



Integrated management of Mediterranean coastal areas: How can we prevent biodiversity from being lost forever?

Symposium organised by the
French Presidency of the European Union
and the Mediterranean Union

18-19 December 2008
Nice – Palais de la Méditerranée

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Context

For all of us, Mediterranean coastal areas are part of our natural and cultural heritage; they should be preserved and used in the long term for the benefit of future generations. The increase in pressure imposed on the coast by Man is threatening its integrity. It is now urgent to put an end to this or reverse the coastal erosion process, and significantly reduce the extent to which the biodiversity of these ecosystems is being lost. Coastal areas are a financially, socially and ecologically irreplaceable resource. Their use and management with a view to preservation and reasoned development require a targeted approach applied throughout the Mediterranean Basin.

Hosted by the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Mediterranean Union, the French **Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Use**, the **Egyptian Ministry for Environmental Issues** and the **French Coastal Conservatoire** are jointly organising a symposium entitled "Integrated Management of Mediterranean Coastal Areas, local and regional: how can we prevent biodiversity from being lost forever?", which will bring together Government departments, local public authorities, land managers and players and Mediterranean Basin NGOs.

The ambition of this event is to seek sustainable solutions to the difficulties encountered and propose plans of action for developing ongoing initiatives, with a view to preventing the biodiversity of the Mediterranean from being lost forever. It will enable these issues to be tackled for an operational approach to managing the entire Mediterranean Basin coastline.

The signing of the protocol for managing the entire coastline by 14 of the 22 parties in the Barcelona Convention on 21 January 2008 further underlined the importance of such an approach to preserve the biodiversity of the Mediterranean Basin. This protocol must enable us to capitalise on all of the expertise found around the Mediterranean countries and enable sustainable management of coastal areas, to add to the resources they have for protecting it.

Managing the entire coastline will in fact require a multitude of expertise and players must be motivated, both at Government and local level. But these initiatives will have to overcome a number of obstacles before they can actually be incorporated in the protocol's operations on the Mediterranean: ongoing finance for the initiatives, actual incorporating of terrestrial and marine issues, co-ordination of sectorial policies and involvement of local players.

Through 4 workshops, the symposium will especially address the crucial imperatives concerned with implementing the protocol for integrated coastline management:

- Sustainable Tourism;
- Climate change and coastal erosion;
- Exchanges and networks: network task between players, governance, financing and cross-border approaches;
- Protected area and ecological continuity networks.

Agenda: part open to the press (provisional programme*) **(parts open to the press in red)**

Thursday 18 December (Part open to the press, especially for photo shoots)

9.00 to 9.30 am:

Opening speeches with Egyptian co-Presidency (Egyptian Environment Agency) – France (Director of Water and Biodiversity – Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Use)

Opening speeches:

- o **Christian Estrosi – Mayor of Nice or his representative;**
- o **Michel Vauzelle – Chairman of the *Conseil Régional de Provence Alpes Côtes d'Azur* [Regional Council for Provence Alpes Côtes d'Azur] or his representative;**
- o **Paul Mifsud – Mediterranean Action Plan Co-ordinator;**
- o **Mohamed Farouk – Director General of Integrated Management of Lakes and Coastal Areas – Egyptian Environment Agency;**
- o **Judith Jiguet – Director of Water and Biodiversity – Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Use;**

Friday 19 December (press Open Day):

9.30 – 11.00 am: Plenary session: Introduction to workshop missions by reporters and debates

- Sustainable Tourism
- Integrated Management of Coastal Areas faced with Climate Change
- Players, Networks and Governance
- The Coast, Protected Areas and Ecological Continuity
- Open debate

11.00 am – Coffee

11.30 am – Plenary session: Perspectives for the GIZC protocol and closing discussion between Egyptian and French representatives:

Closing discussion:

- M. Mohamed Farouk – Director General of Integrated Management of Lakes and Coastal Areas – Egyptian Environment Agency
- M. Jean Marc Michel – Director General for Land Use, Housing and Nature – Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Use

12.30 – 2.00 pm: Lunch on site

2.00 – 5.00 pm: Site visit: Nice Observatory/Mont Vinaigrier

The site of the French Presidency of the European Union Council

Visit the website of the French Presidency of the European Union Council www.ue2008.fr where you will find all of the information you want as well as practical notes about the Presidency (press releases, the registration procedure, the provisional conference programme, etc.).

Registration

Appended registration form, duly completed, to be e-mailed to the media department (see press contacts at the end of the document) **to confirm your attendance before midday on 16 December 2008.**

Venue

Nice – Palais de la Méditerranée
13-15 Promenade des Anglais
06000 Nice

Press conference room

The press conference room will be fitted out with all of the equipment you need: PC, Internet connections, printer, fax and telephones. Provision of lines with special numbers is left to the discretion of the organisers.

Opening to the press

The press Open Day is Friday 19 December.

Interview requests

There is an online form which you can use to send interview requests out before the event: http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=3357

Getting to Nice

By air

73 Air France flights per day to Nice airport, directly from 15 cities in France and 7 cities in the rest of Europe and the world.

7 daily links with its Charles de Gaulle hub

By train

TGV, to and from Paris (journey time 5½ hours).

Accommodation*

See Finding Accommodation in Nice document

Press contact

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*****Documents appended*****

- Registration form
- Provisional programme
- Finding accommodation in Nice