



PRESS INFORMATION

The Blue Plan publishes a new report on the state of environment and development in the Mediterranean

« *The Mediterranean, a hot spot for climate change?* »

Sophia-Antipolis, 24 November 2009 -The Blue Plan introduces the MAP-Blue Plan report 2009 on the state of environment and development in the Mediterranean. Distributed a few days before the Copenhagen Summit, this report presents a view of the main Mediterranean issues on environment and sustainable development.

How is the climate evolving in the Mediterranean? Is there enough water in the Mediterranean region? Are the Mediterranean marine species endangered? Is there a progress in the reduction of pollution from industrial activities? Is eutrophication in the Mediterranean Sea significant?

Here are some questions of the near hundred ones that the report State of the environment and development in the Mediterranean 2009 just released by UNEP/MAP-Plan Bleu attempts to provide answers.

« The Blue Plan had already supported debates of the Union for the Mediterranean (UpM) during the Paris Summit in July 2008», said Mr. Henri-Luc Thibault, director of Blue Plan « it presents at the end of 2009 a new report that delivers a mixed picture of the Mediterranean with a share of visible progress in the field of marine pollution, conservation of biodiversity, and secondly the need to deploy additional efforts to better manage scarce natural resources, like water and energy, and taking into account the effects of climate change. »

The report refers through five chapters to the particularly vulnerability of the Mediterranean region to climate change – the progress to accomplish to better manage scarce natural resources like water or energy – the acknowledgement of strong pressures on coastal zones due notably to urban areas' expansion – the urgent need to deeply modify the modes of production in the main economic sectors as well as that of modes of consumption – progress recorded in terms of pollution in the Mediterranean despite critical zones calling for a special attention. Finally it underlines the necessity to reinforce knowledge to better characterise this fragile region and to follow its evolution.

To answer to the need of regular information about the status of environment and development in the Mediterranean the UNEP/MAP-Blue Plan forecasts to produce a report to be published in 2011.

The full report is available in English and in French on the Blue Plan web site : www.planbleu.org

About the Blue Plan

Since 1977 the Blue Plan, a think-tank and Mediterranean Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development, has been a Regional Activity Centre for the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP). It was set up and is funded and led by the twenty one riparian states and the European Community, all of which are Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. 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. Under the aegis of MAP, 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 (MCSA).

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