



UNEP



# medwaves e-newsletter

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The Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre of MAP has published its 2006 Annual Report.

#### **Issue 8 of EcoMedia magazine now available**

INFO/RAC has finalised Issue 8 of the EcoMedia Magazine, with a special focus on the ICZM Protocol. It can be viewed online at: [www.ecomediomagazine.org](http://www.ecomediomagazine.org)

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

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#### **UNEP's strategy and role in the GEF**

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Since mid-January, at the invitation of the Administrator of UNDP, UNEP has been working with UNDP and other experts to develop Terms of Reference and eligibility criteria for allocation of the Environment and Climate Change funds under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Attainment Fund.

## UNEP NEWS

UNEP's Global Council 2007 raises the debate on sustainable globalisation



### UNEP's GLOBAL COUNCIL 2007 RAISES THE DEBATE ON SUSTAINABLE GLOBALISATION

Between 5 –9 February, Ministers and Heads of Delegations from 140 UN Member States attended the 24th UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) in Nairobi. This was the first Global Council with Mr Achim Steiner as the new UN Under Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director.

This GC / GMEF managed, for the first time, to attract the participation of six heads of UN agencies: UN Habitat, UNFCCC, UNDP, WTO, UNWTO, UNIDO – as well as many international organizations, NGOs and business leaders.

The two main topics of discussion during the ministerial consultations were Globalisation and the Environment and the UN Reform. Delegates discussed also issues dealing with chemicals management, state of the environment, coordination and cooperation within the UN system, with civil society as well as the IPCC report on Climate Change.

Among the opportunities of globalisation identified were poverty alleviation, the harnessing of market power, environmental technology transfer and enhanced communication possibilities.

“UNEP does not presume to be the first

organisation to organise a globalisation debate. But we do perceive that a new understanding is emerging that the international community must address [...]”, said UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. “Some pioneering corporations – including ones that depend on fisheries – are beginning to question whether the existing model is a good long-term investment, whether the natural or nature-based resources upon which their profits are predicted will remain over the coming decades”.

A number of decision were adopted addressing among others the global environment situation, an updated water policy and strategy of UNEP related to fresh water for the period 2007 – 2012, the needs of small islands developing states, WSSD follow up and the implementation of the UN programme of work.

The fresh water strategy in particular, following a year of development and various reviews by governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and the Ninth Special Session in Dubai, was finally adopted. The policy and strategy focuses on freshwater, with strong linkages to the oceans and coasts through the Global Programme of Action and the Regional Seas Programme. Integrated water resources management (or IWRM) is the framework within which the strategy will be implemented and UNEP will focus on the

environmental aspects to promote the incorporation of the socio-economic value of water related ecosystem services into national development plans.

“This GC / GMEF could not have come at a better time. 2007 is truly a special year for us: it marks UNEP + 35; Brundtland +20 and WSSD +5. It also marks the time when world opinion on climate change is converging. All these provide a truly unique opportunity for us”, said Achim Steiner.

The Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia and President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, H. E. Janez Podobnik, participated at the GC/GMEF together with other Environment Ministers from several Contracting Parties.

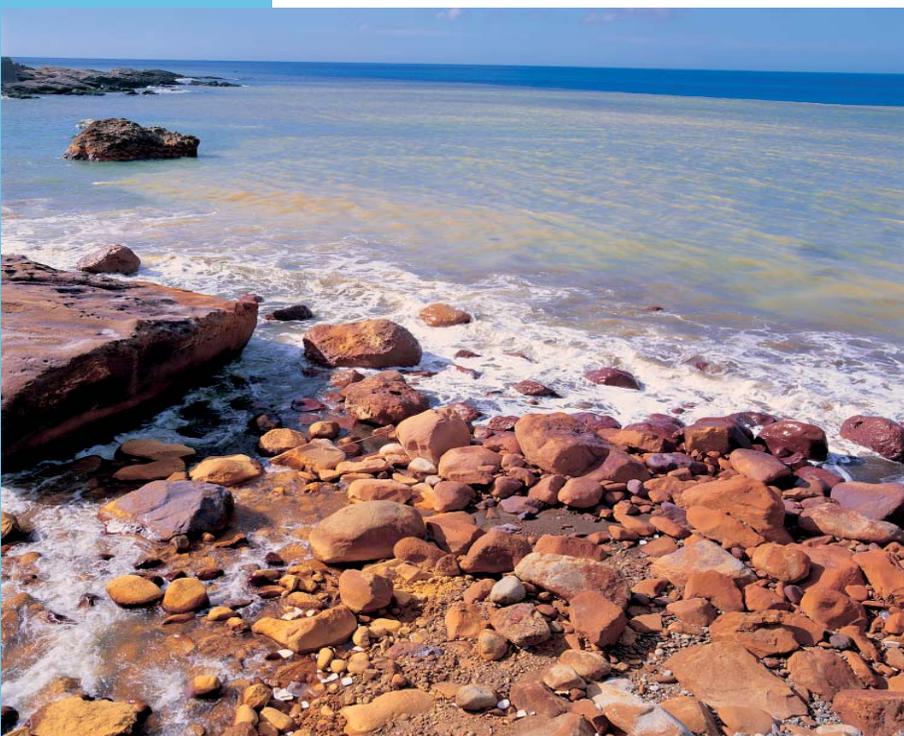
The Coordinator of UNEP/MAP Paul Mifsud also attended the GC/GMEF. While in Nairobi he took the opportunity to hold discussions with a number of delegates from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on bilateral issues between MAP and the countries concerned.

During the UNEP Global Council, Ministers presented and discussed various options for consideration by Governments, UNEP and the international community on the issue of the United Nations Reform.

The specific areas discussed include: enhanced coordination; improved policy advice and guidance; strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation; better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties; and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building.

Support was expressed for a reformed United Nations institution for the environment as well as for an increase in its financial resources.

The current United Nations reform process presents an opportunity for strengthening the organisation' environmental activities. A steady increase in the political attention being accorded to the environment has supported this process and there is growing recognition that environmental sustainability cannot be separated from sustainable development and economic growth.



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### EIB AND UNEP MAP JOIN FORCES FOR THE DEPOLLUION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Horizon 2020 was launched in December 2005 and adopted by the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Cairo on 20 November 2006. The main aim of this initiative is to reduce the level of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by identifying and tackling the most significant pollution sources by the year 2020.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the MED POL Programme, the UNEP/MAP component dealing with the fight against land-based pollution in the Mediterranean in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, have now launched a joint process to create a pipeline of bankable investment projects within the framework of the EC's initiative Horizon 2020 in close collaboration with the European Commission.

An expert team has been recruited by the EIB in order to identify between 3-5 of the most

regionally polluting industrial and municipal points of pollution in the countries mainly resulting from the assessment work of MED POL and to possibly launch a Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP). The expert team is composed of Mrs Christina Haffner-Sifakis (Team Leader) and Mr Christoph Sommer.

The EIB initiative will build on existing institutions and results, filling gaps where it can bring added value. It will operate within the framework of existing and developing environment policy instruments, and support the implementation of the pollution reduction commitments undertaken in the framework of the National Action Plans (NAPs) prepared by the Mediterranean countries in collaboration with MED POL as part of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address land-based pollution. Horizon 2020 will be grouped under the following four components:

- i. pollution reduction projects,
- ii. capacity building measures,
- iii. research and
- iv. monitoring, steering and review.

The assignment is split into three phases. During phase I (February – March), the expert team will review and discuss the list of pollution reduction interventions listed in the NAPs and other existing documentation and conduct own desk research. During phase II (April – July), the experts will visit the Southern Mediterranean Countries to analyse selected pollution reduction investment projects to assess their capacity to be bankable. During phase III (August – October 2007), a synthesis of the findings will be prepared and the draft final report will be circulated for comments among all stakeholders.

They will also discuss the main findings with Government ministries and other stakeholders, and they will evaluate the need for future technical assistance support.

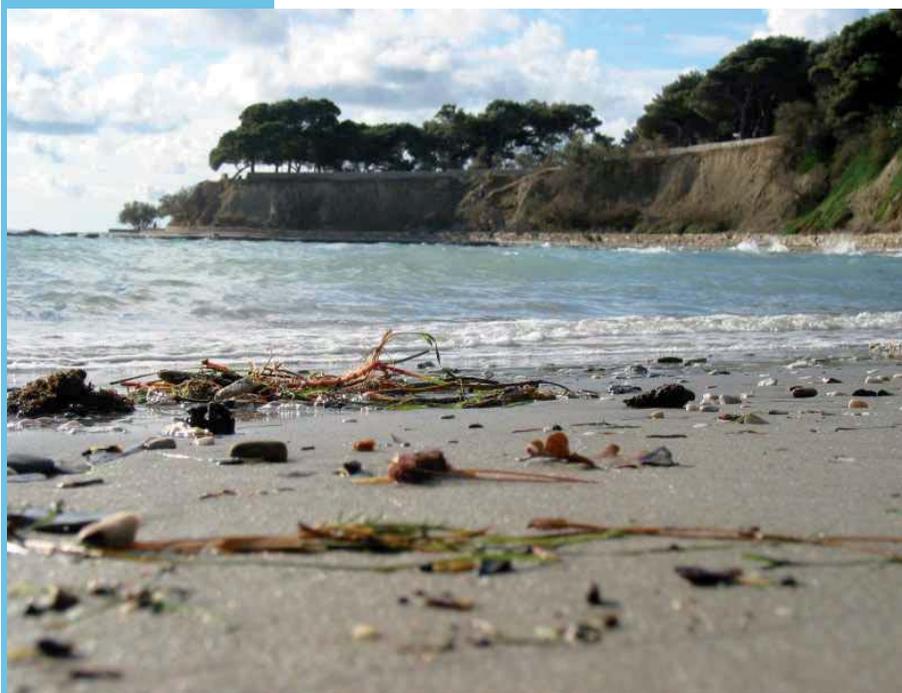
### ICZM PROTOCOL DRAFT TO BE FINALISED IN JUNE

The draft text of the ICZM Protocol, which is being developed within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, is expected to be finalised next June. It will then be submitted to the meeting of the Contracting Parties for approval.

The Working Group of Government designated experts on ICZM Protocol met for the third time in Loutraki, Greece, on 12-15 February. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the majority of Mediterranean countries and the EU. In spite of the different issues discussed, the experts managed to achieve considerable progress.

Some issues are still pending and will be addressed at the next meeting following consultations by the delegates. The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled to be held in Split, Croatia, next June.





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COAST DAY WEBSITE LAUNCHED

PAP/RAC, which is one of UNEP/MAP's Regional Activity Centres, has launched the Coast Day web site. This new web site 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 SMAP III project.



Coast Day is a unique event in the Mediterranean. It aims to raise awareness of policy makers and the public on the coastal values. It is a day dedicated to the protection of natural coastal environment and its interaction with human culture and socio-economic activities. The launch of the Coast Day is planned for

September 2007, within the Mediterranean countries. Afterwards, the intention is that the Coast Day will spread to other countries and live on in the years to come.

For more information visit [www.coastday.org](http://www.coastday.org)

CP/RAC PUBLISHES ANNUAL REPORT 2006

The Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre of MAP has published its 2006 Annual Report. The document summarises the activities carried out by CP/RAC in 2006, along the strategic lines of action on which the Centre bases its mission.

Along the activities related to the industrial sector, the manufacturing industry in particular, the report outlines the activities developed within the communication strategy of CP/RAC, including the new tools developed, such as a web page, a new corporation identity, the CP News Bulletin, the CP/RAC magazine and the participation and coordination of environmental events to raise the centre's visibility.

Copies of the annual report may be obtained from [cleanpro@cprac.org](mailto:cleanpro@cprac.org)



UNEP/MAP Key 2007 Dates

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 26-28 March    | Extraordinary Meeting of National MEDPOL Coordinators, Mytilini, Lesbos, Greece   |
| 29-30 March    | Regional Workshop on Energy and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean, Monaco  |
| 7-11 May       | REMPEC Focal Points, Malta  |
| 21-22 May      | Reporting Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey   |
| 23-25 May      | Compliance Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey  |
| 30-31 May      | MCSO, Istanbul, Turkey  |
| 4-8 June       | Joint meeting BP/PAP/INFO/RACs Focal Points, Rome, Italy  |
| 5 June         | World Environment Day Exhibition on climate change "Envisioning Change", Oslo, Norway (until 20 August). It will then travel to Brussels, Belgium and next year to Chicago, United States |
| 12-15 June     | SPA/RAC Focal Points, Rome, Italy   |
| 26-28 June     | MED POL Focal Points, Tunis, Tunisia  |
| 2-3 July       | Bureau of the Contracting Parties, Madrid, Spain  |
| September      | publication of UNEP's 4th Global Environmental Outlook – GEO4   |
| 16-19 October  | MAP Focal Points, Madrid, Spain   |
| 24-27 October  | First International Conference on Marine Protected Area, France   |
| 10-13 December | Contracting Parties, Almeria, Spain   |



## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

## NEW DEPI DIRECTOR APPOINTED

## UNEP's strategy and role in the GEF

## MDG Attainment Fund

## NEW DEPI DIRECTOR APPOINTED



Ibrahim Thiaw has been appointed Director, Division of Environmental Policy and Implementation (DEPI) at UNEP. Mr Thiaw, a national of Mauritania, holds an advanced

University degree in Forestry and Forest Product techniques, and brings to UNEP more than 22 years of expertise in the fields of natural resource management and environmental policy.

Since his early career with the Ministry of Rural Development of Mauritania, Mr Thiaw has successfully developed and implemented large-scale environmental programmes and projects in Africa and globally. As IUCN Regional Director for West Africa, and most recently as Acting Director-General of IUCN, Mr Thiaw has been instrumental in shaping the future of environmental conservation.

## UNEP'S STRATEGY AND ROLE IN THE GEF

UNEP is moving forward to fully operationalize its work in the fourth phase of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) following a successful outcome of discussions with the CEO of GEF on 16th February 2007 in Washington DC. The discussions were led by Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, and focused on UNEP's strategy and role in the GEF. The meeting agreed to a target of US \$300 million for a UNEP GEF work programme over the four year GEF phase ending in 2010. The CEO of GEF endorsed the general directions of UNEP's strategy in the GEF. UNEP will set the standards, norms, methods and guidelines on the global environmental issues the GEF deals with in addition to work on environmental analysis, monitoring and assessment. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP and the GEF team are now working on operationalizing UNEP's strategy in the GEF and refining the pipeline of programmes and projects that UNEP will focus on over the next four years.

In the coming months, UNEP will also be engaging other UN GEF agencies (UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, and

IFAD) to discuss the comparative advantages of the agencies and agree on how to work together in the framework of the GEF. The next GEF Council meeting to be held in June 2007 in Washington DC will discuss and review standards to be required of all GEF agencies including UNEP on fiduciary control and management which the Council is likely to expect all agencies to adhere to within one year of their issuance.

## MDG ATTAINMENT FUND

Since mid-January, at the invitation of the Administrator of UNDP, UNEP has been working with UNDP and other experts to develop Terms of Reference and eligibility criteria for allocation of the Environment and Climate Change funds under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Attainment Fund. The fund is managed by UNDP. The ToRs are

currently being reviewed by the Government of Spain and are expected to be finalized and sent to the UN Country Teams in the 57 eligible countries by 9 March, 2007 to open up the first round of proposals.

The MDG Attainment Fund comprises a US\$750 million donation (over four years) from the Government of Spain. The Fund has five thematic areas: Youth Employment and Migration; Gender Equality; Cultural Diversity and Development; Democratic Governance; and Environment and Climate Change. Part of the requirement is that Proposals must be submitted by more than one UN agency (resident or non resident) and have the approval of the Resident Coordinator.

Spain is the depositary of the Barcelona Convention.

For more information, please contact Kaveh Zahedi [kaveh.zahedi@unep.org](mailto:kaveh.zahedi@unep.org)

