



PRESS INFORMATION

The Blue Plan, AECID and the AFD sign a protocol of agreement on setting up a framework for cooperation

Sophia-Antipolis, 19th February, 2009 – On 16th December, 2008, at AECID headquarters in Madrid, Juan Pablo De Laigesia and Gonzalez De Peredo, Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Jean-Michel Severino, Director General of the French Development Agency (AFD) and Henri-Luc Thibault, Director of Blue Plan, signed a framework agreement on cooperation.

This AECID- AFD-Blue Plan cooperation will mainly focus on:

- ✓ Exchanging information on the regional programmes and operations foreseen in the Mediterranean countries and at regional level.
- ✓ Jointly conducting sectoral, thematic or territorial work specifically aimed at identifying interaction between the environment and development.
- ✓ Organising common or joint activities such as seminars, workshops, conferences, etc.
- ✓ Publishing joint documents.
- ✓ Exchanging information and encouraging collaboration between all sectors and areas of interest to participants.

A coordinating and monitoring committee comprising representatives from each institution (AECID, AFD, Blue Plan) will be entrusted with coordinating the activities required to roll out the operational plans and with addressing where necessary any questions concerning the interpretation or application of the content of the agreement.

Based in Madrid, AECID's aim is to promote, manage and implement public international development cooperation policies, with the aim of combating poverty and bringing about sustainable human development in developing countries. Under its Master Plan, AECID's priority aim in both transversal and sectoral terms is to protect a sustainable environment and the need to include the environment as well as the management and use of natural resources in all of its programmes and projects.

The AFD is a public entity of an industrial and commercial nature. It runs the French public development aid mechanism, which is rolled out in over 60 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and Latin America as well as in the French overseas departments and territories, and which has a network of forty-five agencies and offices throughout the world.

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).

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