







"Promoting Awareness and Enabling a Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with Focus on ICZM"

Report on the National Workshop to Promote Syria's ICZM Policy Brief

(Damascus, Syria, 8 May 2008)



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Background

- 1. One of the activities implemented in the framework of the SMAP III project "Promoting Awareness and Enabling a Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with Focus on ICZM" is the preparation of Policy Briefs. Policy Briefs aim to point out the coastal issues and to offer recommendations on the matter. They have been produced by national consultants with the help of internationally recognised experts, and with the assistance of national advisors, PAP and METAP. The purpose of this communication tool is to convince the top-level policy-makers of the urgency of coastal problems and of the need to adopt the preferred course of action outlined, and, therefore, to serve as an impetus for action.
- 2. Following the instructions contained in PAP/RAC's document entitled "SMAP III Project: Strategic Guidance for the Preparation of the ICZM Policy Brief", a Policy Brief for Syria was prepared by a National Consultant in close co-operation with an ICZM National Advisor and a PAP/RAC ICZM Regional Expert. This Policy Brief is focused on proposing policy reforms to eliminate or mitigate the current serious threats to Syria's coastal zone, namely, physical alteration of coastline by development, degradation of natural and cultural heritage, pollution with solid wastes and coastal litter, water pollution and fishery deterioration. The Policy Brief was prepared in English and translated into Arabic.
- 3. Within the Capacity Building group of activities, a series of workshops to present and promote Policy Briefs, with participation of high-level policy-makers, has been held in the countries of the project. The national workshop to promote the Policy Brief for Syria was firstly scheduled by PAP/RAC for 29 March 2008, and then postponed for logistic reasons to 8 May 2008. The Workshop was held in the premises of the Sheraton Ma'aret Sednaya Hotel & Resort, in Damascus, Syria. It was organised under the auspices of Mr. Helal Al-Atrash, Minister of Local Administration and Environment.

Objectives of the Workshop

- 4. The objectives of the Workshop were:
 - to promote the ICZM Policy Brief;
 - to assess the willingness of policy-makers to undertake the proposed policy reforms; and
 - to identify the actions that need to be done.

Attendance

- 5. A total number of 70 participants attended the Workshop, including as follows:
 - 1) The Local Power: representatives of the Executive Bureau and the Directorate of Technical Services of each of the two coastal governorates, and City Councils of the four coastal cities.
 - 2) Academia and Research society: representatives of the Tishreen University (Lattakia), General Commission for Remote Sensing, and Tercon (regional planning consultants).
 - 3) Social, Economical and Legislative bodies: coastal environmental activists, representatives of social organisations and business society, and economy and legislative experts.
 - 4) Media: Radio, TV and newspapers.

The complete List of Participants is attached as Annex I to this Report, while the Agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II.



Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

- 6. After a short welcome address by Ms. Reem Abed-Rabboh, ICZM National Advisor, the floor was given to Mr. Brian Shipman, PAP/RAC ICZM Expert. He addressed the participants on behalf of Mr. Ivica Trumbic, PAP/RAC Director, who was not able to attend the meeting due to a regrettable incident in Rome, which prevented him to continue his travel to Damascus.
- 7. Mr. Jean-Marie Frentz, Programme Officer of the Economic Co-operation Section of the EC Delegation to the Syrian Arab Republic, was the next who greeted the participants. Mr. Imad Hassoun, Deputy Minister of Local Administration and Environment, read the last opening speech prepared by HE the Minister of Local Administration and Environment, stressing the necessity of ICZM for Syria's coast.

Agenda item 2: Brief on the new Protocol on ICZM under the Barcelona Convention

8. Ms. Abed-Rabboh, in her role of the MAP National Focal Point and ICZM National Advisor, presented the ICZM Protocol, the 7th Protocol in the framework of the Barcelona Convention. She briefed the participants on its contents and key concepts and articles.

Agenda item 3: Brief on Coast Day activities conducted by the Syrian Coast Society for Environment Protection

9. Ms. Suheir Al-Rayyes, Head of the Syrian Coast Society for Environment Protection, presented the promotional and awareness-raising activities conducted at Syria's coastal zone on the occasion of the Coast Day event.

Agenda item 4: Successful requirements for successful European and Mediterranean experiences on ICZM

- 10. The floor was, then, given to Mr. Shipman, who, in his role of PAP/RAC ICZM Expert, delivered two successive presentations. The first, prepared by Mr. Trumbic, was on SMAP III project, its objectives, components, activities and outcomes. The second presentation, prepared by Mr. Shipman himself, focused on the major factors for a successful ICZM in terms of legislation, strategies, structure, participation, knowledge, communication and sustainability conditions. The first and the second presentation are attached as Annex III and Annex IV, respectively.
- 11. Out of the Agenda, Mr. Akram Issa Darwish, Director of Biodiversity and Protected Areas in GCEA, pointed out the importance of ICZM related to biodiversity and natural marine and coastal protected areas.

Agenda item 5: Analysis of current situation

- 12. The last presentation was given by Mr. Housney Al-Azmeh in his role of Project's National Consultant. His presentation was focused on the way ahead in ICZM in Syria. The presentation consisted of two parts: the first part delivered information on and analysis of the current status of Syria's coastal zone, while the second part provided answer to the future question of how to achieve ICZM in the specific context discussed in the first part of the presentation.
- 13. On the occasion of this Workshop, the National Consultant prepared a two-page Press Release, which was distributed to national newspapers for free quotation at their choice. The published Press Releases are attached as Annex V to this Report.

14. The above presentations, with the exception of those given by Mr. Shipman, were in Arabic. Since the Workshop was organised by the local administration and attended by representatives of local institutions and media, the discussion was also in Arabic. Therefore, only the two presentations delivered by Mr. Shipman are attached to this Report. Also, a simultaneous translation from Arabic into English was secured at the Workshop. A CD containing all the presentations in Arabic can be ordered from PAP/RAC office and delivered on request.

Agenda item 6: Discussion and general recommendations

- 15. Following the above presentations, a discussion was opened and various opinions of Workshop participants were expressed. An overview of these opinions and evaluation of the work done is presented in paragraphs that follow.
- 16. It was concluded that the first objective of the Workshop, i.e. to promote the ICZM Policy Brief, was successfully fulfilled at the level of Workshop participants, while it was less successfully achieved at the public level due to the weak coverage of the Workshop by mass media. So, the size and importance of the issue were given less publicity than deserved.
- 17. The second objective, i.e. to assess the willingness of policy-makers to undertake the proposed policy reforms, was evaluated as fairly achieved, taking into consideration the semi-consensus of the participants on the two established points, namely: 1) the current serious threats to Syria's coastal zone; and 2) the need for "a policy reform". As it was presumed, the participants' attitudes towards "the proposed policy reforms" varied from the apparent support expressed by most of speakers to the presumable implicit opposition expressed by some of them. In general, the prompt reaction of most participants was evaluated as positive, but, taking into account that they were mainly technical level representatives, it was concluded that it would still be too early to verify the attitudes of the institutions they represented.
- 15. As to the third objective of the Workshop, which was to identify the actions that need to be done, and the steps ahead, it was recommended that the next project activities should build upon what had been achieved so far and that from now on the need should be considered to give an impetus to the decision-making process through the following successive steps. On the basis of Syria's signing of the ICZM Protocol, and the results of the Workshop attended by the representatives of competent authorities, the National Environmental Authority (GCEA) should:
 - 1) approve in a clear term (through a managerial decision or in some other form) the proposed policy reforms included in the PB; and
 - 2) raise the matter up for the approval by the Minister of Local Administration and Environment, who, by turn, can include the matter in the agenda of the Council of Environment Protection and Sustainable Development, headed by the Prime Minister.

Agenda item 7: Closure of the Workshop

16. The Workshop was declared closed on 8 May 2008, at 15:30 hours.



Annex I

List of Participants

| Name | Organization | Position | Fax | Tel | e-mail |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Abdul Razzak Safarjalani | GCEA | Director of Environmental Planning | 4461078 | 4461078 | |
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SMAP/III/2008/PB.WR/ENG Annex I Page 4



Annex II

Agenda

| 9.45 - 10.00 | Registration | |
|---------------|---|--|
| 10.00 -10.30 | Opening session | |
| | Welcome addresses | Ms. Reem Abed-Rabboh, ICZM National Adviser |
| | | Mr. Brian Shipman, PAP/RAC ICZM Expert and Project's Regional Expert |
| | | Mr. Jean-Marie Frentz, Programme Officer of the Economic Co-operation Section of the EC Delegation to the Syrian Arab Republic |
| | | Mr. Imad Hassoun, Deputy Minister of Local Administration and Environment |
| 10.30 -10.50 | Brief on the New Protocol of ICZM under the Barcelona Convention | Ms. Reem Abed Rabboh, in her role of the MAP National Focal Point |
| 10.50 -11.10 | Brief on Coast Day activities conducted by the Syrian Coast Society for Environment Protection | Dr. Suheir Al-Rayyes, Head of the Society |
| 11.10 -11.30 | Brief on the project "Promoting Awareness and Enabling a Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with Focus on ICZM" | Mr. Brian Shipman (instead of Mr. Ivica Trumbic, PAP/RAC Director) |
| 12.00 -12.30 | Successful requirements for successful European and Mediterranean experiences on ICZM | Mr. Brian Shipman |
| Integrated Co | astal Zone Management in Syria | Mr. Housney Al-Azrneh |
| 12.30 -13.00 | Part (1): Analysis of current situation | Project's National Expert |
| 13.00 -13.30 | Discussion on the first part of the session | |
| 14.00 -14.30 | Part (2): Proposed Strategy to implement ICZM for Syria's coast | |
| 14.30 -15.00 | Discussion on the second part of the session | |
| 15.00 -15.30 | General recommendations | |
| 15.30 | Closure of the Workshop | |
| 17.00 -18.00 | Visit to Sednaya Monastery and Church | |

SMAP/III/2008/PB.WR/ENG Annex II Page 2



Annex III

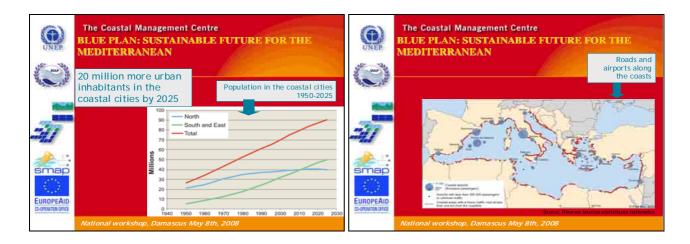
Brief on the project "Promoting Awareness and Enabling a Policy Framework for Environment and Development Integration in the Mediterranean with Focus on ICZM"

(PowerPoint presentation was prepared by Mr. I. Trumbic and presented by Mr. B. Shipman)























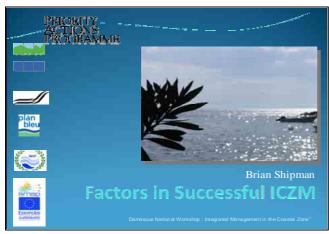




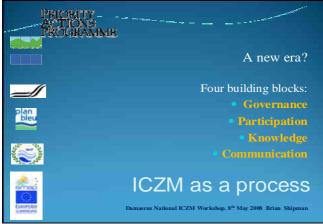


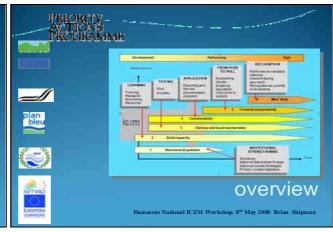
Annex IV

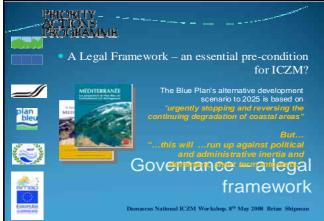
Factors in successful ICZM (Mr. B. Shipman)







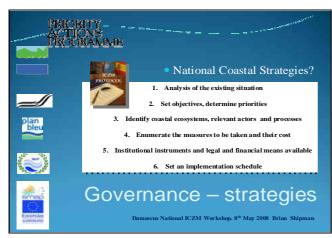






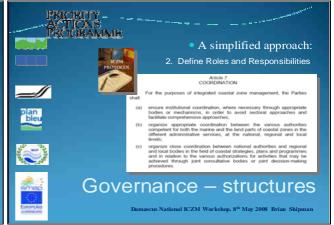




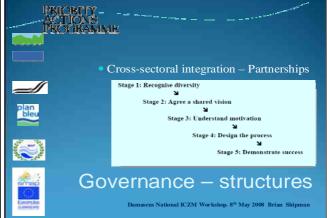






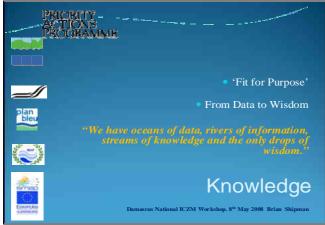








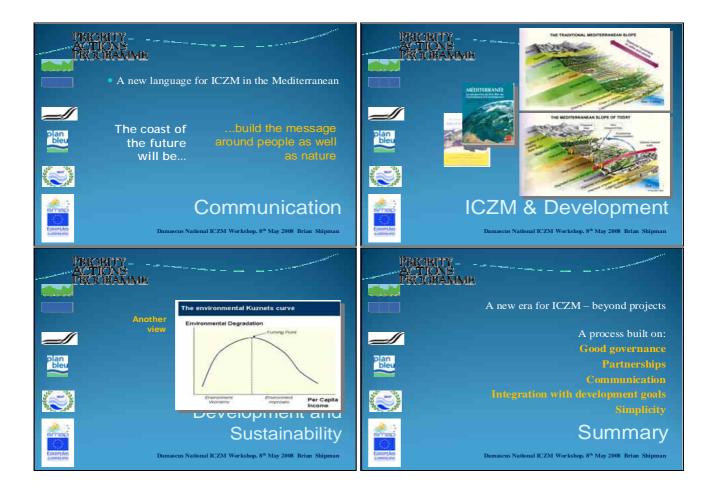












Annex V

Press releases

In addition to:

- a filmed news item about the Workshop broadcasted by the national TV in its local newscast evening of 8 May 2008, and
- a vocal release by the National Consultant about ICZM in general, given on 14 May 2008 to the national radio on the occasion of the Workshop,

the following news on the Workshop were published by newspapers:

٠٠٠ مليون ليرة كلفة تلوث الساحل

دمشق- عبد الكريم سعد:

لتحقيق حالة بيئية جيدة لبيئة المتوسط انسجاماً مع المبادرة الاوروبية المتوسطية لإفاق ٢٠٢٠. من جانبه السيد حسني العظمة المستشار الوطني الشروع SMAP السيد حسني العظمة المستشار الوطني الشروع الما لادارة الشاملة للنطاق الساحلي السوري يكمن في سن قانون خاص به للنطاق الساحلي السوري يكمن في سن قانون خاص به الحمائية والتطويرية الواجب تطبيقها ضمن تلك الحدود ويحدد صلاحيات مختلف السلطات المركزية والمحلية الفاعلة ضمنه ويعين جهة مركزية تتولى مهام الادارة العليا للنطاق الساحلي وتسهر على حسن تنفيذ احكام هذا القانون، وحذر من التراخي والتأخير في ذلك حتى لا نبكي ساحلنا كما نبكي الان غوطتي دمشق.

كلمة مركز الاعمال ذات الاولوية القاها السيد برايان شيبمان شدد فيها على اهمية الامور العملية التي تبرز نتائج ايجابية تقوم بها السلطات الساحلية والمركزية، كما تحدث السيد جان فرينتس ممثل بعثة الاتحاد الاوروبي في سورية، مؤكداً على ان تعزيز التعاون أمر ضروري للوصول الى النتائج المتوخاة لهذا المشروع الذي يكون في مجمله لمصلحة سورية. وقدمت المهندسة ريم عبد ربه المنسقة الوطنية لخطة عمل المتوسط لمحة عن بروتوكول الادارة الشاملة للنطاق الساحلي ICZM. واستمرت حلقة النقاش بمشاركة ممثلي السلطتين التشريعية والتنفيذية وبرنامج الميتاب وخبراء وطنيين مختصين.

اقامت وزارة الادارة المحلية والبيئة يوم الخميس الماضي بالتعاون مع مركز الاعمال ذات الاولوية /PAP المحابع لخطة عمل المحوسط ورشية عمل الادارة الشاملة للنطاق الساحلي في سورية وذلك في فندق شيراتون صيدنايا.

المهندس عماد حسون معاون وزير الادارة المطلية والبيئة أكد أن الدورة تعد مناسبة للنقاش ومنتدى مفتوح الأفاق لبيان أمثل الطرق في ادارة المنطقة الساحلية، وبعد ان تدهورت حالة البحر المتوسط والمنطقة الساحلية في سورية مع تعرض هذه المناطق لضغوط هائلة من الانشطة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية، حيث العمران الساحلي المكثف والسياحة العشوائية والنقاط الساخنة للتلوث، وأشار الي دراسة حديثة بينت كلفة التدهور البيئى في سورية في المنطقة الساحلية فوصلت الى نحو ٢٠٠ مليون ليرة سورية سنوياً، وبيّن ان سورية كانت من اوائل الدول المتوسطية التى صادقت على اتفاقية برشلونة لحماية البحر المتوسط من التلوث واول دولة متوسطية في إعداد برنامج ادارة المنطقة الساحلية CAMP في سورية، وتتعاون مع خطة عمل المتوسط لتنفيذ العديد من الانشطة المتعلقة بإعداد الخطط والاستراتيجيات لإدارة المنطقة الساحلية والتخفيض من التلوث البحري من مصادر برية، كما ان التخطيط الاقليمي للمنطقة الساحلية حظي باهتمام بالغ من الحكومة السورية إيماناً بمدى اهميته في إرساء قواعد التنمية والتطور بناء على اسس صحيحة ومستدامة. ودعا الى التعاون الوثيق مع دول الاتصاد الاوروبي

AL-BAATH daily, issue 13407 dd 11/05/2008

المليون ليرة ما ورية فيمة الخسارة في الموارد الساحلية سنويا

دمشق - نزيرة أسعد

بينت دراسة حديثة عن كلفة التدهور البيئي في سورية أن قيمة الخسارة في الموارد الساحلية لأسباب بيئية تبلغ حوالي ٠٠٠ مليون ليرة سورية سنوياً أي ما يعادل ١٠٠٪ من الناتج المحلي الإجمالي هذا ما ذكره عماد حسون معاون وزير الإدارة المحلية والبيئة لشؤون البيئة في ورشة عمل الإدارة الشاملة للنطاق الساحلي في سورية والتي عقدت في الثامن من الشهر الجاري في فندق شيراتون صيدنايا بالتعاون مع مفوضية الاتحاد الأوروبي في سورية ومركز الأعمال ذات الأولوية في خطة عمل المتوسط ونوه بأن هدف الاجتماع هو مناقشة السياسات المقترحة لإدارة المنطقة الساحلية موضحاً أن الإقليم الساحلي الذي يضم محافظتي اللاذهية وطرطوس لا يمثل سوى أقل من 7.7% من مساحة الدولة لكنه يضم ١١٪ من مجمل سكانها حيث يفوق معدل الكثافة السكانية جميع المحافظات الأخرى باستثناء دمشق وإن الكثافة السكانية في السهل الساحلي الضيق تفوق متوسط الكثافة على صعيد البلد ككل بنعو ٢٠ ضعفاً ومن الطبيعي أن يتسبب هذا الوضع في زيادة الضفوط الملقاة على كاهلُ الشريط الساحلي الذي يضطلع بدور المنفذ البحري الضيق الوحيد المتاح لهذا البلد الكبير نسبياً ولفت إلى أن حالة البحر المتوسط والمنطقة الساحلية في سورية قد تدهورت مع تعرض هذه المناطق لضفوط هائلة من الأنشطة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية فالعمران الساحلي المكثف أسفر عن انكماش رقعة النظم البيئية الطبيعية والنتوع البيولوجي كما أدت السياحة العشوائية إلى ضفوط مكثفة على المناطق البرية وعلى الموارد المائية وشكلت النقاط الساخنة للتلوث المشكلة البيئية البارزة في منطقة الساحل ولاسيما في مدينة بانياس. وقال: إدراكاً من الحكومة السورية بالمخاطر التي تحوق بالمنطقة الساحلية فقد كانت من أوائل الدول المتوسطية التي صدقت على اتفاقية برشلونة لحماية البحر المتوسط من التلوث وبروتوكولاتها وأول دولة متوسطية في إعداد برنامج إدارة المنطقة الساحلية «PMAC» في سورية ويتم التعاون مع خطة عمل المتوسط لتنفيذ العديد من الأنشطة المتعلقة بإعداد الخطط والاستراتيجيات لإدارة المنطقة الساحلية والتخفيض من التلوث البحري من مصادر برية.

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