

Mediterranean Action Plan, COP 18, 03-06 December 2013

We cordially invite you to participate at the side event
organised by:

Mediterranean Coastal Foundation (MEDCOAST)

on Friday, 06 Dec 2013, at 13:15 – 14:00, in Room Emirgan 1

on the subject of

Integrated Coastal Management in the Mediterranean

Summary of the side event session

Integrated coastal management is no doubt among the top challenges for all Mediterranean countries. Significant efforts have been devoted since early 1990s in the Mediterranean region to introduce and develop integrated coastal management practices at various levels. These include intergovernmental efforts like those of UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP); projects and programs funded by donor institutions such as the European Union, the World Bank, and GEF; and non-governmental organisations. All of these efforts have had some levels of impact in the progress of ICM in the region.

MEDCOAST is one of the earliest scientific NGOs devoted to progress of ICM practices in the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries by facilitating the support from the scientific community to the ICM practices. Emerged in 1993 with the *First International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment* (2 – 5 November 1993, Antalya Turkey) as a Euro-Mediterranean network of academic and professional institutions, MEDCOAST has been very regularly engaged in disseminating research results and technological developments on, and in organizing international capacity building programs aiming the ICM practitioners. MEDCOAST has organised over the last 20 years 16 scientific meetings producing 32 volumes of proceedings adding up to 18 600 pages, held 15 international training programs that were participated by 275 alumni, some of whom are the national and international ICM leaders today.

MAP together with its Regional Activity Centres, has been indulged in ICM increasingly with the second phase of the MAP after 1996. Today, the Mediterranean countries enjoy the global uniqueness for having the first and only international legislation, the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean, to guide further development of ICM systems and practices in the riparian countries.

Starting with the Demonstration Projects in the late 1990s, continuing with the Recommendations of the European Council (2002), supporting various significant coastal projects involving Mediterranean partners in the 2000s and currently working on a Directive for Maritime Spatial Planning and ICM, the efforts of the European Union have also positively impacted the development of ICM in the Mediterranean region.

Despite all these tremendous work carried out over the last 20 years, significant results and progress achieved, efficient and robust national, regional and local ICM systems remain to be challenges for many Mediterranean countries. After reviewing the history of ICM in the Mediterranean region, the side event will discuss the future developments and activities needed for accelerating the ICM establishment and practices in the region.