

The Workshop

The Participatory Workshop on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region was initiated by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) in co-operation with the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations and other International Organizations, and was facilitated by the Institute for Environmental Security (IES). It was attended by 50 participants, including representatives from 4 OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, 5 OSCE participating States, NGOs, numerous international experts as well as representatives from the OSCE Secretariat, including the OSCE Secretary General.

Contact

Raul Daussa, Environmental Programme Officer
Environmental Security and Co-operation Unit
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, OSCE Secretariat
Tel: + 43 1 514 36 6237

Eml: raul.daussa@osce.org

More on Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation:
<http://www.osce.org/eea>

Ronald A. Kingham, Director
Institute for Environmental Security, The Hague / Brussels
Tel: +31 70 365 1074 / +32 2 688 2685
Eml: rkingham@envirosecurity.org
Url: www.envirosecurity.org

OSCE Participatory Workshop
Amman, Jordan | 18-22 June 2012



Environment and Security Issues in
the Southern Mediterranean Region



Workshop participants attending a visit at the historic site of Jaresh near Amman, Jordan

<http://www.envirosecurity.org/essmed/>



Environmental Security Issues



During four days, which included a field-trip to environmental hotspots, participants identified a number of environmental issues that may impact security and were able to map them in an easily understandable format, thus allowing the formulation of a number of concrete recommendations.

Altogether participants agreed that the Mediterranean region is a highly vulnerable area in terms of environment and security linkages, due to its climatic and topographic features and the cross-boundary dimension of the Mediterranean Basin. While its cultural and economic diversity offers great opportunities for development, the region also represents an area that poses potential for social and political instability. Enhanced co-operation at the political, economic and environmental level is necessary to secure sustainable development of the region as a whole.



The Workshop Report, Background Paper, key presentations and more are on-line at: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/essmed/>

Munqeth Mehyar, President and Jordan Director, EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East

“Unsustainable practices and policies, be they in water, land use or energy are widespread throughout the region and indeed all over the Mediterranean”

Water scarcity and land degradation

Participants welcomed the OSCE lessons learned on promoting models of trans-boundary co-operation and agreed it could serve as an example for the region in dealing with water scarcity. With regard to the role of desalination plants, participants insisted on the need for thorough environmental impact assessments for such plants in order to reduce their fuel consumption. Solar alternatives as well as the potential for water saving methods should, in any case, be included in future development policies.

Environmental implications of climate change

North-South as well as South-South cooperation was pointed out as being essential in enhancing climate change adaptation policies. Exchanging best practices was recognised as a way for improvement by, for instance, transferring technologies and sharing experiences in institutional set up and establishing legal mechanisms.

Energy and security policies

The region has a tremendous potential for renewable energy projects and assistance to lobby to the EU and other donors is needed to enhance the support of such projects. In addition, more efforts need to be made to include energy policy into the national security concepts of Mediterranean governments.

The role of civil society

Enhanced stakeholder dialogue between local communities and governments is needed to build a shared vision on natural resources management. NGOs would also greatly benefit from enhanced training, in particular on fundraising and management.



Cartographer Philippe Rekacewicz draws a map of the challenges in the Mediterranean region with the participants