

EUCC reports on marine renewable energy at the 2010 Global Oceans Conference in Paris, France:

On May 3 and 4, 2010, Magdalena Muir, Advisory Board Member, Climate Change, EUCC made two presentations on marine renewable energy at the 2010 Global Oceans Conference in Paris, France. These presentations were entitled: "Impact of Offshore Energy Structures, Transmission Lines and Hubs on Coastal and Marine Ecosystems", and "Developments in EU Policy for Marine Renewable Energy"

Climate change is affecting Europe's marine and coastal ecosystems, necessitating urgent efforts for climate mitigation. Economic activities in these coastal and marine areas, such as tourism, fishing and agriculture, are vulnerable to these changes. Coast and marine areas will contribute significantly to the development of renewable energy, and to a sustainable, secure and competitive energy policy for Europe. So an important issue is how sustainable energy development can be implemented in coastal and marine areas, while also reconciling adaptation and mitigation measures for climate change, and preserving the biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services. These and other presentations will be available on the conference website, and Ms Muir's presentation is also available on the EUCC website.

On May 4, Ms Muir also made a presentation at the Global Oceans Conference entitled "Role of Traditional Knowledge in Arctic Climate Adaptation". The session was organized by United Nations University (UNU) - Traditional Knowledge Initiative (TKI). The objective of the session was to examine vulnerable resource-dependent communities, including indigenous communities, in coastal areas and on small islands. In many cases these communities also possess traditional and local knowledge that may help them better adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Some communities are using traditional knowledge to record their observations of climate change and its impacts on the environment. The value of these observations as a complement for scientific research is now being more broadly recognized by organizations such as the IPCC and the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. In addition to documenting environmental change, many communities are taking an active role ensuring their survival by employing traditional and local knowledge to develop practical solutions for adaptation, including strategies for management of marine and coastal ecosystems and resources, which ultimately enhance the community's capacity for survival in a changing world.

On May 11, 2010, Ms Muir made a presentation at the United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE) Water and Climate Change Workshop in Geneva. The presentation was titled Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary River Basin, with Emphasis on Estuarine and Coastal Areas in Arctic, Baltic, Black and Mediterranean Seas. The UNECE is an expansive organization that includes Canada and the United States as well as much of the circum-polar Arctic. Muir previously provided expert advice for the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes' Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change. This and other presentations are available on the UN ECE website, and Ms Muir's presentations are also available on the EUCC website.

Ms Muir will also be making a presentation at the First Workshop on Climate Induced Migration and Displacement in the Middle East and North Africa, organized by the World Bank and the French Development Agency in Marseille, France on June 15 and 16. The presentation is entitled "Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Induced Migration in Coastal and Marine Zones of Middle East, North Africa and Mediterranean".

Climate induced migration in the Middle East and North Africa will have a disproportionate impact on coastal and marine zones on these countries, and the entire North African, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean region. This climate induced migration will affect existing coastal communities and migrants, and provide opportunities and challenges to coastal and marine zones that are also experiencing significant adverse physical, economic and social and cultural impacts from climate change. Given the inevitability of this climate-induced migration, Mediterranean countries and urban

settlements must consider how to incorporate climate migrants as productive and functioning members of their societies, as well as providing economic and social incentives for potential migrants to stay within their home countries.

More information available at:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/content/global-oceans-conference-2010>

http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/transboundary_adaptation_workshop.html