

JOINT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CdS¹ ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN SMAP AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

1. ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO SMAP

- The **CdS** participates in all meetings relating to SMAP, provides clear and concise position statements to these meetings, as well as informed input to the draft documents and reports. It also presented a joint NGO critique of the European Commission's 1st SMAP Regional Interim Report. The CdS focussed its critique on the limited role of the SMAP instrument within the EMP; strengthening the role of the SMAP correspondents; enhancing the participation of the NGO community; improving information dissemination; environmental integration in NIPs and RIPs; the long overdue Strategic Impact Assessment and finally the framework for a EuroMed sustainability strategy.
- Members of the **CdS** have submitted proposals to the two SMAP calls involving other NGOs, institutions and the private sector. Three of these have been approved and are under implementation.
- **MIO-ECSDE** regularly informs its membership and wider network on developments concerning SMAP and the Euro-Med partnership, through its newsletter, electronic bulletin, web site, ad hoc circulars and brochures as well as during its residential (capacity building) workshops and seminars organised throughout the year. Within the framework of MIO-ECSDE activities relating to its priority issues which are also SMAP priorities and supportive measures (i.e. water, waste, desertification, awareness enhancement) SMAP objectives are highlighted, co-operation (also with non-CdS) local and other regional and international partners of civil society is promoted. Indicative joint meetings "Effective Water Governance in the Mediterranean" (Athens, 19-20 March 2002), "Water Valuing and Poverty" (Cairo, 19-20 December 2001), etc.

MED Forum regularly prepares reports, position papers and activities on SMAP especially on the key issues of water and desertification. These are disseminated via the «MED Info Newsletter», the website, and in meetings. In the VI Mediterranean Environmental Forum, which took place in Barcelona on 30 November and 1 December 2001, SMAP was analysed and the following proposals made:

- To encourage the participation of civil society by creating a MEDA NGO fund, as well as funds for NGOs in sectorial programmes (SMAP NGOs), with the aim of providing capacity building for NGOs in the south and east of the Mediterranean by means of projects which bring them in touch with the population.
- To achieve the participation of civil society, particularly NGOs, in the conception of National (NIP) and Regional (RIP) Indicative Programmes for three-year periods which contain specific projects.
- To encourage existing NGO networks, as in other sectors, by means of capacity building and by giving them a voice in the Euro-Mediterranean process and the

¹ Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Friends of the Earth (FoE/MedNet Programme), Mediterranean NGO Network for Ecology and Sustainable Development (MEDForum), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), World Wild Fund for Nature, Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF/MEDPO)

implementation of MEDA II and sectorial programmes, such as SMAP and others.

- The **FoE MedNet** coordinator keeps the FoE MedNet network members (active in 9 Mediterranean countries) informed and updated on developments related to SMAP, by monitoring and facilitating information as when it becomes available, he also represents the network at relevant meetings. MedNet member FoEME in partnership with the European Environmental Bureau (**EEB**) has launched a new project called "Good Water Neighbours" concerning water justice and good management issues for transboundary Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian communities. 13 communities have been chosen, an expert advisory committee created and local community staff hired. The project has launched an email bulletin called "Good Water makes Good Neighbours" distributed region wide. Water experts from Europe will be visiting the communities as soon as circumstances permit. The project is supported under the Euro-Med SMAP program.
- The **WWF** Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF MedPO) works in co-ordination with 5 WWF National Organisations (Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey) and directly implement projects in collaboration with local partner NGOs in 8 countries (Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, Turkey, Croatia). Furthermore, the WWF MedPO manages a capacity building programme in support of NGOs in all Mediterranean countries. The WWF MedPO is currently implementing the SMAP Project "Conservation and Management of Biodiversity Hotspots: Developing a Mediterranean Network", with activities in four countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco) in partnership with four NGOs (AFDC – Lebanon, ACEC and ENDA Maghreb – Morocco, SAD-AFAG – Turkey) plus the WWF Tunisia project office. The project started in 2001 after a rather lengthy process to fix contractual and budgetary issues with the Commission. A one-week introductory workshop with all the project partners has been held in March 2001. The project objectives are the identification of major threats to biodiversity, the assessment of human needs, the establishment of appropriate conservation measures, the promotion of sustainable economic activities supporting conservation of biodiversity, in four critical regions for Mediterranean Biodiversity: the Argania Woodlands of Morocco, the North Africa Mountain Forests of Tunisia, the Mountain Forests of Lebanon, and the Turkish Aegean coastal region. A set of regional activities ensure exchange of experience and expertise, training and capacity building. The project will support the creation of models for biodiversity conservation applicable to wider regions and can provide insights for the more appropriate integration of biodiversity conservation as a basic pillar for sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Activities have started in all countries. A launching event of the project has been held in Lebanon the first week of April.

2. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF THE EURO-MED PARTNERSHIP

- The **CdS** members regularly promote issues of concern related to the environmental and sustainability component of the EMP that have been repeatedly submitted in the various related fora. In addressing governments the members systematically encourage them to be more active in: promoting higher visibility of SMAP; supporting and strengthening the SMAP focal points; formulating and implementing national sustainability strategies; elaborating tools for the secure integration and implementation of SMAP objectives in these strategies.

- The **CdS** sent a letter to the EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs and all the delegations of the Barcelona EU Summit in March, encouraging them to take the steps needed in order to create the necessary provisions for an explicit, much stronger sustainability component for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and making sure that a Sustainability Strategy with concrete indicators, targets and timetables is elaborated for the Euro-Med region and approved at the Athens July 2002 Meeting of Environment Ministers.
- The **CdS** submitted a joint position paper to the environmental leg of the Valencia Civil Forum (12-14 April 2002) which constituted the basic working document. **MedForum** in collaboration with local Valencian NGOs was responsible for the organisation of the environmental workshop. Members of the CdS (**FoE MedNet**, **ENDA** and **MED Forum**) made presentations on the development of a Euro Mediterranean Sustainability Strategy, MEDA II and civil society participation in the EMP and coordinated a debate on the draft environmental NGO declaration, calling for among other things a Mediterranean Sustainable strategy, the immediate start of a Mediterranean Sustainable Impact Assessment study and financial support for the effective participation of civil society in the EMP. The **CdS** also informed the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EMP meeting at Barcelona V in Valencia, as well as other principle actors, about these positions.
- **MIO-ECSDE** and **FoE MedNet**, jointly with the rest of the CdS members are organising an NGO meeting prior to the 2nd Ministerial Conference of the EMP on the Environment (8-20 July 2002) on the 7th of July 2002, with the objective of (a) Promoting a dialogue among civil society and other Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders; (b) Defining concrete means of articulation of existing initiatives, identify institutional gaps and tools to ensure the proper implementation of the Strategy for the Environmental Integration Towards Sustainability in the Mediterranean Region; (c) Promoting the integration in the Strategy of specific objectives and concrete targets to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, social justice, respect of human rights, and promote the important role of women and youth in the Euro-Med partnership.
- **FoE MedNet** and **WWF Mediterranean Programme Office** have joined forces with the Heinrich Böll Foundation in order to strengthen NGOs from the Mediterranean Partner countries that seek deeper involvement in the Euro Mediterranean Partnership (EMP). A pilot project has been launched entitled "Euro Mediterranean Partnership, sustainable development and civil society participation". The objectives of the project are:
 - build the capacity of key Mediterranean NGOs to carry out research, policy, advocacy and communication work in the framework of the Euro-Med partnership
 - foster and facilitate dialogue between the community of Mediterranean NGOs and the relevant institutions of the EMP. Representatives of 11 NGOs from 10 Mediterranean EMP partner countries gathered in Brussels in March 2002 for a five day workshop on sustainability issues in the EMP and assessment of civil society capacity building needs.

FoEME MFTZ Environment Watch Project: FoE MedNet has completed many activities that pertain to the MFTZ in order to raise further awareness among the general public, officials, and the different stakeholders on the necessity to incorporate the environmental dimension and sustainability measures into all aspects of the planned regional free trade area. Some of the activities include:

- Produced and distributed several issues of the MFTZ Environment Monitor newsletter. The monitor covers updates of environmental and social aspects of the Euro-Med Partnership with over 1000 subscribers.
- Developed a folder of policy papers on the MFTZ and its environmental impacts in different sectors. The folder was mailed out to many Mediterranean NGOs, the Environment and Foreign Affairs ministers of the Euro-Med, and the EC Delegations in the 12 Euro-Med Partner countries.
- Sponsored and organized, with the assistance of Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE), workshops on the environmental impacts of the MFTZ in Amman and Tel-Aviv, March 1-5th.
- Sent an open letter to Pascal Lamy, the EU Trade Commissioner, prior to the Euro-Med Trade Ministerial to request that environmental considerations be incorporated seriously into all the different Euro-Med Forums and to call upon the decision makers to carry out a Euro-Med Sustainability Strategy urgently.

WWF together with Yves Pietrasanta, MEP, and the Boell Foundation, organised in January 2002 a round table in Brussels to discuss the perspectives of a Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy. The Round Table was attended by the **CdS** members, European Union institutions including the EP, the EC, the CES, the EIB, the EEA, international organisations such as UNEP/MAP, the UNCCD, Berne Convention, Embassies of EMP partner countries and NGOs from the region. Clear recommendations for the production of a Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy to become the founding pillar of the EMP resulted from the round table, jointly with concern for insufficient political support for the process.

WWF Med PO and WWF European Policy Office together with EC DG RELEX, organised in January 2001 a workshop on the integration of environment in the MEDA programme.

WWF issued position papers on the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the EU External SDS, which have both implications for the EMP and MEDA programme.

3. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ORGANISATIONS

MIO-ECSDE organised a multi-stakeholder consultation meeting "Contribution to a Mediterranean Strategy for the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development" (13 November 2001) with the support of UNEP/MAP, the Principality of Monaco and the CEU DG ENV. The overall objective of the meeting was to inform about and review the recommendations of the international sub-regional documents, and propose how to strategise on the position of governments, civil society, etc. and thus best influence the WSSD Prep Com Meetings 2, 3 and 4 and contribute to an effective presentation of the Mediterranean at Johannesburg. The final document influenced to a great degree the Mediterranean Ministers at the 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (14-17 November 2001) who produced and adopted a Declaration for the WSSD which will certainly serve to strengthen Mediterranean regional and national policies on the protection of the environment and sustainable development. **All the members of the CdS** participated actively in this multi-stakeholder meeting and contributed their valuable input and experience.

MedForum Conference: VI Mediterranean Environmental Forum - The civil society in the "Euromediterranean process" and in "Rio + 10", Barcelona 30 November - 1 December 2001. This conference adopted a manifesto for the Johannesburg

Summit. The **EEB** chaired the session on "The Summit of Johannesburg and the VI Environment Action Programme: Mediterranean environmental priorities"

MED Forum in collaboration with the Nice Local Authorities organised a regional meeting in which the **CdS** and other non-governmental organisations active in the Mediterranean region met on the 11 and 12 January 2002 to agree on a Mediterranean NGO Statement to submit to the process leading to the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) this summer. Representatives of the major environmental NGO networks in the Mediterranean spent two days debating and coordinating preparations and an advocacy strategy for the months building up to the Johannesburg World Summit.

RAED co-organised with **MIO-ECSDE** and **MED Forum** a consultation meeting of the MCSD Major Groups, held on March 12th prior to the 7th MSCD Meeting. The objective of the meeting was to assess and propose ways and means for improving MCSD work and Major Groups contribution so as to achieve sustainable development in the region.

The members of the **CdS** participated in the 7th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), which took place in Antalya, Turkey, March 13-16. Among the issues presented to the attendees, was the issue of trade and the environment, in which Mr. Benoit from Blue Plan presented the activities carried out by his office on this topic. He also indicated that Blue Plan was currently working on three case studies incorporating the issue of trade and its environmental impacts and that they are planning on holding a workshop in June in France to discuss the possible impacts of free trade on agriculture and fragile rural areas. The discussion on this issue stressed the potential undesirable impacts of the MFTZ, and stressed that further studying and active involvement needed to be carried out by MAP and the MCSD in order to ensure that sustainability measures are incorporated into the MFTZ and that more public awareness is given to this issue. The discussion also stressed the fact that each country has to further its work to ensure that the negative impacts of free trade is minimized at the sectoral level and on fragile areas.

RAED and **MIO-ECSDE** co-organised with local NGOs and intergovernmental bodies an Arab-Mediterranean Workshop entitled *Solidarity for Sustainable Development* in Tunis and Kairouan (28-31 March 2002) with the objective of evaluating partnership and governance in the Arab-Med region since UNCED and proposing priorities for action to the WSSD. The EMP and SMAP were recurring themes of the workshops and discussion.

4. SUGGESTION

- The Commission is strongly encouraged to provide the necessary financial support to allow for the networking and full participation of the environmental NGOs in the Mediterranean (also at local level) in all relevant meetings within the EMP.