



SEHUMED

Sede para el estudio de los Humedales Mediterráneos



II Foro Mundial sobre el Agua

Seguridad Hidrológica en el Siglo XXI
Mission to Mostar (Bosnia & Herzegovina)

Sultansazligi, Ramsar site in Turkey

15th Global Biodiversity Forum

Revista ECONOTICIAS

Anuari Ornitològic de les Balears 1998

Secovlje salt pans (Slovenia)

Entrevista con Luc Hoffmann

EDITA

SEDE PARA EL ESTUDIO
DE LOS HUMEDALES
MEDITERRANEOS



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D VALÈNCIA

GENERALITAT VALENCIANA
CONSELLERIA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE

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<http://SEHUMED.uv.es>

Suscripciones: En página WEB

DISEÑO Y MAQUETACIÓN:

Carmen Gil Llorens

Fotomecánica: Mediterráneo Color, S. L.

Imprime: Imprenta Máñez

Depósito Legal: V-1205-1997

ISSN: 1137-7747

La revista SEHUMED no se identifica ni se responsabiliza, necesariamente, de aquellas opiniones expresadas en los artículos firmados

*Publicación impresa en papel ecológico.

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Cataratas de Iguazú. Foto Carmen Gil

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II Foro Mundial sobre el Agua. Conferencia Interministerial sobre Seguridad Hidrológica en el Siglo XXI

2st World Water Forum. Ministerial Conference on Water Security

Entre el 17 y el 22 de marzo de 2000 se celebró en La Haya (Holanda) el II Foro Mundial sobre el Agua y Conferencia Interministerial sobre Seguridad Hidrológica en el Siglo XXI, organizados por el gobierno holandés, el World Water Council's World Water Vision and Framework for Action y el Global Water Partnership. Asistieron unos 3.500 representantes de todo el mundo. El Foro Mundial sobre el Agua es un encuentro trienal de responsables de políticas y de la toma de decisiones en la materia, representando a gobiernos, organismos internacionales, Naciones Unidas, ONGs, entidades científicas y sectores especializados tanto públicos como privados. Los objetivos principales del Foro son los siguientes:

- Incrementar la conciencia de los responsables de la toma de decisiones, los medios de comunicación y el público sobre los aspectos críticos de la problemática global del agua.
- Proporcionar una plataforma para intercambiar puntos de vista, información y conocimientos sobre los aspectos y documentación de actualidad en la materia.
- Incrementar las oportunidades para que el Consejo Mundial del Agua promueva sus políticas y conclusiones, así como para que comparta con otras organizaciones sus intereses y visiones comunes. El Consejo es una organización no gubernamental creada en 1996. Sus miembros son instituciones gubernamentales que representan 2/3 de la población global, así como entidades internacionales, Naciones Unidas y ONGs.
- Exponer el estado actual del conocimiento sobre evaluación global del recurso hídrico, así como sobre los retos y soluciones potenciales.

El acceso de la población al recurso hídrico, en cantidad y calidad suficientes, es uno de los retos globales para el siglo XXI. El presidente del Consejo Mundial del Agua, Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, estimó que 26 países, con una población de más de 300 millones de personas, ya ahora sufren escasez de agua. Indican las proyecciones que hacia 2050, unos 66 países (2/3 de la pobla-



Río Jándula, en el Parque Natural de las Sierras de Andújar (Andalucía, España). Foto Joaquín Pino

ción mundial) padecerán escasez de moderada a severa.

Es bien sabido que las zonas húmedas contribuyen decisivamente a conservar las fuentes de agua, y éste es uno de los principales argumentos para proteger los humedales en todo el mundo. Delmar Blasco, Secretario General de la Convención Ramsar informó que la reunión fue un «evento significativo», ya que tanto la Declaración Ministerial como el Marco de Acción finales reconocieron la importancia de la gestión y la protección de los ecosistemas de agua dulce. Este reconocimiento, sin embargo, no fue tan pleno como Ramsar hubiera deseado. Así, en la Declaración Ministerial aparece una lista de «ecosistemas a proteger» como uno de los

siete retos para el futuro, pero no como el reto básico que subyace sobre todos los demás -ya que si los ecosistemas dulceacuícolas no son bien gestionados no quedará agua para ninguno de los otros sectores-. Este punto de vista fue ampliamente reconocido en la *IUCN's Water for Nature Vision*, debatida durante el Foro, pero la cuestión es cuánto de ello será integrado en la «visión central», la Visión para el Agua, la Vida y el Medio Ambiente, así como en el Marco de Acción que debe salir de la reunión. El Sr. Blasco indica que, aunque en los últimos años se aprecia un progreso en el realce que la conservación de ecosistemas tiene en la *Word Water Vision*, lamentablemente aún se considera como algo separado de su asunto central, el «agua para la gente».

Los Ministros dividieron sus trabajos de la Conferencia en siete sesiones -una por reto de futuro-. La sesión temática sobre Protección de Ecosistemas, dirigida por el Ministro de Medio Ambiente de Colombia -el Ministro de Suecia actuó como relator-, reconoció que «los ecosistemas deben ser conservados y restaurados para asegurar la sostenibilidad de los recursos hídricos para la humanidad», concluyendo que «para compartir el agua es vital la cooperación transfronteriza dentro de las regiones del mundo; y los acuerdos regionales, concordantes con las convenciones internacionales, deben facilitarla». El texto final de la Declaración Ministerial, tras las correcciones a la propuesta inicial surgidas de los debates, es el siguiente:

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE HAGUE ON WATER SECURITY IN THE 21st CENTURY

- 1. Water is vital for the life and health of people and ecosystems and a basic requirement for the development of countries, but around the world women, men and children lack access to adequate and safe water to meet their most basic needs. Water resources, and the related ecosystems that provide and sustain them, are under threat*

from pollution, unsustainable use, land-use changes, climate change and many other forces. The link between these threats and poverty is clear, for it is the poor who are hit first and hardest. This leads to one simple conclusion: business as usual is not an option. There is, of course, a huge diversity of needs and situations around the globe, but together we have one common goal: **to provide water security in the 21st Century.** This means ensuring that freshwater, coastal and related ecosystems are protected and improved; that sustainable development and political stability are promoted,

contributions of the World Water Council, who launched the World Water Vision process at the First World Water Forum in Marrakech, from the formation of the World Commission on Water in the 21st Century and from the development of the Framework for Action by the Global Water Partnership.

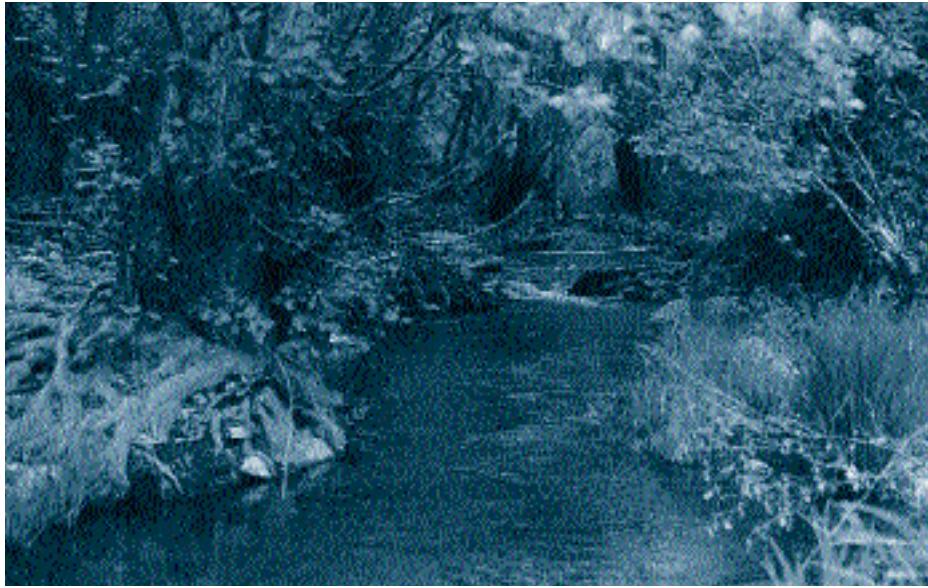
es to reflect the cost of their provision. This approach should take account of the need for equity and the basic needs of the poor and the vulnerable.

Governing water wisely: to ensure good governance, so that the involvement of the public and the interests of all stakeholders are included in the management of water resources.

The Main Challenges

3. To achieve water security, we face the following main challenges:

Meeting basic needs: to recognise that access to safe and sufficient water and san-



Arroyo en el Parque natural de la Sierra de Hornachuelos (Andalucía, España).
Foto Conselleria de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Andalucía

that every person has access to enough safe water at an affordable cost to lead a healthy and productive life and that the vulnerable are protected from the risks of water-related hazards.

2. These threats are not new. Nor are attempts to address them. Discussions and actions started in Mar del Plata in 1977, continued through Dublin and were consolidated into Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 in Rio in 1992. They were reaffirmed in Paris 1998, CSD-6 and in the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference. The process will continue in the meeting in Bonn in 2002 ("Dublin+10"), through the 10-year review of implementation of Agenda 21, and beyond. These and other international meetings have produced a number of agreements and principles that are the basis upon which this and future statements should be built. The goal of providing water security in the 21st Century is reflected in the unprecedented process of broad participation and discussion by experts, stakeholders and government officials in many regions of the world. This process has profited from the important

itation are basic human needs and are essential to health and well-being, and to empower people, especially women, through a participatory process of water management.

Securing the food supply: to enhance food security, particularly of the poor and vulnerable, through the more efficient mobilisation and use, and the more equitable allocation of water for food production.

Protecting ecosystems: to ensure the integrity of ecosystems through sustainable water resources management.

Sharing water resources: to promote peaceful co-operation and develop synergies between different uses of water at all levels, whenever possible, within and, in the case of boundary and trans-boundary water resources, between states concerned, through sustainable river basin management or other appropriate approaches.

Managing risks: to provide security from floods, droughts, pollution and other water-related hazards.

Valuing water: to manage water in a way that reflects its economic, social, environmental and cultural values for all its uses, and to move towards pricing water servic-

Meeting the Challenges

4. We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, recognise that our gathering and this Declaration are part of a wider process, and are linked to a wide range of initiatives at all levels. We acknowledge the pivotal role that governments play in realising actions to meet the challenges. We recognise the need for institutional, technological and financial innovations in order to move beyond "business as usual" and we resolve to rise to meet these challenges.

5. The actions advocated here are based on **integrated water resources management**, that includes the planning and management of water resources, both conventional and non-conventional, and land. This takes account of social, economic and environmental factors and integrates surface water, groundwater and the ecosystems through which they flow. It recognises the importance of water quality issues. In this, special attention should be paid to the poor, to the role, skills and needs of women and to vulnerable areas such as small island states, landlocked countries and desertified areas.

6. Integrated water resources management depends on collaboration and partnerships at all levels, from individual citizens to international organisations, based on a political commitment to, and wider societal awareness of, the need for water security and the sustainable management of water resources. To achieve integrated water resources management, there is a need for coherent national and, where appropriate, regional and international policies to overcome fragmentation, and for transparent and accountable institutions at all levels.

7. We will further advance the process of collaboration in order to turn agreed principles into action, based on partnerships and synergies among the government, citizens and other stakeholders. To this end:

A. We will establish targets and strategies, as appropriate, to meet the challenges of achieving water security. As part of this effort, we support the development of indicators of progress at the national and sub-national level. In carrying this forward, we

will take account of the valuable work done for the Second World Water Forum.

B. *We will continue to support the UN system to re-assess periodically the state of freshwater resources and related ecosystems, to assist countries, where appropriate, to develop systems to measure progress towards the realisation of targets and to report in the biennial World Water Development Report as part of the overall monitoring of Agenda 21.*

C. *We will work together with other stakeholders to develop a stronger water culture through greater awareness and commitment. We will identify best practices, based on enhanced research and knowledge generation capacities, knowledge dissemination through education and other channels and knowledge sharing between individuals, institutions and societies at all appropriate levels. This will include co-ordination at regional and other levels, as appropriate, to promote arrangements for coping with water-related disasters and for sharing experiences in water sector reform. It will also include international co-operation in technology transfers to, and capacity building in, developing countries.*

D. *We will work together with stakeholders to increase the effectiveness of pollution control strategies based on polluter pays principles and to consider appropriate rules and procedures in the fields of liability and compensation for damage resulting from activities dangerous to water resources.*

E. *Against the background of the preparatory work for and discussions in The Hague, we will work within multilateral institutions, particularly the UN system, International Financial Institutions and bodies established by Inter-Governmental Treaties, to strengthen water-related policies and programmes that enhance water security, and to assist countries, as appropriate, to address the major challenges identified in this Declaration.*

F. *We call upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to further strengthen the co-ordination and coherence of activities on water issues within the UN system. We will adopt consistent positions in the respective governing bodies to enhance coherence in these activities.*

G. *We call upon the Council of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to expand activities that are within the mandate of the GEF in relation to freshwater resources by catalysing investments in national water management issues that have a beneficial impact on international waters.*

H. *We welcome the contribution of the*

World Water Council in relation to the Vision and of the Global Water Partnership with respect to the development of the Framework for Action. We welcome follow-up actions by all relevant actors in an open, participatory and transparent manner that draws upon all major groups in society.

I. *We note the statements (attached to this declaration) made by the representatives of the major groups and welcome them as a clear reflection of their readiness to work with us towards a secure water future for all.*

8. *Recognising that the actions referred to in paragraph 7, including progress on targets and strategies, are important and ambitious, we will review our progress periodically at appropriate fora, including the meeting in Bonn in 2002 and the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21.*

9. *The Ministerial Conference acknowledges with appreciation that a range of issues were discussed during the Second World Water Forum, and that the Chair of the Forum presented these issues to the Ministerial Conference. The importance of these issues is unquestionable; we will raise them for further consideration in relevant fora in the future and will consider their implications for our individual national situations.*

10. *The challenges are formidable, but so are the opportunities. There are many experiences around the world that can be built on. What is needed is for us all to work together, to develop collaboration and partnerships, to build a secure and sustainable water future. We will, individually and acting together, strive to achieve this and stimulate and facilitate the contributions of society as a whole. To this end, we note with appreciation that pledges were made at The Hague (attached to our declaration). This Declaration reflects the determination of our governments and represents a critical step in the process of providing water security for all.*

11. *We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, thank the government and people of The Netherlands for their vision and for their hospitality in hosting this conference and forum.*

2000, In The Hague, The Netherlands

El presidente del Consejo Mundial del Agua, anunció en La haya que el Tercer Foro Mundial sobre el Agua tendrá lugar en Japón en 2003, con el siguiente avance de programa:

- Presentación de ideas clave sobre el esta-



Humedal en Arkutino, sitio Ramsar en el Sudeste de Bulgaria.
Foto Tobias Salathé

do mundial del agua por prominentes personalidades internacionales.

- Exposición de las actuaciones del Consejo sobre el desarrollo de políticas en la materia.
- Exposiciones técnicas sobre asuntos clave por científicos y profesionales de prestigio.
- Presentación de posters y celebración de seminarios, talleres y reuniones técnicas sobre cuestiones específicas.
- Demostraciones de tecnología y sesiones de formación.
- Demostración e información sobre productos y servicios.
- Excursiones de estudio y visitas locales.

Mission to Mostar (Bosnia and)



Mostar and Neretva river. Photo Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

- Discussion about the possibility that the State of Bosnia & Herzegovina (composed of two Federal States: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic Srpska) declares its succession to the former Yugoslav Federation to become a Contracting Party to the Convention on Wetlands (including the designation of a Ramsar Site).

- Discussion with the Authorities of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (one of 10 cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) about plans for the integrated management of the lower Neretva area (including Hutovo Blato).

- Discussion with the local Authorities responsible for the Hutovo Blato area about the proposed management measures and visit of the Hutovo Blato area and its surroundings.

- Meeting with the Croatian Authorities to discuss the integrated management proposals for the lower Neretva area and possible transboundary cooperation, including the

follow-up of the seminar on "*Socio-economic aspects of the use of the Neretva valley*" held on 11-13 November 1997 in Metkovic.

- Drafting of a project proposal or concept to be further developed and subsequently submitted to international donors to obtain financial and technical support for the elaboration and implementation of integrated management measures for the lower Neretva floodplain (including Hutovo Blato).

MAIN RESULTS

1) Declaration of succession of Bosnia & Herzegovina to become a Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention

- UNESCO informed the Ramsar Bureau on 14 March about a letter received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sarajevo declaring the wish of Bosnia & Herzegovina to become a Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention. This was noted with satisfaction and the members of the mission, including the Croatian delegation, congratulated the National and Cantonal Authorities for this significant development.

- It was however noted that the designation of a Ramsar Site is still missing. It was suggested that Hutovo Blato should become the first Ramsar Site of Bosnia & Herzegovina. In order that the Hutovo Blato Ramsar Site would be adjacent to the Croatian Ramsar Site "Neretva River Delta", it should also include areas outside the actual Nature Park (Park Prirode), i.e.

the floodplain areas of the Neretva, Brejava, and Trebizat rivers, and the Bosnia & Herzegovina part of the Prut marshes.

- The delineation of the Ramsar Site boundaries on a map, to be sent to UNESCO, is a high priority to finalise Bosnia & Herzegovina's accession to the Ramsar Convention.

2) Ratification of SPAMI Protocol

- The mission encouraged the National Authorities of Croatia and of Bosnia & Herzegovina to ratify the new Protocol on Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance under the Barcelona Convention. This would entitle them to benefit from possible specific technical and financial support for SPAMIs.

3) Declaration of the creation of a Nature Park in the Croatian Neretva River Delta

- Ms Radovic of the newly created Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning informed the participants of the imminent declaration of a Nature Park covering the lower Neretva floodplain and adjacent hillsides, based on the new law on Nature Parks, currently under consultation. The establishment of a Nature Park will also include the establishment of a local management authority. Croatian Nature Parks profit from support from the central government, unlike the existing Nature Reserves in the Neretva Delta that depend on the Dubrovnik-Neretva County (Zupanija).

- The preparation of the Physical Plan for the Dubrovnik-Neretva County has already been finalised, taking into account existing natural and cultural heritage. In addition, specific management planning will be required by law for the territory of the future Nature Park.

4) Current LIFE project "Development of new management policy for Hutovo Blato wetlands, Bosnia and Herzegovina"

- The field visits and the meeting organised in the Nature Park Hutovo Blato showed the natural richness and the existing tourism potential of the site which merits to be better known. The Nature Park profits from the strong support of Capljina municipality. The LIFE project leader (Ivan Buntic) of the Ministry of Civil Engineering, Physical Planning and Environmental Protection of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton informed the participants about current studies under the LIFE project that are considered very valuable follow-up activities to the 1997 LIFE project cover-

ing the Croatian Neretva Delta (as part of the MedWet2 project).

- Deputy Minister Saravanja informed the mission about the seminar planned for mid-May 2000 to discuss wetland related legislation in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia and at international level, management questions for the Hutovo Blato area, and the cooperation with the authorities on the Croatian side. It was felt that the publication of the results of this seminar will be important for future trans-boundary cooperation. Copies in English should also be sent to the members of the mission.
- It was suggested that the Ministry involves actively local NGOs to carry out activities to raise public awareness about the values of Hutovo Blato and to educate the public and schoolchildren.

5) Transboundary cooperation for the wise use of the lower Neretva area

- During the meeting in Metkovic and the field visit of Kuti Lake, the Croatian and Bosnia & Herzegovina delegations, the authorities of the Dubrovnic-Neretva County,

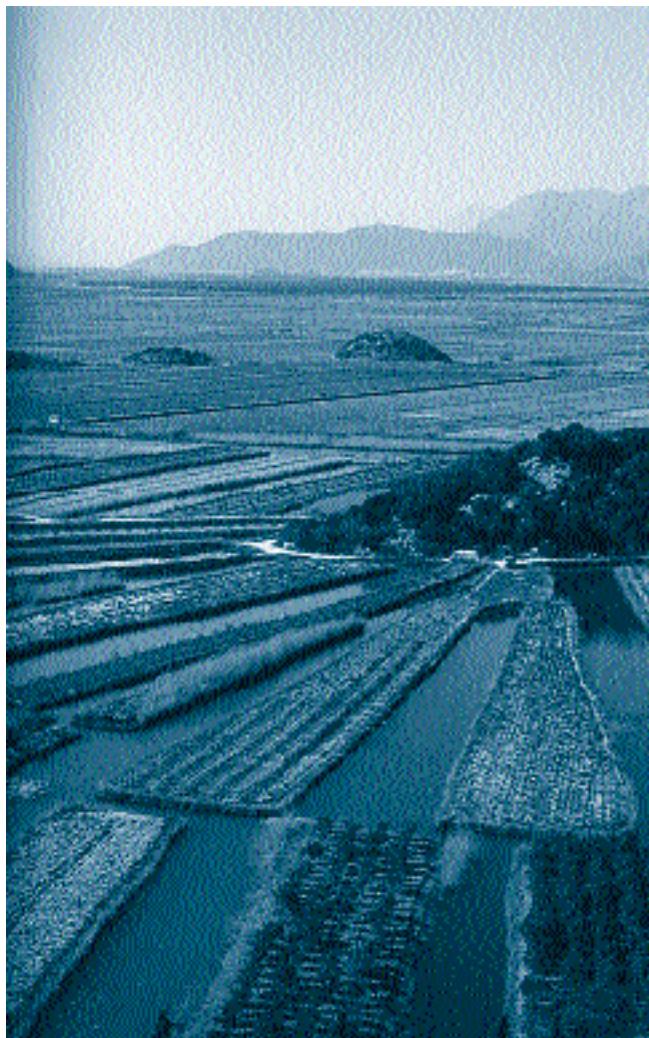
of Metkovic, Ploce and Opuzen, and local NGOs strongly declared their wish for a joint management of the lower Neretva area. This was noted with satisfaction and reference was made to the useful results of the 1997 seminar in Metkovic on "Socio-economic Aspects of the Use of the Neretva Valley". The Barcelona and Ramsar Conventions are endorsing these promising developments and will send official letters of support to the Croatian and Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministers at national level.

- Additional discussions at the Ministry in Mostar concluded on the following Action Points:

- Designation of Hutovo Blato by Bosnia & Herzegovina as a Ramsar Site and its notification to the RAC/SPA for inclusion as a SPA in the Directory of Marine and Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean Region; designation of the Neretva Delta Nature Park by Croatia (cf. above).

- Creation of a bilateral management committee by the relevant Authorities of Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia.

- This management committee will have to identify, based on the studies of the LIFE



Neretva flood plain, Ramsar site in Croatia. Photo Tobias Salathé

projects (MedWet2 in Croatia and Hutovo Blato), priority objectives for the management of the entire area.

- The management committee should also identify local training needs. These should then be submitted to the MedWet Coordinator and RAC/SPA for technical and financial support.

- Based on the identified key management objectives, the management committee - with the help of the MedWet Team (EKBY) and of RAC/SPA - shall start the development of an integrated management plan and of concrete project proposals (including budgets) for subsequent submission to specific donors. The Ramsar and Barcelona Conventions will actively endorse and support such proposals for international technical and financial support.

- Ms Radovic and Mr Vego pointed out that they consider the possibility of a shared

project for the management plan for the lower Neretva valley, prepared according to the "Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands" (Annex Resolution V.7). Some phases of the project could start even before the management authority of the future Nature Park will be established. It could be envisaged that they submit a proposal for project preparation assistance (deadlines: end of April 2000, end of March 2001) to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (for evaluation criteria and operational guidelines cf.

http://ramsar.org/key_sgf_index.htm.

- It was concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia should officially present these significant developments to the forthcoming MedWet/Com3 meeting in April 2000 in Djerba (Tunisia), and that they should profit from this opportunity to discuss these issues with other members of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee and potential donors present at the meeting.

- Deputy Minister Karavanja informed the participants about the starting transregional cooperation on the development of Adriatic river catchment basins, including 3 Counties on the Croatian side and 3 Cantons in Bosnia & Herzegovina. This will provide a general framework for transboundary cooperation in the lower Neretva valley and other, nearby international river catchments.



Hutovo Blato (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Photo Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The authors of this report would like to thank their hosts in Mostar, notably Deputy Minister Saravanja and Mr Vego for their hospitality and their excellent preparation of the mission programme.

They would also like to thank Ms Radovic from the Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning for her pivotal preparatory work and contribution for the future transboundary cooperation. •

Agenda/Coming Events

15th GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM. Nairobi, Kenya. 12-14 May 2000



Convenors: IUCN, WRI, ACTS, BIONET, IPBN, WWF, UNEP, The Indonesian Biodiversity Forum, The Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew), IPGRI, SCBD, GEF, SPDA, ITDG, ELCI, RIOD, AMAN, ANDES, SDC, ADN, Kalpavriksh (India), Sobrevivencia (Paraguay)

The 15th session of the Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF15-Nairobi/COP5) will be convened in Nairobi, Kenya, on 12-14 May 2000, immediately prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP5) (Nairobi, Kenya, 15-26 May 2000). GBF15-Nairobi/COP5 will focus on the theme: "**Sharing the Benefits from Biodiversity**" and will have workshops addressing the following three topics: Biodiversity for Poverty Alleviation; Instruments for Access and Benefit-Sharing from Genetic Resources; and Agricultural Biodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods: the Case of Dryland Ecosystems. The GBF provides an independent, open and strategic mechanism to foster analysis, dialogue and debate among all interested parties to address significant ecological, economic, institutional and social issues related to the options for action to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources sustainably and equitably. It contributes to the further development and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other biodiversity-related instruments at the international, regional and national levels. It complements intergovernmental processes by: 1) providing a broad spectrum of perspectives, proposals and experiences from all stakeholders; 2) building diverse partnerships among stakeholders (including governments, indigenous groups, local com-

munities, NGOs and the private sector); and 3) identifying key issues and areas that require further development and attention. The Forum concept was initially proposed by the Global Biodiversity Strategy (WRI, IUCN, UNEP, 1992).

Interested individuals from all sectors of society are invited to submit 1-2 page abstracts of papers by 1 April 2000 for possible presentation at one of the workshops. Institutions that are interested in co-organizing a workshop are encouraged to contact the focal point(s) of the workshop concerned directly, or the GBF15 Coordinator. The following workshops are currently planned:

1.Biodiversity for Poverty Alleviation (Organizers: IUCN, Kehati, Kalpavriksh, Sobrevivencia, CARE, UNDP, GEF, World Bank, and others to be sought).
mailto:jam@hq.iucn.org

2.Instruments for Access and Benefit-Sharing from Genetic Resources (Organizers: WRI, IPGRI, The Royal Botanic Gardens - Kew, IPBN, SPDA, AMAN, ANDES, WWF).
cvbarb-er@ibm.net, ipbn@web.net.

3.Agricultural Biodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods: the Case of Dryland Eco-systems (Organizers: ITDG, ELCI, RIOD, UNDP). *mailto:donnr@itdg.org.uk*

Registration and information: Laurence Christen (e-mail: *lac@hq.iucn.org* /fax: +41 22 999-0025).

The deadline for receiving the participation form is 20 April 2000.

For further Information: Caroline Martinet, GBF-Coordinator, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, *ccm@hq.iucn.org*

<http://iucn.org/themes/gbf/index.html>

From: *the Ramsar Forum*, May 2000

ECONOTICIAS. Revista de la Fundación ASIAÍN

La Fundació de la Comunitat Valenciana ASIAÍN, cuyos fines son la difusión de la cultura del respeto al medio ambiente para alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible entre los industriales y la orientación ciudadana sobre temas medioambientales, edita la revista trimestral ECONOTICIAS, que se distribuye gratuitamente entre las industrias valencianas, especialmente las PYMES. Colaboran con la Fundación:

Estudio de abogados ASIAÍN ASESORES, Ingeniería PROFILTA, S.L.,



Institutos tecnológicos AIMME, AINIA y AIDIMA, FEMEVAL, Estudio de D. Gerardo Urios y ATMM Natura, S.L.

El objetivo fundamental de la revista, de contenido jurídico-técnico, es formar e informar a los responsables de los departamentos de calidad y medio ambiente de las industrias, dando una información actualizada sobre legislación europea, estatal, comunitaria y local, así como sobre las últimas tecnologías disponibles para la mejora de los sistemas productivos. El contenido de la revista está enfocado para servir de: 1) Concienciación de alcanzar la Eco-eficiencia como una necesidad imperativa del desarrollo industrial; 2) Herramienta de trabajo para orientar y actualizar conocimientos del responsable de medio ambiente de las industrias (fundamentalmente PYMES por ser éstas las más desfavorecidas con la vertiginosa promulgación de normativa ambiental).

Leopoldo Vidal-Asiaín Bonacho.

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E-mail: *leovidal@jazzfree.com*

21 REUNIÓN ANUAL DE LA SOCIETY OF WETLANDS SCIENTISTS

SIMPOSIO: Ciencia y comunidades locales. Fortaleciendo alianzas para el manejo eficaz de los humedales. Québec, 6-12 de agosto de 2000

Ya se han realizado esfuerzos considera-

bles en varios países para involucrar a las comunidades locales en sistemas participativos de manejo de humedales. También se reconoce la necesidad de llevar estas iniciativas un paso más adelante e involucrar



a los científicos en los esfuerzos que realizan los manejadores y las comunidades locales. La ciencia debería ser siempre la base del manejo de los humedales, pero con frecuencia mucha de la información valiosa generada por investigadores no llega a las comunidades locales, y a su vez, las comunidades locales no tienen la oportunidad de hacer conocer sus necesidades a la comunidad científica. En este último caso, la considerable inversión de tiempo hecha en estudios científicos poco relacionados con las necesidades de los manejadores de los humedales y las necesidades de las comunidades locales, agrava la situación. Para el Simposio se invitaron presentaciones principales, que incluyen cinco ejemplos de las Américas y una de Australia, realizadas conjuntamente por científicos o manejadores de humedales y las comunidades. Todas las presentaciones hacen énfasis en experiencias donde los investigadores y las comunidades locales trabajan en coordinación para el manejo eficaz de los humedales. A continuación de las presentaciones se llevará a cabo una mesa redonda de discusión, con facilitadores, con el objetivo de estrechar los lazos entre científicos y comunidades locales y estimular nuevas ideas y posibilidades de colaboración.

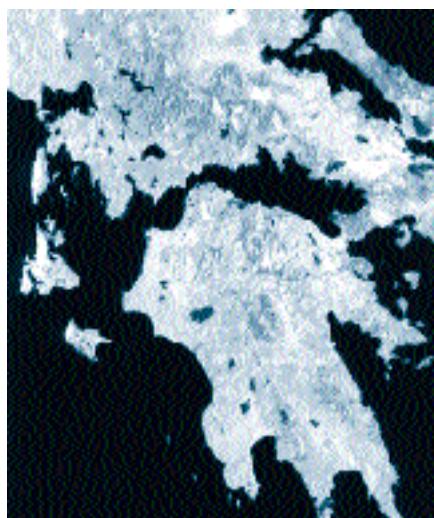
Los "Lineamientos para establecer y fortalecer la participación de las comunidades locales y de los pueblos indígenas en el manejo de los humedales" adoptados por Resolución VII.8 en la COP7 de la Convención de Ramsar, en Costa Rica (1999) serán considerados la base para este Simposio y serán el punto de partida para las discusiones. No obstante, el objetivo del Simposio no es hacer una revisión de información existente y llegar a conclusiones ya conocidas, sino el de mirar hacia delante,

más allá de los Lineamientos de Ramsar. Estos constituyen un excelente comienzo pero su verdadero valor se encuentra en su implementación en el terreno. Ahora es necesario establecer el contacto entre el conocimiento científico y el tradicional, y el derecho legítimo de todos los interesados en participar en el manejo de los humedales a través de un proceso de consenso claro, confianza mutua y respeto incuestionable. Este Simposio pretende demostrar que ésto no sólo es posible sino que ya está ocurriendo en varios países de las Américas y en Australia, y que considerar la posibilidad de conservar los humedales de otra forma en la actualidad, es fórmula para el fracaso.

Autores e información: Nadra Nathi-Gyan (Trinidad y Tobago) y Larry Mason (USA).

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De: *the Ramsar Forum*, marzo de 2000



WORKSHOP ON GREEK WETLANDS, March 2000

The Greek Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, in collaboration with EKBY (The Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre), organised on 7-8 March 2000 in Thessaloniki a workshop dedicated to the dissemination of the MedWet methods and tools in Greece. About 50 representatives from the 13 Greek regional authorities were invited, as well as representatives of the central ministries. They included officials and staff involved not only with environment, but also with physical and development planning and management of water resources. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. E. Bassouka, Director of Environment, and by Professor G. Zalidis, member of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel.

Some of the most interesting presentations from EKBY staff included themes such as:

- Designing monitoring projects for wetlands.
- Inventory database and monitoring of wetlands.
- Management of soil and water resources on the hydrological basin scale.
- Restoration and creation of wetlands.
- Use of satellite imagery for hydrological purposes.
- System for decision-making support based on GIS data.

There was quite an emphasis (and discussion) on water resources management in relation to wetlands. A very interesting demonstration concerned the use of scientific tools for monitoring ground water level changes in the Anthemous River hydrological basin, and the importance of the results in managing water resources in the area sustainably.

The MedWet Coordinator, Mr T. Papayannis, presented the MedWet Initiative, its history, structure, current activities and perspectives.

The participants referred to a number of wetland projects, for which the regions are responsible, such as the new Kalamas Delta LIFE project in northwest Greece. They expressed, however, their worries about the low level of expert staffing and equipment at the regional level. The meeting then focused on the possibility of establishing a collaborative network among the regions and the central services, and the provision of information and technical support to the regions.

Thymio Papayannis, MedWet Coordinator



EUROPEAN POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (EPCEM). The Netherlands, September 2000

The European Postgraduate Course in

Environmental Management (EPCEM) provides an advanced international training in environmental policy and management. In addition to specialist university education (at MA/MSc level), this can be an excellent preparation for the environmental professional practice.

EPCEM 2000/2001 starts in September and contains a training in knowledge and skills needed to solve environmental problems. An interdisciplinary research project and internship in one of the European countries are part of the training. Already more than 200 participants from over 30 countries, who since 1992 have received their supplementary Masters Degree in Environmental Management, are presently working at various authorities, consultancies, environmental NGOs, and research institutes. EPCEM is organised by universities in Amsterdam, Leiden and Wageningen (The Netherlands), Paris (France) and Debrecen (Hungary), in co-operation with other universities in Eastern and Western Europe.

To cover the course fee of NLG 25.000 (=11345 Euro) and living expenses, for specified target groups a limited number of grants (offered by a.o. Dutch governmental funds and the Foundation Open Society Institute) is available through EPCEM. Deadline for application is 15 March 2000, but in consultation with the EPCEM secretariat applications may be accepted until 31 March 2000. Candidates with own financial resources or sponsoring may be accepted until 30 April 2000.

Application forms and more information are available on Internet:
<http://www.vu.nl/ivm/>
 EPCEM secretariat, Vrije Universiteit
 Amsterdam, epcem@ivm.vu.nl,
 EPCEM co-ordinator: Ckees van Oijen,
C.H.J.Oijen@frw.uva.nl
[Http://www.frw.uva.nl/org/epcem.html](http://www.frw.uva.nl/org/epcem.html)

From: the Ramsar Forum, march 2000

ACROSS THE WATERS. WWF's Mediterranean Schools 2000

The Mediterranean Programme of WWF holds every year, since 1995, a programme of training courses, broadly known by now as "the WWF Mediterranean Schools". The courses are designed to provide practical training to individuals from NGOs and No-profit institutions of the Mediterranean region, on relevant topics related to the conservation and sustainable management of the main Mediterranean ecosystems. They also aim to foster the exchange of

ideas, experiences and resources between individuals and organisations from different Mediterranean countries. The Schools are structured in an interactive way which



allows the participants -both students and teachers- to share experiences and knowledge related to the common patrimony of the Mediterranean environment, and subsequently look for effective, practical solutions to the environmental problems in their respective areas. They also emphasise the remarkable cultural diversity of the Mediterranean region, a unique cross-roads between Europe, Asia and Africa. The Schools have an average duration of 12 days and are open to 12/15 participants from all riverine Mediterranean countries, Plus Portugal, FYR Macedonia, and Jordan.

June: The Sun School. Environmental education methodologies and techniques applied to Mediterranean ecosystems. It is held in the village of El Haouaria (Cap Bon, Tunisia) in collaboration with WWF Tunis Office.

July: The Blue School. Conservation and management of marine and coastal ecosystems. It will be held at the Centre d'Estudis del Mar, in Sitges, North-east Spain.

September: The Wet School. Conservation and management of wetlands and freshwater resources in the Mediterranean, taking place in the Natural Park of Delta de l'Ebre, Spain.

September: Silva. Conservation and management of Mediterranean forests. Ramleieh, Lebanon.

October: The Wild School. Managing protected areas in the Mediterranean region. Itinerant course covering several protected areas managed by WWF in Italy, and the Abruzzo National Park.

<http://www.atw-wwf.com>
 ATW2000@atw-wwf.com

LIBROS/BOOKS

ANUARI ORNITOLÒGIC DE LES BALEARS 1998

El Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa (GOB) es un grupo de reconocido prestigio en el campo del estudio, la divulgación y la defensa del medio ambiente, en activo desde el año 1973. Esta entidad publica el volumen 13 de su Anuario Ornitológico de las Islas Baleares, correspondiente al año 1998. En esta edición, el Anuario incorpora los siguientes artículos científicos:

KESTENHOLZ, M., PETER, D.: *Patrons en la migració de limícoles en el Salobrar de Campos (Mallorca) durant la tardor de 1996 i primavera de 1997.*

CARBONERAS, C.: *Notes sobre la fenología i selecció de l'habitat de la baldríta de les Balears Puffinus mauretanicus.*



MARTÍNEZ, O., PALERM, J.C.: *Avifauna de ses Feixes d'Eivissa.*

Entre las Notas Breves, el Anuario aporta datos sobre el *Estatus del milano negro Milvus migrans* (F. DE PABLO, J.M. PONS), *Recompte hivernal d'aus aquàtiques i limícoles a les Balears, gener 1999* (V. HEREDERO, S. CATCHOT, J.C. PALERM, O. MARTINEZ) y *Nou registre de nidificació del bec d'alena Recurvirostra avosetta al salobrar de Campos, Mallorca* (J. RIERA, M. SUAREZ). Por último, la publicación incluye una sección de *Registres ornitològics*, un *Informe sobre les campanyes d'anellament d'ocells a Balears 1998*, unas *Ressenyes bibliogràfiques* y Anexos con *Resum metereològic, Estatus de l'avifauna balear y una Llista de rareses.*

Fichas Técnicas de Humedales Mediterráneos/Mediterranean Wetlands Technical Data

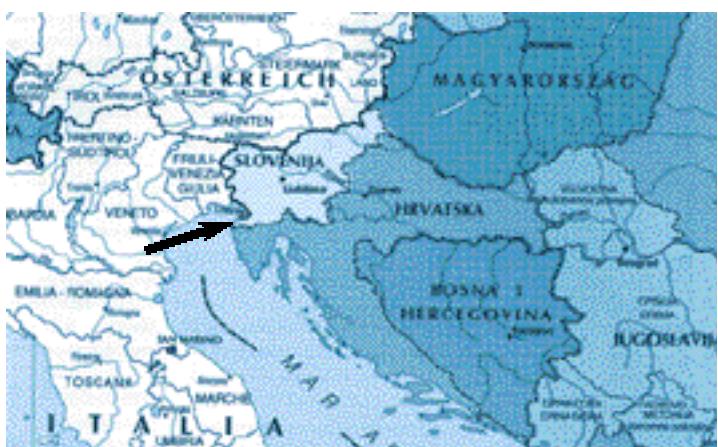


Foto D. Podgornik

Secovlje salt pans (Slovenia)

LOCATION

Adriatic coast, at the mouth of the Dragonja River, 12 km south of the town of Koper. Coordinates: 45°29'N 013°36'E

HYDROLOGICAL/PHYSICAL NOTES

Secovlje salt pans Landscape Park is a partly abandoned area of salt pans (averaging 0.5 m deep), including saltmarsh, *Phragmites* beds and a small area of tidal mudflats at the mouth of the canalised Dragonja River. This area has been continuously transformed, by the working of nature, into a series of diverse and more or less saline biotopes which supplement each other and form a closed ecosystem. The salt fields consist of basins of different evaporation grades and crystallization basins, where salt is harvested during the summer.

BIOLOGICAL/ECOLOGICAL NOTES

Salt pans have been operated in the Dragonja delta for hundreds of years but some areas were abandoned at the beginning of the present century, allowing the re-establishment of saltmarsh with *Salicornia* sp., *Limonium* sp, *Scirpus maritimus*, *Juncus maritimus* and *Phragmites australis*. In 1945, another area (Fontanigge) was abandoned and is now partly inundated by sea water and partly covered by halophytic vegetation with *Limonium* sp., *Salicornia* sp. and *Artemisia* sp.

The site is important for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds. Nesting species include *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Sterna hirundo* and *S. albifrons*. Staging birds include large numbers of *Limosa limosa*, *Tringa* spp., *Calidris* spp. and *Philomachus pugnax*. Wintering waterbirds include *Gavia arctica*, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, *Podiceps cristatus*, *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*, *Anas penelope*, *A. crecca*, *Aythya ferina*, *Mergus serrator*, *Fulica atra*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Tringa totanus*, and *Larus* spp. A number of nationally rare invertebrates and halophytic plants occur within the site.

HUMAN USES

Prior to designation as a Landscape Park in 1989, a number of drainage ditches were dug in an attempt to drain some parts of the site. The area was also formerly used for hunting. There have been proposals for the establishment of fish farms. Nowadays, about 40% of the site (the Lera area) is composed of operational salt pans. The whole area is important for conservation education, outdoor recreation and scientific research. A museum complex has been set up in the abandoned Fontanigge salt-pans. The The Museum of Salt-making consist of two restored salt-pans houses, their appertaining salt fields and once navigable Giassi channel.

CONSERVATION MEASURES

Nationally the area is designated a Nature Reserve (with four reserves: Ob Rudniku, Stojbe, Curto Pichetto, and Stare Soline). Both the local community and a private enterprise are involved in preparation of the management plan for Secovlje salt pans. The salt pans were in 1993 included, as the only wetland in Slovenia, on the list of Ramsar sites.

ADVERSE FACTORS

The most significant threat to the site comes from plans to build an irrigation dam on the Dragonja River, about 10 km upstream. There is some disturbance by recreational flying from a nearby airfield.

From:

- *A Directory of Wetlands of International Importance*.
Ramsar Convention Bureau and Wetlands International, 1999.
- *Secovlje salt-pans Landscape Park*.
Reg. Instit. For Conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage,
Piran. Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Slovenia

Luc Hoffmann

Le Docteur Luc Hoffmann fait partie de l'histoire du mouvement conservatoire mondial et, en particulier, c'est une référence indispensable dans les initiatives concernant la protection et l'étude des zones humides méditerranéennes. Né à Basel (Suisse) en 1923 et c'est parmi les fondateurs de la station biologique de Tour du Valat (Camargue, France), étant son directeur durant 20 ans. Aussi bien, il fait partie du groupe fondateur de World Wildlife Fund (WWF) en 1961, restant dans sa directrice durant plusieurs années (dans l'actualité c'est le Vice-président émérite). Avec cette organisation, il a joué un rôle important dans la naiss-



à votre oeuvre de mécénat pour la conservation de la Nature, quelles sont vos satisfactions personnelles et quels sont les problèmes engendrés par ce travail?

Ma principale satisfaction est certainement d'avoir pu vivre ma passion pour la nature. C'est aussi d'avoir pu participer, avec des collègues extraordinairement dévoués et doués, à des programmes communs et d'avoir ainsi pu contribuer à certains succès de la sauvegarde et de la restauration des zones humides.

Le problème majeur est que l'action militante doit passer par les conférences, les médias et un gros travail d'organisation qui m'éloignent de plus en plus de la nature elle-même.

L'action militante doit passer par les conférences, les médias et un gros travail d'organisation qui m'éloignent de plus en plus de la nature elle-même

sance et le développement de l'initiative MedWet et le Comité pour les zones humides Méditerranéennes (MedWet/Com). Aussi bien c'est un membre actif dans d'autres organismes importants: l'Union Mondial pour la Nature (IUCN), Wetlands International, Convention de Ramsar, World Conservation Union International Waterfowl, Wetlands Research Bureau, Bird Life International et International Foundation for the Banc d'Arguin (Mauritanie). Le Dr. Hoffmann a reçu des Doctorats Honoris cause, prix et distinctions de la part plusieurs pays, la dernière a été au mois de Décembre de 1999, et était la commandante de l'ordre de Mérite accordé pour la Grèce, en reconnaissance pour son "rôle catalytique" dans les organisations citées. Cet auteur a plus de soixante travaux scientifiques et divers livres sur oiseaux, conservation et zones humides.

Pouvez-vous nous expliquer pourquoi vous avez consacré une grande partie de votre vie à la protection de la Nature?

Je m'intéresse au monde vivant, aux plantes et aux animaux depuis ma plus tendre enfance. C'est la raison pour laquelle j'ai entrepris des études universitaires de zoologie ce qui m'a, par la suite, permis de lancer un programme d'études écologiques en Camargue. Au fil de ce programme, j'ai pris conscience des menaces qui pesaient sur la nature et j'ai décidé d'orienter mes recherches de façon à contribuer à la sauvegarde et à une meilleure gestion de la nature et plus spécialement des zones humides.

Mise à part la reconnaissance publique témoignée par divers pays

Avez-vous pu observer, durant toutes ces années, un changement d'attitude du public vis à vis de la valeur accordée aux zones humides Méditerranéennes?

Je pense que le changement d'attitude est énorme. Dans les années '50, ni le public, ni les décideurs n'avaient conscience d'une quelconque valeur des zones humides. Aujourd'hui, le message est passé mais il est toujours difficile de transformer la prise de conscience en action concrète. Les zones humides méditerranéennes ne sont plus, comme autrefois, détruites par drainage mais elles sont souvent rendues inutiles à cause d'une mauvaise gestion.

Quelle est votre opinion sur l'Initiative MedWet/Com?

MedWet a énormément contribué à préserver, mieux gérer et restaurer les zones humides méditerranéennes. En réunissant les initiatives et en les stimulant, MedWet a créé un mouvement très fort. Elle a aussi permis aux pionniers de transmettre leur savoir-faire à ceux qui n'étaient que peu impliqués jusqu'à présent.

Croyez-vous Monsieur Hoffmann qu'il reste encore d'autres initiatives à réaliser ? Dans l'affirmative, lesquelles ?

Oui, bien sur, il reste beaucoup à faire pour les zones humides et pour quantité d'autres milieux en Méditerranée et partout ailleurs. MedWet fait un travail de pionnier et doit continuer à innover mais aussi à inspirer d'autres initiatives. En Méditerranée, par exemple, on pourrait développer une initiative parallèle pour les forêts ou pour les côtes. •



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