

MEDITERRANEAN COAST DAY
Tivat, Montenegro, 25 September 2017

REPORT



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The 2017 Mediterranean Coast Day, organised on September 25 in Tivat, Montenegro with the main topic "Protect our Sea", was a glowing success. The main event was attended by 150 odd participants, representatives of several Mediterranean countries, and a large number of representatives of institutions and other components of the Montenegrin civil society. The list of PAP/RAC-invited participants is given in Annex I, while the Programme is attached as Annex II.

The event was organised under the high patronage of Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro and President of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, who opened the event and gave a highly inspired speech. He confirmed the awareness of the highest political levels of Montenegro of the value of the coastal zones and environmental issues these face, and dedication to resolve them. Combined with great efforts made by relevant institutions, including the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management, Montenegro has achieved great results that can serve as example for other countries to look up to.

Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan, expressed his gratitude to the hosts and in particular to Mr. Vujanović for honouring the event with his presence, as a testament of the commitment of Montenegro as a steady supporter of the Mediterranean Action Plan. Mr. Leone noted that since 2007, the Mediterranean Coast Day has offered an opportunity for the entire MAP system to celebrate the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas but also celebrating partnerships, of all stakeholders at all levels sharing a goal: a clean, healthy and productive Mediterranean. Mr. Leone also stressed that the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol was an innovative response to growing pressures on the coast, with the objective of promoting sustainable development, supporting the notion that the development of coastal management systems could truly attain economic, social and environmental objectives if addressed in an integrated fashion.

Ms. Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC Director, expressed her satisfaction that the 2017 Mediterranean Coast Day was organised in Montenegro, a country that excelled with regard to the achievements related to the Barcelona Convention, and in particular the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. With its approach to coastal zone management, the adopted national strategy for ICZM, the results achieved within the CAMP project and its concrete follow-up, Montenegro is a shining example of implementation of and involvement in UNEP/MAP-led initiatives, setting an example for the others to follow. In her opinion, large public deserves to learn about those achievements, and the Mediterranean Coast Day celebration offered a good opportunity for that.

Mr. Saša Radulović, State Secretary at the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, greeted the participants on behalf of Mr. Pavle Radulović, Minister, who was unable to attend due to obligations at the Government. He expressed satisfaction with the fact that they were one of the organizers and hosts of this year's event, especially given that cooperation with UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan and the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre represents a crucial component in the creation and implementation of the policy of sustainable development of the coastal zone of Montenegro. Changing unsustainable development patterns that have led to over-urbanisation, marine environment pollution and damage to environmental and biological resources on land is a demanding process requiring dedication, long-term planning and re-orientation to development harmonised with the environmental capacities. That was the reason why Montenegro has decided to apply Integrated Coastal Zone Management and ecosystem approach. In that context, the implementation of the Coastal Area Management

Programme, support by PAP/RAC in the preparation of a new Coastal Area Spatial Plan respecting the requirements of the ICZM Protocol, as well as the adoption in June 2015 and implementation of the National Strategy for ICZM, have laid the foundations for sustainable development of the coastal zone of Montenegro until the year 2030. Mr. Radulović stressed several times the support they receive from the UN Environment / MAP and its components, and particularly thanked them for deciding to organise the 2017 Mediterranean Coast Day celebration in Montenegro.

Mr. Predrag Jelušić, Director of the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management welcomed the participants on behalf of his organisation which was one of the organisers of the event. He pointed out that the Public Enterprise had organised for years local celebrations of the Coast Day marked by educational and promotional activities aimed at raising awareness of the problems facing the coastal and marine environment. He briefly presented the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management. For 25 years they have been taking care of the public maritime domain of all 6 coastal municipalities. Their activities are focused on: giving concessions for the use of parts of the public maritime domain for tourism and other activities, organisation of beaches, harbours of local importance, mooring sites, location of temporary structures, management of protected areas, as well as maintenance of coastal infrastructure and public surfaces. They launch and implement projects of strategic importance, such as the preparation of the Strategy of Sustainable Beach Management. Also, for the first time in Montenegro they have started tackling the problem of beach erosion. Another successful project was rehabilitation of the Tivat Salt Pans which were transformed from an abandoned area into a special reserve and tourist attraction visited for bird watching and recreation. Mr. Jelušić informed the audience that transformation is expected of the Public Enterprise into the Agency for Public Maritime Domain Management which will expand their jurisdiction and strengthen their role, especially in the field of special coastal ecosystems protection and implementation of the ICZM Protocol. They firmly believe that the coast has to be preserved for future generations through actions at both national and local levels, and they pay special attention to cooperation with the civil society and especially children. Accordingly, they organised a number activities for children to complement the central event and Mr. Jelušić invited the participant to join them after the conclusion of the official event.

For his great personal contribution to the cause, and in particular CAMP project in Montenegro, it was decided to award the title of the honorary Ambassador for the Coast 2017 to Mr. Branimir Gvozdenović, Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro. In his inspired speech, he reiterated the commitment of his country and pointed out that the reforming turn towards the models of sustainable management of the coastal resources has importance not only for the coastal area but for the sustainable development of the entire Montenegro as an ecological state.

The programme of the event also included several presentations on the positive experience of various countries dealing with environmental issues, as well as on some important projects about to be launched in the area. Ms. Ingūna Urtāne, Director at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia, made a presentation on Marine Spatial Planning: the HELCOM-VASAB experience. Ms. Sara Lovrović, President of the Local Board of Silba, Croatia presented the experience of the Island of Silba in dealing with marine litter.

Mr. Lorenzo Galbiati, MPA Network Project Manager at UN Environment/MAP, presented two projects "The MedProgramme: Enhancing Environmental Security - Child project 2.1: Mediterranean coastal zones: climate resilience, water security and habitat protection" and "Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas". Ms. Marina Marković, PAP/RAC Programme Officer, presented the project "Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning" (GEF Adriatic).

Sustainable development of the coast of Montenegro was presented through three components: Integrated Coastal Zone Management by Ms. Marija Mijušković of the Ministry of Sustainable

Development and Tourism; Marine Strategy Framework Directive by Ms. Ivana Stojanović of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism; and Maritime Domain Management by Ms. Aleksandra Ivanović of the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management. All the presentations are available in the “Documents” section of the Coast Day site (www.coastday.org).

After the presentations Mr. Mitja Bricelj, MAP and PAP National Focal Point of Slovenia took the floor and thanked all the organisers for the excellent event and particularly the authorities of Montenegro for accepting to host it. The official part of the 2017 Mediterranean Coast Day celebration was closed by the screening of a 12-minute film prepared with the CAMP Montenegro project.

In parallel with the official event, a number of educational workshops and activities were organised by the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management with the objective of education the youngest members of the society on the need to preserve marine biodiversity, recycle waste and reduce waste in the sea. A sea bottom cleaning action was organised on the weekend preceding the event in collaboration with the “Arsenal” and “Neptun Mimoza” diving clubs. The waste was to be sorted and selected according to the standards of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, under the guidance of experts from the Institute for Marine Biology, Kotor. In collaboration with the “Neptun Mimoza” diving club, the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management organised a lecture on diving in ecology for the students of the “Mladost” high school within which the children were informed on the very important role of divers and diving clubs in the protection of the coastal and marine environment.

A workshop on recycling within the campaign “Each can counts” was also organised by the “ReCan” Foundation. After a lecture on recycling the children had the opportunity to drive a special bicycle pressing cans and making them ready for recycling.

Through a lecture and games, the children participated in a workshop on marine biodiversity, organised by the “Green Home” NGO. The “Drama Studio, Budva” prepared and performed a play “Looking for Ljubica” which speaks of coastal and marine protection.

The ecological activities organised in Tivat were attended, among others, by Ms. Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC Director, who greeted the, praised the activities and invited all the involved parties to continue fighting for the preservation of the coast with same energy and enthusiasm. All the participants in the ecological activities received presents and materials relative to coastal and marine environment protection provided by PAP/RAC and Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management.

The Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management has been marking the Coast Day for nine years now by similar activities. Also, each year they prepared a poster relevant to that year’s theme. This year the poster dedicated to the waste in the sea was prepared in collaboration with the Institute for Marine Biology, to be distributed to elementary schools.

The highly successful day was rounded up by a cruise through the magnificent bay of Boka Kotorska, the deepest bay of the Adriatic Sea with highly indented coastline.

ANNEX II
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ANNEX II

AGENDA

09:30 -10:00	Registration of participants
10:00 - 10:45	Welcome addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro - Gaetano Leone, Coordinator, UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan - Željka Škaričić, Director, Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre - Pavle Radulović, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism - Predrag Jelušić, Director, Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management
10:45 - 11:00	Awarding the title “Ambassador for the Coast” for 2017 to Branimir Gvozdenović , Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro
11:15– 11:45	Key note speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Marine Spatial Planning: the HELCOM-VASAB experience</i> (Ingūna Urtāne, Director at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia) - <i>Marine litter: the experience of the Island of Silba</i> (Sara Lovrović, President of the Local Board of Silba, Croatia)
11:45 - 12:05	Presentation of the projects “The MedProgramme: Enhancing Environmental Security - Child project 2.1: Mediterranean coastal zones: climate resilience, water security and habitat protection” and “Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/MAP
12:05 - 12:15	Presentation of the project “Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning” (GEF Adriatic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marina Marković, PAP/RAC
12:15 - 12:45	Sustainable development of the coast of Montenegro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Integrated Coastal Zone Management</i> – Marija Mijušković, MSDT - <i>Marine Strategy Framework Directive</i> – Ivana Stojanović, MSDT - <i>Maritime Domain Management</i> – Aleksandra Ivanović, JPMD
12:45 - 13:15	Discussion
13:15 - 13:30	Closure of the meeting
13:00 - 17:00	Ecological educational activities
10:15 - 11:00	- Lecture „Diving in ecology“ (location: „Mladost“ high school; implementation: “Neptun” and “Arsenal” diving clubs)
13:00 - 14:00	- Selection and counting of waste collected from the sea (location: Recycling centre – Town park of Tivat; implementation: Institute for Marine Biology Kotor)
13:00 - 14:00	- Workshop on recycling within the campaign “Each can counts” (location: Recycling unit – Porto Montenegro; implementation:– Recan Foundation)
14:00 - 15:00	- Workshop on marine biodiversity (location: Multimedia room of the Tivat Town Hall; implementation: NGO “Green Home”)
14:00 - 15:00	- Study tour for children on a research vessel (departure location: town waterfront “Pine”; implementation: Institute for Marine Biology)
16:00 - 17:00	- Play “Looking for Ljubica” (location: Multimedia room of the Tivat Town Hall; implementation: NGO “Drama Studio, Budva” and Festival of small marine poems and stories)
18:00 - 22:00	Visit of the Boka Kotorska bay by „Vodena kočija“ boat