

Context and Objectives

According to the IPCC's 4th report, climate change may pose a serious threat to the environment and human activities in the Mediterranean region. By the end of the century the annual rise in temperatures is expected to be between 2.2 °C and 5.1 °C. The estimations suggest a relative increase of 4 °C in summer for the sub-Saharan regions and up to 3 C for the northern shore in winter. At the same time overall rainfall is also likely to decrease while the occurrence of extreme climatic events ought to intensify by 2100.

With its already serious deficit in water supplies, and faced with considerable desertification and erosion and a significant loss in its land and marine biodiversity, the Mediterranean is likely to become a “hot spot” of climate change in the century to come.

Yet despite these alarming forecasts, a common Mediterranean voice on climatic issues has, until now, been very discreet in the international arena. One reason is that countries along the Mediterranean rim belong to different geographical groups when it comes to negotiating international law on the subject. Another reason relates especially to the flexibility mechanisms set up through the Convention on Climate Change, which only mildly concern the Mediterranean countries. Indeed, only 0.14% of global emission credits are now recorded in the Mediterranean.

In this context, the attention given by Heads of State to climatic questions during the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean on 13th July 2008 constitutes a strong signal to move forward.

The seminar on climate change in the Mediterranean being organised by the Blue Plan on 22nd and 23rd October 2008, aims to contribute to regional thinking on these issues. It has three main objectives:

- Characterise future trends in climate change in the Mediterranean through scientific studies based on global models and scenarios with regional simulations;
- Identify the major impacts expected on the environment and development of the region and anticipate adaptation measures to be put into place;
- Assess the need for a Mediterranean consultation on issues of common interest, with a view to the next COP of the Convention on Climate Change in Poznan (2008) and Copenhagen (2009), to enable joint objectives and projects to be defined on a regional scale.

With the support of :



Provisional Program

Day 1: 22nd October 2008

09:00-9:50: Session 1. Opening speeches

- Albert Lapeyre, Marseilles Municipality
- Michel Vauzelle, President of the Regional Council Provence - Alpes – Côte d'Azur
- Philippe de Fontaine Vive, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, in charge of the FEMIP
- Odile Roussel, Foreign and European Affairs Ministry, representing the French Presidency of the European Union
- Henri-Luc Thibault, Director of the Blue Plan, representing the Mediterranean Action Plan

9:50-10:20: Coffee break

10:20-12:00: Session 2. Changes in the Mediterranean climate by the year 2100

Chairman: Michel Petit (President of the French Society of Meteorology, member of IPCC)

Presentations:

- Results of regional simulations by Patrick Monfray (CNRS, National Institute of Universe Science)
- The south Mediterranean user's point of view by Mohammed Senouci (ARCE-Algeria)
- The south Mediterranean user's point of view by Khaled M. AbuZeid (CEDARE)

Discussion: To what extent will temperature, rainfall, and extreme events vary from now until the end of the century? How reliable are the simulation tools being used? What is the status of regional climate models and scenarios?

12:00-13:30: Lunch Break

13:30-15:00: Session 3. Impacts on the environment and health

Chairman: Ivica Trumbic (Director of the Priority Actions Programme, MAP)

Presentations:

- Impacts on coastal systems, by Pandi Zdruli (Albania, IAM Bari)
- Impacts on terrestrial and marine biodiversity, by Safi Samir (University of Lebanon) and Dan Tchernov (Marine Institute of Eilat, Israel)
- Impacts on human health, by Anna Maria Bargagli (Department of Epidemiology, Local Health Authority RME, Rome, Italy)

Discussion: What is the present and future vulnerability of the Mediterranean coasts to climatic change? What coastal management policies are envisaged to tackle future climatic variations? How important are the ecological niche migrations in the Mediterranean and, as a corollary, the displacement of invasive species towards the North? How are marine plankton evolving in the Mediterranean? What are the consequences of these movements in terms of both phenology and the disappearance of endemic species? How are abnormally high summer death rates likely to evolve in a hotter climate? What are the risks of spreading infectious diseases? What adaptation measures should be implemented?

15:00-16:30: Session 4. Impacts on natural resources

Chairman: Lucien Chabason (President of the Blue Plan)

Presentations:

- Impacts on water resources, by Yvan Caballero (ANR , Project Vulcano)
- Impacts on vulnerability and natural risks, by Thomas Lebourg (Geoscience Azur Unit, University of Nice, Sophia Antipolis)
- Impacts on forests by Giorgio Matteucci (National Research Council , Italy)

Discussion: How great is the increase in evaporation likely to be arising from changing temperature and rainfall levels as well as an intensification of the water cycle? What will the consequences be concerning populations suffering from a lack of water? In what way are soil degradation phenomena likely to evolve under the effect of climate change? How will these phenomena be manifested in terms of vulnerability to natural risks? How should these evolutions be integrated into town planning documentation? How vulnerable will Mediterranean forests be to fire and parasites? What adaptation measures should be implemented?

16:30-17:00: Coffee break

17:00-19:00: Session 5. Climate change and human activity

Chairman: Roberto Vigotti (Chairman of the Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development Committee, Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie)

Presentations:

- Tourism and climate change in the Mediterranean, by Jean-Paul Céron (co-founder of the International Centre for Research on the Environment and Development, France)
- Mediterranean agriculture and climate change, by Omar Bessaoud (IAM Montpellier)
- Fishing and climate change in the Mediterranean, by Josep Lloret (University of Girona, Environment Department)
- Energy and climate change in the Mediterranean, by Stephane Quéfélec (Plan Bleu)

Discussion: Will climate change modify the touristic competitiveness of the Mediterranean? Might the possibility of reduced soil fertility and an increased need of water for agriculture penalise agricultural activity so as to make the Mediterranean very dependent from the point of view of food production? What degree of profitability will Mediterranean fishing fleets be able to expect in the context of changing fish populations? What adaptation measures should be implemented? How could the objectives for reduced emissions from economic activity be integrated, especially in the energy sector?

Day 2: 23rd October 2008

8:30-10:00: Session 6. The need for data and indicators

Chairman: Felipe Duarte Santos (Scientific Coordinator- Steering Committee of the National Adaptation Strategy of Portugal)

Presentations:

- Establishing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventories, by Rémy Bouscaren (former Head of the Inter-professional Centre for Technical Studies on Atmospheric Pollution, France)
- Energy efficiency indicators for the Mediterranean, by André Yatchinovsky (Agency for the Environment and Energy Management, France)
- Methods of life cycle analysis by Virginia Alzina (MAP Regional Activities Centre- Clean Production)
- A sector with long periods of industrialization: the case of environmental services by Michel Dutang (Director of Research, Veolia Environment)

- Report on the impacts of climate change and selected indicators for Europe, by Josef Herkendell (European Environment Agency)
- Indicators showing the impact of climate change in France, by Michel Galliot (National Observatory of Climate Change Impacts France)

Discussion: What figures and indicators will Mediterranean countries need to understand and monitor climate change? What are the already available data and indicators in the European countries? What are the most effective production and collection methods? How should the different players be connected? What type of climate change monitoring system needs to be put in place in the Mediterranean, so as to integrate and share the experience of European and Mediterranean-rim countries?

10:00-10:30: Coffee break

10:30-13:00: Session 7. What are the perspectives after 2012?

Chairman: Andrew Murphy (European Commission – General Directorate of Environment)

Presentations:

- The challenges of the Poznan and Copenhagen Conferences of the Parties. Possible post-2012 options at a global level, by Onno Kuik (Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Amsterdam)
- Preparation for post-2012 in some Mediterranean countries (Haitham Nashawati for Syria, Jasenka Necak for Croatia, Michael Scoullou for Greece, Nicos Georgiades for Cyprus, Fulya Somunkiranolu for Turkey, Odile Roussel for France, Eglantina Bruci for Albania)

Discussion: How will the Mediterranean countries respond to the new obligations to reduce their emissions? How much need is there for regional cooperation concerning adaptation? Wouldn't it be useful to create a regional platform to discuss these issues?

13:00 - 14:30: Lunch Break

14:30 -16:00: Session 8. What funding mechanisms could be set up on a regional scale?

Chairman: Bertrand Loiseau (French Agency for Development)

Presentations:

- Carbon Funds, by Gaël Grégoire (Environmental Specialist, Middle East & North Africa Region - MNSSD The World Bank)
- Funding opportunities by Jean-Marc Hoffmann (Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Planning- European and International Department, France)
- Adaptation Fund by a GEF representative

Discussion: Might it be useful to create a Mediterranean Carbon Fund? Wouldn't it be in everyone's interest to build transnational adaptation projects which would be eligible for the Adaptation Fund?

16:00-16:30: Break

16:30-17:00: Session 9. Conclusions and Recommendations

Chairman: Henri-Luc Thibault (Director of Blue Plan)

17:00 - 17:30: Session 10. Press Conference