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Editorial

Mediterranean Union: EUCC community to play a key role

Guest editorial by Christine Clus-Auby, Secretary General of EUCC – France

From the 1st of July to the end of 2008, France is chairing the European Union. The French government has announced that top priorities for its compounding action would be the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean and sustainable development (*see new 5*).

As the Barcelona process seems to have failed, French government's aim is to promote regional integration and cooperation between all Mediterranean countries. The bet is that realisation of concrete projects, linking bordering nations, will be able to contribute to reduce political tensions.

Moreover, if one remembers that in the Mediterranean most of the population and economic resources are concentrated near the sea, it becomes obvious that the claimed priority of a sustainable development of human activities must be relying on an integrated and reasoned coastal zone management.

In this context, EUCC – The Coastal Union, EUCC Mediterranean Centre and EUCC-France must play their part.

At the interface of research, planning and policy making, EUCC-TCU has been one of the forerunners and is one of the leaders of ICZM in Europe. Each of its members works to this aim, whatever its speciality, whatever the national branch he or she belongs to. At the institutional level, the European Coastal Conference, organised in 1991 by EUCC-TCU, convinced the Council of Europe Ministers to adopt a resolution inviting "the Commission to propose for consideration a Community strategy for ICZM". Work done in the following years contributed to the adoption of the 2002 recommendation on ICZM.

It's now accepted that the Union for the Mediterranean will not be built apart of the European Union. It will be based on it. Following the same way, EUCC-TCU could contribute to ICZM

evolvment in the Union for the Mediterranean whole area.

With the Mediterranean Centre, EUCC-TCU already contributes to ICZM process around the Mediterranean, e.g. with SPICOSA and CONSCIENCE projects or through its cooperation with Morocco in the Coastal Action Plan for Nador within the EU SMAP III Programme.

EUCC-TCU aims to considerably develop this Mediterranean ambition by relying on its French branch. This for two reasons: 1st) EUCC-France can bring in its know-how in the building of partnership and strategies between coastal management actors. EUCC-France has a more than 10 years experience in setting up on site workshops rounding up searchers, practitioners, local government electives, state and local government staff. 2nd) EUCC-France individual members and institutional members (Conservatoire du littoral, Office National des Forêts, Association Nationale des Elus du Littoral, EID-Méditerranée) have long since developed strong relationships with their counterparts on the southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean.

EUCC-France wants to take this unique occasion constituted by the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean and the French presidency of the EU, to evolve ambitious projects with EUCC Mediterranean Centre and EUCC-TCU.

This is a new and thrilling challenge. We will succeed if we mobilize all of us and devote our energy to it.

EUCC News

1. Progress on Natura 2000 publication in Balearic islands

The EUCC project to produce a Natura 2000 publication about the Balearic islands runs smoothly after a fruitful field visit to these wonderful islands. It was the opportunity to meet important governmental stakeholders, experts and local associations to inform and discuss about this brochure, and they committed to participate actively during its elaboration and distribution. Besides, it allowed us to better know the natural

areas, gather information and illustrations, and identify distribution points. As there is a large number of already identified coastal Natura 2000 sites, they will be grouped for the publication according to their habitats and species.



For more information, please contact Pedro Fernández at p.fernandez@eucc.net

2. Making a good coastal governance work, the focus of CAP Nador latest events

On 2nd and 3rd June 2008, two major events took place in Morocco concerning coastal governance. Both events were connected to the implementation of the ICZM coastal plans in the province of Nador currently being drafted by the EUCG-led project CAP Nador within the EC SMAP III Programme.

Different means of public consultation and participation have proven that coastal and public affairs management relies on an interaction and negotiation process between heterogeneous stakeholders. In order to emphasise the interdependence of powers related to this action of collective management, the project considered useful organising a governance seminar.

The seminar, jointly organised with the neighbouring SMAP III project Moulouya and SMAP Technical Assistance, aimed at raising the engagement of stakeholders with the final objective to achieve effective coastal governance mechanisms in the Oriental Region of Morocco. Moreover, a second meeting was held in the Province of Nador to set up a "Cellule du Littoral Nador", which would be the body to monitor and promote ICZM in the province.

"Which management structure will allow implementing ICZM action plans and making them sustainable?" was the question raised by participants and which the seminar tried to answer. More than 60 institutional representatives of the Oriental Region, the national Cellule du Littoral and other relevant actors participated at this event. Three French experts, including the president of the "Pôle Littoral" of the Ministry of Environment, Ms. Catherine Bersani, shared their experience and advised on adapting mechanisms to implement ICZM in Morocco. Indeed, the round table offered a passionate discussion about the role of the Cellule du Littoral to coordinate local projects and to adapt legal tools to ICZM. The identification of legal and contractual experiences applicable to Morocco to engage stakeholders to implement the agreed action plans was another interesting subject of discussion.

In order to materialise the seminar conclusions, the following day was dedicated to a meeting to set up a Cellule du Littoral Nador. Participants discussed their roles, working mechanisms, status and members. Finally, it was agreed that the Provincial Governorate would take the lead to invite members and to coordinate it. The CAP Nador project will assist them facilitating the organisation of their first meeting and implementing capacity building actions.



A report about these two days is available <http://www.eucc.net/en/capnador/index.htm>.

3. EUCC MC participated at the Mediterranean Workshop on ICZM Policy, Sardinia

EUCC Mediterranean Centre actively participated in the Mediterranean Workshop on ICZM Policy held in Alghero, Sardinia, on 19-21st May 2008. The workshop was organised by the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) in cooperation with the Autonomous Region of Sardinia in the framework of the EU SMAP III Programme. It aimed to provide an overview of the main challenges to the Mediterranean coasts and to offer policy options for facing those challenges and succeeding in ensuring sustainable coastal development. This event meant a further push to the ICZM Protocol signed in Madrid last January.

The workshop was attended by 84 participants, including high-level policy-makers from different Ministries of the SMAP eligible countries, NGO representatives and the representatives of the SMAP III ICZM projects, including the high-level representatives of the EU, UNEP, MAP and METAP. On the second day of the workshop the "Sardinia Charter" was presented and discussed in a session chaired by Mr. Renatu Soru, President of the Sardinia Region. The Charter aims to promote an ICZM dialogue network at the local level throughout the Mediterranean. EUCC Mediterranean Centre signed up to this initiative together with NGOs like WWF and networks as Medcities.

For further information: c.perez@eucc.net

4. 1st European Maritime Day: EUCC attends EU Maritime Policy Conference

EUCC and its Dolphin Fund have been highly visible at a stakeholder conference in Brussels, at the occasion of the 1st European Maritime Day, 20 May 2008. From the outset we have closely followed the preparation of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy and many of our members participated in providing feedback to the Green Paper and the Blue Book. European Commission's DG MARE (Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) considers a broad consultation of stakeholders as a key tool for the development of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy.

In the Blue Book, the Commission committed itself to "propose a stakeholders consultation structure, feeding into further development of the maritime policy and allowing exchange of best practices". In this context the EU launched European Maritime Day on 20 May as an annual event.

EUCC is keen to contribute to the Maritime Policy in the fields of ICZM, biodiversity and the sustainable use of the coastal and marine environment. We could do so on the exchange of best practices, evaluating integrated policies (through our ICZM indicators), sustainable fisheries (through our involvement in NSRAC a.o.), sustainable coastal tourism (our QualityCoast initiative) and to help building the spatial information infrastructure (under INSPIRE). EUCC is also keen to bring the entire European coastal and marine expert community together to provide the Commission with an important counterpart for consultation and support; in February we took the initiative for a platform of European network organisations. And finally, EUCC has many ideas and opportunities to help celebrate European Maritime Day on 20 May every year.

More information at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/>

EU Policies

5. Paris Summit launched "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean"



13 July was the launching day of the "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean" at a summit hosted by the French EU Presidency and uniting

Heads of State and Government from the EU and the Mediterranean as well as the European Commission. This ambitious initiative aims at giving new depth and direction to Euro-Mediterranean relations while maintaining and reiterating the original ambitions of the Barcelona Declaration concerning the creation of an area of peace, security and prosperity. The text of the declaration can be found at:

http://www.ue2008.fr/webdav/site/PFUE/shared/import/0713_declaration_de_paris/Joint_declaration_of_the_Paris_summit_for_the_Mediterranean-EN.pdf

You will find more information at:

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/index_en.htm

6. Conference on Maritime Policy in the Mediterranean Sea held in Slovenia

On 10 June 2008, the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, the European Commission and the University Centre for Euro-Mediterranean Studies (Center EMUNI), organised the first ever international high level conference on maritime policy and governance in the Mediterranean.

The conference brought together a vast array of officials and stakeholders from EU and non-EU partner countries in the Maghreb, the Middle East and Turkey to discuss the need of developing a holistic approach to the management of maritime sectors and activities in the Mediterranean Sea basin.

The conference provided a unique opportunity for addressing the specific challenges of an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in the Mediterranean. The Governments' representatives and stakeholders from the EU, 13 Mediterranean partner countries, the European Commission and several international agencies and organisations analysed the principles, specificities, prerequisites and tools necessary for implementing the concept of an Integrated Maritime Policy on the land and in the waters of Mediterranean countries, both in the European Union and its partners, and in the high seas. In particular, the discussions focused on the structures and problems of cross-sectoral maritime

governance, the sustainable development of sea-based industries, environment, fisheries, integrated surveillance, maritime transport and marine research.

Detailed technical discussions took place in a number of workshops where panellists and participants addressed aspects of governance, environmental protection, transport policy, surveillance needs and research cooperation. The themes of the workshops correspond to several of the priority areas which had been identified during the consultation on a European Integrated Maritime Policy in 2006 and 2007.

The full report of the conference can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/pdf/events/piran-conference-communique-10-June-2008.pdf>

7. Bluefin tuna campaign: Commission announces closure of purse seine fishery

The European Commission announced on 13th of June that it is closing the bluefin tuna fishery in the Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic for the purse seine fleets, as it deems that the quotas allocated to them will shortly have been exhausted. Purse seiners from Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus and Malta will be prohibited from fishing as of 16 June, and purse seiners from Spain will be prohibited from fishing as of 23 June. The decision is based on the data and information in the possession of the Commission. Other segments of the fleet which still have quota available are free to continue fishing. The closure of the purse seine fishery is necessary to protect this fragile resource, and ensure the recovery of the stock in line with the 15-year recovery plan agreed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). The Commission is determined to use all necessary means to prevent a recurrence of the substantial overfishing seen in 2007.

More information at:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/press_releases/2008/com08_46_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 the Land Stewardship Network.

8. Land Stewardship Network (XCT, Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori)



The **XCT, Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori** (Land Stewardship Network), is an umbrella organisation created as an NGO in March 2003.

Its members (140 in the summer 2008) are foundations, associations, town councils, public partnership (*consortium*) protected areas, research centres, and organisations alike, devoted to landscape, countryside and biodiversity conservation.

The XCT promotes the use of LS as a part in the strategy to conserve natural, cultural and landscape values of the land. It assists the work of land trusts, communicates stewardship to the general and specific public, works with public and private stakeholders to develop its use and carries out research and pilot projects in the LS field.

The XCT works mainly in Catalonia and the Balearic Islands. Their vision is for growing slowly in other parts of Spain, by means of similar networks.

Within the XCT, a working group on marine stewardship was created. Its main objectives are to promote the marine stewardship concept and network, and to achieve a suitable socio-political framework to develop marine stewardship. The group is structured in two parts: an active node which meets regularly made up of XTC members DEPANA, Nereo, Acció Natura, Consorci el Far, Fundació CRAM, Fundació Mar, Fundació Promediterrània, Litoral Consult and Departament de Medi Ambient i Habitatge and an extern node which receives the information generated by the active node.



For more information, please visit www.custodiaterritori.org. You can contact the marine stewardship working group at: marina@custodiaterritori.org and at <http://www.custodiamarinaxct.org>

Research and Projects

9. Coastal Risks in France: An Integrated Method for Evaluating Vulnerability

A multidisciplinary team of researchers from the humanities and social sciences worked together to develop a tool for evaluating coastal zone vulnerability. The methodology permits coastline vulnerability to erosion and submersion to be analysed and evaluated from several different angles: the exposure to risk, which concentrates on the hazards and the stakes; the management of risk, which seeks to minimize risk through public policies of prevention and restoration; the remembrance of risk, which works to learn from past hazardous events; and the perception of risk, which focuses on how the different actors and users perceive the diverse risks. From these four approaches to risk analysis come five factors-hazards, stakes, management, events, and perceptions. Each one is analyzed and evaluated on a separate grid, facilitating the development of vulnerability indicators from detailed lists of descriptors. Elaborated in collaboration with risk managers and local authorities (elected officials), these grids are designed to become a decision support tool within the ICZM framework. Undertaken as part of the French National Coastal Environment Program, this research seeks to promote coastal risk management within a more integrated coastal zone management approach.

Source: *Coastal Alert, PAP/RAC*. Contact: Meur Ferec, C. at meur@univ-littoral.fr

10. Bathing zones, an opportunity for marine custody in Spain

The “Fundació Mar” is cooperating with the municipality of Sant Feliu de Guíxols (Girona, Spain) in a pilot project to use bathing zones as a marine conservation strategy. According to the Catalan Law on recreational fisheries, it is not possible to fish within a bathing zone, and according to the Spanish Coastal Law, not to navigate neither (therefore, nor anchorage). This means that a bathing zone becomes a restricted activities area during the bathing period (May-October), when the most serious impacts for marine habitats and species happen. Delimitation and management of bathing zones is a municipal competence which allows custody through the management at the local level by the city hall or by signing an agreement with a custody entity to collaborate on its conservation.

The buoys which delimitate the bathing zones can be set at a maximum 200 m offshore, but rarely municipalities set them that far. Making full use of this distance will allow the city hall of Sant Feliu to protect 10 ha of its littoral. Within the bathing zone, complementary conservation measures will be undertaken, for example, to appoint a local policeman on a boat to make fulfil the regulation and to use buoys systems that do not damage the seabed.

For more information:

marina@custodiaterritori.org

11. Sea Turtle Project Launches in Patok, Albania

The latest project to grace Albania’s shores has been launched early June: *Monitoring and Conservation of Important Sea Turtle Feeding Grounds in the Patok Area of Albania*. Developed by MEDASSET in collaboration with ECAT-Tirana and the University of Tirana with generous funding by UNDP- GEF/SGP and UNEP/MAP’s RAC/SPA and endorsed by the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration, the project aims to unravel some of the mysteries of sea turtles foraging areas in Patok and in the Mediterranean Sea.



Principle Researcher and Sea Turtle Specialist, Dr. Michael White was warmly welcomed by the Patok Fishermen community to the area which will be his home for the next four months. Working closely with Prof. Idriz Haxhiu from the University of Tirana and local the NGO ECAT, the project has started with a splash with the tagging and release of 14 loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*) and one juvenile green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). One hundred biology students from the University of Tirana visited Patok for workshops and demonstration of sea turtle tagging. Generating considerable local media attention, TV crews have interviewed Dr. White and captured the on-field learning of local students. The environmental education programme, led by ECAT, will incorporate awareness material and GIS components to help build knowledge, improve the protection and management of coastal biodiversity and inform policy.

The success of the launch is a positive sign for the continuation of the project until November this year and for the recommencement for the next two seasons. With so little known about foraging areas in the Mediterranean, this project hopes to engage a diverse range of people on the protection of sea turtles and the importance of conserving precious coastal areas.

For more information, please contact Arian Gace at arian.gace@undp.org

12. ICZM Protocol, first steps for the implementation

The ICZM Protocol will enter into force in the future and the preparatory activities for its implementation have been started by PAP/RAC. An Expert Meeting on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol was organised in Split, Croatia, on 17-18 June 2008.

The objective of the meeting was to exchange opinions among the relevant experts with a view of exploring possible activities to be undertaken in this intermediate period when the signing and ratification of the ICZM Protocol is still in progress. Some of the major topics presented and discussed at the meeting were the following:

- assessment and evaluation of the ICZM progress in the Mediterranean;
- interpretation of the text of the Protocol;
- guidelines for the definition of a coastal setback; and
- training and awareness-raising for the implementation of the Protocol.

As proposed by the participants of the meeting, the activities to be implemented in the intermediate period could encompass: the preparation of a Stocktaking Report on ICZM in the Mediterranean, including information on the existing setback practices and various toolkits; the preparation of an Explanatory Guide of the text of the Protocol; and some awareness-raising and training activities.

More info at PAP/RAC website:

http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/itl_news.php?lang=en&godina=2008#239

13. BioMarine Initiative: The World Marine and Maritime Forum. Free registration for EUCC Members!



BioMarine is a unique 5-day international forum from 20 to 24 October 2008 in Toulon and Marseille, which brings together the business, scientific and political

communities to draw out innovative and concrete solutions to advance ocean sustainability.

This will be the occasion to meet internationally renowned scientists working in the fields of oceanography, marine biology, climatology and the geosciences. Science and research French Minister Valerie Pécresse will be present on this occasion, but also many other important international figures. BioMarine will also be the major maritime event of the French Presidency of the European Union and will have a strong institutional dimension. French Prime Minister François Fillon has confirmed his participation as well as European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Joe Borg.

Over the five days of the BioMarine Forum a business convention open to all will be held allowing one-to-one meetings between professionals. This convention is open to scientists, business partners, financial organisations and all key development stakeholders (technology transfer, research bodies, business consultants, public development agencies etc.)

Registration to BioMarine is open* and free of charge for EUCC Members from the scientific community, civil society and NGO community, international organisations and government representatives.

**As you register, please add "member of the EUCC" in the "comments section to ensure that your registration will be validated by BioMarine.*

For more information visit the official website: www.biomarine.org

14. Climate change and impacts on coasts and water management in Europe: impacts and mitigation and adaptation strategies

The impacts of climate change on coasts and associated freshwater within Europe and possible mitigative and adaptive strategies is being considered under the proposed White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change. The Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission is developing a White Paper, which is a continuation of the Green Paper on adaptation to climate change adopted by the European Commission in June 2007. This White Paper has significant

implications for coasts and related fresh and marine ecosystems, and for human development and the built environment near the coast including: coastal cities, tourism facilities, roads and infrastructure; and sectors like agriculture, conservation designations, energy, fisheries and tourism.

In a stakeholder event held on May 16, 2008, there was a comprehensive discussion of stakeholder consultation on the Green Paper, the impacts of climate change in Europe, the next steps for preparation of an Impact Assessment for the White Paper, and the White Paper itself. Different roles are envisioned for the EU, member states and the private sector. One key gap identified at the EU level is the coordination of mitigative measures to reduce the greenhouse gases that cause climate changes; and the adaptive measures which will be required in the coastal zone to reduce the impacts of climate change. Funding of all measures in the coastal zone at all levels is also relevant.

Impacts on coastal zones will be felt throughout Europe, but disproportionate impacts will be experienced in the southern region. Extreme weather patterns are becoming more likely, whether rainfall, storms or heat waves. Summers are hotter and dryer in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region, with less overall precipitation. As a result of these hotter and dryer summers, there are also shifts and increases in energy demand in southern Europe, particularly for cooling and air conditioning, which will have related carbon and economic impacts, and could also affect mitigative strategies for the region. Tourism patterns are likely to change, with overall decreases, particularly in the summer, and some increase in the fall, winter and spring. Fish stocks are shifting, and the region is hosting more invasive aquatic and marine species. Human immigration and population shifts will also occur from northern Africa and the Middle East, as climate change increases economic and political instability increase for these regions.

There will be ongoing political dialogue to address all aspects of climate change on coasts and related watersheds at European, regional and national levels under the White Paper, and other related EU and national directives and initiatives. The EUCC Mediterranean Office is already involved

in the beginnings of the dialogue which must occur at a local level. For example, EUCC is working with communities and stakeholders in order to adapt to climate change under projects such as *Adaptation to Climate Change in Morocco (ACCMA)*, www.accma.un.ma.

Adaptation to Climate Change: Stakeholder Consultation in Preparation of a White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/stakeholder_consultation.htm

15. Historic agreement force for biodiversity in south-eastern Europe

In one of the most significant announcements made at the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 9) in May 2008 in Bonn, Germany, representatives of the governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia announced their intent to declare 13 new protected areas and enlarge 9 existing ones in south-eastern Europe.

The Dinaric Arc in south-eastern Europe is a region that hosts large and almost unspoilt forests and healthy populations of large carnivores, and is the most water-rich area in the Mediterranean in terms of freshwater ecosystems. The announcement moves the governments closer to an emerging vision of a vast cross border network of protected areas stretching across this ecologically important region.

Among the more important coast and sea related commitments made was the pledge by Croatia to strengthen the management of five marine protected areas while Montenegro will create three new marine parks.

Full story at:
http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/mediterranean/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=135601

16. A turtle's message for life, a TV spot by MEDASSET

The public service announcement titled "Return to Origin" delivers a powerful message in just 30 seconds on the significance of life which will grab the attention of even the most skeptical viewer. Responsible for this artistic and one-of-its-kind presentation is the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), which has been working for the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats throughout the Mediterranean for over 20 years. The spot will air on Greece's major TV channels during the summer months and is certain to captivate the viewing audience by presenting reality in a very poignant manner.



"Return to Origin" will make its way to many countries in order to deliver its brilliant message for life. The animated film's producer is a young and talented

animator, Thopis, who created images of prehistory, the present, the uncertain future, the earth, the sea and the sky, in order to present MEDASSET's most realistic message which concerns us all: "Let's bridge the gap between man and nature. Let's return to origin for a better present and future."

Besides, EUCC MC congratulates MEDASSET for the 8th Mediterranean Honorific Award, with the education project "Niretta the Caretta". Keep on the good work!

View "Return to Origin" at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dh5xOQL819U>

with Greek subtitles:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oljSHEfgBUg>

17. Greek seas threatened by new trawling decision

A decision to allow trawl fishing close to the shoreline in Greece risks endangering fragile marine life on the coastal seabed. A coalition of

national conservation organizations, including WWF Greece, is calling for the immediate reversal of this decision.

The Greek Ministry for Rural Development and Food agreed on March 5th to allow fishermen to use trawling gear at a distance of only 1 nautical mile from the coast, despite the European Regulation currently in force across the Mediterranean which forbids trawling any closer than 1.5 nautical miles from the seashore.

Full story at:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/mediterranean/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=129721

18. Large shark populations fall 97% in the Mediterranean

Populations of some shark species in the Mediterranean have plunged by more than 97 percent over the past 200 years, report researchers in the journal Conservation Biology. Several species are at risk of extinction. The study is based on records of abundance as determined by "catch weight" of five species of sharks. While there are 47 species of shark recorded in the Mediterranean the researchers only had enough information to assess the status of five species. They suspect that another 15 species of large predatory shark have also suffered steep declines due to direct exploitation, unintended capture in open ocean fisheries, and human population pressure in coastal areas.

More information at:

<http://news.mongabay.com/2008/0612-sharks.html>

19. Greenpeace denounces posidonia transplants in the Mediterranean to the EC

Greenpeace has denounced towards the European Commission the failure of posidonia transplants carried out in the seabed of the Mediterranean to compensate the destruction of posidonia meadows due to new infrastructures, such as ports and desalination plants.

Posidonia is protected in the EU, and only in very specific situations is it permitted to place structures on posidonia meadows. In those cases, "compensation measures" must be applied, which consist of transplanting posidonia. However, the majority of the scientific community does not guarantee the success of these transplants due to the complex manipulation of the plant and the fact that too little is known. Experiments have been done only at very small scale and it is not possible to extrapolate results. Indeed, the French Ministry of Environment only authorises posidonia transplants for scientific research.

The Greenpeace report "La destrucción legalizada de Posidonia oceanica, pradera submarina del Mediterraneo en el ámbito de la UE" is available at <http://www.greenpeace.org/espana/reports/trasplante-letal>

Events and Training

September 1-4, 2008

13th IWRA World Water Congress
Montpellier, France
<http://wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr/>

October 1-3, 2008

Deltas de la Méditerranée, enjeux et gestion pour le 21^{ème} siècle
Barcelona, Spain
http://www.ambafrance-es.org/article.php3?id_article=2730#sommaire_1

October 14-18, 2008

MED & Black Sea ICM 08
Second International Conference / Workshop on the State-of-the-Art of ICM in the Mediterranean & the Black Sea
Akyaka, Turkey
www.medcoast.org.tr

October 16, 2008

ICZM - SPICOSA International Forum 2008
Brest, France

The Forum will take place during the "SeaTechWeek" at the Brest conference centre, "Le Quartz". It will offer the possibility for researchers and coastal managers to

exchange views on the progress of ICZM public policies in Europe and to debate on the role of scientific knowledge. The Forum will present: (i) recent developments of coastal zone management policy at European, national and regional levels ; (ii) various European projects dealing with science & policy integration, and (iii) the experiences from SPICOSA, in particular the study sites applications This event is organized by the University of Brest and IFREMER (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea).

Programme and registration available at :
<http://www.spicosa.eu/enews/index.htm>
www.spicosa.eu

October 16-19, 2008

3rd International Conference "Water Science and Technology" with a special emphasis on water and climate (Aqua 2008)
Athens, Greece
www.leaderexpo.gr

October 20-24, 2008

BIOMARINE: Towards an international Sea Policy: Inspiration from the European Model.
Toulon – Marseille, France
www.biomarine.org

October 29, 2008

Euromed Ministerial Conference on water
Amman, Jordan
<http://www.emwis.net/thematicdirs/events/sev786321>

November 16 – December 19, 2008

Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for Mediterranean and Eastern European Countries.
Malta
www.capemalta.net/loimoc/course2008/index.html

November 26-28, 2008

9th International Conference LITTORAL 2008 - A changing coast: challenge the environmental policies
Venice, Italy
www.littoral2008.corila.it/
littoral2008@corila.it

Colophon

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