



PRESS INFORMATION

Blue Plan to take part in the 5th World Water Forum

Sophia-Antipolis, 5th March 2009- The Blue Plan is to take part in the 5th World Water Forum entitled « Bridging Divides For Water » from 16-22 March 2009 in Istanbul. During this event the Blue Plan and its regional partners with the support of four riparian states- Morocco, Spain, France and Greece- will run a « Mediterranean » session on the morning of Thursday, 19th March.

The Mediterranean session will comprise:

- A presentation and debate on the future Mediterranean Water Strategy and its four priority themes as agreed upon at the last Ministerial Water Conference held in Jordan in December 2008- water governance, adapting to climate change, water demand management and non-conventional water resources, and funding.
- A round table on the theme of « Water and coastal development in the Mediterranean » during which various representatives of Mediterranean countries and regional institutions will take the floor.

This session should result in the adoption of a « Mediterranean Message », which will provide input both for the Ministerial Declaration from the 5th World Water Forum and towards shaping a shared vision for the future Mediterranean Water Strategy.

The Blue Plan will also take part in a round table on the regional prospects for water and adaptation to climate change, a thematic session on « Water, energy and security for all », and an event organised at the French Stand on « Saving water in irrigation systems: the challenges of innovation for agriculture in the Mediterranean area ».

The « Mediterranean » will also have its own stand- no. 101- in the exhibition wing of the 5th World Water Forum at Istanbul's Sutluce Congress Centre. The Blue Plan will share this stand with its regional partners- the Mediterranean Institute for Water (IME), the Global Water Partnership- Mediterranean (GWP-Med), the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) with its « Priority Actions Programme » Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO), Medstat and the MEDA Water programme.

The World Water Forum

The World Water Forum, organized every three years by the World Water Council in close collaboration with the authorities of the host country- Turkey in 2009- has become an absolute must in the water field. It primarily serves four major purposes:

- To raise the importance of water on the political agenda
- To support the deepening of discussions towards the solution of the world's water-related issues in the 21st century
- To formulate specific proposals and bring their importance to the world's attention
- To generate political commitment

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 (MCSD).

Press Contact: Brigitte ULMANN

Blue Plan

15, rue Beethoven

Sophia-Antipolis

06560 Valbonne

TEL : +33 (0)4 92 38 51 65

Mobile : +33 (0)6 62 07 52 24

bulmann@planbleu.org