



## PRESS INFORMATION

### The Blue Plan publishes a new document on Water

Sophia-Antipolis, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009- the Blue Plan announces the publication of a new « Blue Plan Notes » on water.

**This Blue Plan note reflects the current state of play and provides a prospective analysis of the water situation in the Mediterranean.**

Water resources in the countries which border the Mediterranean are limited and highly unequally distributed in both space and time. The countries on the southern rim receive a mere 10% of total rainfall. Given the growth in population as well as changes to the climate and the economic and social situation, demand for water will inevitably rise, and the risk of a water shortage can no longer be ruled out. The current already strained situation means that water will need to be managed in a more sparing, sustainable and equitable fashion if the three major challenges now facing Mediterranean countries are to be addressed: sustainably managing limited water resources, ensuring access to drinking water and sanitation for those people who still have no provision and training users to be more thrifty with water.

This new Blue Plan « 4 pages » focuses on the growing pressure being exerted on water resources by increased demand as well as on trends and the escalation of problems exacerbated by the effects of climate change. It explains the non-sustainable nature of current forms of resource use and the potential gains to be made through efforts to save water. Finally, it concludes with the main obstacles hampering the genuine implementation of water demand management policies and strategies.

The **Blue Plan Notes** are 4 page documents which briefly sum up the state of play on a given issue, thus allowing the reader to rapidly form an opinion. The notes are available in paper form in both English and French, but can also be accessed on the Blue Plan website. [www.planbleu.org](http://www.planbleu.org)

## **About the Blue Plan**

The Blue Plan, a think-tank and Mediterranean Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development, is one of the Regional Activity Centres for the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP). It was set up and is funded and led by the riparian states and the European Community. Its aim as defined by the inter-governmental conference held in Split in 1977, is to develop regional cooperation in order to set up and make available a fund of knowledge intended to facilitate the implementation of sustained environmentally- friendly development. The Blue Plan produces prospective analyses of the environment and development, acts as a Mediterranean observatory for sustainable development, and is the main support centre for the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

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