



PRESS INFORMATION

The Blue Plan organizes a regional seminar « Climate Change in the Mediterranean » the 22 and 23 of October 2008

Sophia-Antipolis, 25 September 2008 - The Blue Plan announces the organization of a regional workshop held in Marseilles the 22 and 23 of October on the topic « Climate Change in the Mediterranean ».

According to the latest IPCC report, the Mediterranean – particularly its Southern and Eastern shores- will be more affected by climate change during the 21ST century than many other regions of the world. Rise of temperature, decrease of rains, increase of the occurrence of extreme events and the possible rise of the sea level are overlaying and amplify the effects linked to human activities already existing on the environment.

The Mediterranean is already suffering from a preoccupying water deficiency, confronted with serious desertification and erosion problems and facing a significant loss of its terrestrial and marine biodiversity. **With regards to such perspectives, the region could become a “hot spot” of climate change in the century to come.**

The seminar on Climate Change in the Mediterranean, organized by the Blue Plan in Marseilles on 22nd and 23rd October 2008, aims to contribute to a regional reflection on these questions, addressing three main objectives:

- Characterize climate change in the Mediterranean for coming years through the works of experts on global scenarios and models, complementing them with regional simulations;
- Identify the major impacts expected on the environment and development in the region and anticipate measures of adaptation to be established;
- In anticipation of the next COPs (Conferences of the Parties) at the Convention on Climate Change in Poznan (2008) and Copenhagen (2009), assess the relevance and

benefits of a Mediterranean cooperation on subjects of common interest, which would enable joint objectives and projects to be defined on a regional scale.

The set of works will be shared and debate during a workshop organized at Palais du Pharo in Marseilles the 22 and 23 October 2008 in the presence of about fifty experts and specialists of different fields. At the end of the workshop a program of works and/or actions to take on a near future will be established.

More information: http://www.planbleu.org/themes/atelier_changement_clim.html

About the Blue Plan

The Blue Plan acts as a think tank and Mediterranean Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development and since 1977 has been a United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Regional Activity Centre, set up, financed and run by the twenty one riparian states and the European Community, which are all Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the protection of the marine environment and 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 build up and make available a fund of knowledge intended to facilitate the implementation of sustained and environmentally friendly development. Under MAP's aegis, the Blue Plan produces prospective analyses on the environment and development, acts as a Mediterranean sustainable development observatory and is the main support centre for the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

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