Protecting
the Mediterranean
Environment

Educational Report

Training Course

Protecting the Mediterranean environment: Youth can make the difference!

Greece, 7th-17th July 2008

institute for youth
Hellenic National Agency for the E.U. Programmes Youth in Action and Eurodesk

Youth
EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMME "YOUTH"
Youth
NATIONAL AGENCY OF CYPRUS

SALTO-YOUTH
EUROMED
RESOURCE CENTRE

Education and Culture

INTRODUCTION

The Training Course "Protecting the Mediterranean Environment: Youth can make a difference!" took place in Athens and Cycladic Islands between July 7th and 17th, 2008.

Protection of environment, sustainable development, global warming, desertification, water management and other urgent environmental issues are becoming more and more important on a political level, a core issue for civil society and NGOs, a source of worrying for global economy.

The protection of the Mediterranean Sea could represent another opportunity to bring both sides together, to foster the cooperation between European countries and MEDA countries.

The Greek and the Cypriot National Agencies for the Youth in Action Programme designed the concept of the training course "Protecting the Mediterranean Environment: Youth can make a difference!" in cooperation with SALTO EuroMed.

In your hands you have the Educational Units of the training course from the starting point, including the preparation meeting which was held in Athens, 29th May–1st June 2008 and the implementation of the Training Course, which was held in Athens and Cycladic Islands from 7th to 17th July 2008.

TRAINING TEAM
Giuseppe Marletta (Italy), Coordinator of the Training Course
Evi Koutsousirou (Greece), Trainer
Haythem Kamel (Egypt), Trainer
Emeric Abrignani (France), Trainer
Bernard Abrignani (France), Trainer

ORGANIZERS
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1. PREPARATORY MEETING

1.1 Aims and Objectives

Aims

- To get to know and understand the concept of the TC "Protecting the Mediterranean Environment: Youth can make the difference!"
- To create the organisational and educational frame of the training course.

Objectives

- To introduce and constitute the Training Team of the TC
- To finalize the selection of participants
- To divide tasks among the team members.
- To create the provisional agenda of the TC.
- To explore all the organizational and logistics aspects, in close cooperation with the two National Agencies organising the training course.

1.2 **Programme**

The Preparatory Meeting was held in Athens, Divanis Acropolis Hotel, between May the 29th and June the 1st 2008.
Participants:

- ✓ Bernard Abrignani – Coordinator of SALTO-EURO-MED YOUTH Resource Centre
- ✓ Dora Bei, Head of the Greek National Agency
- ✓ Yiannis Yiannakis, Head of the Cypriot National Agency
- ✓ Layia Tzortzi, TCP Officer, Greek NA
- ✓ Martha Diamantopoulou, TCP Officer, Greek NA
- ✓ Giuseppe Marletta, Coordinator of the Training Course
- ✓ Evi Koutsospirou, Trainer
- ✓ Haythem Kamel, Trainer

Day One – Thursday 29th.
Arrival and Dinner

Day Two – Friday 30th
Introduction of the training course: rationale, concept
Selection of Participants I
Lunch in the old centre of Plaka
Selection of Participants II
Description and proposals of some routes the sailing might follow.
Reflection on the media and journalists to be involved in the project

Dinner in the student area of Exarchia

Day Three – Saturday 31st

Visit of the sailing boats that will host the TC
Coffe break at the Lake of Vouliagmeni
Lunch at the beach of Kavouri
Selection of Participants III
Reflection on the environmental issues to be tackled
Provisional agenda of the training
Division of tasks and roles within the team
Evaluation of the prep-meeting
Dinner at the roof garden of the hotel

Day 4 – Sunday 1st

Departure

1.3 **Implementation**

Day One - Thursday 29th
Dinner

Day Two – Friday 30th
Great time is devoted to the **selection of participants.**
Half of the group of participants is selected among those who applied on the SALTO database with the support of the relevant European NAs and EMYUs.
For the rest of the group of participants, the two NAs will work in cooperation with SALTO and the training team to find more participants with the right profile for this unique training course.
Some potential candidates are already identified thanks to personal contact of the participants of the prep-meeting with NGOs working in the field who can be interested in sending participants, with EMYUs and European NAs.
Dora ensures that the Greek NA can support the travel costs of some MEDA and EU participants.

Dora, Layia, Martha, Evi and Yiannis proposed some **possible routes** the sailing boats might follow in July. This aspect is considered very important because, according to that, the training team will build and adapt the educational programme. Predictions are not easy to do because the path to be done will depend a lot on the weather conditions.
After different proposals, one possible programme can be:
Alimos Marina, Athens -> Kea -> Kythnos -> Serifos -> Syros -> Kea -> Alimos Marina
Other possible options can include the island of Mykonos, to reflect upon the environmental impact of tourism; Tinos, for its religious value. The Greek NA will finalize a proposal of the ideal route that the skippers will try to respect, accordingly to sailing and weather needs.
Evi will prepare a document with description of the islands where the sailing boats will possibly dock: trying to identifying aspects relevant to our topics, specific

venues or resource NGOs that can make our stay in the island an educational resource.

Dora describes the **philosophy** behind this training course, the expected outcomes and the ratio behind some specific events that will take place in the islands. Visibility of the YiA programme, the promotion of this specific project related to environmental issues, the structural dialogue between stakeholders, young people and environmental NGOs are the main interests of the two NAs supporting the TC.

Two **specific events** will take place.

- One in **Kea** where former Greek EVS volunteers will meet for evaluating their European Voluntary Service. The training team will be in touch with the facilitators of the EVS event to try to combine one evening and/or morning. Giuseppe proposes to organise a common dinner and a workshop on the topic of environment facilitated by our participants for the Greek former EVS. The implementation of this meeting will depend a lot on the impact of an 8 hours long trip (from Athens, Alimos to Kea) on our group. Maybe a rest is absolutely needed.
- The other event will be organised specifically for us and our training in the island of **Syros**. A meeting will gather together stakeholders, politicians and experts in the field of environment who will meet the participants of the training course to try to build a structural dialogue, to share about environment and which is the role that young people and youth NGOs can have, how a decision-making process in this field can be shared.

We reflected on the idea of having 5 **journalists** following the event, one on each boat. The ideal composition of the team of journalists is:

- One journalist from a Greek national media, possibly MTV.
- One journalist from EURONEWS
- One journalist from AlJazeera
- One journalist from RFI, Radio France International
- One journalist from Cyprus.

The ambitious media coverage of the project will be ensured also by local or national journailists who will be invited to follow the events on the different islands.
The Greek NA can also support the media paying the travel costs of the 5 journalists (if needed of course!)

Day Three – Saturday 31st

The training team discussed on the **programme** and the activities to be developed.
Given the specificity of this unique training, it is impossible create a definitive programme. The weather conditions can affect the whole trip and that is why we need a flexible educational flow of activities.
The programme will proceed as follows:

- the day and a half spent in Athens before the sailing will be mainly devoted to group building and sailing instructions/responsibilities)
- the training team will prepare **subject-specific workshops** to be implemented on board according to the length of the trip or the destination.

The subjects to be tackled are: water management, pollution and its impact on social life, desertification, sustainable development, renewable energies, eco-politics, eco-tourism.
- Stops on different, probably five, Greek islands where our participants will display exhibitions, animate workshops, promote campaigns about environment.
- One final day back in Athens for networking activities and evaluation of the whole training course.

We could ask the teams of the 5 boats to facilitate activities for the other participants: treasure hunts, quizzes, etc.
One of the red-lines of the training can be the sailor's diary. The idea has still to be developed: it could be a personal reflection for those who want to take notes on their learning or feeling; it can be an additional tool for the journalists and their work; it can also be the outcome of the daily reflection groups.
Trainers will be on a **constant communication**, involving also Emeric who could not attend the preparation meeting. Their communication is essential for sharing responsibilities and tasks, for preparing the activities.

To ensure the involvement of all participants, saving time and avoiding tourists on board, the team has work a lot on the **preparation** before the training. The following ideas should be developed:
- having the hopes and fears session before the training
- creating a document to investigate on pax' profile. It could be useful to know more about them and their skills (gender, origin, sailing skills, cooking….) and divide them on team boats before the training.
- starting the group-building activities: asking them to upload photos on the platform, asking and sharing questions about them (favourite food, music, values, etc.)
- developing specific homework to motivate them to research and getting into the atmosphere of the training. Possible requests can be:
    - answer to a quiz using the documents we provide them with. We could play a bit, including some info about their fellows taken from the above-mentioned questions.
    - Research on environment and environmental policies in their country or local communities
    - The profile of their NGOs (they should also bring material about the NGO to the training)
    - A project idea to be developed in the framework of the YiA programme in the field of environment
    - The preparation of two games/exercises: a short one or icebreaker; a longer one to be implemented either with other participants or with local young people and/or tourists in the islands.

A couple of days after the preparation meeting a complete report of the meeting was submitted to all the actors -organisers and trainers- (including a detailed "to do list) to facilitate the preparation phase and the communication among the different actors.

2. PREPARATION OF PARTICIPANTS

The educational team decided during the prep-meeting to try to start working before the training seminar itself, with an intense preparation phase with participants: asking them to complete some specific tasks/assignments.
A very useful tool was the SALTO EuroMed e-learning community, www.saltoeuromed-elc.com. This e-community was created by SALTO EuroMed with the aim of sharing information, resources, data among trainers, the team and the relevant NAs, between the team and participants, among participants.

The e-community contains today:

- The photos of the prep-meeting
- An "Identity Card" for every participant (including a photo and information related to pax countries, interests, personality)
- A document with hopes and fears of participants
- A brief presentation of pax NGOs (name, aims, target group, main activities)
- Participants researches on environmental issues
- Internet links to useful resources in the field of environment
- Draft agenda of the seminar
- List of participants
- Organisational information (e.g. "what to bring on the sailing boats")

2.1. Identity Cards

Participants built their *Identity Cards* using a format and answering some specific questions. All identity cards where used on the boats as a "get to know" tool.

2.2. My organisation

Participants had the chance to share about their organisations (including target groups and aims). It was a useful tool participants and trainers used to understand which kind of NGOs and organisations participated to the training event. It was the starting point for the partner matching session which was held at the end of the training course.

2.3. Research on environmental issues

To get familiar with environmental issues participants were asked to make a research on one of the following topics:

- Water management
- Pollution and its impact on social life
- Desertification
- Sustainable development
- Renewable energies
- Eco-politics
- Eco-tourism

All researches were first uploaded on the SALTO EuroMed e-learning community and then used during the implementation of the TC.
All researches are available in annex 5.2.

2.4. Hopes and fears

Participants shared about their hopes, expectations and fears related to the training course. All documents with hopes and fears were uploaded on the SALTO EuroMed e-learning community.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAINING COURSE

3.1. Course description

(as it appears in the SALTO-EuroMed website).

35 participants coming from European and MEDA countries join an itinerant training course on 5 different sailboats around Greek Cycladic Islands. They experience strong team-building activities, learn from sessions on environmental issues, produce an itinerant exhibition to be shown during the big events organised in all the islands where sailboats stop, animate workshops and non-formal sessions during these events.

Aims

- To raise awareness on the protection of the Mediterranean environment
- To foster competences on how the Youth in Action and the EuroMed programmes can be used in this field
- To enhance active citizenship through the creation of structural dialogue between participants and stakeholders on environmental issue

Objectives

- To learn about concrete contribution to global sustainable development, with a special focus on the Euro-Mediterranean area
- To strengthen participants' initiative and creativity
- To stimulate networking, improving quality and quantity of youth projects on environmental issues
- To exchange good practices

Profile of participants

The course is for youth workers and youth leaders who:

- are between 20 and 30 years old
- are experienced in the Euro-Med YOUTH Programme and/or Youth in Action Programme
- are open to share and enrich their knowledge and awareness regarding environmental issues
- are committed to co-operate during the preparation phase before the implementation of the training course according to the team of trainers' requests (writing articles, making researches, etc.)
- are supported by their organisations and have a concrete interest in implementing a Euro-Med project on environmental issues
- are able to communicate and work in English
- are committed to attend the course for its full duration
- can swim and don't suffer from seasickness
- previous sailing experiences is considered an asset during applicants' selection process
- are ready to be active part of the sailing crew (cooking, cleaning, etc.)

Programme elements

- Group building activities
- Thematic sessions on environmental issues (sustainable development, water, desertification, energy, pollution, etc.)

- Intercultural events
- Promotional and public events involving locals, tourists and stakeholders (from local, national and international institutions and green parties, NGOs active in the field,
- Partner-matching and networking among participants
- On-going evaluation of the training course

3.2. Programme

3.2.1. Introduction to the TC and its methodology

As the first session of the training course, the aims, objectives and specificities of the seminar were introduced to participants.

The methodological strategy developed by SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed is founded on the following principles:

T.A.P.E.	S.T.A.R.
To **T**est – **T**aste To **A**nalyse To **P**roduce To **E**xchange - **E**valuate	**S** olidarity **T** olerance **A** utonomy **R** esponsibility – **R** espect

T.A.P.E. is related to the process developed during the TC's and S.T.A.R. is related to values for EuroMed Youth Cooperation.

T.A.P.E.

Test-Taste

The TEST and TASTE phases regard a first approach to the environment in which participants have the chance to know and to be aware of the place they are. During the TC's they are in different situations which allow them to self Test and in other moments they have the unique opportunity to Test new tools or methods. All the activities have to be done in a spirit of Tasting, enjoying each moment especially those linked to environmental issues.

A n a l y s e

The ANALYSE phase concerns the act of analysing the activities that have been made during the TEST/TASTE phases, and then to reflect on the mutual links and interactions between the different pieces of information and experiences.

P r o d u c e

The PRODUCTION phases proposed are those in which participants will present the work they have prepared before coming to the TC's, i.e. researches on environmental issues.. And the articles they have to create in the 4 groups that will introduced below.

E x c h a n g e - E v a l u a t e

The EXCHANGE is the transversal process during the TC. It is through the exchange (of opinions, ideas, skills…) that the participants have the chance to learn from each other and enrich their competences, knowledge and abilities.
To EVALUATE is the other transversal process that supports and checks if the activity reached the aims or not, it means to work with the participants in order to get a meaning out of the activity and to build up a common and shared "sense" for it.

S.T.A.R.

Solidarity
Means to support each other to learn, to appreciate, to translate, to understand, to create.

Tolerance
Means to accept other points of view, ideas, ways of thinking and acting, uses and traditions, believes…

Autonomy
Means the opportunity given to the participants to manage by themselves, some stages of the programme, on with their own rhythm, aims and contents...

Responsibility
Means the acceptance and the fact to assume the task given and freely accepted before coming and during the TC's.

Respect
Means something very difficult to have and to show sometimes. It is based on reciprocity and allows a trustful atmosphere and a good learning process with emphaty.

3.2.2 Group Dynamics

Several group building activities were facilitated to allow participants to get to know each other, to build a safe environment, to create links among participants.

Various name games are facilitated to get to know each other's names.

Human Bingo

The handout below is distributed to participants. They have to find people in the group who have the characteristics descried in the different boxes. As the game "bingo", the aim is to fill out all the boxes.

Who visited more than 5 countries	**Who is single**	**Who studied Fashion Design**	**Who speaks more than 3 languages**
Who visited Greece before	**Who can bite the elbow**	**Who played Guitar**	**Who like to sing in the shower**
Who live in a city by the sea	**Who visited Mongolia**	**Who has a double nationality**	**Who has a baby**
Who have his/her birthday in this training	**Who have 3 brothers and sisters**	**Who can dance traditional folk dance**	**Who don't live in his/her country of birth**

Secret dolphin

Background information

Also known as secret friend or secret angel, here adapted to the marine setting.
A "soft" and long-term group-building activity that lasts for the entire seminar.

Description

Participants write their names on a piece of paper. All papers are folded, put together in a basket and mixed. Participants then choose a piece of paper reporting a (unknown) name. They are the secret dolphins of the person they got the name from the basket. They have to take care of them, saying nice words, giving presents, protect the partner. This has to be made in secret.
At the end of the seminar all participants discover who their secret dolphins were, who has been taking care of them.

Pirates and parrots

Another "long-term group-building activity". Its aim is keeping participants interact also in informal moments, outside training sessions.
The team prepared a set of special tasks, one per participant. Participants took in a lottery one piece of paper with one task. For example "You are the pirate of John Smith. Your task is making your parrot John Smith teach you a traditional song in his mother tongue". Or "You are the pirate of Leslie Andersen. Your task is making your parrot Leslie Andersen offer you an ice-cream."
Pirates that accomplish successfully their task win the papers of their parrots/victims. They have now more tasks to be accomplished.
At the end of the seminar a pirates ceremony is held to check who got the higher number of parrots (=who has the higher number of papers/tasks).

Human Knot

Participants are divided into three smaller groups. They are asked to stay in a circle quite close one to each other. They have to hold their hands with two people from the group (but not their neighbours). When everyone is holding their two hands the facilitator asks participants to "undo" the knot that was just created.

Portraits

Participants are sitting in two lines (line A and line B): one in front of each other. People sitting in line A are just posing for people sitting in line B who are drawing the portraits of the participants A. Very fast rounds of 15 seconds are made in which people draw. After 15 seconds the painters change place and move of one seat. Portraits are over when people come back to their original places.
A second round in which people in line B are posing and those in line A are drawing is made.

3.2.3. Getting into the topic

Double wheel

Participants sit opposite to each other forming two circles. Then facilitators gave pax one question and they had to discuss about it with the person opposite them for 5 minutes. Then the outside wheel had to move and the pax to change couples. One more question and etc etc

The questions were:

1. How can an NGO support the protection of environment?
2. Give an example of action in your local community that has to do with environmental protection
3. What is the biggest environmental problem in your country according to you?

Take a step forward

Participants are standing in a line. The facilitators reads some statements and people have to move if they agree with the statement or stay still if they don't agree. All questions are related to the topic of environment.

The debriefing is run at the end trying especially to understand the different points of view of people who moved a lot and thos who didn't move.

Statements:

1. When making a local journey (i.e less than 5 miles) You walk or use a bicycle. And you don't use a car.
2. When you buy a car , you consider fuel efficiency
3. You share car journeys with family and friends
4. You cycle or walk to do leisure activities, such as going to the pub or playing sport in your spare time
5. The majority of your holidays don't involve flying to your destination
6. you are not a smoker
7. you usually socialize and spend your leisure time close to home (within 20 miles)
8. In cold weather at home, you don't use the heater and wear warm clothes more.
9. you monitor your use of heating and hot water, adjusting it to your requirements (e.g. thermostatic boiler controls)
10. you usually switch off electrical appliances completely when not in use (e.g. TVs, computers, CD players and lights)not just in stand by mode
11. You don't spend so much time in the shower
12. you don't wash your clothes just after one day's wear
13. you usually buy locally produced food and vegetables
14. If you purchase wood products, such as furniture, wood floors and Christmas trees, you ensure that they come from sustainable forests
15. When you buy consumer goods you usually look for environmental information about the product
16. you grow or eat organic food

17. you pass on old clothes and goods (e.g. to charity shops)
18. you use paper sheets from both sides
19. you recycle home waste (e.g. glass, paper, plastic and tins)
20. you don't print any email unless necessary
21. you don't consume so much fast food
22. in hot weather you use a fan instead of air condition
23. you switch the light on in the occupied rooms only
24. you prefer public transportation than your own car or a taxi

3.2.4. Getting onboard

Ship naming

After participants' distribution onboard of the five sailing boats, the five crews prepared a motto and a song to attribute to their boats. To strengthen the feeling of "belonging", to facilitate to creation of a good group atmosphere.
A ceremony of ship-naming took place with songs and mottos from all the different crews.

Tasks planning

In order to share tasks and responsibilities, to define roles and to build the group, the five crews divided the tasks on the boat (cooking, cleaning, helping the skippers).

3.2.5. Presentations of the islands

Along the itinerant training course two presentations were made. To introduce the environment of the islands and to get familiar with the Cyclades islands.

1st presentation: Attika-Sounio-Kea/Tzia

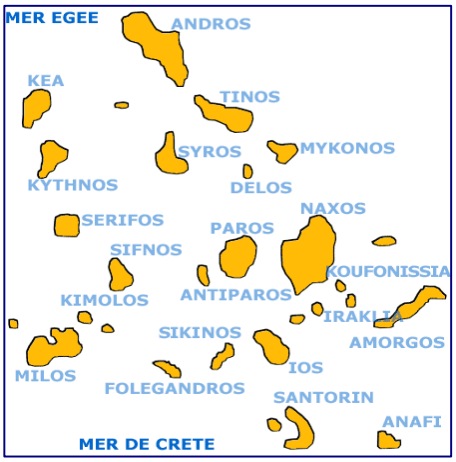
The first presentation took place in our second dock, in Andros Island, during the morning session.
The main aim of this first presentation was to put the frame of the place and the history of the route that we supposed to make. So we started from Athens, explaining the geographical positions and the main characteristics of the mainland and the route. It was given also importance to present the connection between the ancient Greek mythology, the life of Greeks and the environment.

The main points of the presentation were:

- Orientation in relation to Attika, Athens and putting our route in the map of Greece

- Presentation of the Temple of God Poseidon on cape Sounio and the history of the place

- Explanation of how the name “Aegean Sea” was given, presentation of mythology about it (King Aegeas, son Thisseas, killing of Minotaur in Crete, return to Athens)



- Presentation of Cycladic Islands and our route
- Presentation of the island Kea /Tzia
- Explanation of the use of the double name of the island (Kea-Cea-Zea-Tzia)

- Mythology about the island and connection to environment

(Once upon a time, nymphs lived in the forests and near the sources of Kea, because at that time Ydroussa (as Kea was called then) had a humid climate, dense vegetation and a lot of water that the nymphs loved.

One day, a lion appeared and it began to chase the nymphs. The nymphs left and then the most brilliant star of the vault of heaven, Sirius, burned with his horrible rays the ground of Ydroussa and all the other cycladic Islands.

The island suffered from the drought and the residents desperately asked the demigod Aristeos from Thessaly, who was the son of Apollo and the nymph Kyrini, for help.

Aristeos, head of the Arcadians came to Kea and offered sacrifices to honour Ikmeos Zeus, god of rain. The gods were satisfied, and the drought began to decrease. Since then and every year, northern winds blow (meltemia as they are called), during the 40-day period that the constellation Megalos Kynos, in which Sirius belongs, shines.

Aristeos settled down in Ydroussa. He taught the inhabitants of the island agriculture, livestock-farming, apiculture and placed the bases of religious doctrines.)

- Environmental points of island Kea:

1. In Kea you can find forests of Royal Oak, which are among the few that have remained in the Aegean. The oak sprouts in all central and Eastern Kea and in the old days its fruit provided the residents with jobs since they were tanners.

The "hamada" - fruit of the oak tree - was gathered in July up to September. The workers, after gathering the fruits, stretched it out on stone surfaces horses in order to dry. In all the regions where oaks grew, large coal ovens were set up for the tanning.

Everything was done according to the indications of Forest inspection: the building of ovens, the control of combustion, the manufacturing of the final product and the transport. Then the tradesmen sold the products to factories of tannage in Europe.

This activity had as a result the destruction of big parts of oak forests. Today, oak forests are protected with very strict measures.

2. Kea is the home of 16 of the 1300 plants that grow only in Greece. From the 16 endemic plants of Kea, 5

have been characterized as rare.

The Fritillaria graeca is included in the strictly protected plants of the Convention of Bern of the European Council, signed for the maintenance of European wild life and natural ecotopes.

3. The sea bottom is embellished by large extents of vegetation (Posidoniases). That's why are in the way of making the first diving marine park in Greece.
4. The south-eastern part of Kea has included itself in the network of NATURA 2000
5. From ancient times in KEA there was a network of pedestrian ways which is now being preserved. These small roads often drive to beautiful beaches.

2nd presentation: Andros island

The second presentation took place in our second dock, in Andros Island, during the afternoon session.
This presentation had like an aim to present the island to the participants, and especially the points that they are linked to the environment.

The main points of the presentation were:

- Map of the island and position in the Cycladic islands. Andros is the northernmost island in Cycladic islands and the second in area after Naxos.
- Short presentation of the history of the island and the name's origin

-Presentation of the port Batsi, where we docked and its history

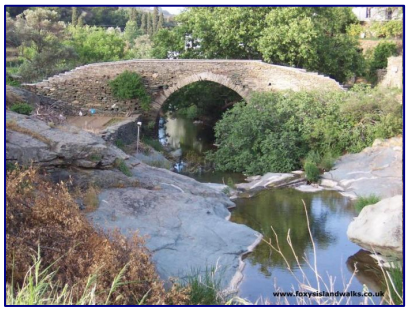
- Environmental points of interesting in island Andros:

1. Unique diversity in the natural environment:

Plenty of springs, mountains but also sandy beaches in very small distance



2. Almost big rivers that they have a lot of watermills and bridges in their way, signal for the significance of the water sources in the island in the past



3. Rich vegetation (plane and walnut trees and oak trees)

4. Almost all the slopes of the island have been transformed in step-like shapes, named “Emesies” or “Pezoules”

5. Not totally destroyed environment

3.2.6. Events and meetings

Several meetings were organised by the Greek NA in the different islands.
The group met different Mayors and politicians, locals, representatives of youth councils. The aim of these meetings was to get in touch with stakeholders and potential partners.

3.2.7. The Vikings

Objective

To reflect on intercultural learning and its influences on the development or in the collapse of a society.
To analyze the connection between the environment and the well-being of a human society.

Description of the activity

Participants have to analyze the society of the Vikings.
A short framework is provided to participants: e.g. Vikings' golden age was between the 9th and the 11th century; they were strong warriors and excellent sailors; they conquered from West to East (from the actual Canada to Central Asia), from North to South (from Greenland to Turkey)

Participants are split in 5 groups, balanced in terms of gender and country.

Each group is assigned to investigate on one of the 5 following criteria considered as the factors that can lead a human society to its collapse.

1. The men inflict unconsciously or consciously, the major damage of their **environment,**
2. **Climate changes** occur, upsetting the ecological balance, which follow a natural phenomenon, or with dryness and disturbances induced by the human activity.
3. **The military pressure of hostile neighbours** is accentuated, who benefit from the economic crisis, of the run out of the raw materials and the impoverishment of the populations; these problems reflect itself on the level of social and political cohesion.
4. **Diplomatic, energy and commercial alliances** with friendly or neutral neighbours are shredded, the usual exchanges of goods of basic needs as the cultural relations subside.
5. **Elites, governments and institutions** do not have the intellectual knowledge, the instruments to measure, or even the system of values allowing evaluating what is going on in the reality. They worsen it by reflexes of caste, egoistic, comfort or the obsession of the short term.

A power point with photos and maps of Vikings is shown. The five groups have to reflect on the indicators and factors shown through photos that might be connected to one of the five criteria of collapse.
These are the images shown:

- Maps of Vikings "golden age" (9th-11th century)
- 3 types of boats they used
- Map of Greenland today
- A fiord

- A typical village in southern Iceland
- Greenland landscape
- A Viking
- Three swords, symbol of the Vikings
- Famous small horses
- A pig
- A Norwegian cow
- A chicken
- Sheep with a very good and long and expensive hair
- Houses in Iceland
- Peat
- Photos of Inuit life and fishing with kayak.
- What Inuit ate:
    - Whales
    - Caribou
    - Seals
    - Bears
    - Walrus
    - Fish

Participants are now asked to reflect on the photos and try to guess why Vikings disappeared. Photos gave enough indicators to have answers.
5 rounds are made to allow all groups to work on the 5 different topics/criteria of collapse. Each round lasts 10 minutes. Every ten minutes the groups rotate.

They then present the summaries of the 5 reflections.

Debriefing.
Participants are put back altogether in a circle.
Explanations why Vikings left their original country are provided: need for food, metals, wood.
It took them four centuries to disappear.
There was a climate change in Middle age, the "small glaciations". Shipping was difficult because of the icebergs. And navigation was difficult in Northern seas.
Vikings were killed when they arrived in Vinland by the Indians. And they never came back to America despite the wood, the deer.
They brought chicken, pigs, cows to Greenland to keep their lifestyle but the weather didn't allow those animals to adapt. And those who survived ate everything (like sheep) or destroyed the soil and its fertility digging (pigs).
In Greenland they destroyed the few trees there to build their houses.
When the Inuit came from Asia, the competition for the food and the resources started. Vikings couldn't use their boats for killing whales, while Inuit were very well adapted.
Vikings used to sell walrus' ivory in Norway. Inuits killed them too but for eating.
Same thing for the polar bears (Vikings to sell the fur, Inuit to cover their bodies)

Vikings didn't eat birds, Inuit did.
Vikings never ate fish. There are some theories explaining that: one Viking chief was very sick because of eating fish and fish was never eaten in their society.
Church and the lords (the elite) didn't give up their privileges: they were the last ones to die but they didn't facilitate the survival of their people.

During the debriefing participants are asked to transfer the 5 criteria to their countries: how is the situation today? How many among the 5 criteria are already fulfilled in your countries?

3.2.8. Production

Participants were divided into five different groups to produce a report at the end of the training course.
Two groups (video and photos) worked on visual reports.
Three groups (EuroMed, Newspaper and Environment) had to work on the production of articles to be spread afterwards to valorise the training course.

1. EuroMed

This group focused on intercultural dialogue, on the impact of the EuroMed dimension on the group.
See annex 5.3.1.

2. Environment

This group focused on environmental issues, on the management of resources of the islands we docked, on the environmental behaviour of the group of sailors.
See annex 5.3.2.

3. Newspaper

This group had the task to keep track of the meetings, the contact with locals, making interviews during the events.
All articles can be read in the annex 5.3.3.

4. Photos

Participants part of this group were responsible for taking pictures, collecting pictures from other participants, support other groups with relevant pictures.
They also created:
- a contact list with pictures from all participants,
- a collection of pictures where all flags of countries where participants come from were made using recycled materials
- a funny Powerpoint presentation with funny pictures from different participants.

5. Video
Members of this group produced two videos that were shown at the end of the training course: they try to show all the most important moments of this group sailing in the Cyclades.

3.2.9. Partner matching
Participants are requested to work individually on a "Search for partner form" where they point out characteristics and needs of their organizations, the partners they would like to work with, a project idea (theme, action within the EuroMed Programme).
They have time to look, to ask for further information, to find interesting ideas to be developed.
Following the information read in the SALTO EuroMed e-learning community and the display of the Search Partners Form during the TC, participants are now requested to develop ideas for new projects. A Project Form is given to them, where the information asked is: title of the project, theme, target group and main aim, activities.

3.2.10. Evaluation
Evaluation during this unique training course was implemented on two different levels.

Aims
To allow participants to express and evaluate the training course from different aspects: logistics, educational materials, team, participants' level of involvement and emotions.
To check if aims and objectives of the TC were achieved
To react, if possible, to the needs of participants on daily basis.

Sailors diary
Following the spirit of the captain's diary on boats, each boat received a diary. A tool to be used by all participants to record facts, feelings, learning outcomes, impressions on a daily basis.
Participants had everyday some time to reflect and work on the sailors' diaries at the end of each day to share opinions and points of view on the day passed.

Questionnaires
A final questionnaire was given to all participants to assess the overall learning and the general opinions on the training course.
The evaluation report is attached in annex 5.4.

4. CONTACT LIST

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SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Training Course
"Protecting the Mediterranean Environment: youth can make the difference!"
Educational Report
Greece, 7th – 17th July 2008

5 Annexes

5.1 Certificate of attendance

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

has completed the training course

"Protecting the Mediterranean Environment: Youth can make the difference!"

Greece, 7th-17th July 2008

Giuseppe Marletta
Coordinator of the
Training Course

Dora Bei,
Head of Hellenic National Agency,
Youth in Action Programme

5.2. Participants' researches on environmental issues

Air Pollution in the city of Volos
by Niovi-Vasiliki Zarampouka-Chatzimanou

City of interest
Volos: Situated in central Greece (Thessaly)- one of the most important ports- organizer city of the Mediterranean games-120.000 inhabitants+5.000 university students

Topic: Air Pollution of the city and social- political parameters.

CAUSES of AIR POLLUTION

The first one is the traffic gas emissions, the second is a cement factory's emissions (ΑΓΕΤ) and last but not least, the commercial harbor of the city in which scrap are transported.

Traffic pollution

Cycling Lanes
Volos is a generally flat city, thus, cycling could become the only means of transport. It is definitely more spread than in other cities of Greece, however it seems not to be enough. The existing cycling lanes are definitely not enough and additionally they are wrongly placed in the city. Unfortunately, Volos is to be a very risky city for cycling since the streets are very narrow and a cyclist can easily be trapped and injured.
Better means of transport

Better means of transport does not only mean more frequent service, which is definitely very important, but cheaper ones as well. The truth is that a four member family would need approximately 7 € both ways from and to their house. This fact makes the car much more preferable choice. I would say that if there were more frequent buses and they were if not for free, at least really cheap, there would be a huge change on the streets. Additionally, the parking issue also provokes great problems since on the one hand, the tones of parked cars narrow down the streets dramatically, creating chaos, and on the other hand, the people coming from the suburban areas are forced to get in the city since there is no parking in the entrances. So adding up to the better cycling lanes and means of transport, it would be very important to create parking places in the entrances of the city, where buses would also depart from.

ΑΓΕΤ(cement factory)' s emissions

ΑΓΕΤ is one of the main factories in the region. It is situated about 10 minutes away from the town center and right on the sea coast. The limit of the permitted air- pollution levels was broken in 124 days of the last year. This is provoked by the use of pet-coke (can provoke cancer).

The citizens are asking for a pollution measurement center which could help us have a clear view of the everyday situation in the city. In these days, the hospital is overcrowded with people, especially children and elderly, with respiratory problems. However, some months ago, the prefecture decided to organize another demonstration ran by the authorities, making an effort to wash their hands of it. Their argument is that they cannot do anything about the issue since the Ministry does not help them out. My question here is: "How big can the factories' power be that no law can be imposed on them?" This is where the social issue is being traced even more. We can definitely notice that the "elected" authorities which are meant to protect us and so on, cannot do anything against the capital. Incidentally ΑΓΕΤ is the main sponsor of the next Mediterranean games in Volos and every year it donates about 100.000 € to the prefecture. Is this more important than our lives?

The HARBOR

The neighborhood of the old harbor is the one which is seems to have the most evident results on people's health. In the last 10 years 43 people died because of cancer and currently, ten more are suffering the same disease.
The harbor's spokesmen argue that this is totally irrelevant to the activities taking place. But how can it be irrelevant since this neighborhood is covered with scrap dust, that is, it is covered with radio energy?

As you can see in the picture above, all these tones of old metals are carried with the use of these cranes in and out the boats. These cranes are 25 meters tall so as you can understand during the transportation the dust covering these metals creates a cloud of scrap which is then self-transported to the houses at the back (this is the neighborhood I am talking about). In addition, they are stored, in the harbor's premises, which are literally next to the houses.
The actions taken are more or less citizen- based. As I already mentioned, the authorities refuse to admit that there is a problem. There is an initiative created through the citizens' assemblies which takes some actions quite often. Apart from all the legal ways they are taking, they also choose to demonstrate for their own problem and ask the rest of the citizens to support them. Currently, especially this issue's combination with the air-pollution issue has brought up the whole issue of environmental pollution, and has motivated a big number of citizens.

Some Conclusions

Pollution seems contributes in social discrimination. Of course it does affect everybody. However, it tends to affect even more the most marginalized regions, thus the poorer people. If we step back for a while and look at the environmental problems' chain, that is "affecting" and "affected" people, regions etc, we will see that it is more or less the same; a factory, a company and so on are polluting and the people, especially working and living around, have to suffer from health diseases and lead a low quality of life.
This is why chose Volos as the focus of my research. It is the city where I study and live during the past two years. So, I did not only do an objective "investigation" of these major environmental problems that we face right now with air pollution, but used my personal experiences and unofficial knowledge I get every day from my interaction with the citizens.
Because the truth is that we have to face every day the changes around us. My university for example is situated right next to the old harbor neighborhood, thus, next to the port. There is a great deal of discussion concerning whether the university should move or not. In general, we can easily trace the social changes by observing the way that the city changes every day. That is, more and more citizens decide to move closer to the mountains (Pelion) where the air is clearer and they can get better quality of life. What happens is that the people, that can afford it, get to move whereas the poorer stay at the same places. For instance, the neighborhood of the old port had always been inhabited by those working at the port, thus, quite poor ones. It has always been marginalized, so, now for one more time this region suffers in the worse way because of its low status.

One could argue that what we need is to take measures. I think that we do not need to take any new ones but activate the already existing ones.

Renewable energies
By Amine Ezzine

- **Definition**

Renewable energy effectively uses natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat, which may be naturally replenished. Renewable energy technologies range from solar power, wind power, hydroelectricity/micro hydro, biomass and biofuels for transportation

The following terms are used to describe the various forms of renewable energy:

Active solar energy

The sun can be used directly to heat water for pools, homes and industry, to provide space heating and to generate electricity. The sun's energy can also be used to distill water and cook food.

Biomass energy

The sun's energy is stored in organic materials such as wood, grains and peat. Wood and peat are both burned to provide heat. Grains can be fermented into ethanol and used as a liquid fuel.

Geothermal energy

Heat from the earth's core can be used to generate electricity. It can also be used directly (with heat pumps) to heat and cool buildings.

Small hydro

Small hydro projects will generate power by using falling water at an average capacity of 20 megawatts or less. A 'run-of-the-river' project also uses falling water by directing water to the turbine using pipes, rather than dams.

Wave or tidal energy

The movement of waves and tides, particularly in shallow water, can be harnessed and converted to electricity.

Wind Energy

The energy from the wind can be harnessed by wind turbines and windmills to generate electricity and also to pump water.

- **Energy : market problems and solutions**

There is a growing awareness that our economy will have to make a transition from a fossil fuel based economy to a renewable energy based economy. The demand for energy is increasing. Large growing markets like China and India are developing Western tastes for energy. Within traditional markets, a steady stream of new products continues to create new appetites for energy. Meanwhile, the supply of fossil fuels is static. The world supply of fossil fuels is

finite and is a limited supply, they are getting harder to find and, more expensive to access. It is a problem in need of a solution.
Most of the solutions that have been examined to date have focused on large utility scale renewable energy sources and markets and macroeconomic forces. Some have debated the value of free market forces versus policy interventions. Others have studied the relative merits of policies oriented toward supply side (renewable energies and clean energies) interventions versus efforts toward influencing consumer demand.
Renewable energy technologies have an enormous potential to solve our energy problems in Tunisia. The energy provided by the sun –solar energy-is many times greater than our current energy demand. The wind, waves, and tides have a large potential as well. The question becomes how can we best utilize these resources?
Currently, the energy sector accounts for approximately 5 % of the GDP of the country and less than 7 % of the total national exports. Knowing that Tunisia has a population of 9.8 million people with a 1.1% annual population growth rate, we should expect an increase in energy consumption. Indeed, Tunisia had 6.8% annual growth in electricity demand since 1980, of which 25% was consumed in the residential sector. The Tunisian authorities have engaged in an energy policy that is compatible with sustainable development. Indeed, the STEG (Tunisian company of Electricity and GAS) is planning to produce nuclear energy by 2020. Some speak in favor of this technology to produce clear electricity nevertheless; the effects on the Environment are at the very least ignored. Tunisia has also a great potential in the renewable energies field (eg. solar and wind).

- **Tunisia: prospects for the use of renewables in the agricultural field.**

Tunisia has gained practical experience in recent years, for example:

• In the field of pumping water by solar energy, conducting a pilot project to supply drinking water to pasture. This project consisted of the establishment of 86 operating systems, with a total capacity of 224 kilowatts distributed among the governorates of the centre and south.
• In the area of desalination of seawater, the realization of a pilot desalination of salt water, installed in 2006 in the governorate Kébili the benefit of small cities. The technique adopted desalination is the reverse osmosis, which aims to increase the rate of salinity of 6 to 1.5 grams per litre.

Participants at the workshop also discussed:

• The benefits of biomass: its low cost, its contribution to energy management, its potential for drying of agricultural products, job creation in rural and conquest of new niches for export ;
• The value of geothermal energy: the use of this energy led to the creation, south of the country, 380 hectares of crops in greenhouses to produce vegetables. It is also planned no less than 300 hectares in the governorates of Kébili, Tozeur, Gabes and for the production of 48 thousand tons of vegetables for export.
• The need to produce maps locating renewable energy resources.

The program of energy control in the agricultural The papers presented in the context of this workshop provided an opportunity to review the objectives of the four-year programme (2008-2011) on controlling energy, including the objective to achieve a utilization rate of renewable energy in agriculture, about 4%.

The program of energy control in the agricultural sector aims to stimulate investment, to accede to technological change in the rationalization of energy and promoting renewable and alternative energies that could be exploited in the agricultural field in pilot projects. It provides:
• The establishment of pumping stations of irrigation water;
• The electrification solar and wind farms and small rural projects not connected to national electricity grid;
• The installation of digesters to produce biogas from waste and agricultural farms
• The training of experts for the maintenance of such equipment.

- **<u>Tunisian NGO's celebrate national energy efficency day</u>**

NGOs are celebrating National Energy Efficiency Day (April 7th of each year) by organizing a series of events and seminars related to awareness on Energy Efficiency.

Such mobilization reflects the interest of Civil Society in Tunisia in the fields of energy efficiency and environmental protection. Hundreds of young people will be informed on the country's energy situation and efficient means of energy use at home, school, work…

Cyprus is drying out
By Athina Papatheodoulou

Cyprus is facing the worst drought in decades. In the next week is receiving its first shipment of drinking water from Greece in an unprecedented emergency plan to ease water scarcity on this famous popular holiday island.

Six tankers making round trips from the port of Elefsina near Athens will unload 50,000 cubic metres a day to a location near Limassol on Cyprus's southern coast. In total, eight million cubic metres of water will arrive over a period of nearly six months.

Cyprus is in its fourth consecutive year of drought and its dams now hold just eight per cent of their total capacity compared to 25 per cent last year. It is said that "There is probably more water in swimming pools than in the dams"!

The water importation project will cost €45 million, making it an expensive, and hence temporary, solution.

Along with this, widespread grumbling from the public, water rationing for households was introduced in late March, with the supply reduced by 30 per cent, in addition to the garden hose ban which was already occurring.

The past winter was one of the driest in years, with just a few days of heavy rainfall. Trying to trap water in the 108 dams of the island is no longer the answer. Rainfall in Cyprus has fallen about 20 per cent over the past 35 years, as a result probably, of the climate change. Summers are getting longer and we're getting less rainfall. Nevertheless, it's not unique phenomenon to Cyprus. It's the whole of the Mediterranean basin and the north coast of Africa that is facing problems. In fact, Barcelona last month became the first European city to import precious drinking water by sea.

The Cypriot authorities will rely on desalination to address any future shortfalls. The island's two desalination plants are being expanded, while a mobile plant now under construction is expected to be ready in late October and another in May 2009.

Desalination, while necessary, is not ideal. What if something happens and a system breakdown occur (as happened last week)? One of the most touristic areas of the island (Famagusta and Ayia Napa) remained for 3 days without water supply. Beside that, there is high energy costs, the plants are currently working by using oil, which causes greenhouse gas emissions that are penalized by the European Union. There is a thought for the long-term solution, to tap the island's abundant sunlight to produce renewable, clean energy to power the plant.

Meanwhile, Cypriot authorities are ensuring the 2.5 million tourists who visit

annually the island that will not be affected by water rationing because their contribution to the economy is too vital. Hotels and hospitals are not subject to water cuts. Regardless, water board officials said holidaymakers account for less than 20 per cent of the drinking water consumed in Cyprus.

Cypriots are encouraged to view water as precious and schoolchildren are taught to conserve it. But prosperity has encouraged an appetite for luxuries, such as swimming pools. In only one village of 5,000 people in the Western part of the island, using Google Earth, we could count 1,000 swimming pools! All over the island, there are thousands of pools detaining and evaporating precious drinking water.

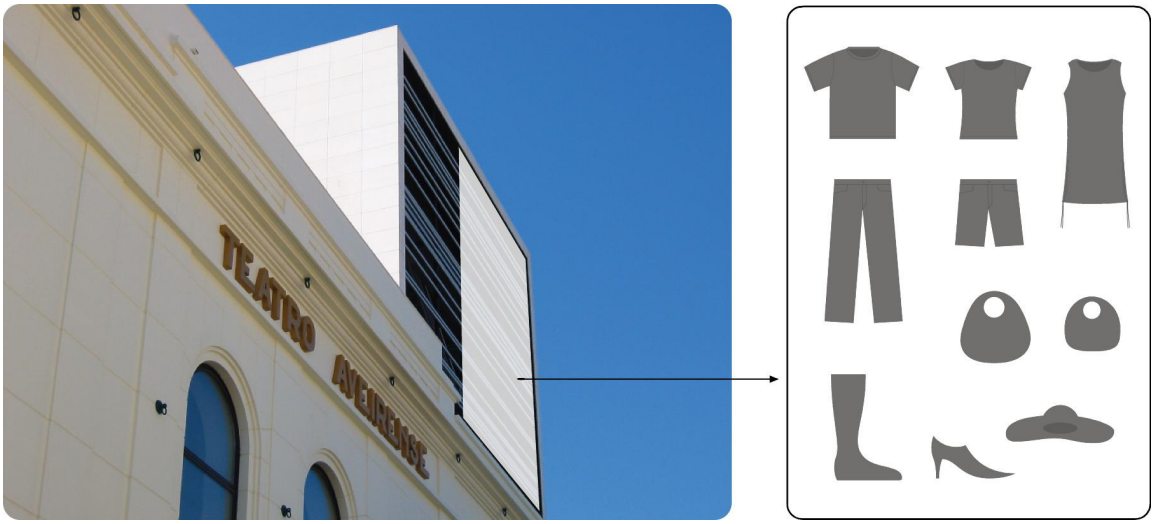
There are still lots of other issues to attain in order to maintain a sustainable water resources use (protect underwater reservoirs from swages and pesticides, alien for the Cyprus climate plant species consuming huge amount of water, tertiary treated swage are thrown away instead of being used for irrigation). Its high time to be understood that water is a national treasure and we have to guard it as such!

Recycling in fashion
By Celso Filipe Bastos

The TA Line / Collection is the result of a creative reusage of the promotional canvas used in all the Theatre's shows on a fashionable line of shoes, clothes, hats and even accessories.
The purpose of this initiative is to create unique and original items, thus helping not only to keep the promotion of all shows onto a different level (moving it from the theatre's front wall into a dressing line, instead of a garbage container), but also keeping culture alive and active, always moving around on someone's feet, hands or body…
Each item is unique / original, created in a very limited number, with all the accuracy and precision.
The design is exclusive and singular and it is the creation of the fashion designer CELSUS.
You won't see any copy / imitation.
What you will witness is, therefore, something particularly innovative in the national and international fashion world, something which has never been done before.

This is the TA Line which, besides having been presented in the event " TA Fashion ", in Aveirense Theatre (Teatro Aveirense) with the presence of many famous designers, also took part in the latest national event "Portugal Fashion", in October, within the well-known Portugal Fashion Week taking place in Oporto and Lisbon.

Enjoy the liveliness of this particular way of communication!



The Fashion Show results...

The Sensibility!

Other Internacional Project is “RECICLARIO” who consists in re-use some diferent materials for fashion intervention. Not just like a beatiful intervention but with the objective to sensibility the people in re-use old materials.

We made a National Contest in Portugal to promove “RECICLARIO” and now this concept is being extended to the whole of Europe, with Fashion Shows who show the results of that 3R’s policy experimentation.

You can see some results at:
www.reciclario.com
(only in Portuguese language yet)

>go to the Top Menu and clic on “galeria” to see the photos.

Desertification
By Imane Boukantar

Desertification is the degradation of land in arid, semi arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting primarily from human activities and influenced by climatic variations. Current desertification is taking place much faster worldwide than historically and usually arises from the demands of increased populations that settle on the land in order to grow crops and graze animals.

Desertification is induced by several factors, primarily anthropogenic beginning the holocene era. The primary reasons for desertification are overcrazing, over cultivation, water impoundment, deforestation, over drafting of groundwater, increasedsoil salinity, and globalclimate change.

Deserts may be separated from surrounding, less arid areas by mountains and other contrasting landforms that reflect fundamental structural differences in the terrain. In other areas, desert fringes form a gradual transition from a dry to a more humid environment, making it more subtle to determine the desert border. These transition zones can have fragile, delicately balanced ecosystems. Desert fringes often are a mosaic ofmicroclimates. Small hollows support vegetation that picks up heat from the hot winds and protects the land from theprevailing winds. After rainfall the vegetated areas are distinctly cooler than the surroundings.

In these marginal areas human activity may stress the ecosystem beyond its tolerance limit, resulting in degradation of the land. By pounding the soil with their hooves, livestock compact the substrate, increase the proportion of fine material, and reduce the percolation rate of the soil, thus encouraging erosion by wind and water. Grazing and collection of firewood reduce or eliminate plants that bind the soil and prevent erosion. All these come about due to the trend towards settling in one area instead of a nomadic culture.

Sand dunes can encroach on human habitats. Sand dunes move through a few different means, all of them assisted by wind. One way that dunes can move is through saltation, where sand particles skip along the ground like a rock thrown across a pond might skip across the water's surface. When these skipping particles land, they may knock into other particles and cause them to skip as well. With slightly stronger winds, particles collide in mid-air, causing sheet flows. In a major dust storm, dunes may move tens of meters through such sheet flows. And like snow, sand avalaches, falling down the steep slopes of the dunes that face away from the winds, also moving the dunes forward.

It is a common misconception that drought by themselves cause desertification. While drought is a contributing factor, the root causes are all related to man's overexploitation of the environment. There is no geological evidence that deserts expanded significantly before the advent of civilization. Droughts are common in

arid and semiarid lands, and well-managed lands can recover from drought when the rains return. Continued land abuse during droughts, however, increases land degradation. Increased population and livestock pressure on marginal lands has accelerated desertification. In some areas, nomads moving to less arid areas disrupt the local ecosystem and increase the rate of erosion of the land. Nomads typically try to escape the desert, but because of their land-use practices, they are bringing the desert with them.

Some arid and semi-arid lands can support crops, but additional pressure from greater populations or decreases in rainfall can lead to the few plants present disappearing. The soil becomes exposed to wind, causing soil particles to be deposited elsewhere. The top layer becomes eroded. With the removal of shade, rates of evaporation increase and salts become drawn up to the surface. This increases soil salinity which inhibits plant growth. The loss of plants causes less moisture to be retained in the area, which may change the climate pattern leading to lower rainfall.

This degradation of formerly productive land is a complex process. It involves multiple causes, and it proceeds at varying rates in different climates. Desertification may intensify a general climatic trend toward greater aridity, or it may initiate a change in local climate. Desertification does not occur in linear, easily mappable patterns. Deserts advance erratically, forming patches on their borders. Areas far from natural deserts can degrade quickly to barren soil, rock, or sand through poor land management. The presence of a nearby desert has no direct relationship to desertification. Unfortunately, an area undergoing desertification is brought to public attention only after the process is well under way. Often little data are available to indicate the previous state of the ecosystem or the rate of degradation.

Combating desertification is complex and difficult, usually impossible without alteration of land management practises that led to the desertification. Over-exploitation of the land and climate variations can have identical impacts and be connected in feedbacks, which makes it very difficult to choose the right mitigation strategy. Investigating the historic desertification plays a special role since it allows better distinguishing of human and natural factors. In this context, recent research about historic desertification in Jordan questions the dominant role of man. It seems possible that current measures like reforestation projects cannot achieve their goals if global warming continues. Forests may die when it gets drier, and more frequent extreme events as testified in sediments from earlier periods could become a threat for agriculture, water supply, and infrastructure.

ECO-AGRO TOURISM and VOLUNTARY EXCHANGE in TURKEY
By Sabire Asli Oflaz

Turkey has been living early stages for ecotourism. Many mass tourism agencies collect their activities such as trek tour, safari tour or resting in national park under ecotourism title. But, it is arguable to call as ecotourism. However, there are some projects, which can be accepted as well planned and well targeted concerning sustainable management principle. Hereafter, one of these projects called “Eco-Agro Tourism and Voluntary Exchange Project” has been introduced briefly.

The biggest supporter of this project is nature. It is the most important and essential sponsor of this project with its endless contributions of air, water, soil, climates, habitats, plants, animals, different geographies, the whole balance of biodiversity, seeds and food.

The main components of the project are determined by the decisions and contributions of the volunteer host farm families. Farmers offer their labor, knowledge, traditions, homes, lands, neighbors, environments, food, friendship and time to this project.

The UN Development Program (UNDP) Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program (GEF-SGP), members of the Association and other benefactors give monetary support to this project as symbols of their belief and common hopes. They do this expecting nothing in return, wishing only to push the project a couple steps further.

Visitors that offer voluntary labor or information to the farmer family enrich the project with their valuable time, skills and knowledge. Financing their own transportation to the farms, they strive to enrich, ease and honor the life and ecological efforts of the farmer family.

This project aims to develop healthy models of organic production, which constitutes a lasting and environmentally friendly livelihood, especially for rural populations. This project further intends to strengthen the communication among groups and individuals in the "ecological living" movement. It offers city dwellers the experience of life on an organic farm so they are expected to be awakened and/or strengthen their sense of responsibility with regard to ecological living so that they may incorporate it into their daily lives. Also, one of the main objectives of this project is to contribute to the healthy continuity of soil, air and water quality, of biological diversity, climate and other natural cycles by supporting environmentally friendly production and consumption models. This project plans to create a venue for the first-hand and hands-on

exchange of ecological methods, knowledge, experience and ideas among consumers, farmers and other interested individuals.

If visitors choose this project from among lots of available vacation possibilities, they give their contribution directly to the ecological host farm and share their culture, difference and friendship with the host family.

The organic production/processing companies, merchants of these products, consultants, inspection/certification firms, government institutions and local authorities strengthen the spine of the project by offering their infrastructure (space, storage, vehicle, office, etc.), valuable knowledge, contacts and references. Non-governmental organizations also facilitate this project by offering their facilities as well as their knowledge and experience about the topic.

With this project, ecological traders gain the opportunity to grow, advertisement, more conscious consumers and support for their producers. Financial supporters gain satisfaction, prestige, hope, motivation, and the will to be more beneficial. Visitors gain valuable experience, knowledge, an inexpensive and familiar vacation, new friends and hope, while farmers gain information, labor support, new friends, new markets, recognition, social approval, and a source of supplementary income.

From the human perspective, the project is a unique example of 'rural development' in that it aims to conserve biodiversity and air, water and soil quality. It supports the adoption of sustainable methods of production and consumption. The most importantly, it contributes to the happy and hopeful continuity of rural lands and populations, who are invariably in contact with nature.

Eco-Tourism in Southwestern Turkey,
Cirali (Çıralı)
By Emrecan Polat

Eco-tourism:

Eco-tourism is the way of tourism in which flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the primary attractions for tourists. Since environmental components are the primary attraction elements, environment conservation is an important part of this kind of tourism.

Rather than swimming in the pool, dancing in clubs etc. people may prefer to see animals, plants, culture of the local people or cultural heritage of a region in its 100% natural state. And this preference leads to the idea of eco-tourism. As result of eco-tourism, environment conservation and economical activity are performed together as the main activites.

Cirali(Çıralı):

Cirali is a small village to the west of city of Antalya. Antalya is a city which has a population of 750,000 and which has almost 300 5-star hotels. According to some resources this is the world record for a city to have the most 5-star hotels. With those 300 hotels, Antalya can not be considered as a city which is managed considering sustainable development issue. To the western part of the city there are some golf fields and some forestry area. And to the west of that forestry area, there is a village called Cirali.

Wild Life Conservation Association (www.dhkd.org) has implemented a project for sustainable development of Cirali in 2000. In this project, people living in the region were focused on to do the economical activity in the village. People living in the region started to do organic agriculture, they started to rent rooms and beds of their houses and they did not change the way they used to live.

The village was turned into a National Park and construction of new buildings was forbidden in the area to a definite degree.

In this project there were some important reasons to select Cirali as the location of the project. First of all Cirali has beaches which are frequently used by Caretta carettas. Also, many endemic plants and animals live in the village. Moreover, village has historical

heritage from ~500B.C. Another
interesting thing about Cirali is Yanartas (Khimaira), where natural
- *Baby Caretta caretta in Cirali beach*
flames appear spontaeously below
the stones. These features of Cirali attracted the people who were trying to do something for nature. They were aware that, the village had a potential for attracting tourists and also that, this job would be done by protecting the environment.

As a result of this project, Cirali turned into a village of eco-tourism. People who want to spend their vacations in peace of mind and tranquility prefers Cirali as their destination. Some of those people see baby Caretta carettas running to the sea(without disturbing them). Some of them watch the spontaneous flames in the nights. They take photos of endemic flowers. So, there are many interesting activites for tourists in Cirali and These features of Cirali made it popular in a short time. And Cirali turned into an important touristic location for a definite tourist type. Sometimes it is chosen to be the best location to be visited by backpackers.

Another interesting issue is that, in some seasons of some years bed+breakfast in Cirali becomes to be more expensive than a room in 5-star hotels of Antalya.

Conclusion:

Eco-tourism attracts the tourists with natural elements. So to do eco-tourism in a region, those natural elements have to be conserved. This can only be done by decrasing human impacts on the environment. A location with minimized human impact may be considered in its natural state and this may mean that, the sustainability of that region is ensured.

Cirali is a good example of eco-tourism. And it is very near to Antalya which may be considered as a place where the opposite type of tourism is performed. And if Cirali was not turned into a Natural Park, it would be full of 5-star hotels now. And this would lead to decreased population of Caretta carettas in Mediterranean, extinction of some endemic species etc.

Finally, eco-tourism is a subject which should be proposed by NGO's to the decision makers and stakeholders for environment protection and sustainable development.

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How did a little Spanish province become one of the world's wind-energy giants?
By Esther Royo

Navarre (North-Eastern Spain) is not one of the largest regions in Europe; however it is at the forefront of developments in renewable energy worldwide. And why? Because almost 70% of the electricity comes from the wind and the sun

In the year 2004 the European Commission even recognised Navarre Community as the Best Regional Energy Partner 2003.

The success is the consequence of a conscious planning approach. In 1995 the first Navarre Energy Plan was made. Having no fossil fuel resources itself, Navarre is currently prepared to make the maximum effort to contribute towards the replacement of polluting resources by forms of green energy. This is also done in order to comply with the European commitment.

Around 100,000 people work in the green energy sector in Spain, with 4,000 new jobs created in Navarra in the last decade. As many people are now employed making turbines or solar panels as in car manufacturing, Navarra's traditional industry.

The regional government has been supporting wind and solar power for years, as do most people in Navarra.

The Wind energy

The first wind farm was built in full view of the regional capital Pamplona, so that people could get used to it.

Now, with some 1,100 windmills dotted all over Navarra, this tiny region is capable of generating more electricity from renewable sources than big EU countries like France or Poland.

There are some people against this plan, because they say that the wind parks haven't been put in the right places, so they cause environmental damage, and there are too many for the environmental capacity of Navarra.

Solar energy

An hour's drive from Pamplona, next to a village called Milagro, there is a field as vast as 50 football pitches, stand row upon row of huge solar panels, tilted to capture as much light as possible. This ins only an example of a large number of solar installations.

As regards photovoltaic solar energy Navarre has made a remarkable economic effort to promote the installation of panels to generate energy. The aim is to promote the construction of such kinds of installations, both on municipal or private land, on buildings and small companies.

In the last few years, Navarre is very interested in the Bio alcohol and Bio diesel development, in order to replace some of the current consumption of fuels in the transport sector.

The Energy Goals of the Current Energy Plan Horizon 2010 are:

- Reducing our external dependency.
- Fostering energy saving and efficiency.
- Favouring the best usage of renewable energy resources and making them compatible with the environment.
- Expanding the energy transport and distribution network in order to reach a balanced development of the territory.

Contributing to optimizing the national energy menu reaching our commitments with EU and Kyoto.

ECO-TOURISM IN GREECE
By Filareti Oikonomidou

Greece is definitely a fantastic place to explore if you are interested in ecotourism. Not only does it have over 16,000 kilometers of coastline and over 2,000 islands nestled among the Mediterranean azure waters, but Greece also has vast mountainous regions brimming with a great biodiversity in fauna and flora alike. My country has over 400 bird species, 116 species of mammals, 58 reptile species and over 6,000 different plant species- that's a whole lot of birds and plants.
Greece since 1960s has been increasingly flooded by tourists, especially during the summer months, with figures nowadays reaching over 14 million visitors a year. As you can imagine these trampling hordes did not have the best effect on the country's ecosystem. Adding to this, was the fact many locals living in the rural areas of Greece during these past couple of decades have been moving to the big cities to find jobs. The traditional was of village life that had usually been very harmonious and protective of the environmental around it were lost.

The great thing about the 'right' kind of tourism is that it can actually reverse the negative trends of environmental decline and rural exodus. Visitors by ecotourism will actually support rural communities and thus protect and treasure the wonderful natural world.
Laws have been made and parks established to protect the environment, but the great thing about Greece is many parts of it are undiscovered, like the mountains of the Peloponnese or the lakes in northern Greece. Many areas have escaped development and damage by the very nature of their isolation, which make them the perfect place to visit if you are an eco-tourist.

Ecotourism in Greece

I found some places in Greece which are worth to be visited from those who are interested in ecotourism.

- Epirus: The region in north-western Greece is famous for its forester mountains and crystal-clear rivers over which stand century's old stone bridges. One of the most beautiful areas in Epirus is the Zagori, which which is composed of 45 stone-housed villages up in the pine and oak filled mountains. Because the area was difficult to access in earlier times it was also protected from development and even today mass tourism has been rejected by locals. Definitely worth to visit also is the Bourazani environmental park, close to the borders of Albania.
- Prespes: The two Prespes lakes covering thousands of hectares and situated high up at an altitude of over 800 meters has been described as one of the most beautiful wetland in Europe. It now has more Europenean and international laws protecting it than any other site in Greece.
- Lake kerkini: Lake Kerkini is one of the few examples of a man-made intervention that has become a great ecological success. Dams built in the 1930s and in later years have broadened this lake and it now serves as a safe haven for 227 species of birds.In places the lake is covered water lilies while amongst the forests along the riverside a wild herd of buffalo roams.
- Thessaly: There, there are Meteora , the dramatic stone pinnacles atop of which centuries-old monasteries are built. Also not too far away is the Lake Plastira another good example of man-made intervention.
- Zakynthos: Around 2000 Caretta-Carreta sea turtles breed and lay eggs in the sandy white beaches of this island. Springtime is the best time in order to avoid tourists and see the turtles swimming and breeding in aquamarine waters.
- Western Crete: If you want to immerse yourself in a completely ecological experience, jump back in time 200 years and see what life was like in a mountain village in complete harmony with nature. You can do this in a small Cretan village of Milia, ecological-run settlement which has no electricity and gets its water from its own springs.

ECO-TOURISM IN KASTORIA

Ecotourism in Kastoria Greece enjoy both agricultural activities and vacation in west Macedonia. Here an eco-tourist is able to explore the nature and the different ecosystems. You can gain both agricultural and ecological knowledge about biodiversity, plants and animals in connection with nature and humans, which is a great experience.
The mountainous prefecture of Kastoria occupies the westernmost section of western Macedonia. It is dotted with numerous quaint villages perched on hillsides, surrounded by fir and beech forests, as well as lakeside settlements with tavernas specializing in fish from the lake. Built panoramically around a magnificent lake lined with beautiful parks and squares, capital Kastoria is one of the most beautiful

pleces in Greece boasting a rich history lost in the mist of time. The Prefecture is famous for its mansions that stand out for the imposing presence and the grandeur of their unusual construction.

MOUNTAINS IN KASTORIA

GRAMMOS

Grammos mountain is a land incomparable beauty and maybe one of the few unexplored destinations in Greece. It is at the boarders with Albania and its highest peak reaches 2.520 metres. Its peaks are characterized by extended grasslands, the alpine rivers and the virgin forestests of beeches, oaks, firs, chestnuts, sycamores and pines. Here is where Aliakmonas and Sarantaporos rivers flow from. The forest of Barouga has been classified as 'nature monument'. The absence of human interventions over the years maximizes its ecological importance.

In the heart of Grammos, on the site called Arrenes, there is a small lake called Dragon Lake. It is a small natural wonder, located 1740m above sea level. Among the frogs and water lilies of the lake, one can see a rare aquatic specie, the alpine triton, that natives call 'fish with legs'

Another alpine lake is in Sakouli and it can be accessed from Grammos village. The region is inhabited by many species such as the brown bear, the wolf, the wild cat, the wild boar, the roe deer and wild goat.

There are also many birds living and reproducing in this region: honey buzzard, short toed eagle, golden eagle, rock partridge, grey-heated woodpecker, semi-collared flycatcher, chough, boreal owl.

The alterations of the landscape, passing from the shadowy forests to the alpine grasslands with bloomy flowers, the sound of flowing water offer unique feelings to ecotourists.

VITSI

Vitsi mountain, with its wooden slopes and its rare flora and fauna, is one of the most destination for eco-tourists. The highest peak of this important habitat, that is the natural border between Florina and Kastoria, is 2.126m.

From the foot of the mountain up to one thousand metres, the forest is dominated by oaks, while from that point and up to the highest points with alpine grasslands, the forest is dominated by beeches forming dense, almost impenetrable forests.

The region is characterized by the presence of 40 important plant groups, as well by a rich fauna.The main animals inhabiting the mountain are the endangered bear, the wolf, the roe deer and the wild boar. Vitsi is protected nationally as a game shelter.

THE DRAGON CAVE

A number of caves have been discovered on the sites where the rocky mountains meet the lake sides. The Dragon cave is on the north side of Kastoria. The entrance of the cane, discovered in 1954, is 15m away from the lakeside road. In 1968, the cave was mapped, and 7 underground lakes have been discovered along with 10 halls of different dimensions and 5 corridor tunnels. The maximum depth from the entrance is 18m and average temperature 18-20oC. 10.000 year-old bones of the cave bear have been found in the cave, which is one of the most impressive ones. According to the tradition there was a goldmine in the cave guarded by a sleepless dragon.

Research on renewable sources of energy
By Giannis Koutsospiros

Because of growing energy demands in developing nations as well as the energy needs of industrialized societies, it will become increasingly necessary to turn to alternative sources of energy in the future. Conserving energy and using it more efficiently are additional ways of addressing the energy problem.

Renewable energy sources like the sun, the wind, water and geothermal power comprise the beginning of a one-way road. Mankind survived with them in the past, based on experience, and will have to live with them in the near future, based on knowledge and technology.

Wind energy protects the planet by reducing the pollutants and the greenhouse effect that destabilizes the world climate.

For example, the operation of a wind farm of 10MW power saves 3000 tones of oil per year. Worldwide, the 18 GW wind installations reduce the emissions of CO2 by 40 million tones per annum.

- ***Renewable energy sources in Greece***

They are the only inland sources of energy that can provide us with power without the need of fuel burning, without any hazardous radiation or gas exhausts and without unwilling environmental impacts. They are part of the conditions for a vital development, friendly towards people and the environment.

Extended use of renewable energy sources in Greece has started and will continue to take place, so that an actual reduction in the use of fossil fuels can be achieved. Especially in the islands of the Aegean Sea and in Crete, where the wind resources are plenty and the cost of transporting fossil fuels for power generation is high. The entry of renewable energy sources and of wind energy systems in particular may result in an increase from 10%, which is at present, to almost 60%, according to estimations. Also, by choosing an appropriate way of storing the excess amount of energy produced would result in further increases.

The Kyoto Protocol (signed by the EU and other countries all over the world, but rejected by the U.S., because of financial benefits) states that up to

2010 the global energy situation should change. Experts suggest that wind energy should cover almost 20% of the total energy need in Greece. This would result in a respectable reduction of environmental pollution, ensuring energy independence and creating more jobs opportunities.

Interest exists and so do good intentions. Public organizations believe that the case of wind energy in Greece has found its way and agree that it is everyone's responsibility to do the best possible practice in order to satisfy the EU's needs.

- ***Wind energy in Greece***

Wind farms, which operate nowadays in Greece, provide approximately 300,000 families with power. This amount is relatively small for a country so much blessed by the wind.

Wind installations at present lie mostly in Crete, in Evia and in several other islands of the Aegean Sea. Also, few wind turbines have been installed in the broader area of Athens, but most of them for private or experimental use. Their total power output reaches 253 MW, from which only 35MW belong to the Public Power Corporation (PPC). It is worth mentioning that in Crete, which is the bigger island in Greece and one of the biggest in the Mediterranean Sea, during the year 2000, 10% of the electricity was produced by wind energy. This percentage was satisfactory enough and showed that the targets set for 2010 are realistic enough.

What is more, the interest in developing wind farms in Greece is growing rapidly. Many applications for wind turbine installations are considered every day, by the appropriate organization. There are, also, some applications for other renewable energy installations, like solar panels, biogas and biomass, water power and geothermal uses in places with hot water sources. However, wind energy installations are the most developed ones and yet the most efficient.

- ***Problems with wind installations***

One major problem that delays the development of wind turbines is the bureaucracy and the involvement of many different organizations. Another

important drawback is that there is no appropriate circuit yet from the Public Power Corporation (PPC) to support the operation of wind farms in most areas.

Apart from the technical difficulties, there are also problems with the reaction of the residents in the areas close to the wind farms. Their most common complaints against wind turbines are based on three points:

the optical distraction

the damage on the physical character of the particular area, where the wind

farm is to be set, and

Noise produced by the wind turbines.

The first two reasons against wind turbines could be considered totally subjective, meaning that they only affect the aesthetic point of view. For example, the population of southern Evia only recently demonstrated against the growing amount of wind turbines in their area, supporting that this phenomena will harm their agriculture, reduce the tourism and, generally, affect their quality of living. Most of their concerns, however, can be explained through the lack of knowledge and their difficulty to understand the future perspective of clean energy.

As far as the aspect of noise is concerned, it could become a problem in some cases. Especially, when the choice of sitting has not been carefully made, as well as when the wind turbines are placed near a residential area.

However, unlike visual impact, noise can be quantified thus it is a problem which can be faced. Solutions to this problem are sought and modern wind turbines are considered to be much more silent than they used to.

Maltese Natural Heritage: its diversity and potential for ecotourism

By Goda Leonaviciute

Malta's landscape is part of our natural resources, cultural and natural heritage - it has been modified over millennia by anthropogenic influences: deforestation (many native trees were replaced by cotton and citrus plantations during the Arab occupation), overgrazing, agriculture (terracing of fields and rubble wall building) but is also a direct result of physical and climactic factors.

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as "an *area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*". (Source: MEPA Landscape Assessment Study)

Although few untouched natural landscapes can be deemed as completely "natural" one can describe some main features which have resulted from:

- faulting and other movements: tilt of the islands and the formation of hills and valleys

- the particular Maltese Rock Strata resulting in a widespread Karstland where there is soluble and limestone (also forming caves and dolines); clay slopes and boulder screes where Blue Clay is exposed; steep cliffs where Lower Coralline Limestone prevails; etc.

- the Mediterranean Climate - influencing rate of erosion and weathering; vegetation type and cover; soil formation and erosion; River Valley formation etc

Landscape appreciation may be very subjective - for instance some people may prefer natural colours changing with every season, others may prefer areas which have been turned green through artificial means etc. However most tourists seem to appreciate Malta's varied landscape (the fact that it is not repetitive) and the variety of physical features which abound in spite of the small area making it visually more interesting. However one common agreement may regard the aesthetic qualities of a place in relation to cleanliness - illegal dumping and a state of abandonment leave a negative impression and show a lack of national pride and respect. Often it is the one most striking feature to a visitor when in a new country - tourism therefore also depends on the quality of the landscape.

As with Malta's landscape, few habitats can be truly described as "natural" due to the obvious impact of man in such a small area of land with such an extremely high density of population.

The main habitats (also comparable to other Mediterranean counterparts) include: woodland (evergreen trees), maquis (small trees and large shrubs), garigue (low aromatic shrubs), steppe (annuals, geophytes).

Other specialised habitats include Coastal and inland Cliffs (housing many endemic species); Sand dunes and Slat Marshes; river valleys. Some man-made habitats include: *Historical sites (*old man-made structures such as bastions and ditches);

Afforestation areas like Wied Ghollieqa (San Gwann) for the past 14 years by Nature Trust. Trees and shrubs planted in this valley are all indigenous or archaeophytic and some rare trees have also been introduced including: Narrow-leaved Ash, Evergreen Oak, Bay Laurel, Bean Trefoil Tree, Dwarf Fan Palm, Sandarac Gum Tree, Wild Pear, Pomegranate, Judas Tree, Rosemary.

Sustainable Tourism

The World Tourism Organization defines sustainable tourism development as a form of tourism development that meets the '*needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunity for the future. It is envisaged as leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems. Sustainable tourism operates in harmony with the local environment, community and culture, so that these become the permanent beneficiaries and not victims of tourism development*.'

2002 was the International year for Ecotourism defined by the International Ecotourism Society as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well-being of local people." This sector is increasing rapidly in most Mediterranean countries and we hope to see its fruition locally as well as several tourists are nowadays demanding to have environment-friendly holidays which are in closer contact with nature and which respect the countries' environmental, and social climate.

Such organizations like **Nature Trust (Malta),** (*Fondazzjoni Natura (Malta)*), is a Maltese environmental non-profit making organization established in 1999, following the merger of four environmental organizations. Nature Trust is committed to the conservation of nature by promoting environmental awareness, managing areas of natural and scientific importance and lobbying for effective environmental legislation. Nature Trust manages the Wied Ghollieqa Nature Reserve, *Il-Ballut* ta' Marsaxlokk and is also working intensively on protecting Dwejra, Gozo, as part of a LIFE funded project. Nature Trust also organizes walks and hikes to localities of natural interest; talks, seminars, exhibitions, courses; planting and maintenance of trees.

Protection of Local Environment in Syria
By Hala Dayoob

The environment is, by wide meaning, the total factors to determine the materialistic, psychologic, economic, and social conditions for human relationships. Any quantitive or qualitative change due to the effect of pollutants in the physical or chemical or biological properties of the environment will cause damages that will affect the health of man or his life, besides causing risk to the natural resources.

To protect the environment, there is a need for a set of regulations and measures that will insure continual environment stability and integration to preserve the environment healthy and valid to be used to the best way.

The aspect of environment pollution and hazards caused is the subject of great international concern and cooperation since the 1960s till today. In year 1972, there has been an international call to discuss the environment situation following two decades of wars and Stockholm Convention was held in Sweden, which was followed by several conventions and programs to assess and control environment situation. In Syria, the official concern regarding environment is still new and is expected to issue the environment code on the date of 26.6.2002, besides the code number (50) year 2002, which assigned functions and duties for the ministry of environment and local administration. Here we state some of the environment systems concerned:

- Noise and permitted limits for noise and safe exposure time.
- Laboratories approved for environment experiment.

- National standards for air quality and permitted levels for air polluting gases.

- Classifying of hazardous industrial solid wastes, according to concentration of hazardous components.
- To apply the approved standard for sewage water used in irrigation.

- To apply the national plan to control desertification.
- To apply the national standard for chemical safety.
- To apply the national plan for biologic diversity.
- To apply the technical guide to control the pebs compounds (biphenyl polychlorine).

- To specify properties of liquid waste caused by economic activities, disposed of to sewage systems.
- The maximum limits for pollution indexes of industrial origin.
- To apply the national environment strategy and work plan.
- To apply the guide of ashing system for hazardous wastes.
- To apply guide for disposing of hazardous wastes by damping.
- To apply the guide of engineering and environment conditions.
- To apply the guide of environment appraisal.
- To apply the regulation of hazardous wastes management in Syria.

In addition to code No. (49), dated 19.11.2004, which includes the following:

- Types of medical and hazardous wastes.
- Records to be kept for hazardous and medical wastes.

- To regulate the collection and transport activities of wastes.
- Modes of treatment of wastes.
- Tabulation and addresses of ashing sites.
- Classing the penalties according to violations.

- In addition to the law of protecting marine coast.
- To apply the law of preventing of land hunting to maintain the diversity of animals in woods.
- In addition to the law that controls wood cuttings by any circumstances.
- The government has applied a wide plant to establish several sewage treatment plants, some of which are completed.

These laws have been applied and there are several preventive measures like:

- To raise the concern level of population, regarding the effect of these laws.
- To emphasize the role of people in keeping environment clean and observing regulations.
- To confirm procedures applied by industrial and medical institutions regarding operations of separating hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.
- To highlight the responsibilities of the environment directorates in several governorates of Syrian, regarding the specified laws.

- This served to construct several treatment plants and forcing industrial firms to treat waste generated by factories, prior to disposing of to environment.
- There is a great care concerning environment scientific research work, besides the support by state in universities realized through several research centers in the field of environment.

- There is a confirmation on the need to apply the environment design, which calls for scientific and economic study for protection of environment in order to select the optimum solution for each problem, and to confirm assessing the environment impact for all constructions in order for them not to harm or damage environment.

There have been in Syria several private societies concerned with environment that play an important role in raising concern in population and to improve the environment situation through voluntary operation campaigns held in a continual manner, which encompass several youth volunteers, besides others of children and disabled in this field to invest the massive influence of this policy on public.

Water Management in Jordan
By Khaled Goussous

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is known to be one of the most water scarce countries in the world, where water shortage has become of permanent nature and meeting water demands is a challenge. Jordan has reached its water crisis; present water use already exceeds the renewable freshwater resources by more than 20% . Jordan lies in the Mediterranean Sea region to the east of the Jordan River, with a land area of about 89 210 km^2. Its topographic features are variable and its climate is arid and semi-arid with short rainy winter and long dry summer.

Water Resources

Jordan's Renewable freshwater resources are estimated at about 850 million cubic m^3/year, consisting primarily of surface and ground water. Options for non-conventional water resources that can be mobilized are modest where nearly all of Jordan's renewable water resources have been developed and most citizens in Amman receive water only once a week. The options for augmenting water supply are limited; some additional rainwater can be harvested and some brackish water can be pumped from sandstone aquifers. The per capita share of renewable water resources is among the lowest in the world, and is declining with time. It is projected to fall from 140 /capita/year at present to 90 m^3/capita/year by 2025

CURRENT WATER SITUATION AND PRESSING ISSUES

Jordan's renewable water resources have been developed and most citizens in Amman receive water only once a week. Several factors have contributed to the country's water scarce situation.

Population increase; due to the high natural growth rate and the waves of refugees, population has increased dramatically and population centers sprang at locations distant from water resources. This resulted in a high cost of projects for municipal water supply and wastewater collection and disposal, as well as, management problems of obsolete distribution networks and inefficient maintenance. Water projects were envisaged whose implementation would slightly relieve the population, which is projected to be about 9.9 million by the year 2020 *(MWI estimates)*.

Groundwater; the reaction to the abrupt surges in population levels has been over abstraction from groundwater aquifers exploited at more than double their sustainable yield in the average.

Agriculture; the inhabited productive area of the country does not exceed 6% of its total area, and borders the Badia to the east, and the Jordan Valley to the west. Arid-agriculture in both regions is possible only through irrigation. The environment of the country is fragile, and the protection against desertification requires sustainability of agriculture.The Government notes that while 70 percnt of water is allocated to the agricultural sector, the outputs of agriculture do not exceed four

percent of annual GDP. The recognition that some crops are not only water inefficient, but also economically unstable, is a key lesson learned for Jordan (e.g. in the growing of watermelons), however, it is difficult to change attitudes given the socio-economic context of the sector.

Cost; the marginal cost of water is high by world standards. The investment portfolios for water and wastewater projects are high and will be on the rise. Rehabilitation of old water networks is needed and is highly challenging both technically and financially. The current per capita share of the GDP does not allow full cost recovery before it is drastically improved.

MAIN ACTORS/STAKEHOLDERS

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) is the official body responsible for the overall monitoring of the water sector, water supply and wastewater system, related projects, planning and management. The Ministry has recently established a WDM Unit to provide support and Information to entities interested in reducing water consumption, monitor misuse of water and recommending enforcement and regulatory measures and to increase awareness among the general public to a better understanding and appreciation for demand management.

The Ministry of water and Irrigation embraces the two most important entities dealing with water in Jordan; The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), in charge of water & Sewerage Systems, and The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), responsible for the socio-economic development of the Jordan Rift Valley, including water development and distribution of irrigation.

Donors Support

Since its establishment, MWI has been supported by several donor organization projects that have assisted in the development of water policy and water master planning. Click here to view detailed list of projects

ADOPTED WATER STRATEGY

The Jordan Government has adopted a comprehensive water strategy supplemented with a set of policies and measures to help mitigate the water situation. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is committed to ensure an integrated policy of water resource management that is sustainable in economic, ecological and social terms.

http://www.idrc.ca

ACQUA! WATER! LET'S GET INTO THE BUSINESS
By Letizia Gambini

Although the water that comes out of our taps is perfectly potable, urban Italians drink almost exclusively bottled water.
For home consumption, most city households buy bottled water in six packs of 1.5 litre bottles, for a total average of around 190 litres a year pro capite (the higher amount in the world). There are dozens of brands in any Italian supermarket or store, some local, some national. Most Italian bottled waters actually come from mountain springs in specific locations, and are bottled near the sources for which they're named, like San Pellegrino, for example. They cost between 30 to 50 cents a litre, whilst 1000 litres of tap, perfectly drinkable water cost around 1 euro. Most bottled, mineral waters come in fizzy and non-fizzy varieties, with the fizzy ones being artificially carbonated, but a few, such as Ferrarelle, are naturally fizzy. Some have recognizable flavours, and after a while you develop preferences (I, for example, can't stand Ferrarelle).
There is lots of competition between brands, with ads touting their supposed health-giving properties (especially for the house brands at the *terme* - traditional health spas), low sodium, etc. The further you get out into the country, and particularly into the mountains, the better the tap water is: it's often piped, unprocessed, directly from mountain springs into homes. Many town squares still feature the municipal fountains where people used to get their water before indoor plumbing became common. (In some places, water is so abundant that these can't be turned off: they simply run, all the time, a waste which always disturbs me.)
The 22nd of March is Water Day. Water consumption varies so much between the different countries and culture that it is also difficult to calculate an average. Every Italian family would save around 300 euro per person drinking tap water. A quite important amount for a normal familiar budget. The advantages of tap water don't end here. Drinking bottled water means also consuming more plastic bottles, with a significant impact on recycling policies! Nonetheless, we remain where we are.
But there are some new ideas coming out. Watch out for the water revolution!

"IMBROCCHIAMOLA!"
Imbrocchiamola! is a campaign promoted by Caterpillar (a famous radio show on National Radio), Legambiente (the biggest Italian environmental NGO) and AltraEconomia (a magazine about alternative consumption). The campaign claims that water is a right to everyone and that we shouldn't be paying this much to drink it. One of the most common complains made by tourists about Italian restaurants is on the surcharge that you have to pay for bottled water. In fact, when you go to a restaurant in Italy there is no question: if you order "water!" it comes in bottles. Often the average price is around 2.00 euros for 75 ml. But, "Imbrocchiamola!" promoters say, you could ask for normal tap water, and this is a right!! The main original idea is to create a basic database in which people can insert the name of those restaurants that accept to give water in a carafe and those who don't. So that people can start deciding which restaurants perpetrate the expensive and dangerous habit of drinking bottled water and which ones instead are open to look for alternative ways.

www.imbrocchiamola.org
But of course is not only about bottled/tap water! Although Italy is famous for its water richness, there are regions inside the country that suffer constant water shortage issues. Such places are Sicily and Sardinia (and with them all the smaller islands), but also the southern regions of Puglia, Basilicata and Calabria.
Water shortage, coastal erosion, sea pollution are concrete threatens to local economy as much as they are a general environmental concern. Some of the most beautiful beaches and coasts in Italy have been significantly eroded by the sea and risk to disappear completely. Moreover, sea pollution is a serious issue not only for tourists but especially for local fishermen, that are facing increasingly difficulties in their everyday job.
An unthoughtful attitude towards the protection of the environment has brought Italy, like many of its Mediterranean neighbouring countries to face a dramatic situation. But here also, there is some change!

"CLEAN-UP THE MED"
"CLEAN-UP THE MED" 2008 (23rd-25th May) involved more than 280 environmentalist organizations, hotel chains, municipalities, schools, from many different countries: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Jordan, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Malta, Marocco, Palestine, Portugal, Romania, Syria, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey!
The "Clean-up the Med" action is organized in Italy by LEGAMBIENTE, the most diffused Italian environmentalist organization which has been operating since 1995. Its major aim is to join global ecological organizations for a great common action of cleaning up our coasts with excellent results.
This event wants to remind everybody that sea pollution is not accidental but it comes from how we daily act on Earth and also in the Sea. A large number of volunteers equipped with gloves, rakes and plastic bags clean up more than 800 beaches along the Mediterranean shores. They work to take away many tonnes of rubbish piled up through months.
This shows that the quantity of rubbish could decrease if every local administration arranges for a waste differentiated collection plan, as provided by the European Commission regulations. It is also necessary to work in order that our public areas keep constantly and carefully clean. This is the 13th "CLEAN-UP THE MED" action. Through the years the project succeeded in involving about 1,600 among the environmentalist organizations, schools, universities and hotels and tourist residences chains for cleaning up the shores.

Friends of the Earth battles against the 'Rocade Nord', a project to build a new motorway across the centre of Grenoble

By Henry Tidy

Context

Since the 1970s, certain lobbies have been pushing for the construction of a second motorway across Grenoble, the so-called Rocade Nord, 'northern ring-road'.
Grenoble and its surrounding urban area has 600,000 habitants. It is at an altitude of 200 metres and is surrounded on all sides by beautiful mountains that rise up to 3000 metres.
This exceptional geography means that the air in Grenoble does not freely circulate. On a daily basis there are thousands of cars that pour in and out of Grenoble from the surrounding areas, almost exclusively commuters going to the centre or business district for work. As a result there are traffic jams during rush hours the morning and evening at the entrances to Grenoble.

There are numerous problems :

- The public transport system that could bring more people in and out the city had been left to run down for decades. Today the Region is investing to get increase the capacity of the trains, but there is a time delay to get this done.
- For many years there has been a trend to move out of town, which combined with a growing population, has meant that the urban space (footprint) of Grenoble has massively increased, with a dependence on cars to get around.
- Grenoble already has air pollution problems. Despite the reductions in industrial pollution, road transport pollution is not tackled as the measures required (toll system etc.) make the politicians nervous. And despite the efforts of some NGOs such as Friends of the Earth, there is not enough public pressure to make the situation change.

In this context, with soaring oil prices, climate change, air pollution etc. the Rocade Nord project seemed to have been abandoned (general agreement by regional and local politicians in 2005). But having accepted, under pressure from financial lobbies and as a maneuver against his right-wing opposition, to relaunch the project, the President of the Department took a massive step backwards in terms of thinking.
A coalition of NGOs and local opposition groups have sprung up to oppose the project. Today we hope that the President of the Department, André Vallini, will come to his senses and abandon the project before the situation becomes to confrontational. In order to build the motorway it will be necessary to demolish whole areas of housing and the construction will disrupt the city for at least 6 years. Following its opening all the predictions show an increase in traffic, pollution, traffic jams etc. All this for a heavy price, at least one billion euros, which will have to be paid locally as the Region and the state does not want to participate.

For the past three years we have been organising protest marches, bike rides, organised press conferences and conferences and we have produced a film that explains the negative impacts of this type of project on local health (for example the planned motorway would pass at 100 metres from the Departmental hospital).
We propose that this money should be exclusively spent on sustainable transport. In a wider context there needs to be a real politcal control over the development of the urban area, which must not continue to expand without any logic in terms of transport and utilisation of space and energy.

To see some of our actions, visit :
http://www.amisdelaterre.org/rubrique192.html
http://amisdelaterre-isere.over-blog.org/
http://radioheadavelo.over-blog.com/

Research on desertification

By Majd Belal

One of the impacts which global warming may have on the surface of the Earth is to exacerbate the worldwide problem of desertification. A decrease in the total amount of rainfall in arid and semi-arid areas could increase the total area of dry lands worldwide, and thus the total amount of land potentially at risk from desertification.

Desertification was defined at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 as "land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors including climatic variations and human activities". Desertification involves the depletion of vegetation and soils. Land degradation occurs all over the world, but it is only referred to as desertification when it takes place in dry lands. This is because these areas are especially prone to more permanent damage as different areas of degraded land spread and merge together to form desert-like conditions.

Global warming brought about by increasing greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere is expected to increase the variability of weather conditions and extreme events. Many dry land areas face increasingly low and erratic rainfalls, coupled with soil erosion by wind and the drying up of water resources through increased regional temperatures. Deforestation can also reduce rainfall in certain areas, increasing the threat of desertification. It is not yet possible, using computer models, to identify with an acceptable degree of reliability those parts of the Earth where desertification will occur. Existing dry lands, which cover over 40% of the total land area of the world, most significantly in Africa and Asia, will probably be most at risk to climate change. These areas already experience low rainfall, and any that falls is usually in the form of short, erratic, high-intensity storms. In addition such areas also suffer from land degradation due to over-cultivation, overgrazing, deforestation and poor irrigation practices.

The direct physical consequences of desertification may include an increased frequency of sand and dust storms and increased flooding due to inadequate drainage or poor irrigation practices. This can contribute to the removal of topsoil and vital soil nutrients needed for food production, and bring about a loss of vegetation cover which would otherwise have assisted with the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere for plant photosynthesis. Desertification can also initiate regional shifts in climate which may enhance climate changes due to greenhouse gas emissions.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification intends to tackle the problem of desertification, by adopting a partnership approach between governments and local populations. The Convention aims to encourage local communities to regain a sense of respect for, and understanding of, their land and the climatic factors which affect it.

Water Management in Menorca
By Montserrat Bau Puig

At the end of 2007, and after an exhaustive compilation of information, GOB Menorca published a document related with the water situation in Menorca.
This is focused in the water quantitative and qualitative problems that the island is currently suffering and the possible solutions this problematic could have.

The interest of this issue in a Mediterranean island as Menorca is of vital importance in a climate change context, where precipitations tend to decrease in our latitudes and drinking water is becoming a very scarce resource. Moreover, the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in 2015 is obliging European countries to carry out new policies to reach the objectives of this Directive, which has an ecological approach that previous environmental European policies had not enhance. For example this Directive is demanding European members to reach a good ecological status for their aquatic ecosystems (rivers, wetlands, groundwater, marine coast,...), and to recover the costs of water services, including environmental and resource costs associated with damage or negative impact on the aquatic environment.

Menorca's Water Situation

Quantitative Water Problems

Menorca is an island without mountains, rivers or dams. It only has the groundwater of the main aquiferous (Migjorn), in the southern part of the island where the geological elements (calcareous rock) allow rain water to be infiltrated. The water level of the main aquiferous of Menorca has been decreasing during the last 22 years (from 20 m to 13 m). Another added problem is the marine intrusion as a consequence of the decreasing water level of the aquiferous. The calcareous rocks from the southern part of Menorca act as a big sponge, and when there's no fresh water in the aquiferous this is supplied with salt water from the sea (see map number 1).
This drop of the aquiferous level it also effects vegetal and animal species that are taking advantage of the wells that used to occur in the deepest parts of the gullies, where groundwater come to the surface.

Possible causes of these Quantitative Water Problems

1.Urbanistic Development: Although Menorca has an "Insular Territorial Plan" that delimited the urbanistic development that was threatening the island in the past, it is still a touristic destination which demands great quantities of water during summer (during the season where rains are more scarce).
2.Agricultural Activities Intensification: Agriculture in Menorca is based in milk and cheese production. During the last decades, milk prices has been decreasing, and this fact contribute to a new agricultural practices that has altered the Minorcan landscape. Irrigated land practices has been introduced in Menorca and this contribute to waste drinkable water in deficient technologies for irrigated crops.

3.Deficient Industrial Technology
4.Exotic gardening
5.Waste of Pluvial Water Recycling
6.Negation Problem Attitudes
7.Climate Change Context

Qualitative Water Problems

One of the biggest qualitative water problems is the groundwater contamination by nitrates. It is considered that water is not drinkable when nitrates concentration is over 50 Mg/L (EU Nitrates Directive), some of the Menorca human settlements are over this value (see map 2).

As it has been told above, also marine intrusion is a big problem for the quality of the water.

Possible causes of these Qualitative Water Problems

- **Losses from Septic tanks**
- **Losses from Sewers**
- **Purifier dumping**
- **Agricultural Chemical Fertilizers**
- **Intensive Irrigable Crops**

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **Decrease the water expenses:**
  - **Agricultural Sector Restructuring**
  - **Moratorium of new wells and Water Meter instauration**
  - **Industrial systems Inspections**
  - **Nautical Areas Inspections**
  - **Touristic establishment Inspections**
  - **Sewers and water supply system revision**
  - **Water costs that incentive Water Saving**
  - **Authoctonous gardening**
- **Increase Available Water.**
  - **Pluvial Water Recovery**
  - **Utilisation of Residual Water**
  - **Recovery of Water Concessions**
  - **Protection of the Aquiferous Recharge Areas**
  - **Sea Water Desalation**
- **Water Quality improvement policies:**
  3.1.Public information about Nitrates Values
  3.2.Sanity Advice to the population
  3.3.Water Potability Systems Planning
- **Decrease the nitrate aports to the aquiferous:**
  4.1. Sewerage Systems in periurban areas Development

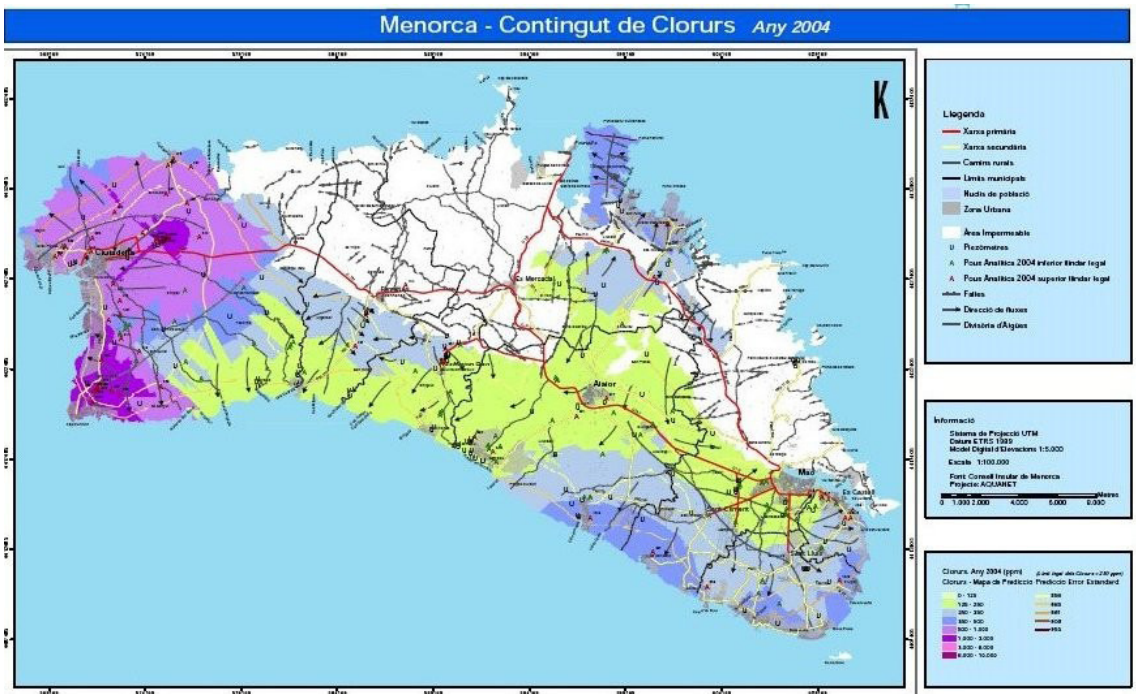
4.2.More efficient Purifier systems Development
4.3.Amotivate Irrigable Agricultural Practices
4.4. Designation of Vulnerable Aquiferous Zone

5. Halt Marine Intrusion:
5.1. Reused Water Infiltration in vulnerable areas
5.2. Desalted Water Infiltration in vulnerable areas

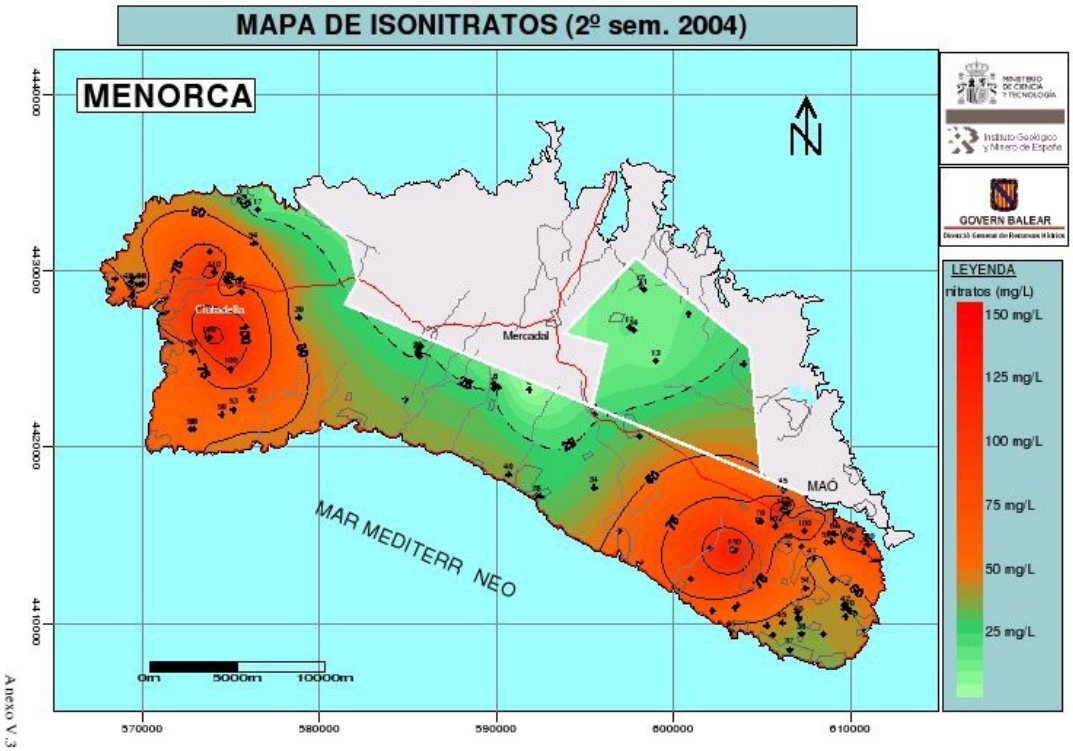
6. Policies to reach a social change in Water Management issues:
6.1. Public information about Water quality and quantity values
6.2. Facilities to consult water expedients

7. Promotion of social participation:
7.1.Effective operational process in Water issues (social participation)
7.2. Annual Water Seminar organization
7.3. Permanent Water Education programmes

8. Management Integration:
8.1. Creation of the Insular Water Consortium



MAP 1*. The marine intrusion is more significative in the areas where more groundwater is withdrawn, in this case, both extremes of the island, where there's more human pression.*



***MAP 2**. Nitrate concentration is around the most inhabitated areas.*

Renewable energies
By Naji Youssef

Future generations will have to confront a size problem, which is the pollution. For economic reasons, human has never heeded the impact of his activities on the environment, and it is only recently that politics begin to think about our planet.

A major cause of pollution is the manufacture of energy, which becomes indispensable to our current lifestyle. Even today we use mainly fossils fuels such as petroleum gas and coal, but all eyes are turning increasingly to renewable energy. So, the european union hoped that, around 2020, 20 per cent of its production of energy would be assured by renewable energies.

They are defined as being a source of infinite energy from natural phenomena. The first man utilisation of renewable energies dated from apparition of windmills and watermills. Even if these buildings are no longer used nowadays, these 2 components of nature are still used through the windpump, and dams, sometimes impressive, which feed cities in electricity. Man has also built various machines to dominate the phenomena of tidal, waves, or even the difference in temperature of water between the sea surface and a hundred meters deep.

Since the time of the pharaohs, wind was used to propel the boats, then sailing boats dominates the oceans for a long time, but nowadays it is most of all found for sport or passion, motor boats being more practices. But things could change. For example, there is a project for fishermen, which is to install on their boats a veil, not to replace the engine but for the supplement part. Even though this project has emerged for economic ends, to reduce consumption of fuel oil, we can also see the environmental aspect of the thing.

There is also solar panels, which produce current thanks to the light or heats the water houses. On the other hand, hot water from the depths of the Earth's crust is extracted and used to heat buildings: it is the geothermal energy.

Renewable energy is really promising, and there are still many projects for the future. One of these is the use of hydrogen. This is not really a renewable energy because its sources are not unlimited, but the fact that its production is fairly easy and low-polluting make it a clean energy. Soon, cars, boats and even electric power plants will operate with hydrogen.

Unfortunately, being still relatively expensive, the renewable energies represent only a tiny percentage of global energy consumption, for example in 1960 the hydraulic energy accounted for 50 per cent of the energy production of France, nowadays it represents over 1 percent. Maybe the rising price of petroleum will increase the research for renewable energies and reverse the tendency? In addition, it is necessary that awareness is international, because nature does not

know the frontiers set by humans, and the action of some countries will always remain very limited.

Overuse of energy
By George Kountouris

As the world continues to develop and human population is steadily increasing we have more and more use of energy, from driving our cars to working on computers or even when taking a shower. In many of these cases we have an overuse of energy, or even a misuse. We are relying more and more on electricity to power our lives and fossil fuels to drive us, but our need for these energies has caused the supply to dramatically decrease, which in effect is also unbalancing our environment. Little by little we are all doing our part in wasting energy, current power plants burn oil at high temperatures letting out wasteful emissions.

One of the first people to cause awareness about the overuse of carbon dioxide was Charles David Keeling a scientist at the Mauna Loa Observatory who in 1958 recorded the steady rise of carbon dioxide. The measurements show a steady increase in atmospheric CO_2 concentration from about 315 parts per million by volume (ppmv) to over 380 ppmv by 2006.
Another sign of the dramatic overuse of energy are the urban heat islands, which are condensed cities that have a significantly higher temperature than the surrounding area. This is also due to waste heat being generated from energy usage.

Energy overuse is also a contributor to the currently rising prices of petroleum, not only because of its increasing need but also because the natural reserves are being depleted. Humans are wasting more and more valuable energy and aren't doing much to fill the void. A lot of countries are trying different methods to help reduce carbon emissions and save energy like installing energy saving light bulbs. But the fact still remains that sooner or later the means to produce such energy will be depleted.

The only true method for tackling this problem is finding and using renewable energies. Renewable energy uses natural resources like sunlight, wind, water etc. to power our energy needs. The great thing about it is its ability to never run out as long as consideration is always used. Renewable energies have been used by humans from the dawn of time. Unfortunately in the modern world they do not satisfy our needs so they are discarded or underestimated. There are currently several types of renewable energies, biomass and biofuels, geothermal energy, hydropower, tidal power, wave power, wind power and solar power.

Biomass and Biofuels are two different but very similar renewable energies. Biomass is currently living or recently dead biological material which is burnt and used as fuel or in some cases used for composting or even hydrogenation (which converts biomass into oil). Due to the fact that the biological material hasn't been through fossilization using it as fuel does not over load the carbon cycle. Biofuels are also recently dead biological material, the difference between it and biomass is that it most commonly derives from plants and never includes anything live. Although biofuels have been used from the day we discovered fire, the recent

discovery of fossil fuels has decreased the amount of biofuels we use for our everyday life.

Geothermal energy, just like the literal translation in Greek, means Earth heat. This type of energy relies on the heat that is trapped under oceans or heat absorbed in the earth. Cool substances usually water are flushed on these hot parts of land and the heat and steam that is caused is gathered for energy. The advantage of geothermal energy is that its emissions are clean and safe for the environment. The disadvantage is that the geothermal power plants can have an adverse effect on the land stability and surrounding life.

Hydro electricity or hydropower is the most widely used renewable energy and the cleanest by producing zero waste and zero emissions, more than 60% of the worlds renewable energy is hydropower. It is usually from dammed water where turbines and generators are placed to create electricity. Hydropower is also a very cheap method for creating energy. Furthermore, hydroelectric plants have a longer lifespan than fuel fired generators. The only concern is that the plants can destroy surrounding aquatic life. Tidal power works on the same bases as hydropower but the turbines are placed in the sea. Although more costly it has a higher output of energy and is slightly less hazardous to the surrounding environment than hydropower. The disadvantage is that in order to do its job properly it has to be within a specific depth of water and hit with specific pressure levels from the tides. The smallest water based energy in terms of scale and output is Wave power which works in similar ways but the turbines are placed on the water surface instead of inside the water. It also requires very specific conditions in order to work and last, thus it is not commonly used as a dependable energy source.

Wind power is one of the most commonly known forms of renewable energy, from ancient times when sailors used it to power their boats to windmills that grinded materials or collected water. Now windmills are being used to generate electricity. Although the output of a Wind turbine is very low and it has some minor effects to the environment (slight water and noise pollution to surrounding area) also some say it is a potential danger to birds, it is really a safe and clean way of producing energy which is starting to grow in popularity.

Finally, the most important renewable energy that is mostly taken for granted is solar energy. The sun is what breathes life to our planet and allows biological life forms to coexist and evolve. Even without our interference it is has been constantly supplying earth with renewable energy from the very beginning. But with human understanding and technology we will soon be able to use every form of energy the sun has to offer. From its thermal and heating properties to its lighting and agricultural benefits solar energy could possibly be the only type of renewable energy that can help mankind in a vast number of ways. The latest technological achievement that uses solar energy is the Solar cells (photovoltaic cells) which turn solar energy into electricity. These are used to power anything from phone booths to cars. The next step that scientist are trying to achieve is to fuse photovoltaic cells with specific chemicals which can then be used to harness even more energy from the sun like an artificial photosynthesis.

All the different types of renewable energies work in very sufficient ways and although they too have their disadvantages they are definitely not as harmful as any of the other wasteful ways of producing energy. I believe that with clever consideration and human cooperation we can use all these different methods to renew our energy and cut down on our old wasteful ways.

The sea pollution

By Samuel Fermin

1) Lead in the Mediterranean sea

In most of the seas there are little metal pollutants but in the Mediterranean sea the concentration is higher. These pollutants come from the rivers and the atmosphere. The causes are mainly the fuel lead additions.

2) 80% of marine pollution comes from the continents

And this pollution is mostly due to daily activities and not only from crude oil disasters. Rivers like Rhin or Danube bring to the sea thousands of toxic products so the seaweeds get destroyed. Without seaweeds the sea lacks oxygen so the fishes can't survive.

About 70% of garbage are thrown in the sea without being treated and 1.2 million barrels of crude oil are thrown in the Persique Gulf every year.

3) The long way of organic pollutants

These organic pollutants (mostly coming from agricultural activities) are thrown in the oceans and then can go to the Antarctic because of the wind and the current.

4) Chemical infectious : the invisible pollution

Most of these chemical contaminations are not visible so they are forgotten from the international conventions but they have bad effects on our health. In the region of Gironde there is a cadium pollution coming from paintings. In the Languedoc-Roussillon region there is a DDT (Dichloro-Diphényl-Trichloréthane, which is forbidden since 1972) pollution because of anti-mosquito sprays. And the Seine bay is polluted by PCB (Polychlorobiphényles).

5) Invasion of French coasts by an exotic specie of crabs : crabes pinceaux

These “crabes pinceaux” (*Hemigrapsus penicillatus*) invaded 800 km of coasts in the Gascogne gulf. They are coming from Japan and Taiwan by boats or with the currents. This specie resists more to the pollution than other species already there.

6) Biodiversity of the Atlantic French coasts in danger : human activities are the causes

The more the fishers are on the coasts the more there are consequences on the coastal ecosystems. People moving the rocks, stones on the beaches disrupt the systems of several species. All the animals living under the rocks are getting illuminated by the sun and are not anymore protected from the predators. The

fishers of shellfish disrupt seaweeds like *Zostera marina* which are on the way to die. Many organizations try to keep the biodiversity of these coasts.

7) How to fight against pollution ?

The coastal, between the sea and lands, is complex and rich. About 60% of the population live at less than 60 km from the coasts and this coastal population is going to increase (about 75% by 2025).

Today the conflicts are unsolved between fishers, entrepreneurs, real estate managers, local communities, environmentalists and tourists. The lack of communication between them made many disasters.

It's necessary to take into account all these parameters : urbanization, agricultural, cleaning the water, industries, fishing, sea ecosystems protection, so that we can protect the coasts without destroying the local economy and the life of the inhabitants. It has to be controlled on a local vision.

Some countries are already facing these environmental issues but a lot has still to be done.

Garbage in the Forest
By Rita Szitás

In the area where I live is surrounded by a half artificial and half natural forest. This is a village, which has a small population (4500 people), but they live in a large scale. In the whole area there is just one landfill side for garbage. In the village there is not garbage transport service and people have to take their garbage to the landfill, which they usually don't do, because it is too far from their house and many of them don't even have a car to take their waste or they are very old and there is no service in the area to take the garbage.

This way they just throw everything in the forest or the nearest natural part bewteen trees to hide the garbage.

Time by time the forest gets full with rubbish from the households. Useless electrical equipments, (TV, radio, fridge, old tools…etc.), clothes, kitchen waste, plastic cups, bottles, cans…etc.

It is very polluting for the forest and nobody cleans the forest or think about to set up a better waste management in the area.

The population is growing in the village and the landfill side is not even sufficient for the present population for the village.

At the same time in many houses they still use fireplace to heat and cook and for this they use wood, which they cut from the forest. It is illegal, but it is out of the attention.
Half of the forest is private and other half belong to the municipality of the village. Year by year the owners of the forest start to exploit wood from the forest for trade. Luckily until today the biggest part of the forest still remain.
We can not stop the exploitation of the forest, but we tried to make some steps to approach the municipality to develop a better waste management in the area to be able to conserve the remaining parts of the forest. It seems to be difficult issue as it is a small municipalty of a small village without money.
At the same time we tried to approach local people and raise awarness between them about environment. We tried to point out how dangerous is to put the rubbish in the forest and what a thread it is for the wildlife and why it is important to save the forest as much as we can.
This part of the country called Great Plain. It is flatland with a dry continental climate, which means, that winter is cold and has lot of precipitation and summer is hot and dry. In the summer due to the heat in those parts where are no trees are exploited the ground soil turns to shifting sand and nothing grows in it. Also the garabage which is thrown out between the trees killes the undergrowth flora and there start the shifting sand appearing or weed start overgrazing and seize away the living space of the habitant plants, which is huge loss in the biodiversity. Loosing trees in this area means a great problem for us, because the shifting sand ruins the the remaining soil as well to use for agricultural purposes and makes more difficult to plant trees back again.
Most of the people is not aware of this, because they are not well informed and they first of all focus on tasks with work and family and they expect the government to solve the environmental problems.
The municipality started to give special recycable bags for garbage and put a little bit bigger pressure on people to start to use the landfill side.
But there is still no waste transport service for those, who live far from the landfill side. There are no big containers placed in rural areas for the rubbish.

Time by time our organisation manage a group of people to clean up the forest. We involve students from the Environmental High School to have a better benefit and to give them the experience to deal with municipalities, government and local people concerning environmnetal issues. At the same time involving the students is a great help for us, because all our actions have a better effort when we have the participation of a professional institute in our environmental problems.

Sustainable development in Egypt
By Rehab Abo el Ela

Development is the goal of all the countries each country would like to improve its level of development and enhancing its performance towards achieving progress and welfare. So the sustainable development became a vital concept in the government agenda in most of countries. In Egypt this concept is newly used as the government later started to pay more attention to this concept as well there are a lot of searches and projects in this field to offer methods should be follow to achieve development. We have to know that the way the concept is handled in developed countries is different to this in developing one, so it is important to make good use of others experiences but with the issues which are suitable to you .

Sustainable development in Egypt is a topic Dr. Adli Bishai has devoted much study to. In 1978, with the encouragement of former President Anwar Sadat, Bishai went out into the desert, where he found new inspiration, going on to act as director of the Desert Development Center at AUC.
In 1990, when the representative of the president of the United Nations Development Program along with Dr. Nadia Makram Ebeid visited the site, Bishai was offered a job as an environmental consultant to which he insisted on adding development. Hence came his research and work on creating a plan for sustainable development in Egypt , a concept not only concerned with the environment, but also with resource management. After 18 months, a strategy was developed, approved and distributed among the different ministries.
By 1992, either ignored by or receiving a lukewarm reception from the different ministries, Bishai decided to form Friends of Environment and Development Association (FEDA) as a way to implement his strategy. Knowing it would be terribly naïve to think that an NGO could implement the plan all over Egypt; he secured financial backing from the Swiss Development Fund, UNESCO, the Canadian Agency, and Participatory Development Project branch (PDP) and the Finnish Embassy, and identified three key areas as the most needy. Coastal areas such as Rosetta and Fayoum, desert areas such as Wadi El-Natroun and Wadi El-Assiouti, and the historical areas of Gamaleya and Rashid were all chosen to implement the NGO's objectives.

This project opens the door for more participation in the environmental issues connected with the tourism so there is partnership between Egypt and Italy to enhance and explore more tourist places in Egypt in such a project called "The Other Egypt"
This has high participation of representatives from ministries of tourism and environment in Egypt as well Eco-tourism commission.
Looking at 2004, tourism contributed over 6 billion dollars to Egyptian economy. Over 8 million visitors spent these 6 billion dollars that we welcomed here in Egypt throughout the year. 8 million visitors represent an increase of 35% versus 2003. Those 8 million visitors spent a total of 81 million nights in Egypt, and that again represents an increase of 56% versus the year before. Comparing these figures to international standards, we'll see that the WTO average growth rate is 4%, while

growth rate of our region has been 10%. Now, we also have ambitious plans for the next years.
We are planning for the coming 10 years to increase the number of visitors to 18 million and to increase tourism contribution to GDP to over 12 billion dollars. The 2004 has also been a big milestone for us because it has been the first time in our history that we welcomed over 1 million visitors from a single country, and those people came from Italy. In light of those results and in light of those ambitious plans about the future, nothing will be possible without a very sound and solid ecotourism policy in connection with the environmental needs that is will lead to the sustainable development .

Finally we all in Egypt do believe that tourism will have good contribution in increase the GDP of Egypt in order to offer the financial resources to continue working in sustainable development that without harming for the environment resources. I think that the government and civil society in my country should have a clear vision towards achieving sustainable development as well concrete mission to be done in the coming years.

The role of NGOs in promoting drylands ecotourism:
An ongoing project in southern Tunisia
By Rim Grioui

The historical town of Douiret:

It is commonly believed that all ancient civilizations of the world's dry regions were nomadic. However, this is not true of the town of Douiret, in the Matmata Mountains of Tunisia. In fact, the historical evidence found in the old town shows that it was first settled more than one thousand years ago.

Douiret was subsequently a focal point of one branch of Berber civilization. The architectural remnants to be found there, as well as many structures still in use, indicate that the town's historical inhabitants had a very rich typical drylands civilization.

Douiret's location was in fact dictated by security and environmental reasons. The Matmata mountains are found between the Plain of Jeffera and the Mediterranean Sea on the east, and the Sahara Desert on the west. The town and its dependent surrounding villages, located on the crest of the mountains, were easy to defend against enemies. The inhabitants built a fortress (*ksar*) on the most inaccessible site in the area, and used it to store the local population's food reserves (e.g. oil, barley, wheat, dried figs and dates). The fortress was protected by outlying posts and an early alarm system. At the same time, the town's residents developed water harvesting techniques (earthern dikes or *jessour*, and cisterns) for the mobilization and use of rainfall and runoff waters. These water harvesting systems are still in use today. The *jessour*, built in the intermountain runoff

courses, capture water and silt and create terraces where fruit trees (e.g. olive, fig and date palm) and annual crops (e.g. cereals and legumes) are cultivated. The cisterns, locally known as *majen* or *fasquia*, are small to medium (1 to 50 m3) subsurface reservoirs where rainfall and runoff are stored for domestic uses, livestock watering and occasional supplemental irrigation.

The original houses of Douiret were excavated into the mountains, in two or three parallel series of adjacent troglodyte caves stretching a total distance of about three kilometers. Because of the insulation provided by the surrounding earth, the temperature inside these houses did not fluctuate much, giving the feeling of freshness in summertime and keeping the houses warm in winter. Buildings were constructed in front of, and were physically connected to, the troglodyte houses. These buildings were used for storage, cooking, and livestock keeping, and the spaces between them and the troglodyte houses were used as courtyards.

This autonomous, self-sufficient system functioned well for centuries. Then, gradually, due in part to geopolitical stability, the people of Douiret started emigrating to neighboring cities and the capital to seek new jobs in order to diversify their incomes. These trends were heavily encouraged after the country's independence in 1956, with a policy of marginalizing the rural zones and seeking a rapid "modernization." These trends resulted in an accelerated rate of abandonment and/or poor maintenance of Douiret's ancient agricultural techniques. At the same time, the government started building a new town and encouraging old Douiret's inhabitants to relocate there. As a result, the ancient town was essentially deserted by 1990.

The role of ASNAPED:

The Association de Sauvegarde de la Nature et de Protection de l'Environnement à Douiret (ASNAPED) is an NGO that was founded in 1986 in order to promote revitalization of Douiret's economy and way of life. ASNAPED's members include both local inhabitants and outsiders interested in preserving Douiret's

ecology, archeology, history, and culture. ASNAPED's first objective was to restore the most important parts of the ancient town, such as the mosque, the primary school (which was transformed into a youth hostel), the retaining walls, and some of the houses. More recently, its strategy has broadened to include overall development of the local economy. Steps are being taken to revitalize the area's traditional agricultural economy. For example, in 1995, a small project supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resulted in rehabilitation of the water harvesting structures in a watershed near the village. However, because rainfall in this region is often erratic, ASNAPED is also focusing on diversifying Douiret's economy by developing alternatives income sources such as ecotourism. At present, a multivariate project financed by the European Union (EU) is being carried out with the aid of national and international organizations. ASNAPED's role, in this as in its other projects, has been to develop the initial concept, identify funding sources, obtain funding, and direct the project's execution. During the entire process, ASNAPED acts as an intermediary between the project's different partners, such as the local population, governmental authorities, cooperating NGOs and organizations, funding agencies and donors.

Current project activities:

The rehabilitation of the water harvesting structures initiated by the 1995 UNDP-financed project will be extended to other watersheds. Ultimately, more than 500 *jessour* and 100 cisterns will be restored. The effects of this restoration are expected not only to benefit local agricultural production and ecosystem health, but also to enhance Douiret's appeal as an ecotourism destination.

Douiret's tourist appeal also continues to be enhanced by restoration of its physical infrastructure. Currently being restored are a large number of old buildings (*ghorfas*) and houses (*ghars*), a traditional olive mill (*maasraa*), and four traditional grave monuments erected to honor religious figures (*marabous*). This restoration is being carried out by local specialists in order to preserve the original architecture and construction techniques. The former headquarters of the region's governor during French colonial times have already been remodeled for their future role as a center of international studies. This center will be equipped to receive students, researchers, and others who are interested in working on different themes and research topics concerning Douiret. In addition, some of the troglodyte houses will be repaired and outfitted as a tourist hostel, with room for fifty guests.

Preparation of a local museum is also underway and has almost been completed. The museum will exhibit local cultural artifacts including poetry, farming implements, crafts, cooking utensils, and clothing. In addition, a "house of wool" is being planned, to allow for "living museum" demonstrations of traditional wool shearing, processing, spinning and weaving techniques. Last but not least, a replica of a Roman theater is being constructed by volunteers from numerous

organizations such as the National Institute of Architecture, national and international scouts, NGO workers, youth and pupils. This theater will be used as the site of various artistic performances and festivals.

In terms of governmental interventions and support, the current project calls for lobbying of regional authorities in order to include the village in official traveling and tourist itineraries. In addition, paving of major regional roads and improved maintenance of unpaved roads are planned in order to ensure better connections with neighboring attractions such as Chenini, the park of Ain Dkouk, and Ksar Ghilane.

Finally, ASNAPED is undertaking efforts to lobby UNESCO to classify this ancient and richly historical town as an international monument.

Ultimately, it is expected that this ambitious and multifacted project will contribute to the generation of new income resources for Douiret, while preserving the town's architectural and cultural characteristics and the health of the local ecosystem. This project therefore represents a major step forward in promoting ecological and cultural tourist activities in the region, and ASNAPED's role in the project provides one model of how NGOs might work to promote similar projects in other drylands of the world.

Water and Jordan
By Anas Alabbadi

Water is one of the most important resources we have on earth. Scientists claim it to be one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century. Water is the most precious recourse in Jordan! The country has one of the lowest levels of water resource availability, per capita, in the world. Water scarcity will become an even greater problem over the next two decades as the population doubles and climate change potentially makes precipitation more uncertain and variable, particularly in the Middle East. Management of water resources is therefore a key issue facing national government authorities. Increasing overall water extraction to meet demand carries a high cost; Jordan is now accessing non-renewable water resources from fossilized deep-water aquifers and is over-pumping its renewable groundwater resources. The availability of water resources has dropped to presently 150cubic meter per person per year, well below the accepted water poverty line of 1000 cubic meter per capita and year. Hence the competition between different water users, households, industry, tourism and agriculture is increasing.

The gravest environmental challenge that Jordan faces today is the scarcity of water. Indeed, water is the decisive factor in the population/resources equation. Whereas water resources in Jordan have fluctuated around a stationary average, the country's population has continued to rise. A high rate of natural population growth, combined with periodic massive influxes of refugees, has transformed a comfortable balance between population and water in the first half of this century into a chronic and worsening imbalance in the second half. The situation has been exacerbated by the fact that Jordan shares most of its surface water resources with neighboring countries, whose control has partially deprived Jordan of its fair share of water such as Israel and Syria. Current use already exceeds renewable supply. The deficit is covered by the unsustainable practice of overdrawing highland aquifers, resulting in lowered water tables and declining water quality.

With Jordan's population expected to continue to rise, the gap between water supply and demand threatens to widen significantly. By the year 2025, if current trends continue, per capita water supply will fall from the current 150 cubic meters per person to only 91 cubic meters, putting Jordan in the category of having an absolute water shortage.

Responding to the challenge, the government has adopted a multi-faceted approach designed to both reduce demand as well as increase supply. The peace treaty signed in 1994 by Jordan and Israel guaranteed Jordan its right to an additional 215 MCM of water annually through new dams, diversion structures, pipelines and a desalination/purification plant. Of this 215 MCM, Jordan is already receiving between 55 and 60 MCM of water from across the border with Israel through a newly-built pipeline. Jordan is also entitled to build a series of dams on the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers to impound its share of flood waters.

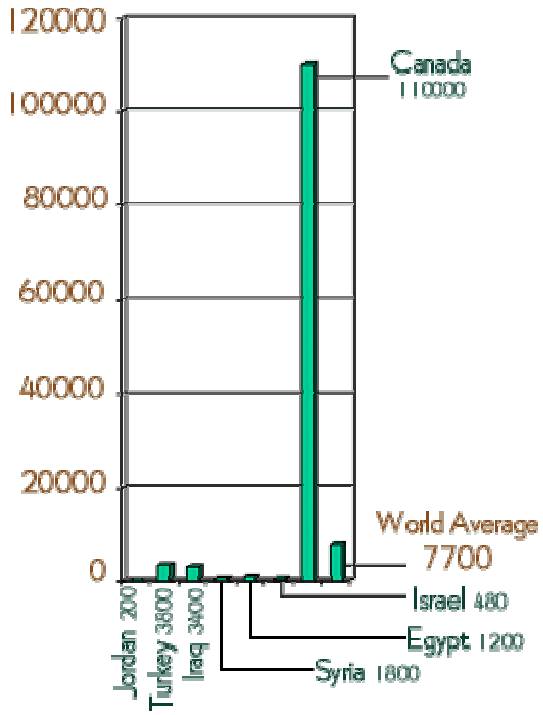
In addition to securing its bilateral rights from Israel in its 1994 peace treaty, Jordan is actively involved in promoting regional cooperation through the Water Resources Working Group of the Multilateral Peace Talks. Likewise, Jordan is currently involved in discussions with Syria pertaining to issues on the upper

catchments of the Yarmouk River in an attempt to reach an understanding over stable water sharing and flood storage between the two countries. Jordan has long been a strong advocate of transforming the zero-sum game in water sharing, where there are winners and losers, into a positive-sum game where all the concerned parties will be winners. Hopefully, in the context of future peace, there will be real cooperation among the countries of the region toward achieving the provision of safe and reliable water for future generations.

In order to carefully plan for the future, Jordan has adopted a National Water Strategy. The strategy is a comprehensive set of guidelines employing a dual approach of demand management and supply management. It places particular emphasis on the need for improved resource management, stressing the sustainability of present and future uses. Special care will be given to protecting the water supply against pollution, quality degradation and the depletion of resources.

Fast bullets:

- There are big companies starting agricultural projects in the desert. They consume large amounts of water that we are in dire need of.
- 76 per cent of the country's water needs for drinking purposes are secured from underground sources which most of them are nonrenewable. !!
- Around 257mcm of water annually is channeled into the country's underground aquifers. Official figures shows that approximately 501mcm are pumped out.
- Several main underground aquifers have already dried up and others are on the way to complete depletion. Al Duleil aquifer is now completely dry, Al Jafer is almost dry after eight years of pumping, while the Azraq aquifer is expected to run out of water in 15 or 20 years if random pumping continues



These figures from 1996 now in Jordan it's 150 cubic meter

5.3. Participants' production

5.3.1. EuroMed

By Niovi-Vasiliki Zarampouka-Chatzimanou, Khaled Goussous, Emrecan Polat, Amine Ezzine

On the 7th of July, 2008, 29 people from 16 countries, along with their trainers, skippers, and others, with 5 boats opened sails in the Mediterranean with starting and ending point Athens, We started a 10 days unique Training Course. The special thing about it was that we were given the chance to live our own "International Land" and develop our own international community. Our 5 boats were sailing close to each other and docking next to each other, this connected "land", created this separate "international space", our space, with its own borders, which were the limits of the boat. On it, we had our own rules, structures, and so on, this restricted land was from one hand a challenge since we had to live and "Stand" each other, and from the other hand it was generating force for stronger and deeper interaction. So, although it was a Training course with a focus on the environment, we had a great benefit from learning form each other but also ourselves since we were constantly challenged and tested. The crew distribution in the boats played a very important role in not having international groups created, the nationalities were spread equally around so as not to have people excluded because a very big challenge was not to isolate ourselves in groups of people we feel more comfortable with, but open the borders of our mind.

This Euromed Training Course was full of cultural differences and similarities between different cultures, countries, and languages. For example, if you are in and Arabic country and you say the number "28" in Greek some one, its one of the biggest insults; also if you hit some one on the back of his neck in Europe, its funny, but if you do it to an Egyptian guy, you are in a BIG trouble. This sort of differences are not the only Euromed, but you can find them among Arabs or Europeans as well, these cultural understandings and misunderstandings contribute in the development of a complex system of "Rules" which PROJECT people has to take into consideration while living the days of the Training course, which protect people through respect among participants from all around the Mediterranean. Of course, in our daily lives we are all respectful to other people, however, the ideas of some people may be just the opposite of others and maybe insulting in one way or another, in such case, being respectful may not be that easy. Religion is an important issue for most of us and people expect their religion to be accepted, in this Training course we had people from different religions and some of the people are very religious, following their religion's rules strictly. When all these factors are taken into consideration, small things or actions may insult others, however, in this training course we had a purpose which everybody knew from the beginning, but still we had different and strong feelings and ideas. So, we discussed about our ideas, and we were all respectful in those discussions and we didn't have any conflicts between participants. In these discussions didn't try to change the ideas of others, but tried to express our point of view and this was the way to be respectful.

All in All, despite the differences, what gathered everybody around was music… because when it comes to music, we all speak the same language,

eliminating all borders; We'd start dancing on a fast song for Tamer Hosni, then we'd enjoy a cup of martini listening to Pavarotti, then we'd have fun listening to Tsifteteli, and later go clubbing with Black Eyed Peas…

These 10 fascinating days passed quickly, and now our sails are closed. We leave with loads of experience, knowledge, memories, friendships, and a promise to continue, and meet again… and above all, with the strong belief that Music is "EUROMED"!!!!

5.3.2. Environment

Good Environmental Practices on Sailing Boat

- Plan the route according to the winds and the knowledge of the skipper in order to reduce the use of the engine
- Get economical packages of food
- Get organic and preferably local products
- Keep recyclables separately (eg. plastic bottles, cans, paper)
- Throw organics n the open sea (scrap food)
- Do not throw cigarette filters in the sea
- Use reasonable quantities of biodegradable products (liquid soap, shampoo etc)
- Save water
    - Close the pumping while washing dishes
    - Close the tap while shampooing
- Switch the lights off when not in use
- Drink tap water when available
- Reuse your glasses

SECOND TASK:

All the islands have changed from an agriculture/fishery lifestyle to tourism economy.

When that happened? It started almost 150 years ago (coinciding with the industrial revolution), but it is still happening.

Why?

One reason is the unsustainable use of natural resources (eg. in Kea island the royal oak trees disappeared because there was overexploitation, in Tinos island, the overpumping resulted the decrease of underground water.

Working with tourism instead of agriculture/fishery is easier and more profitable. People have more money and time to spend on vacations.

How:

Kea:
Diving Marine Park
Pedestrian paths
Regulation to preserve and restore the royal oak trees
Natura 2000
One flower is protected by the Bern Convention 1979
No renewable energies
No wastewater treatment plant

Andros:
-No wastewater treatment plant
Overgrazing (goats)

No farming management for the goats

-No renewable energy

Tinos:

Mostly religious tourism

No wastewater treatment plant (river pollution)

No renewable energy

No centralized landfill side

Water reservoir (dam)

Waterpipe system (in some houses) to collect and drive the rainwater for domestic use

Tree nursery for planting trees with low water demand

Large percentage of population are members in environmental association (500/10000 inhabitants)

They used to keep pigeons in pigeon houses, which enabled them to be self-sufficient, but that stopped now

Water measure (?) Association the Friends of Green Mr. Vidalis

Interview with the fisherman and tourist and the lady (the waterpipe for the rainwater)

When they had the pigeons they could have economical authonomy, but since they stopped to keep pigeons it stopped.

Pesoulas, cultivation with terrases

They have a tree nursary program

Serifos:

Agriculture (local products…)/fisheries/ tourism

In winter 1000 inhabitants, in summer 10000 people

45% of the island Natura 2000

Abandoned iron mines (half of the island is excavated of what the workers brought out of mines)

Stonewalls are not preserved (erosion)

They are proposed to settle 87 wind generators (biggest size) along the mountainline in order to produce enough energy for half of Attica. The settlement of the wind generators will affect the traditional Cycladic landscape, create magnetic field, which affect the bird nesting, they need to build new roads to settle the generators. They don't want to accept it but they are not against renewable wind energy. They have their own plan on combining wind and water energy (hybridic) to produce enough energy only for the island

Biological wastewater treatment plant

Waste management (first step of construction of "HITA" as management of garbage)

Future development plan (Aims: preserve the island, have good education, support people and youth)

Winter school for master students

Want to be independent from oil concerning energy

Building a appartoir to promote organic farming and stop importing from Athens

Management to build houses on mountains and not near the sea

Attempt to stop using plastic bags

Wastewater treatment plant

Sailing trough mediterian is a very exciting thing it makes you live in a wonderful world of excitement discovery and adventure.

Our first trip was to cape sonio and we had great times on our way to kea island,they introduce us to the island and we met participants of another training course and did some activities with them. The next day we moved to andros island and it was a rough journey. Sailing is a real adventure specially in rough weather you have high waves and a strong wind and the boat throats you from right to left you see fear in some eyes and joy in the others.

We met the mayor of the island who introduced the island to us and then they made a cultural show for us including cultural dancing and customs.. 10 am the next morning we moved to tinos island it was rough and exhausting journey from most of the participants and due to the bad weather we had to stay for one extra day , they made a tour for us around the island and we had many interesting information about it.i had several interviews with the participants and I ask them if they had any bad experience during sailing and most of them said no. also asked them about their job on the boat some of them cleans, some of them cook,etc.also asked them if they sailed before most of them said this the first sail for them, and another said 4 thousands miles during 35 years. And if they motivated enough to this journey all of them said yes of course .another question about how many persons according to stand thi/s hard condition to save the environment most of them said ten. Asked them about what famous rases you know? The answers was fast net, Figaro, vendee, glob, Sydney aubart, Americans cup, cows .next day we sailed to serifos island the weather was so calm and be enjoyed swimming at the magnif0.ecent beach, the sun was great and the nature around us was so charming. Next day we moved to Poros Island where we did some work shops, and have a nice dinner and then all the participants went a club and enjoyed the last moments

5.3.3. Newspaper

Intercultural learning
By Rehab Aboel Elab

Experiences are the life. So, you can imagine how is the benefit the participants in this training achieved. This training course has 30 persons from different cultures and countries. That is why we feel as if we are gaining experience which is rare to be achieved easily in 10 days. This kind of knowledge and intercultural learning will help the participants in their future life and their way of behavior. Euro med is the organization which handles such training courses, seminars and conferences for the Medterian countries in order to build a bridge of interaction between them either in MEDA area or European one.

This vision of integration and communication was so clear when we all came together to protect our common environment which is the Medterian Sea. We are living in the same environment sharing the same problems and risks. So, we start interacting together to protect our environment. We started sailing among the Greek islands to discover the environment as well the cultures. We feel as if sailing among the countries between the traditions and habits of each culture. The Medterian Sea has a special position in my heart as when I am standing in front the beach in Alex I know that there are youth like me in Athens, lattakia, Marseille, and Rome. Whatever we are different but we all looking forward to enjoy our environment.

Culture it is such a word that you can not do a limited meaning for it. It is extremely hard to recognize culture of one country. That means you have to know about their behavior, habits, traditions and thought. During this seminar it was such a great start to sail in the medterian cultures. So we began to discover ourselves as well the others that was the real benefit of the interaction. We start knowing each other with some stereotypes. Most of us don't have this kind of thinking but some has like stereotype about Greek people they are much funny and easy going and this one is confirmed. Some has stereotypes about Islam and it was such a good thing to meet Muslims. From this king of think about religions there was stereotype for some of the participants that all the Arabs are Muslim and this one is cancelled. This kind of interaction helps in changing the bad way of thinking about others and began to respect them.

Culture shocks, we may face this kind of feeling when we meet something different for our way of living that happened for some of the participants when they for the first time met girl wear a scarf. this one was for the European participants but for the MEDA was the different way of behaving they noticed in the European are and one of them said he will not allow his son to be gay . These shocks were so useful that they opened the door for more discussion about differences.
This kind of interaction and communication made the participants more interested to discover these countries and the most requested countries to be visited were: Spain, Italy, Egypt, Jordon, Greece, and Israel. In this feeling of interaction we

cannot forget the role of the globalization in making the world small village. All the participants agreed that the globalization affected their country in different ways positively and negatively.

Finally, we can say that difference among cultures is a must and fact we can not ignore it. But we have to know the best way to deal with these differences not to discover it only, that what we reach at the end. I can say that we will try to lessen the gap because it is one map. "Lessen the Gap …It is One Map"

The environment sailors life
By Samuel Fermin

We are a group of young people coming from different countries and with different cultures that lived all together sailing around some of the famous Cycladic Islands in Greece. As we were all the time living together on the 5 boats, many interesting things happened and got revealed.

Most of us feel that we are firstly Mediterranean citizen then European citizen. That could explain why we were always positive, social and not afraid of talking and sharing experiences between each others and we plan on keeping contact with people with similar interests or in order to develop new projects or networks.

Some people have stereotypes about the countries the participants come from :

- Turkey : patriotic, masculine men, conflict, occupation, propaganda from Cyprus to Turkey and friendly people
- Jordan : energy, hot, Arabic
- Egypt : pyramids, Sahara, hot and friendly people
- Spain : sun, good food, nice people, fun, artists
- Italy : expressive, traditional, artists, romantic, funny, sun, good food and nice people
- Greece : wonderful places to visit, sun, good food, sea, acropolis, easy going, nice, kind and friendly people but also slow way of living
- Portugal : great landscapes, many beaches, great food, hospitable
- France : open-minded people, always have to be right.

After spending 10 days together everybody still looks to be very happy and kind even with this cultural diversity. Some participants are even sad that this extraordinary training course is on the way to finishing but many of us want to keep in touch for new ideas or just for hosting each others in their own countries.

Environment of the Mediterranean region: can we save it?

By Thanasis Venetos

The Mediterenian sea is placed in the North Hemisphere of our planet and it covers many thousand square kilometres. It's one of the biggest seas in our world. It is surrounded by many countries and it holds a huge variety of species of fish. Its ecosystem is very unique, but in the last few years it has been ruined up to a great extent.

Cycladic region is situated on the Eastern part of the Mediterenian sea and it is composed of 24 islands. All these islands are in the Aegean Sea and the biggest of them is Naxos. Each and every one of them has its own unique identity. Generally, all the islands are very dried with very small rate of rainfalls per year. Each island has its own assotiations concerning the production of local products. The main source of income on these islands comes from fishing, farming and making of local goods.

On the whole, Cyclades faces a great deal of problems most of which is water management. According to locals, the problem of water deteriorates during summer season where the number of tourists substantially augments. For instance, in Serifos island the population in summer time is 30-times higher than that of winter. Bearing in mind all these facts, we can all understand the importance of water in Cyclades. Trying to solve the problem, tankers full of drinkable water fuel the islands on a continuous base. But, to air an opinon, this method costs a lot and it is sometimes ineffective.

To adopt a point of view, many Mediterenian countries confront the same problems. Air pollution, water and waste management are some clear-cut examples. Based on intreviews given by the participants during the Salto training course in July 2008 in Greece,the majority of them consider water management as the worst of all problems in their countries. Many of them see themselves as

environmentally active and , furthermore,they would do whatever possible to protect it. They further declare that tourists ruin the environment and that their countries make steps forward even slowly. As a general view we could say that environment is top priority but there are much more to be done.

So one may wonder…What can be done? Can we save the Mediterenian ecosystem and, if yes, in what way? Here we have multiple answers. Obvious solutions are desalination units, installment of wind and solar systems e.t.c. But, could these ways be adopted? I suppose yes. With a great deal of effort and patience we can work wonders. Especially young people. Assesing the experience I gathered in this training course I can infer that youth can combine vacation , fun and relaxation with the protection of the environment. This is a unique way that young people can accomplish things. So, what do you think? Do you agree?

Environmentalists on board…

By Marios Psarras

"Protecting the Mediterranean Environment": this was the motto of forty young people, coming from every angle of the Mediterranean Sea, in order to exchange ideas and hopes, propose and suggest, share experiences and make dreams for a better future of peace, solidarity and environmentalism.

Organised and funded by the Salto-Euromed Recource Centre, the "Youth in Action" Programme and the National Agencies of Greece and Cyprus, this training course gave the opportunity to young people, members of environmental NGOs, from all the Mediterranean countries, to experience something unique, as it was the first time that an environmental training course would actually take place in the sea!

Sailing across the Aegean Sea to the Cycladic Islands, these forty young people soon realized that they should actually behave and work as sailors, and not just sit on a chair and take notes! Coming from 16 different countries (Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Hungary, Malta, Portugal), with many cultural, religious, even political differences, they found no difficulty in adjusting to this new, tempting yet demanding setting of a small sailing boat, and co-exist in harmony and productivity.

Sailing, though, was just the scenery in which this training course took place, as its main aim was not to produce new sailors, but to raise awareness on the protection of the Mediterranean environment, foster competences on how the Youth in Action and the EuroMed programmes can be used in this field and enhance active citizenship through the creation of structural dialogue between participants and stakeholders on environmental issues. Could there be a better place for such an event to take place than the Mediterranean Sea itself?

The activities in which the young environmentalists were involved were many and various. During their discussions in groups or in the plenary sessions, they had to deal with numerous ecological topics such as water management, pollution and its impact on social life, desertification, renewable energies, eco-tourism, eco-politics and sustainable development. Moreover, the participants presented the most crucial environmental problems of their countries, eco-practices implemented in their regions, as well as suggestions on how NGOs in their countries, and especially their own ones, can develop ecological programmes and practices.

During their visits to the Cycladic Islands, they had the opportunity to have meetings with many officials such as mayors, clergymen, and other locals as well, with whom they had interesting discussions on the environmental situation of the islands and specifically on matters such as sewage treatment, waste management, building development, environmental education and renewable energies. Not only did the participants ask questions, but they made suggestions, as well, on

environmental practices and policies that can be implemented on the islands. In addition to these meetings, the young environmentalists had the chance to visit small villages of the islands, where they admired the traditional Cycladic art and architecture, and experienced the traditional way of life, which in many cases turned out to be particularly ecological!

At the same time the participants were separated into five working groups: Environment, Euromed, Newspaper, Photo and Video. The Environment group analyzed the environmental situation of the Cycladic islands and suggested solutions on the various problems they face. Moreover, they suggested environmentally-friendly practices on board, in the form of an ecological code. The Euromed group examined the relationships developed among the participants, in the prism of diversity that characterized the particular team. Namely, they analyzed the similarities and differences among them and the way they affected the t.c., resulting in the conclusion that the special conditions of this t.c. actually helped the team to overcome any differences and come close very easily and quickly. The members of the Newspaper group prepared articles, based on interviews taken from participants and locals on issues relevant to the t.c., and other environmental topics. The Photo group prepared a PowerPoint presentation covering every aspect of the t.c., based on a humorous fictional scenario, and in addition they presented a very artistic set of pictures named “Ecological flags”. Last but not the least, the Video group produced two short videos: a documentary describing the whole training course and a reportage with interviews with participants and locals on the environmental issues related to the t.c.

Admittedly, the quantity, quality and variety of activities in which the participants were involved in this unique training course, has given them the opportunity to raise awareness on the way they themselves can substantially contribute to global sustainable development, with a special focus on the Euro-Mediterranean area and has strengthened their initiative and creativity. Furthermore, it has promoted networking among young environmentalists on a European and international level and has prepared the ground for further similar activities, projects and training courses not only in their countries but internationally, as well. Once again young people proved that youth can make the difference… it is only a matter of trying!