

Eucc Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter
No 2
September / October 2004

Eucc Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter is a three-monthly newsletter published by Eucc – Mediterranean Centre for Eucc members in the Mediterranean Region and other interest groups. Readers and Network Members (only entitled to newsletters) are encouraged to join Eucc – The Coastal Union as a Private or Professional Member. Members are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: check in www.eucc.net/en/members. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions to this newsletter, please contact m.montes@eucc.net. If you no longer wish to receive Eucc Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter, you can reply to this e-mail and mention "unsubscribe".

- TABLE OF CONTENTS -

- Eucc news –

1. Successful Eucc Members Assembly at Littoral 2004
2. Eucc Mediterranean Centre will coordinate an Erosion Management Course
3. Eucc changes e-mail and web addresses

- EU policies -

4. Analysis of greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe 2003
5. European Commission announces new deadlines for LIFE projects 2005
6. Greece, Malta and Cyprus block reform of sanctions for polluting ships
7. Shortcomings in implementation of EU environmental law, infringement actions
8. Commission proposal for protection of Portuguese and Spanish coral reefs
9. Identity cards for beaches
10. Proposal for a Council Regulation on the European Fisheries Fund
11. Commission authorises some French fishery aids, rejects others
12. Second Fisheries Compliance Scoreboard

- Mediterranean Organisation Profile -

IGN (Institut Géographique National), lead partner of MESSINA partnership

- Research initiatives -

13. Initial results of EU coastal sands project
14. Project PROMESS 1 contributes to Ocean Drilling Programme

- Calls for Tenders and Proposals -

- International news in brief -

15. European SEA and Coastal Erosion meeting held in Barcelona
16. RAMSAR toolkit for download in French and Spanish
17. LEGAMBIENTE to guide work on tourism by European NGOs
18. OCEANA report reveals NATO was aware that LFA sonar kills whales
19. America's Cup Valencia 2007: Construction Works in the port
20. Controversy due to the radioactive waste in the Flix dam of the Ebro River
21. OCEANA biologists start campaign to curb high mortality of rare sea turtles
22. Spain will irrigate land with sea water

- Events and training -

- Colophon –

- EDITORIAL -

EUCC Mediterranean Centre is now strengthening its role in the Mediterranean and so building its own approach on the basis of his members and partner's work; that means, individually through the projects on which the associates are involved, and which represent the diversity of the different profiles of the working situations that they have (universities, local authorities, administrations, etc.), or through the EUCC projects being carried out.

The present issue presents information about main initiatives and recent developments in the region researched by our staff or obtained from our members. European policies, specifically those related to the Mediterranean region, are covered best. Some research initiatives and projects are highlighted, as for example, the Messina project, where the main partners are from EUCC – The Coastal Union.

EUCC Mediterranean Centre also wants to cover the most important international news in Europe, but always maintaining a Mediterranean point of view. For that purpose, an informative note about the meeting Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Coastal Erosion held in Barcelona on 21st October 2004 is covered.

Our aim is to bring you regular news and updates of every exciting initiative and we hope that you will help us doing so by providing us with information and feed-back.

Jordi Serra
President of EUCC Spain
Secretary of the EUCC Mediterranean Centre Board

- EUCC news –

1. Successful EUCC Members Assembly at Littoral 2004

More than 300 coastal practitioners and scientists met at the Littoral 2004 Conference, 20-22 September in Aberdeen. At the EUCC Assembly members from 12 countries provided an overview of progress and achievements at a national level, and reported about the election of their representatives to the EUCC Council.

The new EUCC Council met to discuss several policy issues, approved a number of amendments to the Statutes, and elected new Executive Committee members. The Committee is now consisting of: Dr. David Green (President), Prof. Roland Paskoff (President of EUCC Mediterranean Centre), Prof. Francisco Taveira Pinto (Vocal of EUCC Mediterranean Centre Board), Dr. Gerald Schernewski, and Drs. Wim van der Gelder. Albert Salman will leave the Board on 15 November and has been appointed EUCC Director General.

The Council also appointed app. ten members of the EUCC Advisory Board.

Finally, the Board accepted the offer of the EUROCOAST Assembly to again join forces in the organisation of the next Littoral Conference, to be taking place in Gdansk (Poland) in September 2006.

2. EUCC Mediterranean Centre will coordinate an Erosion Management Course

EUCC Mediterranean Centre and the Hydraulic and Water Resources Institute/Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (IHRH/FEUP, Portugal) are organising an Erosion Management Course that will be held on September 5-10, 2005 at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (www.fe.up.pt).

The course is preliminarily divided into the following modules:

- General and Basic Concepts.
- Coastal hazards.
- EUROSION project.
- Beach Erosion Management.
- GIS and Data Management Systems.

- Environmental and Strategic Impact Assessment.
- Numerical and Physical Modelling.
- Survey and Monitoring.
- Integrated Management and Decision Support Systems.
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.
- Soft Coastal Engineering Techniques.
- CoastLearn: Multimedia distance training package on Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

This international course, based on CoastLearn and on the EUROSION deliverables, will be followed-up by a series of Mediterranean countries focused ones in various languages.

For further information, please contact: Francisco Taveira Pinto, fpinto@oe.up.pt

3. EUCC changes e-mail and web addresses

In August all EUCC employees received a new e-mail address according to the following system: initial.surname@eucc.net

Please mind: the old e-mail addresses will be deactivated late December!

The e-mail of the EUCC Mediterranean Centre staff has changed to:

Carolina Pérez: c.perez@eucc.net

Mireia Montes Puig: m.montes@eucc.net

Pedro Fernández: p.fernandez@eucc.net

General matters: med@eucc.net

- EU policies –

4. Analysis of greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe 2003

Keywords: EU policies, climate change.

The European Environment Agency has recently published a report called "Analysis of greenhouse gas emission trends and projects in Europe 2003" with the purpose of analysing and presenting the progress of the European Union (EU) as a whole towards fulfilling its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, and the contribution of each Member State (MS) towards achieving their 'burden sharing' targets.

In addition, it provides a more limited analysis of the progress of 11 acceding and candidate countries towards their Kyoto Protocol targets.

- The EU as a whole was 2.1 index points above its linear target path in 2001, thus leaving the track to Kyoto to a certain extent.
- Five Member States (France, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Germany and Sweden) were near or below their Kyoto target paths, thus fully on track towards fulfilling their Kyoto targets.
- Ten Members States were well above their Kyoto target paths (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Belgium, Austria and Denmark by more than 10 index points).

More information on:

http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2004_4/en

5. European Commission announces new deadlines for LIFE projects 2005

Keywords: EU policies, biodiversity.

The deadlines for the 2005 call for proposals for LIFE-Environment and LIFE-Nature projects have been pushed forward, by up to two months. This extension - due to the delayed publication of the two-year prolongation of the LIFE III Regulation - is good news for project applicants, allowing extra time to finalise those all-important application files.

LIFE-Nature

- Submission to the national competent authorities, by no later than 30 November 2004.
- Submission by the national competent authorities, to the European Commission, by no later than 7 January 2005.

LIFE-Environment – Demonstration projects

- Submission to the national competent authorities, by no later than 30 November 2004.
- Submission by the national competent authorities to the European Commission, by no later than 14 January 2005.

There has been no change for LIFE-Environment Preparatory actions and LIFE-Third Countries. Applicants are reminded that this announcement is not a Call for Proposals, These

dates will be formalised in a Call for Proposals, to be published in the future.

Further information on:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/news/lifeflash/newsflash09_04.htm

6. Greece, Malta and Cyprus block reform of sanctions for polluting ships

Keywords: EU policies, international conventions, transport, pollution.

Greece, Malta and Cyprus, countries with a large amount of flags of convenience, have blocked the European harmonization of economic sanctions and prison sentences for sea pollution culprits. Due to the impossibility to reach an agreement, the EU Ministers of Justice referred the proceedings to the summit of heads of States that will decide at the meeting of 4th and 5th November. The document includes sentences for high dumping of up to 10 years in prison.

The proposal expects that all the Member States take suitable measures to make sure pollutant discharge will be punished by "efficient, proportioned and dissuasive" penalties, including also prison penalties (minimum between 1 and 3 years). Extreme cases would be punished with up to 10 years. The proposal must be adopted by unanimity of the 25 Member States.

Greece, Malta and Cyprus, which according to diplomatic sources stayed "completely isolated" during the ministers debate, refused the document because from their point of view it goes further than the International Convention MARPOL, which means that European ships would be at a disadvantage. Spain, Germany, France and Portugal defended emphatically the necessity of the agreement due to the "important risk" of dumping disasters such as 'Prestige' or 'Erika'. According to these four countries, the EU should serve as a model regarding maritime safety to engage international stakeholders to strengthen the Marpol Convention.

Besides, the ministers warned Greece, Malta and Cyprus that head States and the EU Government demanded the penalty harmonization after the 'Prestige' shipwreck.

More information:

<http://www.masmar.com/noticias/cat/mar.html>

7. Shortcomings in implementation of EU environmental law, infringement actions

Keywords: EU policies, water management, water policies.

A report published by the European Commission in August 2004 shows serious shortcomings in the implementation of EU environmental law. France, Greece, Italy and Spain have the worst records. Most shortcomings have been found in the sectors of water, waste, nature protection and environmental impact assessments. This deprives citizens of the high level of environmental protection that they expect.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1038&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The Survey can be found at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/law/as03.htm>

Infringement actions:

Greece

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/977&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Spain

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/973&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

France

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/895&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

8. Commission proposal for protection of Portuguese and Spanish coral reefs

Keywords: EU policies, fisheries and aquaculture.

The European Commission has proposed measures to ensure protection for deep-sea corals around the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands until long-term rules can be established later on this year. A proposal for long-term protection through a ban on bottom trawling was tabled last February (IP/04/153). However, as its progress through the Council and the European Parliament has been delayed by the European Elections, the Commission has proposed that measures be put in place in the interim period.

More information on:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1034&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

9. Identity cards for beaches

Keywords: EU policies, health, tourism, water management, water policies.

A recently proposed law to provide beach-goers with information, such as water quality, has been approved by the EU's Environmental Ministers Committee. A source from the Portuguese Ministry of Environment told the Portuguese Press Agency (Lusa) that with the new law, there will be an improvement in quality of information concerning all beaches.

Information will be more concentrated, and each beach will have its own profile, a kind of ID card which may be easily understood by all readers. Each profile will be updated annually, unless standards of quality maintain stable during three consecutive years. The information will consist of water quality analysis and other useful information about the beach of choice, and will be posted on the beaches and the Internet.

More information on:

<http://the-news.net/cgi-local/story.pl?title=Identity%20cards%20for%20beaches&edition=762>

10. Proposal for a Council Regulation on the European Fisheries Fund

Keywords: EU policies, fisheries, aquaculture.

In July 2004 the Commission presented to the Council its proposal on the establishment of a European Fisheries Fund (EFF) which will succeed the current Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) for the period 2007-2013 (IP/04/922 and MEMO/04/181). In this presentation of the Commission proposal, Commissioner Fischler indicated that about €700 million per year will be available under the new fund to help reduce fishing effort, provide support to fishermen through social measures, diversify job opportunities in fishing communities and strengthen protection of the marine and aquaculture environment. He stressed that the new fund will be adapted to the changing needs of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and coastal communities.

More information on:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/193&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

11. Commission authorises some French fishery aids, rejects others

Keywords: EU policies, fisheries, aquaculture.

In July 2004 the European Commission has authorised certain aids granted by France (in the form of reductions in social security contributions and other charges) following the oil pollution caused by shipwreck of the Erika in December 1999 and a violent storm just afterwards. It considers the aids justified as far as the fish farmers on the Atlantic coast particularly affected by the events are concerned but for other fish farmers, and also for fishermen, it has found them incompatible with the common market and they will have to be recovered. It has also authorised certain fishery aids granted in Corsica between 1986 and 1999 but those for vessel modernisation with an increase in power granted between 1 January 1997 and 28 October 1998 have been found incompatible with the common market and must also be recovered. New aids for purchasing second-hand vessels were however authorised.

More information on:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/962&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

12. Second Fisheries Compliance Scoreboard

Keywords: fisheries, aquaculture.

In July 2004 the second edition of the Common Fisheries Policy Compliance Scoreboard was published on the internet. Strengthening enforcement and making it more uniform throughout the European Union is one of the pillars of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform. The online publication of the fisheries scoreboard is part of the actions taken to meet this goal.

Some of the main findings were:

- a) *Reporting of catches*: although still patchy with regard to some of the reports required, there has been some overall improvement in the submitting of

catch data to the Commission. The number of failures to comply fell from 28 cases in relation to the 2002 catches to 16 for 2003. Denmark is the only Member State which complied fully with the rules, while Germany, Italy, Greece, France, Ireland, Finland, Spain and Portugal failed to submit a number of reports.

- b) *Infringement procedures*: of the 81 infringements procedures currently pending against Member States, three-quarters (61) relate to fishing beyond allocated quotas. All Member States, except for Greece and Italy – only subject to one quota – are concerned: Denmark (10), Spain (9), Belgium, France and the UK (7), Sweden (6), Ireland and Portugal (5), Germany and Finland (2) and the Netherlands (1).

The scoreboard was first published in June 2003 and is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/scoreboard/index_en.htm

- Mediterranean Organisation Profile –

Each issue of EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter will present one Mediterranean Organisation, its activities, and its contribution to coastline management.

For this issue we will focus on the French Geographic Institute (IGN), lead partner of MESSINA partnership.

IGN (Institut Géographique National), lead partner of MESSINA partnership

MESSINA stands for Monitoring European Shoreline and Sharing Information on Near-shore Areas. This initiative has been proposed by 13 national, regional and local institutions in Europe to the INTERREG III C West zone programme of the European Commission, and has been approved end of 2003.

MESSINA partners, some of them being from the Mediterranean region, are: Institut Géographique National (IGN, France), Rijksintituut voor Kust en Zee (RIKZ,

Netherlands), Ville de Sète (France), Ystadskommun (Sweden), Università degli Studi di Messina (Italy), Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Italy), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB, Spain), Uniwersytet Szczecinski (Poland), Urząd Gminy w Rewalu (Poland), Statens Geotekniska Institut (SGI, Sweden), Erosionsskadecentrum (Sweden), Provincia Regionale di Ragusa (Italy) and Isle of Wight Council (UK).

The French Geographic Institute (*Institut Géographique National* - IGN) is a governmental agency affiliated to the French ministry of Public Works, Transport, and Housing. Since its creation in 1941, IGN has been in charge of surveying and mapping the French territory, thus contributing to equip France with accurate baseline data on topography, infrastructure, and hydrography. Over the years, IGN has constituted archives made of tens of thousands aerial photographs from the 1940's up to now as well as thousands of historical maps at scales ranging from 1:25,000 (most detailed) to 1:1,000,000 (less detailed), which all reveal the profound territorial changes induced by human developments over the past 60 years, notably along the coast.

With the advent of digital information technologies in the late 1980's, IGN has now at its disposal powerful tools to translate the ground reality into cartographic data and to track changes more easily, more accurately and more quickly. Three information products epitomise these major changes of IGN production practices: The BD TOPO®, The BD ORTHO®, and SCAN 25®.

IGN AND FRENCH REGIONS

Since the late 1980's, IGN decided to delocalise part of its activities towards regional agencies. These regional agencies aim at establishing contacts with stakeholders at the municipal, departmental and regional levels and tailoring IGN data offer to the needs and priorities of such local stakeholders.

In that sense, IGN has become an important actor of regional development, even though most of IGN data production remains centralised at IGN headquarters in Paris. At present date, 16 regional agencies exist and are actively

supporting local authorities to implement their local development policies. In that respect, it is worth mentioning that IGN has been in the past a key data provider to the regions Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Picardie and Haute-Normandie for the establishment of their coastal zone management strategy. With the help of MESSINA,, IGN intends to support other French local stakeholders, notably those of the region Languedoc-Roussillon - City of Sète, Agglomeration of the Thau Basin - which are partners of MESSINA.

IGN AND EUROPE

Beside its activities within the French territory, IGN is involved directly or via its international branch to a great deal of initiatives in Europe. Major among these initiatives are:

The INSPIRE Directive: IGN is the key player in France to support the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive. This European directive, under preparation, aims at building a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for Europe, that is to say, to define standards for the production, storage and diffusion of geographical information in Europe. The need for such standards is justified by the wide variety of national standards, formats, and reference systems used in Europe, which makes it difficult, time-consuming and expensive to develop cross-border applications. As the Official French Mapping Agency, IGN is in charge to make French standards relating to geographic information coherent with INSPIRE specifications. By harmonising the specifications of data relating to the coastline, elevation (including bathymetry), hydrography, and possibly wave climate and astronomic tides, the INSPIRE directive is expected to improve the definition and consistent delineation of “coastal sediment cells” Europe-wide, hence the elaboration and implementation of coastline management strategies.

EUROGEOGRAPHICS: Since 2000, IGN has been hosting the Headquarters of EuroGeographics. EuroGeographics is the European federation of national mapping agencies and includes 44 member organisations.

The mandate of EuroGeographics is to represent the national mapping and cadastral agencies (NMCAs) of Europe working for the European geographic information infrastructure. At the European level, EuroGeographics has initiated a number of “seamless” Europe-wide geographical database, among which the Seamless Administrative Boundaries of Europe (SABE) database and EuroRegionalMaps co-funded by the e-content programme of the European Commission.

CORINE Land Cover: Part and parcel of the programme Coordination of Information on Environment (CORINE) of the European Commission, started in the mid-1980s, CORINE Land Cover aimed at inventorying and mapping land cover patterns throughout Europe with a standardised methodology in order to facilitate interoperability and comparison of data among countries. IGN took an active part in the production of CORINE Land Cover in France and in assisting and training other countries – notably Eastern European countries. Since 2002, IGN is involved through its international branch, IGN France International, into the quality control of CLC2000, the programme meant to update CORINE Land Cover data, in partnership with the European Environment Agency and its Topic Centre on Terrestrial Environment hosted by the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). In turn, CORINE Land Cover has proven to be a valuable tool to estimate the extent of coastal urbanisation and depletion of coastal habitats over the past 15 years (LaCoast initiative, JRC, 1998). As of 2004, CORINE Land Cover database covers about 22 countries and 4 millions at km².

EUROSION: Last but not least, IGN has been involved through its international branch, IGN France International, in the EUROSION study supervised by the Directorate General Environment of the European Commission. The goal of EUROSION (2001-2004) was to assess the status and trends of coastal erosion and related risks of flooding throughout Europe and to review past and current practices of coastline management at the local and regional level. Within EUROSION, IGN France International has shared coordination and management activities

together with the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management (RIKZ) of the Dutch Ministry of Public Works and Water management, and has been responsible for building the EUROSION database which features several layers of information – coastline, elevation, administrative boundaries, geology and geomorphology, coastline stability status, presence of coastal defence works, wave and wind climate, sea level rise, river sediment outflows, land cover and land cover changes – at scale 1:100,000 and in digital GIS format. Results of EUROSION can be found at URL: <http://www.euroasion.org>

More information:

Stéphane Lombardo, Project Team Leader
slombardo@ignfi.fr

- Research initiatives -

13. Initial results of EU coastal sands project

Keywords: EU policies, water management, water policies, marine environment.

Recent scientific results of investigations of coastal sands as biocatalytical filters have proven higher levels of denitrification in deeper layers of sand sediment, as previously assumed. This supports the work of a team of scientists and nature protection officers that examine coastal sands as biocatalytical filters in the framework of COSA, a project funded by the EU under the energy, environment and sustainable development priority of the Fifth Framework Programme. The COSA project team will continue with its work until October 2005, when it will integrate and publish the final results. Up to 70 % of the European coastal shelf is made up of permeable sand, and as well as producing some memorable beaches, this sand also represents a valuable resource through its use in the fishing, raw materials, water, oil and gas industries. However, with hundreds of litres of seawater being pumped through each square metre of highly permeable sand per day, it is predicted that it also plays an important role in the functioning of coastal ecosystems, although exactly how and to what extent has not yet been properly assessed.

More information on:

COSA website:

www.eu-cosa.net/en/index.html

COSA article in Coastline 2003-1:

www.coastalguide.org/denmark/COSA.pdf

14. Project PROMESS 1 contributes to Ocean Drilling Programme

Keywords: Climate change, research.

A group of scientists of the European project PROMESS 1 (Profiles across sedimentary systems, part 1) have been travelling along the Mediterranean coast (Adriatic Sea, Leon Gulf) during one month to test the use of a "Mission Specific Platform", as a future European contribution to the Ocean Drilling Programme. The main objective is to obtain a continuous record of sedimentary processes and global changes during the last glacial cycles, for sequence stratigraphy, paleoceanography and paleoclimate reconstructions. The work started on June 27th. First studies allow the scientific community to confirm that human impact has modified the normal cycle of climate change.

More information on:

<http://www.pangaea.de/Projects/PROMESS1/>

- Calls for Tenders and Proposals -

a) Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area' (FP6-2004-Global-3): Proposals have been announced on June, 16, with a budget of 205 million. Closing date: 15 March 2005. Activity area(s): Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems. http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=133

b) Sixth Framework Programme (FP6-2003-INCO-MPC-2): Specific Support Actions (SSA) for Mediterranean Partners Countries (MPC): Proposals have been announced since December, 17, 2002, with a budget of 0.9 million.

Closing Dates: 07.03.2005, 07.09. 2005 and 06.03.2006, at 17.00 (Brussels local time)
http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=43

- International news in brief -

15. European SEA and Coastal Erosion meeting held in Barcelona

Keywords: International conventions, EU policies, Mediterranean.

On 21st October 2004 a meeting called by DG Environment of the European Commission was held in the head office of the Environment and Housing Department of the Generalitat de Catalunya, to discuss with Mediterranean experts the usefulness of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive for tackling erosion problems the Mediterranean coast is facing periodically.

The meeting was attended by Catalan, French and Italian experts, a representative of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and two representatives of the European Environment Agency, in addition to the representatives of the European Commission and of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

The conclusions of the discussion will be integrated into a European Commission publication related to SEA and to Coastal Erosion. As a whole, a unanimous point of view was achieved. The importance of applying SEA to every plan and programme with potential or actual affect on the coast was emphasized. Another point taken into account was the importance of developing sediment management plans.

Further information can be obtained from:
Xavier Martí (in charge of the Sectorial Plan of the Environment and Housing Department of the Generalitat de Catalunya), wxmarti@gencat.net

16. RAMSAR toolkit for download in French and Spanish

The English version of the RAMSAR Handbooks on the Wise Use of Wetlands became available for download in PDF format some weeks ago, and now several of the volumes in their French and Spanish versions can also be downloaded in PDF and Word formats. The remaining volumes

in the series will be posted as they are completed in the next few weeks.

Download the handbook in Spanish:

http://www.ramsar.org/lib_handbooks_s.htm

Download the handbook in French:

http://www.ramsar.org/lib_handbooks_s.htm

17. LEGAMBIENTE to guide work on tourism by European NGOs

Keywords: tourism.

Recently, the European Environment Bureau (EEB) has decided to strengthen its action in tourism and appointed the Italian NGO Legambiente in the leading role.

This decision was taken during the latest Annual General Assembly in Brussels, on the basis of a proposal submitted by Legambiente Turismo, the independent ecolabel for tourism with over 300 accommodation/tourist businesses marked by the Green Swan logo in several regions of Italy. It also led them to become members of the VISIT Association, a European Initiative for Sustainable Tourism. With over 1.300 tourist member businesses in several European countries, VISIT has been fully operational since 1st July 2004 and the first formal meeting shall be held in Italy (Rimini/Riccione) in mid-November. VISIT aims to add environmental quality to accommodation/tourist businesses and holiday destinations

More information on:

Legambiente Turismo

<http://www.legambienteturismo.it>
info@legambienteturismo.it

18. OCEANA report reveals NATO was aware that LFA sonar kills whales

Keywords: marine environment, European Union.

The international NGO Oceana has sent the Spanish Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Defence, the Government of the Canary Islands and the Council of Fuerteventura a report ("The death of cetaceans through the use of LFA sonar in naval military manoeuvres") that demonstrates that the navies of countries involved in the manoeuvres that caused the death of over a dozen whales in the Canary Islands were aware of the damage this might

cause. According to the report, various navies belonging to NATO countries are using a low-frequency, high-intensity sonar system that causes very serious harm to whales and other marine animals. This sonar, which is known by its English acronym LFAS (Low Frequency Active Sonar), emits sound waves of 100-500 hertz and almost 240 decibels, capable of reaching distances of more than 300 miles (around 500 kilometres).

http://europe.oceana.org/downloads/stranding_of_cetaceans.pdf

<http://www.oceana.org>

19. America's Cup Valencia 2007:

Construction Works in the port

Keywords: marina, environmental impact.

The construction works of the interior canal in the dock of Valencia Port, indispensable infrastructure for the celebration of the America's Cup (the most important sailing world championship), have already been put out to tender with a budget of 143,9 million EUR. The environmental impact assessment (in phase of public consultation) forecasts that this part of the littoral will move forward 140 metres towards the sea in twenty years, while the beaches in the north of the city will move back at least 20 metres; furthermore, the fishing fleet will be harmed by the slips of sand banks and the changes of sea fauna and flora. For this reasons, the Neighbours Federation of Valencia will submit a declaration that will gather together the arguments of all the affected neighbourhoods; besides, the secretary general of the Spanish Ministry of Environment warned that the enlargement projects in the ports of the Valencian Region due to the America's Cup must consider posidonia meadows, which are highly sensitive to the alteration in the environment. On the other hand, the Valencia mayoress played the complaints down and asserted that any beach will disappear.

More information:

<http://servicios.lasprovincias.es/valencia/pg040525/actualidad/valencia/valencia.html>

<http://www.masmar.com/noticias/cat/mar.html>

20. Controversy due to the radioactive waste in the Flix dam of the Ebro River

Keywords: Water, pollution.

In September 2004 the Autonomous Government of Catalunya announced publicly the results of a research project conducted by a multidisciplinary team (CSIC, Superior Council of Scientific Research - UAB, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) regarding a long pollution problem caused by the chemical company Erkimia (Ercros group) behind the Flix dam. In that work, up to 360.000 tonnes of toxic waste have been mapped and analysed. Among others, the waste contains high concentrations of heavy metals (which cause radioactive pollution by natural chemical evolution) and chlorinated organics (DDT and PCB, banned since 1980). There has been considerable controversy between the administration, the company, environmental groups, as well as scientists. The options discussed on the meeting held by the technical commission on 3rd November have had as a consequence the announcement of a public tender in 2005 in order to decide which is the best option, whether the extraction and processing of the discharges that presently are in the river bed of the Flix reservoir or its own physical confinement .

The Spanish Government announced that the deadline for solving that important environmental problem is the year 2008.

More information on:

http://mediambient.gencat.net/cat/ciudadans/informacio_ambiental/Flix/inici.jsp (In Catalan)

<http://www.csic.es/prensa/Dossier%20FLIX/dossierFLIX.html> (In Spanish)

21. OCEANA biologists start campaign to curb high mortality of rare sea turtles

Keywords: marine environment.

The more than 400.000 sea turtles that get caught each year on the hooks of longline fleets are, according to OCEANA, an international NGO, victims of a fishing technique that is used to catch swordfish, tuna and, occasionally, sharks. Sea turtles are an unwanted species, as are stingrays, sunfish, pompanos and dolphin fish, as well as certain species of marlin, tuna and sharks. According to the report "Sea Turtles on the Hook" that OCEANA has recently presented,

these fleets use some 3.8 million hooks each day, which adds up to 1.400 million hooks a year. Two hundred million of these are aimed at catching swordfish, and 1.200 million at catching tuna. Thirty-seven per cent of this huge fishing effort is focused on the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. It is also estimated that for every thousand hooks set, 14 loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and 2.4 leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) may be caught. Between 50 and 70 Spanish longliners, most of which are based in the fishing ports of Alicante, Murcia and Almeria, specialize in fishing for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) with long lines in the western Mediterranean. They are popularly known as "marrajeros" because originally they also used to fish for a particular species of shark called "marrajo". The majority of these vessels are between 12 and 18 metres long with crews that range between four and eight men. Their longlines, which measure between 22 and 44 miles per vessel (30 and 60 kilometres respectively), are equipped with between 1,200 and 1.400 hooks. Although their activity takes place all year round, it intensifies in June, July, August and September, with each vessel spending an average of 20 days out fishing per month. During these months, around 3,000 kilometres of long lines can be set in the fleet's fishing zone, carrying 80,000 hooks each night.

More information on:

http://europe.oceana.org/downloads/Sea_Turtles_On_The_Hook.pdf

22. Spain will irrigate land with sea water

Keywords: Water management and water policies, health.

The Environment Minister of Spain has revealed plans to use sea water to irrigate the parched Southern parts of Spain. Desalination plants will utilize the vast natural resources from the Mediterranean Sea to provide irrigation and fresh water to València and Murcia, where nearby rivers and reservoirs have been unable to meet demands. The end product will be priced according to its intended purpose. Desalination plants are available along the coast to help cope with the demand for water, and the proposed system would provide much greater water and energy efficiency than re-directing the River

Ebro. The hugely controversial plans to re-route the Ebro River down across Spain to its Southern provinces that were put in place before the current socialist government was elected last March have been scrapped.

More information on:

http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=8844&channel=1

- Events and training -

November 17-25, 2004

The 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress - "People and Nature - only one world"
Bangkok, Thailand

Contact:

IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Ursula Hiltbrunner, tel: +41 (0) 22 999 02 32 (direct)

www.iucn.org/about/wcc/wcc.pdf

November 22-26, 2004

VII CONAMA: Cumbre del Desarrollo Sostenible (in Spanish)

VII CONAMA: Summit conference on Sustainable Development

Palacio Municipal del Campo de las Naciones, Madrid

Organised by CONAMA Foundation, 8 different meetings will be held, focussing on sustainable development.

More information (in Spanish):

<http://www.conama.org/vii/index.html>

December 8-12, 2004

VI Congreso Ibérico de Gestión y Planificación del Agua,

Tortosa, Spain

Science, technique and citizenship, the keys to sustainable water management.

Objective: to analyse and propose participatory models and technically sustainable water management systems to be a space of reflection and dialogue between science, technique and citizens. The main themes are:

- Public and private water administration
- Integrated management of hydraulic basins
- Citizen education and participation
- Models of water development and economy
- Technical and methodological innovation for water management and conservation.

- A new water management model for Catalunya.

More information (In Spanish):

<http://www.us.es/ciberico>

April 11-15, 2005

COASTAL ENGINEERING 2005: Seventh International Conference on Modelling, Measurements, Engineering and Management of Seas and Coastal Regions.

Algarve, Portugal

For further information:

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2005/coastal2005/1.html>

April 11-15, 2005

Coastal Dynamics 2005, Multi-scale dynamics of the coastal system,

Barcelona, Spain

Organization: LIM/UPC

<http://www.coastaldynamics.org>

April 17-20, 2005

International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean,

Vilamoura, Algarve, Portugal.

Info: ICCCM2005 Secretariat

Telf: 351 966055637

Email: icccm2005_as@aeiou.pt.

<http://icccm2005.tripod.com>

July 3-7, 2005

WAVES 2005: Fifth International Conference on Ocean Wave Measurement and Analysis

Palacio de Congresos, Madrid, Spain
Closing date for abstracts and reports: 31 October 2004.

For further information:

www.cedex.es/waves2005

September 12-18, 2005

The World Conference on Ecological Restoration

"Ecological Restoration: A Global Challenge"

Zaragoza, Spain

Contact:

Conference Secretariat: di&co

Paseo de Sagasta, 19, Entlo dcha

50008 Zaragoza, Spain

Phone: +34 976 211 748

Fax: +34 976 212 959

secretariat@ecologicalrestoration.net

<http://www.ecologicalrestoration.net>

October 25-29, 2005

MEDCOAST 05 International Conference

Kusadasi, Turkey.

The deadline for abstract submission is 31 January 2005

More information, the list of topics and the abstract submission procedure can be found in MEDCOAST web page:

www.medcoast.org.tr

October 2005-June 2006

Master y Título de Experto sobre Gestión

Integrada de Áreas Litorales

Facultad de Ciencias del Mar y Ambientales

Cádiz, Spain

For further information:

<http://www.uca.es/grup-invest/coast>

- Colophon -

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Members of the EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter editorial team: Mireia Montes Puig, Jordi Serra, Irene Lucius, Carolina Pérez, Pedro Fernández (València America's Cup 2007).

Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Euro Mediterranean Newsletter No 3 2004: 13 December 2004.

Established in 1989, EUCC – The Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2500 members and member organisations in 40 countries. EUCC Mediterranean Centre is an association aiming at serving the EUCC Southern European and Mediterranean membership and at developing new EUCC initiatives in the region. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POB 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands, tel: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.net>, email: info@eucc.net
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This publication has received funding from the European Community. Sole responsibility of this publication lies with the authors; the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information herein.