



PLAN BLEU

Activity Report 2006

Plan Bleu
Regional Activity Centre

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Message from the Coordinator



Following the adoption in November 2005 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, Blue Plan focussed its activities during 2006 towards its implementation. Likewise it will dedicate its resources in the coming years towards the achievement of the strategy's objectives.

Blue Plan played a leading role in the development of the MSSD. This was a major achievement for the Centre and its professional staff led by the indefectible Director Guillaume Benoit who has now sought pastures new.

Another legacy of Guillaume Benoit as Director of Blue Plan is the compilation and publication of the Report on Environment and Development, a well-researched book about environmental degradation and unsustainable development in the Mediterranean with recommendations on how to reverse such negative trends. This publication received very positive reviews and high acclaim by governments, NGOs and experts active in the field of sustainable development.

Blue Plan has recently passed under the direction of Henri-Luc Thibault. Under his leadership Blue Plan has to address several environmental and sustainable development challenges including emerging ones like climate change. The Strategic Orientations that have been developed recently will guide it in its work.

On the basis of past achievements I am confident that Blue Plan will rise to meet these challenges.

While expressing my thanks and appreciation for the cooperation extended to the MAP Secretariat by the former Director and his staff, I am looking forward to working very closely and achieving great things with the new Director.

Finally I would like to spare a thought for Serge Antoine who passed away in Marcy 2006, a man synonymous with sustainable development and the Blue Plan and a personal friend in whom I confided and from whom I found the strongest support.

Paul Mifsud
Coordonateur du Plan d'Action
pour la Méditerranée

A few words from the Chairman



The year 2006 was for Plan Bleu marked by the disappearance of its founder and inspirer Serge Antoine to whom I would like to render homage for the unflagging work he carried out both in Plan Bleu and in MAP to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

2006 was also the year of the departure of Guillaume Benoît whose commitment to the Mediterranean deserves thanks, as well as the arrival of the new manager Henri Luc Thibault to whom I wish every success.

The year 2006 followed immediately after the publication of the Plan Bleu report on the Mediterranean and the adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

This document gives a wide overview of the activities of Plan Bleu that continue to follow up and to inform about why they were implemented. The report on the activities in 2006 highlights this and contributes to giving coherence to the Plan Bleu agenda of activities. An area of activity will continue to influence this agenda more and more: the potential impact of climate change in the Mediterranean and the strategies that the Mediterranean countries should implement in order to attenuate this impact and adapt to it.

In its capacity as a research body for prospective and systematic studies, Plan Bleu will have great responsibility to enlighten about the future prospects in this essential field because there is no doubt that climate change will deploy its effects on all of the components of the eco-system: land, water, halieutic resources and marine biodiversity, and could affect all of the human activities in the Mediterranean: urban life, agriculture, fishing, tourism, and so on.

Lucien Chabason
Chairman Plan Bleu

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I. PLAN BLEU: SOWING A FUTURE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The strategic orientation document drawn up in the autumn of 2006 proposed an updated formulation of the purpose of Plan Bleu and described its four main strategic objectives.

In the framework of regional cooperation, Plan Bleu is an international centre in charge of producing information and knowledge in order to alert the decision-makers and other players about environmental risks and the stakes of sustainable development in the Mediterranean and of designing future scenarios to enlighten the decision-making process.

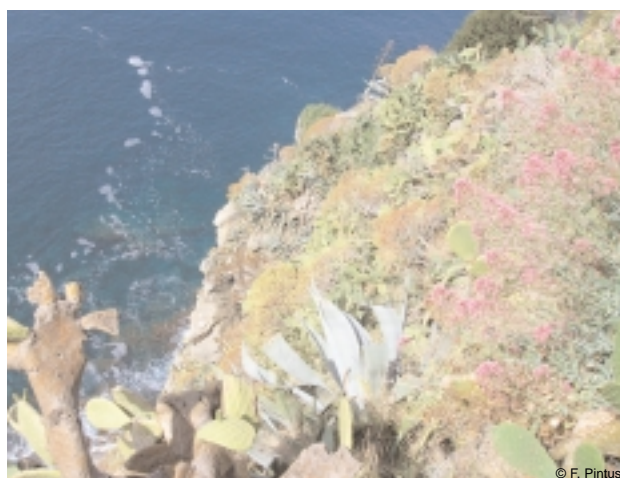
Thus expressed, the purpose of Plan Bleu emphasises:

✓ **Its international vocation and the defining of its activities in a regional cooperation framework.**

Plan Bleu is a regional activity centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) set up by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and functions with the status of an association governed by French law. It is at the service of the twenty-one countries in the Mediterranean region and of the European Community who, every two years, on the occasion of the meeting of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, assesses and orient its action.

✓ **Production of information and knowledge.** Plan Bleu received a mandate from the Parties to the Barcelona Convention to act as the observatory for the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean, and to design future scenarios. It has an extremely transversal vocation and is at the service of all the decision-makers and other players in the Mediterranean region.

✓ **Area of competence.** Plan Bleu, within MAP, is the main promoter of sustainable development. In this capacity, it attaches special importance to the monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for



Sustainable Development (MSSD) and to the work of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development.

There are four main strategic objectives:

1. To continuously identify, collect and process environmental, economic and social information that could be useful for the decision-makers and other players.

2. To assess the interaction between the environment and economic and social development in order to measure the progress made towards sustainable development.

3. To carry out analyses and prospective studies to help to construct future prospects and to strengthen decision-making.

4. To distribute and communicate the products and results in a way adapted to those for whom it is intended.

These objectives form the base for all of the activities carried out by Plan Bleu.

II. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2006

1. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS

The last Plan Bleu report that came out at the end of 2005 on Environment and Development outlook in the Mediterranean, backed up with data collected and practices observed by the experts from the Mediterranean countries and the various MAP regional activities centres, highlighted the persistent degradation of the environmental situation in this region. This environmental, economic and social function of Plan Bleu remains essential for the Mediterranean. Indeed, if specific data collection initiatives exist (especially for agriculture and water), some topics are badly researched such as transport and energy, and there is a need for a place to consolidate and update the data regularly, data that is for the moment dispersed.

To this end, Plan Bleu contributes in different ways to:

- ✓ Identifying and being permanently informed of the decision-makers needs with regard to environmental, economic and social information;
- ✓ Collecting recent, homogeneous, good quality environmental, economic and social statistical data from the countries;
- ✓ Promoting the processing of this data in a way that makes it accessible, usable and comprehensible by as many people as possible;
- ✓ Organising the classification of this data in order to facilitate interpretation and use.

In the field of statistics, it was in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean association launched in 1995 by the member states of the European Union and twelve countries of the Mediterranean region, that a partnership was initiated via the regional statistical cooperation programme **MEDSTAT** (MEDA funds).

1.1. INITIAL STAGES OF MEDSTAT

The main objective of MEDSTAT (Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation programme) is to build up the capacities of the twelve countries that

are the Mediterranean partners of the European Union to produce and publish statistics and indicators that are complete, reliable, relevant and harmonised with international standards, taking into account users' needs.

In this context and as of 1999, Plan Bleu was put in charge of implementing the first phase of the environmental component of the MEDSTAT programme. When the first phase (1999-2003) was prolonged, Plan Bleu was chosen to implement the second phase (MED-Env II) for the period 2003-2006.

The latter one ended with a final forum that took place in Amman (Jordan) in June 2006. The main results of MED-Env II were promoted in the forum, and there was consideration of integrating the environmental statistics in the MEDSTAT process as well as establishing links between the environment and other sectors of activity such as transport, tourism, energy and agriculture.

On this occasion the publications of the national statistics Institutes (NSI) of the Mediterranean countries produced in the framework of this project, as well as the 2005 Regional Compendium of the environmental statistics in the Mediterranean, prepared by Plan Bleu for the second time consecutively, were presented.

The MEDSTAT-Environment programme was judged efficient and contributed usefully to the creation and continuity of the environmental statistics units within each of the 12 NSIs, to the building of inter-





The global objectives of the MEDSTAT II project are to build up the quality of statistical services and data, in order to facilitate the availability of the information necessary for implementing and for monitoring association agreements with the Mediterranean partners, to supply users with updated, reliable, relevant statistical data needed for political decision-making and to guarantee good management.

institutional relations with a rise in and regularity of relations between partner institutions and, finally, to the dissemination and transparency of the results with the publication of nine national compendiums on environmental statistics and of one regional statistics compendium. It was, however, pointed out that efforts remained to be made in terms of the harmonising of the national definitions and classifications, as well as in terms of taking user needs into account.

At the end of this phase the partner countries reaffirmed the importance of defining national objectives and priorities in terms of topics and variables to be dealt with, of adapting the legal foundations in some countries concerning environmental statistics, of concentrating on public demand, of maintaining relations with NGOs and civil society, of ensuring better integration of the environment in the social and economic sectors and, finally, of keeping up efforts for the more "concrete" environmental aspects, including water management, climate change, health and pollution, etc.

1.2. MEDSTAT II

In January 2006 the European Commission declared the renewal of the MEDSTAT II project for a new phase (2006-2009) but with a different profile. The new MEDSTAT II project is divided up into three lots distinguishing between transversal activities (information systems, training, distribution and coordination), vertical activities (including nine sectors of activity: Agriculture, Energy, the Environment, Foreign Trade, Migration, National Accounts, Social, Transport and Tourism) and the supply of computing equipment. Plan Bleu, in its capacity as a member of the European consortium chosen to implement the activities of lot 2, widened its commitment in the Euro-Mediterranean statistics cooperation for the environment to two new sectors: transport and energy.

Since January 2006 MEDSTAT II has attached importance to the prolonging of the previous work by organising training and workshops and by contributing technical means to the information systems of the national institutes and the other producers of statistics in the Mediterranean countries.

In the transport and energy sectors, the year 2006 was essentially the occasion to analyse the state of the national statistics systems via a series of eight missions carried out by the two experts from Plan Bleu. On the basis of these assignments, two reports were drawn up on these sectors analysing the needs of the countries associated with the project in terms of transport and energy statistics and proposing cooperation action to meet these needs. Concerning transport, the main identified needs concern harmonising the flow statistics and the performance indicators with international standards. The priorities for the energy sector include the themes of energy balances, renewable energies, energy efficiency indicators, energy prices and surveys about the final energy consumption per sector of activity.

In the field of the environment, the year 2006 was a year of transition from the MED-Env project that ended in June to the environment component in the new MEDSTAT II project. As the environment component of the MEDSTAT project has benefited from continuous implementing since 1999, great progress has been made in terms of the availability of statistics as well as in terms of the building up of institutional capacities and relationships among the various partners of the national statistics systems. The priorities for the environment sector are improvement in the production of statistics via economy-environment integrated approaches, the consolidation of existing know-how about water, land, waste, air pollution, biodiversity, indicators, and the ensuring of appropriate transfer of knowledge on the new topics (marine

environment, expenditure on environmental protection) as well as the development and the building up of efficient, coordinated national statistics systems.

Concerning publications, a first statistics bulletin devoted to Euro-Mediterranean statistics was drawn up on the basis of the first set of data collected during the orientation assignments.

2. EVALUATING THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE DIRECTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

An assessment of the interaction between the environment and social and economic development helps to distinguish the type of development chosen or adopted by the decision-makers. To measure the progress made in this area, Plan Bleu has undertaken to define the methods, tools and indicators relevant to the various levels and to test, use and distribute them.

With this in mind, Plan Bleu has:

- ✓ Identified the methods and tools to appreciate the interactions between the environment and social and economic development;
- ✓ Participated in the defining of indicators to illustrate and translate these interactions;
- ✓ Informed about these indicators and checked their reliability ;
- ✓ Measured the progress made in the taking into account of the concerns of sustainable development by the countries and the players involved, by using these elements at regular intervals;

When at the end of 2005, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, **34 priority indicators** were selected to

monitor it. Apart from these priority indicators, a number of **complementary indicators** to refine the analyses and the monitoring were proposed for selection at a later stage.

2.1. PRIORITY INDICATORS

In 2006, Plan Bleu worked on the defining of the 34 priority indicators in operational terms. In order to do this, methodology files were drawn up in the first quarter with the objective of supplying all the information necessary for the indicator. These files are available on the Plan Bleu website and were presented to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in May 2006.

On the basis of this, seven volunteer countries (Cyprus, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta and Morocco) designated a correspondent to facilitate the collection of the data necessary for the indicator in each country. In the last quarter of 2006 the questionnaires drawn up by Plan Bleu were addressed to the national correspondents in order to help them to collect basic information and to calculate the indicators not available in the international sources. This basic data will be available in 2007 and will, at first, be used as a way of testing the indicators and illustrating their use. Simultaneously, Plan Bleu has collected and processed the data in the international data bases.

In the third quarter of 2007, all this information will be used to produce a first report based on the priority indicators in order to present the main trends in sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Corresponding to a "zero state", this report will highlight the progress to be made in the direction of sustainable development by analysing the trends shown by the indicators (with a retrospective over 20 years) in one of the objectives defined in the MSSD.

Since the end of 2006, Plan Bleu has also been developing a method for monitoring sustainable development in the Mediterranean by having recourse to rating/benchmarking methods based on multi-criteria analysis. The first results should be available by mid-2007.

Finally, Plan Bleu continued in 2006 to watch over the work carried out for the sustainable development indicators by the international and European bodies. In this context, Plan Bleu participated closely in the work of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and especially in the work of the " indicators " meeting in November 2006.



2.2. COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

In 2006 Plan Bleu activities concentrated on Water and Energy, the first two priority areas of fields of action of the the MSSD. For these two topics, complementary indicators were selected and defined, then calculated and analysed. Besides this, steps to select a "sea and coastline" indicator corresponding to the sixth field of action of the MSSD were undertaken: See the corresponding topic chapters.

3. WORK ON THE TOPICS

Without wishing to prescribe policies, Plan Bleu produces analyses to help build up future scenarios and to strengthen the decisions of those whose vocation or mandate it is to make policies. Therefore, Plan Bleu highlights the " good " practices for some themes, i.e. those practices that have an observable effect on the quality of the environment or that translate real taking into account of the " sustainable development " dimension in their action and puts them at the disposal of those interested and concerned.

To do this, Plan Bleu:

- ✓ Produces analyses by sector, theme and territory intended to inform and enlighten decision-makers about Mediterranean prospects ;
- ✓ Estimates the long-term effects on the environment and the durability in terms of development of the local, national or regional policies in place for the priority areas or sectors.

The topics dealt with by Plan Bleu correspond to those brought up in the 2005 report on the environment and development and those chosen by the MSSD.

3.1. WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Concerning the topic of water, Plan Bleu has benefited from the support of four volunteer countries - Turkey, France, Tunisia and Morocco - since 2005 and has tightened relations with the main qualified networks in the Mediterranean: the secretariat of the Mediterranean platform of the Global Water Partnership (GWP-Med) (assured by the Mediterranean Information Office, Environment, Culture, Sustainable Development and Environment-MIO-ECSDE), the Mediterranean Water Institute that groups together local enterpri-

ses and local authorities, the Mediterranean network of the RAMSAR Convention (Medwet) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS). These partners formed a committee of experts to direct and follow up Plan Bleu activities on this topic.

In March 2006 a call for papers was launched (and was widely disseminated during the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in 2006) to document concrete examples of good practices and to measure the progress effectively carried out in the last few years in terms of water demand management in the major sectors of activity (water for agriculture, drinking water, water for industry), in terms of taking into account the natural needs of the ecosystem, as well as in terms of the taking into account of water demand management in water policies and cooperation policies. The papers presented explained this issue by referring to sustainable development, the history of the project, the political instruments implemented, the difficulties met and any causes of failure, as well as the lessons to be learnt for the Mediterranean.

Besides this, Plan Bleu invited all of the Mediterranean countries to draw up national reports on the topic "Monitoring progress and promotion of water demand management policies" based on terms of reference designed and distributed in April 2006. These reports that were intended to show the progress made and the progress still possible in the future in the field of water demand management, as well as to identify the hurdles to be crossed and the political tools to develop, aimed at three categories of objectives:

1. Informing about the water situation in the countries, the evolution underway and the possible consequences.



2. Demonstrating that progress is possible and necessary in terms of efficiency, subject to the implementing of water demand management instruments. Insisting on better awareness-raising of the necessity for and the possible benefits of a water demand management policy. If need be, helping the countries to draw up the "efficiency plans" announced at the Johannesburg Summit as well as the "water" section of their national strategies for sustainable development by accompanying them with sets of indicators/objectives.

3. Contributing to the Mediterranean consideration of the problem and to the regional sharing of experience in the field of water demand management while taking into consideration the specificities of the countries. Helping the Mediterranean countries to improve their monitoring and progress assessment systems (monitoring of indicators, drawing up of reports on the environment and sustainable development) and to become a reference at international level. Contributing to the evolution and the building up of regional cooperation policies and to development aid.

Eleven countries undertook to draft these national reports: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. From May to December 2006, Plan Bleu took part in the monitoring of the work carried out by the national experts appointed by the countries.

Plan Bleu also launched three regional studies - drawing up of the terms of reference, identification of the experts and monitoring of their work - bearing on:

✓ "International cooperation and development aid in the water sector in the Mediterranean : to what extent is water demand management taken into account ?" : This study aims at producing an in-depth quantitative analysis of the development aid for water granted to the Mediterranean countries, at analysing the strategies and intervention policies of the main money-lenders in the Mediterranean, especially with regard to water demand management, as well as at highlighting the obstacles met and the levers used to promote water demand management projects;

✓ "Virtual water in the Mediterranean: an indicator that contributes to the analysis of water management and distribution ?" : The object of this study is to present the issue of virtual water in the Mediterranean, to quantify trade of virtual water - via the importing and exporting of agricultural products - in the Mediterranean countries, then to analyse the perti-

nence of the concept of virtual water in the agricultural and water policies (more especially related to water demand management) in the Mediterranean context ;

✓ "The impact of the Common Agricultural Policy reform on water demand for irrigation in the Mediterranean": This refers to identifying the foreseeable impact of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of 2003, by using pre-existing studies by Spain, France, Italy and Greece, on the reallocating of cultivated land (notably the evolution in cultivated land and irrigated land), the total water demand and the water demand per hectare, agricultural income, and so on.

A second meeting of the experts - the scientific committee - in September 2006 determined the organisation of the regional workshop in Saragossa (19th to 21st March 2007), assessed the progress of the national reports and the regional studies (presented and discussed during this workshop) and examined the abstracts of the papers proposed. Forty papers were chosen to appear in the activities of the regional workshop, half of them were presented orally.

3.2. ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

For this topic, Plan Bleu is working together with the main competent networks in the Mediterranean : the Mediterranean Energy Observatory (OME - Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie) that groups together the main electricity enterprises, ADEME the French agency for environment and energy management (Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie), the national agency for energy management in Tunisia (ANME, Agence Nationale pour la





Maitrise de l'Energie), the association of energy management agencies (MEDENER), the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP), a regional project financed by Italy, the Mediterranean summer university (UMET), organiser of meetings on this topic for the last four years), the Mediterranean Institute/Euro-Mediterranean Forum of the of Economic Institutes (FEMISE), that advises the Euro-Mediterranean association, Helio International (NGO) and the Regional Activity Centre for cleaner production CP/RAC of Barcelona. All of these partners made up a pilot committee to follow up Plan Bleu activities on the topic "Energy and climate change".

A workshop was organised in May 2006, in association with UMET, on the Clean Development Mechanism in the southern Mediterranean countries. A summary report on this workshop was drawn up and distributed.

Twelve countries - Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Spain, Israel, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey - also carried out national studies on the basis of the terms of reference proposed by Plan Bleu in the spring of 2006. These studies on renewable energies and energy efficiency:

- ✓ Gave information about the situation of the countries in this area, the progress made in terms of renewable energy and energy efficiency, the anticipated progress and examples of good practices. This contributes to Mediterranean consideration and the sharing of regional experience.
- ✓ Gave better awareness of the necessity to be committed to the ambitious objectives of energy effi-

ciency (EE) and the development of renewable energies (RE), to put in place specific tools and to underscore the importance of the benefits induced. The studies helped the countries to develop the "energy" section of their national strategies for sustainable development, to select indicators for MSSD follow up and to progress with their energy policies.

From May to December 2006, Plan Bleu accompanied the work carried out by the national experts in these twelve countries. The countries that did not carry out national studies were invited to answer a questionnaire addressed to them in the autumn of 2006.

At the same time, Plan Bleu launched three regional studies bearing on:

- ✓ Energy trends in the region and forecasts for 2020, in association with the OME. This study presents a regional vision of the recent energy trends from statistics compiled for the period 1980-2005 and an analysis of the progress made in renewable energies, energy efficiency and CO₂ emissions from energy-related activities;
- ✓ The taking into account of renewable energies and energy efficiency in official development assistance (ODA) to the Mediterranean countries: this study gives an in-depth quantitative analysis of ODA in the Mediterranean countries in the energy sector, especially concerning RE and EE, to analyse the strategies and policies of the main donors acting in the Mediterranean, as well as to highlight the obstacles met and the levers to use to promote RE and EE projects;
- ✓ The economic benefits linked to the development of an alternative energy scenario performed by the Mediterranean Institute. This study proposes to estimate the economic benefits that could be expected from this scenario compared to the trend scenario and thus to demonstrate the economic interest of the countries to undertake national strategies in order to



reach the regional objectives of the MSSD. It is based on the building of a simulation model that integrates the major macro-economic issues in the region such as the trade deficit, the balance of payments, unemployment, and so on.

In September 2006, a second meeting of the steering-committee worked out the organisation of the regional workshop in Monaco on 29th and 30th March 2007 and assessed the progress made in the national reports and in the regional studies (presented and discussed during this workshop). The steering committee also communicated via a virtual forum throughout the year.

3.3. TRANSPORT

In order to analyse the obstacles for the application of the measures to facilitate the transition to sustainable mobility in the Mediterranean countries, Plan Bleu organised a workshop in Barcelona in February 2006 bringing together urban planning, transport and environment experts in order to understand why, despite the good intentions of the local authorities, the main transport trends in urban areas favoured individual cars.

Several methods for the control of urban mobility were presented and discussed in Barcelona, in order to debate about how they could be put into application. Such methods included city traffic tolls, specific areas, parking policies, public transport rates and so on.

The main recommendation of the workshop was to ask Plan Bleu to set up a platform for "good practice" exchanges in the Mediterranean.

3.4. TOURISM



In March 2006 a meeting of experts, organised by Plan Bleu, initiated the setting up of a Mediterranean network on the topic of the contributions of tourism to sustainable development, defined how to analyse and assess these contributions on the basis of national questionnaires and also analysed the feasibility of annual meetings in the future bringing together public and private operators to deal with these questions.

In order to design an analysis grid to identify the key points, the indicators and development progress, several main principles were selected:

- ✓ Working on the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - by examining the spin-off of all kinds from tourism in the countries, by identifying the externalities and by assessing the interaction, that could be considerable, with the other public policies,

- ✓ Analysing of the decision-making and implementing structures because the application of national directives at local level could be problematic if the decisions to be put into action run against specific interests. The analysis was therefore suggested to be carried out at two levels:

- ✓ At political level (the state) where progress in the direction of the strategic orientations is assessed,

- ✓ At the level of the tourist destination, the operational level, where the contributions of tourism to sustainable development can be appreciated.

3.5. WOODED ECOSYSTEMS

Silva Mediterranea, the committee for Mediterranean forestry issues, the secretariat of which is managed by the FAO, pointed out the necessity of integrating the preoccupations of the countries of the region concerning spatial development and sustainable development in the orientations of the Mediterranean forestry sector. To do this, it recommended building up of work relations and alliances with the other institutions working on these problems in the Mediterranean region, notably between the FAO, the inter-governmental organisations and the other sectors of civil society.

In order to launch such alliances with the aim of strengthening the contribution of

the forestry sector to sustainable development in the region, the *Silva Mediterranea* committee proposed that the activities identified as priority ones for the region should be implemented, together with Plan Bleu, in conformity with the association agreement signed in October 2002 and renewed in December 2005.

To launch the "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" project and to support it during the initial stage, France decided to contribute manpower and funds during a period of three years. This first phase ended in the course of 2006. A cooperation and "experience sharing" process was deployed in which more and more countries and bodies participate and have expressed the desire to continue the project. In the pilot committee meeting at the beginning of 2006, their representatives formulated a series of suggestions for the activities that still have to be implemented to meet the expressed expectations.

Four priority objectives were selected to help build the second phase of the project:

- ✓ Continue with and build up the exchange and valorisation of experience with regard to sustainable development and the management of the Mediterranean woodlands;
- ✓ Facilitate the defining, implementing and monitoring of national forestry strategies and policies that are in line with the challenges and principles of sustainable development in the Mediterranean ;
- ✓ Encourage the implementing of integrated sustainable development projects for the Mediterranean agro-pastoral and forestry areas;
- ✓ Communicate about the project and promote Mediterranean forestry and its stakes at international level.

A proposal for intervention in this direction was prepared and submitted by Plan Bleu to its partners at the end of 2006.

3.6. COASTAL AREAS

"Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zones" is the seventh priority area of intervention of the MSSD. In this



context, Plan Bleu was asked to work on complementary indicators of the topic "Coastal areas and Sea".

In order to select these complementary indicators, Plan Bleu organised a meeting of international and Mediterranean experts in December 2006. This meeting, the first stage in the selection process, gave the opportunity to share the international experience in coastal indicators (the intergovernmental oceanographic commission of UNESCO, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the DEDUCE (Assesment Model for the Sustainable Development of European Coastal Zones) project, MEDWET, etc., as well as MEDPOL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC), then to design a list of about thirty indicators that will be tested and validated in 2007.

The selection of indicators was made according to the criteria generally applied (relevancy, clarity, availability, etc.) together with the objectives and action chosen by the MSSD but also, and for the first time, according to the new Plan Bleu analysis framework defined in November 2006.

Plan Bleu also took part in workshops organised by:

- ✓ The EEA on the occasion of the publication of its report on the state of the European coasts (Seville, October 2006) ;
- ✓ The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA), in the framework of the DEDUCE project (assessment model for the sustainable development of the European coastal areas, Interreg IIIC) on the work concerning 28 indicators for sustainable development of the European coastal areas (Malta, October 2006).



Finally, together with the French authorities, Plan Bleu contributed exceptional backing to the NGOs involved in the clean-up of the Lebanese coasts.

3.7. RURAL AREAS

In the first half of 2006 a joint activity programme to be carried out in the period 2006-2008 was prepared in collaboration with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM). This work programme was validated by the MCSD in May 2006. Its objectives are:

- ✓ To produce information to facilitate the monitoring and the implementing of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development in the field of "agriculture and rural development",
- ✓ To accelerate the definition of the strategies and the implementing of wilful policies for sustainable rural development by demonstrating the economic, environmental and social benefits linked to this development,
- ✓ To identify the existing or potential obstacles and levers in the national and local policies and in international cooperation, so as to progress in the direction of the MSSD objectives,
- ✓ To follow the progress in the region with regard to the MSSD objectives and orientations.

Initial work on the monitoring indicators for the chap-



ter "Promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development" in the MSSD was carried out in June and October 2006. A regional study on the territorializing of sustainable development policies was undertaken in October 2006.

In order to launch the activities for the next two years, an experts' workshop was organised in December 2006. This workshop was the opportunity to:

- ✓ Direct the future work concerning monitoring indicators for the MSSD, especially for the definition of the complementary indicators,
- ✓ Determine the expectations concerning the national reports (the main challenge being an analysis of the evolution of the strategies implemented in the countries and the promotion of sustainable rural development policies) and examine the project for the terms of reference,
- ✓ Validate the terms of reference for the study that will be carried out throughout the Mediterranean countries on the territorializing of the approaches in the field of rural development.

4. DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION

Plan Bleu attaches importance to the information and knowledge produced being disseminated, known and used by the international organisations, the European Union the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, local administration and the civil society. Plan Bleu has, therefore, to identify the targeted audience, to propose communication aids adapted to this audience, to schedule dissemination and to assess its impact and relevancy.

After the publication of Plan Bleu's second prospective report in November 2005 entitled "Méditerranée : les perspectives du Plan Bleu sur l'environnement et le développement" published by Aube, and "A Sustainable Future for the Mediterranean" published by Earthscan, important action was carried out throughout 2006 to promote and disseminate the report itself as well as the main results. In order to do this, Plan Bleu benefited from specific backing by the Euro-Mediterranean environmental action programme (SMAP III) for the period 2006-2007.

Four types of action were carried out in this context:

- ✓ The drawing up of two documents derived from the report, policy briefs, intended for a wider audience than that made up of environmental specialists:

✓ An executive summary, a 22 pages document of that gives an overview of the main results and conclusions of the report addressed to the decision-makers of the Mediterranean countries, the directors of Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation entities, local authorities, economic players, NGOs and journalists, published in three languages (French, English and Arabic),

✓ Briefs on water and energy that were published in the series Plan Bleu briefs (French and English) that present concisely in 4 pages the main unsustainable trends in a given sector and the possible alternatives to alter the trends; other briefs will be published in 2007.

✓ The preparing of promotion and marketing tools (folders in French, English and Arabic, a bilingual poster) as well as items intended for the press (press kit in English and French);

✓ The creating of a website for the Plan Bleu report (www.planbleu.org/red) that gives access to all the by-products as well as to the integral text of all the RED chapters (since September 2006); the total number of visitors to the site went up from an average of 7000/month to 8500 in November 2006;

✓ The distributing of the report during Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean conferences, and dispatch to key contacts in the countries and agencies involved in international or regional cooperation; a total number

of 775 copies of the report in English and 864 copies in French were distributed in 2006;

Conferences-debates were organised or prepared in the Mediterranean countries in cooperation with the national authorities for the environment, in order to present the report made in the Mediterranean and to promote a cross-sector debate on Plan Bleu scenarios. In July 2006 the *Libyan Environment General Authority* organised in this context a national meeting that brought together 30 national experts to discuss, after the Plan Bleu report presentation, the challenges to take up to integrate the environment in development. A second conference was to take place in Beirut in association with the Lebanese Ministry of the Environment in July 2006, but was cancelled because of conflict affecting the region in the summer of 2006.

The Plan Bleu experts participated in more than 60 Euro-Mediterranean forums and meetings; they presented the conclusions of the Plan Bleu report and distributed by-products. During the fourth quarter of 2006, preference was given to high level forums in the priority areas for Plan Bleu in 2006, notably energy, water and agriculture. The main the Plan Bleu report's were presented during the 6th meeting of the ministers of agriculture of the member states of ICAMAS that took place in Cairo on 2nd December 2006.

III. EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

1. PLAN BLEU IN-HOUSE EVENTS

Ceremony in homage to the memory of Michel Batisse, Chairman of Plan Bleu from 1985 to 2004, Sophia Antipolis, 13th March 2006.

Decease of Serge Antoine, founder of Plan Bleu and Honorary Chairman, 25th March 2006.

Plan Bleu General Assembly, Paris 11th April 2006.

One-day debate about the commitments made by Serge Antoine organised at the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (Ministère de l'Écologie et du Développement Durable) on 4th October 2006.

1st September 2006, the taking up of duties by Henri-Luc Thibault, new director of Plan Bleu, the successor of Guillaume Benoit, director of Plan Bleu from 1998 to 2006.

In-house seminar to reflect about Plan Bleu's strategic orientations for 2007-2015: Sophia Antipolis, 17th October 2006.

2. EVENTS IN THE NEWS

2.1. SOME LANDMARKS

Austrian Presidency of the European Union: 1st January 2006

Coming into force of the Association Agreement between the EU and Lebanon: 1st April 2006

Proclamation of the independence of Montenegro: 3rd June 2006.

Finnish Presidency of the European Union: 1st July 2006

Crisis between Israel and Lebanon: summer of 2006.

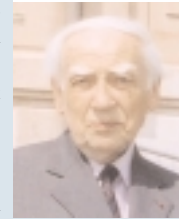
Approval by the European Commission of the 2006 monitoring report for the adhesion of Turkey: 8th November 2006.

Positive evaluation by the European Commission of the negotiations for adhesion by Croatia: November 2006

2.2. ENVIRONMENT

2006 proclaimed "the year of deserts and desertification" by the General Assembly of the United Nations

Former Deputy Director General for sciences at UNESCO, Chairman of Plan Bleu from 1984 to 2004, Michel Batisse devoted his life to international cooperation for the environment and sustainable development. Initiator of the MAB programme (Man and Biosphere Programme), he also played a determining role in the launching of the International Hydrological Programme and in the adopting



of the convention for the protection of world heritage. Co-author of "Plan Bleu, avenir du bassin méditerranéen" published in 1989, he directed the publication of the series "Fascicules du Plan Bleu", worked hard to widen the scope of the Barcelona Convention to the coastline, and presided the orientation committee for the report "Méditerranée, les perspectives du Plan Bleu sur l'environnement et le développement" published at the end of 2005. Officer of the Legion of Honour, he received the Sasakawa prize 2000 in the United Nations Environment Programme (the most prestigious distinction worldwide in this field) for his eminent contribution to the conservation of natural resources on the planet, to the protection of land and marine environments and to the promotion of sustainable development.



Serge Antoine, Honorary Chairman and founding father of Plan Bleu, marked a half-century of environmental history and will remain one of the pioneers of sustainable development in the Mediterranean and worldwide. He traced the whole of France in the 1950s and played a determining role in the creation of DATAR in 1963, of the regional wildlife parks in 1966, of the Ministry of the Environment in 1971 and of the Coastline Conservatory in 1975. With his determinedly long term vision, he quickly became interested in prospective studies: a founding member of the magazine *Futuribles* in 1967, a member of the Club of Rome in 1969, he created the Institute Claude Nicolas Ledoux in 1972 to transform it into a place devoted to the future. In the Ministry of the Environment, he inspired French environmental policy for over twenty years. He participated in the first Environmental Summit in Stockholm in 1972 and later became the special advisor to Maurice Strong for the organisation of the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. In 1994, he founded Committee 21, an intersection for enterprises, administrations, associations, public institutions, research and training bodies, the media, and so on. In 1975 he took part in the launching of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the sea, launching the idea of a Plan Bleu/Blue Plan to consider the future of all the Mediterranean countries and to germinate the idea of a regional approach for this large geographical region. In 1996 he supported the setting up of a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and had a seat on the board as the representative for France until the end of his life.

Report on the threat of extinction of red tuna-fish in the Mediterranean: July 2006

Pollution of the Lebanese coasts by hydrocarbons: August 2006

International action plan to fight oil spill in Lebanon: 17th August 2006



Proposition of the European Commission for a long term environmental strategy aimed at cleaning up and protecting the Mediterranean ("Horizon 2020" initiative), 5th September 2006

Adoption by the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment of the calendar for the "Horizon 2020" initiative: Cairo, 20th November 2006

Adoption by the 25 European Fishing Ministers of regulations for fishing in the Mediterranean: Brussels, 21st November 2006

Signature of an association agreement between the European Environment Agency and MAP: December 2006.

3. MEETINGS

3.1. MEETINGS ORGANISED BY PLAN BLEU

3rd meeting of the Steering Committee for the "Mediterranean forests and sustainable development" project: Sophia-Antipolis (France), 3rd and 4th February 2006.

Workshop on urban development/mobility: Barcelona, 16th to 17th February 2006.

Experts' meeting "Energy and Climate Change in the Mediterranean": Sophia Antipolis, 20th February 2006.

Experts' meeting "Tourism and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean: Sophia Antipolis, 24th to 25th March 2006.

Press conference following the publication of the report "A Sustainable Future for the Mediterranean: Environment and Development outlook in the Mediterranean" held in the United Nations Office of Geneva, 4th April 2006.

Sub-regional workshop "The Clean Development Mechanism in the Southern Mediterranean countries, advantages and weakness, challenges and opportunities - linkages with energy efficiency project and renewable energy": Paris, 5th May 2006.

MEDSTAT-Environment II final forum: Amman, Jordan 13th to 14th June 2006.

Seminar entitled *Imagine*, presentation and application at Plan Bleu, Sophia Antipolis from 21st to 22nd June 2006.

Support mission on water and energy, Tripoli, Libya, 18th to 19th July 2006.

Meeting of the scientific committee for the "3rd regional workshop on water and sustainable development in the Mediterranean": Sophia-Antipolis, 15th September 2006.

Meeting of the steering committee for Plan Bleu activities on "Energy and Climate Change", Carthage, Tunisia, 17th September 2006.

2nd coordination meeting for the joint project of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme (European Union/SMAP III), the Mediterranean Action Plan (via the priority action programme and Plan Bleu) and the Mediterranean Environment Technical Assistance Programme (METAP/World Bank) : Sophia-Antipolis, 14th December 2006.

Experts' meeting "Complementary indicators for the follow up of the sustainable development in the Mediterranean coastal areas": Sophia Antipolis, 15th December 2006.

Experts' meeting on sustainable agricultural and rural development in the Mediterranean: Montpellier, 15th to 16th December 2006 (in partnership with CIHEAM).

3.2. PARTICIPATION OF PLAN BLEU IN THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Sub-regional seminar (Maghreb) on national water plans: Morocco, 24th to 25th January 2006.

Prospective meeting for "Futuribles", "Futurible International": Paris, January 2006.

Seminar on the policies for sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean in the framework of the European Policy: Cairo, Egypt, 8th to 9th February 2006.

Institut des Hautes Etudes de la Défense Nationale -
Euro-Mediterranean discussions : Paris, March 2006.

4th World Water Forum: Mexico, 16th to 22nd March
2006.

11th meeting of the MCSD, Nicosia, Cyprus, 24th to
26th May 2006

8th Eco-Cultural meetings: Med'Educ, Marseille, May
2006.

International Forum on the Environment and
Sustainable Development in Maghreb countries:
Soria, Spain, May 2006.

International conference "Sustainable Development
Strategy for the Adriatic": Portoroz, Slovenia, 5th to 6th
June 2006.

MEDA Water International conference on sustainable
management and water efficiency and on the purifying
and reusing of waste water: Marrakech, Morocco,
June 2006.

114th meeting of the board of directors of the
CIHEAM: Bari, 19th to 20th June 2006

Regional workshop on national information systems
for water and EMWIS: Algiers, 26th and 27th June
2006

Economic meetings Aix-en-Provence "A world of
scarce resources": Aix-en-Provence, July 2006.

8th meeting of the correspondents for the Short and
Medium Term Priority Environmental Action
Programme (SMAP): Brussels 14th September 2006.

Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum: Brussels 21st
September 2006.

UMET 5 Conference: Carthage, Tunisia, 18th to 19th
September 2006.

Final Conference of the SUBMED project entitled
"Strategy for the sustainable development of sub-
aquatic tourism in the Mediterranean: Camogli, Italy,
22nd to 23rd September 2006.

FEMISE Conference: Marseille, France, 28th
September 2006.

2nd Euro-Mediterranean Agriculture Conference:
European Parliament, Strasbourg, 28th to 29th
September 2006.

"Rendez-vous de la Méditerranée" ("Mediterranean
meetings") : Marseille, September 2006.



Regional workshop on marine and coastal indicators
organised by the MEPA (Malta Environment and
Planning Authority) in the framework of the
DEDUCE project (Sustainable development of the
European coastal areas): Malta, 3rd and 4th October
2006.

Meeting on the calculation of the 34 priority indica-
tors for sustainable development in the
Mediterranean: Malta, 5th October 2006

Euro-Mediterranean meetings "The Mediterranean
youth and sustainable development": Bastia, 5th
October 2006.

"Mediterranean Horizon 2020" meeting, PACA
Economic and Social Committee, (Regional
Prospective Section): Marseille, 6th October 2006.

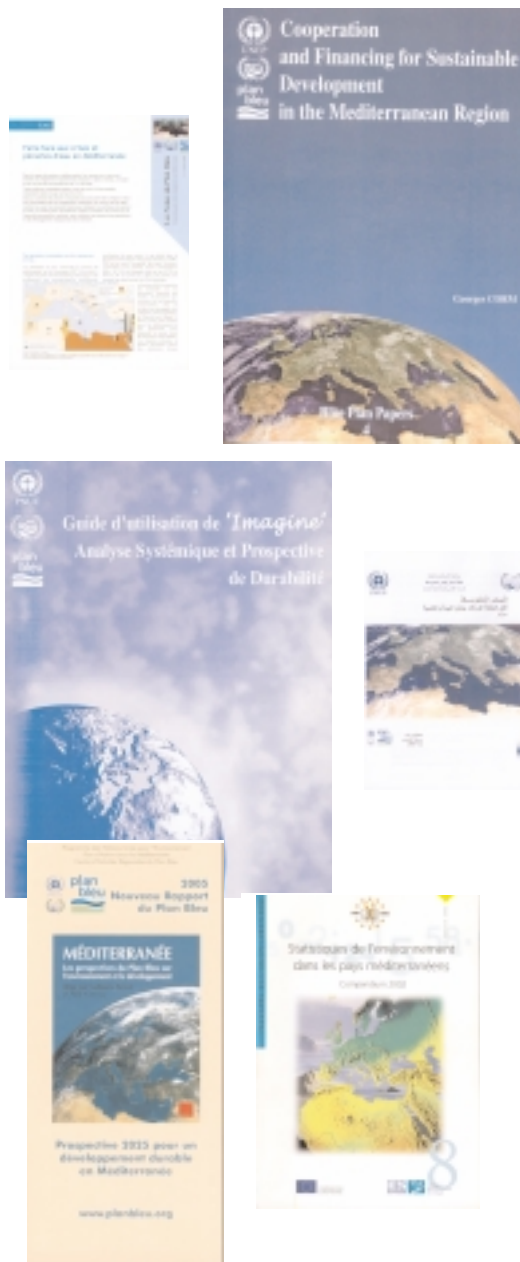
"Coastal assessments, experience from EEA report
'The Changing faces of Europe's coastal areas' mee-
ting": Seville, Spain, 20th October 2006.

SMAP SMSU regional workshop on "information and
communication to improve knowledge and monito-
ring of environmental matters in the Mediterranean"
organised by the Italian Agency for the Protection of
the Environment (APAT): Rome, 30th to 31st October
2006.

Conference of the water managers from the Euro-
Mediterranean countries and from the European
countries of the south-east: Athens, 6th and 7th
November 2006.

Meeting of the MAP Regional Activities Centres
managers: Catania, Italy, 6th November 2006

Extraordinary meeting of the MAP focal points:
Catania, Italy, 7th to 11th November 2006.



Meeting of the OME on "renewable energies and sustainable development": Rome, 9th November 2006.

FEMIP conference on "the regional integration of the Euro-Mediterranean region by the transport systems": Monaco, 10th November 2006.

Maghreb platform headed by the MDER, PACA region and Ubifrance: Marseille, 16th November 2006

1st workshop for the "analysis of sustainability, indicators and public participation": Nicosia, Cyprus, 23rd to 24th November 2006.

6th Conference of the Agriculture Ministers, members of CIHEAM: Cairo, Egypt, 2nd December 2006.

4. COMMUNICATION

4.1. PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Environmental statistics in the Mediterranean countries. Compendium 2005. Eurostat, Plan Bleu, 2006. (French and English).

The systemic and prospective analysis 'Imagine' within CAMP Slovenia, Final report. Plan Bleu, January 2006.

New Plan Bleu folder: *The Blue Plan and Mediterranean cooperation for sustainable development.* Plan Bleu, February 2006. (French and English).

A practitioner's guide to 'Imagine': the systemic and prospective sustainability analysis. Plan Bleu, March 2006. (Blue Plan Papers, n°3). (French and English).

Report on the 3rd meeting of Silva Mediterranea project Steering committee: Sophia-Antipolis, 3-4 February 2006. Plan Bleu, March 2006.

Report on experts meeting on "Energy and Climate change in the Mediterranean": Sophia Antipolis, 20 February 2006. Plan Bleu, March 2006.

RED Folder: 2005, New Plan Bleu report: *A Sustainable Future for the Mediterranean: the Blue Plan's Environment & Development Outlook - 2025 Prospective for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean.* Plan Bleu, March 2006 (French, English and Arabic).

Les obstacles à l'application de mesures pour la mobilité urbaine en faveur du développement durable. GODARD, Xavier. Plan Bleu, April 2006 (French).

Methodological sheets of the 34 priority indicators for the "Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development" Follow-up. Working documents Plan Bleu, May 2006 (French and English).

Energy savings and renewables: very large potential in the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu, May 2006. (Blue Plan Notes, n°3) (French and English).

Report on experts group meeting on "Tourism and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean", Sophia Antipolis, 24-25 mars 2006. Plan Bleu, May 2006.

Cooperation and financing for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. CORM, Georges. Plan Bleu, June 2006. (Blue Plan Papers, n°4).

Article "Politique énergétique et développement durable en Méditerranée : défis et nouveaux enjeux", in *Liaison Energie-Francophonie* n°71, 2nd quarter 2006.

A sustainable future for the Mediterranean: the Blue Plan's environment and development outlook. Executive summary. Plan Bleu, July 2006 (French, English and Arabic).

Energy prospects in the Mediterranean region up to the year 2020. OME. Plan Bleu, October 2006 (English).

Facing water stress and shortage in the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu, October 2006. (Blue Plan Notes, n°4). (French and English).

Faisabilité d'un observatoire méditerranéen des statistiques maritimes. DOBLER, Jean-Pierre. Plan Bleu, October, 2006 (French).

Le secteur de l'eau dans la politique de coopération avec les pays méditerranéens. Draft CORM Georges. November 2006.

National report on monitoring progress and promotion of water demand management policies in Bosnia and Herzegovia. Draft I. PALANDZIC. November 2006.

Rapport national sur le suivi des progrès et la promotion de politiques de gestion de la demande en eau en Tunisie. Draft. A. HAMDANE. November 2006.

National report on monitoring progress and promotion of water demand management policies in Italy. Draft. G. FARRACE. December 2006.

National report on monitoring progress and promotion of water demand management policies in Egypt. Draft. A. HAMDY. December 2006.

Rapport national sur le suivi des progrès et la promotion de politiques de gestion de la demande en eau au Maroc. Draft. M. OUBALKACE. December 2006.

The Blue Plan, "cradle of Mediterranean futures" .Le Plan Bleu, " un semeur d'avenirs méditerranéens ". Strategic orien-

tations . Working document. Plan Bleu, December 2006 (French and English).

Powerpoint presentation: *Energy and sustainable development.* Plan Bleu, December 2006.

Powerpoint presentation: *Water and sustainable development.* Plan Bleu, December 2006.

Powerpoint presentation: *Coastal areas.* Plan Bleu, December 2006.

4.2. ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

3 issues published (bilingual French/English) and distributed by e-mail to all Plan Bleu contacts: February 2006, August 2006 and October 2006.

4.3. WEBSITE

Putting on line in the first quarter of 2006 of the English version of the new Plan Bleu website (French version of the new website was put on line in September 2005): www.planbleu.org.

Putting on line of a new French/English website in September 2006 entirely devoted to the "A Sustainable Future for the Mediterranean: the Blue Plan's environment and development outlook in the Mediterranean" " report: www.planbleu.org/red/

4.4. DOCUMENTATION

In 2006, Plan Bleu documentation increased by 390 new documents (literary works, statistical year books, symposium articles, institutional reports, scientific literature, atlases, articles, CD-ROMs, etc.), bringing the stock to a total of more than 6000 references.

Mandate, organisation and personnel

Plan Bleu's mandate was established by a proposal of the Executive Director of the UNEP during an inter-governmental meeting of the coastal states organised in Split on 31st January to 4th February 1977.

Qualified as a "coordinated programme for regional cooperation" and "conceived as a continuous research and action process with the main objective of social and economic development on a healthy basis", Plan Bleu has the assignment to " permit the constitution of a common fund of knowledge to which all the interested countries can have immediate access" and " to contribute to promoting economic and social development throughout the Mediterranean region while safeguarding the natural systems on which continuous development has to rely".

Created as a French association based on the law of 1901, **Plan Bleu for the environment and development in the Mediterranean** is equipped with an office whose members are:

Lucien CHABASON
Chairman

Mohamed ENNABLI
Vice Chairman

Jean MARGAT
Vice Chairman

Bernard GLASS
Secretary General

Jean de MONTGOLFIER
Treasurer

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Liste des sigles et acronymes :

ADEME: French Agency for Environment and Energy Management

EEA: European Environment Agency

ANME: National Agency for Energy Management in Tunisia

SPA / RAC: Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

PAP / RAC: Regional Activity Centre Priority Actions Programme

CP / RAC: Regional Activity Centre for cleaner production

CIHEAM: International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

MCSDD: Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development

DEDUCE: Assessment Model for the Sustainable Development of European Coastal Zones

RE: Renewable energy

FEMISE: The world med institute/Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Institutes

WDM: Water Demand Management

GWP-Med: Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

IME: Mediterranean Water Institute

MEDENER: Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation

MEDPOL: Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring Programme

MEDREP: Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme

MEDSTAT: Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Co-operation programme

Medwet: Mediterranean Initiative of RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands

MIO-ECSDE: Mediterranean Information Office, Environment, Culture, Sustainable Development and Environment

OME: Mediterranean Energy Observatory

MAP: Mediterranean Action Plan

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

MSSD: Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

UMET: the Mediterranean summer university

RUE: Rational use of energy

