 100 m are getting so high that marine life is dwindling and the water is not absorbing as much carbon dioxide as it once did. In addition, said researchers, the warming waters are beginning to affect the Adriatic current, one of three in the Mediterranean.

More information on: www.sahra.arizona.edu/cgi-bin/newsclips/newsclip_view.pl?mode=newsclip_view&ID=16481
www.icram.org/ (Italian only)

11. First guide for sustainable aquaculture

The World Conservation Union (IUCN), aware that food production and security can affect enormously nature conservation and its management, is progressing work towards the development of sustainable aquaculture. After several workshops and meetings and based on the signature of a memorandum of cooperation between the IUCN Global Marine Programme and FEAP, a project has kicked off with the publication of the first in the series of "Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture" by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, thanks to the agreement signed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA).

For more information, please contact: [Francois Simard](mailto:Francois.Simard@iucn.org)

Tenders, proposals & vacancies

10. First LIFE+ call for proposals: final application package now available

The deadline for the submission of proposals to the Member States is 30 November 2007. The final LIFE+ application package is now available. A total amount of €187 million is available for this first call for proposals.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifep/us.htm>

Latest Mediterranean News

11. Mediterranean Coast Day, 24th October

24th October, events took place all around the Mediterranean coast in support of the first "Coast Day". "Coast Day" is an awareness raising campaign that resulted from the partnership of the EU, UNEP and the World Bank. The campaign is launched by the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with initially 20 and in a few months almost 50 partners from different Mediterranean countries. "Coast Day" aims to raise awareness of the value of the coast, as well as of the threats to it, and to call for a stronger and more efficient commitment of the governments to coastal management.

More information on: www.coastday.org

12. Oceana and the Fondazione Zegna Condemns the Deaths of Thousands of Corals in the Mediterranean

The situation for corals in the Mediterranean is alarming. Mass die-offs have been detected from the Gulf of Genoa to Cape Palos, and less than 1% of coral species are protected. Climate changes, contamination and destructive fishing practices are causing accelerated deterioration of this sea's corals. For this reason, Oceana and the Fondazione Zegna demand urgent protection measures in the report "Corals of the Mediterranean", presented last September in Palma de Mallorca.

The report "Corals of the Mediterranean is available at <http://www.oceana.org/europe/publications/report/s/the-corals-of-the-mediterranean/>

More information at: http://www.oceana.org/en/europe/media/press-releases/all-press-releases/press_release/1/684/

13. Morocco cracks down on illegal fishing

The Moroccan government has brought into force a tough law that will punish fishermen who continue

to use driftnets in its waters. Driftnets are fishing nets which drift with the tide or current – buoyed up by floats or attached to a boat – and can stretch for up to 14km long. A wasteful and destructive fishing gear, they are known to cause the accidental death or injury of many marine species.

More information at:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/mediterranean/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=109280

14. "Turtles in Trouble", a DVD to help turtles in the Mediterranean

A short animated training DVD for UK tour operators and another for tourists in the Mediterranean has been produced by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS UK) with MEDASSET's cooperation. The DVD was funded by the



Travel Foundation and produced by Juniper Blue animators. The Travel Foundation is distributing the DVD at Mediterranean holiday destinations through dedicated workshops to teach tour operators about sea turtle-friendly actions they and their customers can take to mitigate tourism impacts on turtles and nesting beaches in the Mediterranean. "Turtles in Trouble" can be viewed at

<http://www.mcsuk.org/marineworld/turtles/turtles+and+tourism>.

15. Lybian initiative on sustainable tourism

Proceedings of the Workshop on Sustainable Tourism organized in Al Bayda, Libya, in November 28-29, 2006, are now ready and downloadable at: www.uicnmed.org

Events and Training

November 28-30, 2007

International meeting for the Alboran Sea conservation

Málaga, Spain

http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/noticias/2007/10/alboran_es.htm

January 14–18, 2008

Seminario Avanzado Organización de sistemas de estadísticas pesqueras

Zaragoza (Spain)

<http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/espanol/cursos07-08/estadpesca-08-pub-esp.htm>

July 2–5, 2008

COASTLAB08

2nd International conference on the application of physical modelling to port and coastal protection
Faculty of Engineering of the Technical University of Bari, Italy

<http://www.coastlab08.com>

July 8-11, 2008

Coping with global change in marine social-ecological systems

FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy

<https://www.confmanager.com/communities/c846/files/focus4/flyer.pdf>

July 10-12, 2008

International Symposium on Sediment Management (I2SM)

Lille, France

Abstracts deadline: June 27th, 2007

[www.pole-
risques.com/userfiles/file/International%20Symposium%20on%20Sediment%20Management%20\(I2SM\).pdf](http://www.pole-risques.com/userfiles/file/International%20Symposium%20on%20Sediment%20Management%20(I2SM).pdf)

September 1-4, 2008

2nd Announcement of the 13th World Water Congress

Montpellier, France

New deadline for submission of abstracts is: 31 August 2007

Colophon

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Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Euro Mediterranean Newsletter No 13 2007: 15th January 2008.

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

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