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The extraction of argan oil is a demanding and laborious process.  
Essaouira region, Morocco  
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Posidonia, the WWF Mediterranean newsletter for the community of environmental organizations in the Mediterranean.

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Posidonia

## EXCHANGE IN ESSAOUIRA

Essaouira, 350km south of Casablanca, Morocco, is well known for its skilled artisans, who reflect the richness and diversity of the region. WWF Mediterranean recently arranged an exchange programme for wood carvers from the cooperative in ain Drahem, Tunisia. Six people visited the Association Professionnel des Amis du Thuya and several artisan workshops in Essaouira. The Tunisian group met with artisans and learnt of the services offered by the Association, problems faced by the artisans and how they sell their goods. The participants also met with members of two women's cooperatives, the Coopérative Féminine Tudert de Plantes Aromatiques et Médicinales, and

the Coopérative Tamounte d'extraction d'huile d'Argan. The women showed them how they are organized and their production methods. The exchange finished with a visit to various markets in Marrakech and Casablanca, where the products from Essaouira are sold. Artisans from Essaouira will visit their Tunisian counterparts later this year.

This exchange which took place from 15-19 of December 2007 was organized by WWF Mediterranean/Across the Waters exchange programme and Fundación IPADE. It was funded by AECI (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional) in the framework of the programme *Aumento de la sostenibilidad de los medios de vida de poblaciones rurales vulnerables en Marruecos, Mauritania y Túnez*.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Visiting the Coopérative Tamounte d'extraction d'huile d'Argan, Essaouira, Morocco  
© WWF Mediterranean

## EC RESEARCH PROJECT IN MOROCCO

WWF Mediterranean is working in Morocco in partnership with the Sebou Basin Agency, the Litani River Basin administration and 15 European project partners on an EC research project — the SPI-Water project. The project is developing support for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the Sebou Basin. A workshop held last February in Fez, Morocco, was attended by almost 70

people from a range of disciplines including water engineers, water scientists, ecologists, administrators and NGOs. The workshop involved the participants' evaluation of the web portal WISE-RTD ([www.wise-rtd.info](http://www.wise-rtd.info)) and their suggestions regarding the needs of non-EU users.

Funded by the EC RMSU MEDA Water.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## PROTECTING PORTUGUESE FORESTS

Cork oak forests, the most representative habitat of the Portuguese forest landscape, have high levels of biodiversity and are home to threatened species such as the Iberian lynx and the Imperial Eagle. Fundamental as sources of livelihood, they are increasingly under threat. The concept of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) is being used to help conserve Portugal's forests. HCVF could become one of the most important tools for nature conservation in Portugal, a

country where 90% of the forest is privately owned, because it offers the private forest manager a concrete conservation tool. WWF has begun to implement HCVF case studies in partnership with Aliança Florestal, Fruticor and at the Monchique Natura 2000 site. These studies will reinforce HCVF implementation in Portugal and contribute to the FSC National Initiative.

WWF Mediterranean Cork Oak Landscapes Programme is funded by WWFUK.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## BARBARY MACAQUE CONSERVATION

The future of the highly threatened barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) is uncertain, with increasing human pressure in the rural mountain areas of Morocco — overgrazing, uncontrolled logging, and devastating tree pruning. Based on recent field surveys, the wild barbary macaque population is facing serious decline. The illegal live trade of juvenile barbary macaques to Europe is yet another threat to the survival of the species. Through a partnership effort involving international and Moroccan organizations a project on barbary macaque conservation was launched in Rabat, Morocco last January. The project team will

work on the enforcement of national and international legislation in the European Union and North Africa against the illegal trade of CITES-listed species. They will also develop a training programme for customs officers in Morocco and Spain, an education programme for tourists and a programme to support the training of future managers within the forest administration and in academic institutions.

Project partners are WWF, AAP (exotic animals sanctuary in the Netherlands), the Moroccan High Commissary for Water and Forests, the Species Survival Network and the Italian NGO GEA. *Enabling conditions for Barbary macaque conservation in the Middle Atlas* is financed by WWF NL and IUCN NL.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Tawny Owl in Cork Oak  
© WWFMediterranean / Rui CUNHA



Barbary macaque, mother with infant  
© WWF Canon / Martin HARVEY

## WET SCHOOL 2007

Water requirements for irrigation and hydropower lead to the construction of dams throughout the Mediterranean. As a result, important freshwater ecosystems are under threat. Alternatives to enable us to meet power and water demands without devastating the environment are necessary. WWF Mediterranean promotes dialogue with governments concerning decision-making processes. The Comprehensive Options Assessment of Dams is one way of addressing this decision-making process, and needs appropriate knowledge, data, experts and a clear methodology. WWF Mediterranean recently organized a one-week training course to teach the basics of this

assessment. The course focused on the design of a step-by-step assessment suitable to a range of contexts, concentrating on three river basins where WWF is engaged in the Dinaric Arc (Neretva, Cetina, and Skadar) and where dams represent an immediate threat. Representatives of over 15 environmental NGOs active on issues related to dams were invited from the three basins (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania) and from Greece, Turkey, Italy and Spain.

The Comprehensive Options Assessment of Dams training course took place from 2-9 December 2007, in Girona, Spain. It was organized with the financial support of the Diputació of Girona and the MAVA Foundation in the framework of the WWF Mediterranean project Sharing Waters.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Wet School 2007: field visit, Aiguamolls de l'Emporà Natural Park, Spain, © WWF Mediterranean / Across the Waters

## WWF AND CORPORATE CONTACTS IN PORTUGAL

Partnerships with the Portuguese corporate sector are now a priority for WWF in Portugal in working towards the conservation of Portuguese forests and biodiversity. WWF is challenging Portuguese companies to establish innovative partnerships in order to change and improve their environmental practices. Over the last three months WWF

Mediterranean has delivered proposals to Portuguese companies including Nokia, Canon, the Portucel Soporcel Group, Harnn & Thann Natural Home Spa, the Sonae Group, BES Bank, Tetra Pak and The Coca Cola Company.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN MOROCCO

With a view to the improvement of agricultural practices in Morocco, three people visited the WWF International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid tropics in India recently. WWF Mediterranean staff and officers from the regional agricultural office of El Gharb (ORMVAG) visited paddy fields in various villages near Hyderabad in order to learn about and have practical training in the various steps associated with the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). These

include seedling bed preparation, organic manure application, land preparation, flooding methods and frequency and weeding methodology. The Moroccan team spoke at length with Indian farmers regarding their experiences, expectations and reactions to SRI.

Organized in the framework of the Merja Zerga project funded by the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI) project Azahar through SEO/Birdlife.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## A VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN TUNISIA

Tunisia is a hotspot for marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean region with natural riches which are expected to attract increasing numbers of international tourists in the future. WWF's goal is to encourage the development of sustainable tourism activities, while protecting natural resources. Towards this end WWF is a partner in the EC-funded SMAP III Tunisia project. A new publication in French, *Un avenir pour le tourisme durable*, was presented at a workshop on sustainable tourism held last January in Korba, Tunisia. It looks at the challenges and opportunities involved in the project and identifies priority actions to promote the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources in Tunisia. The SMAP III Tunisia project takes into account local stakeholders' interests and needs, as well as socioeconomic constraints and opportunities.

Web pages on the SMAP III Tunisia project in English and French at [www.panda.org/smmap3tunisie](http://www.panda.org/smmap3tunisie)

For more on WWF Mediterranean work on coasts see [www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/europe/what\\_we\\_do/mediterranean/about/marine/coasts\\_med/index.cfm](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/mediterranean/about/marine/coasts_med/index.cfm)

In an interview in the new publication, Sami Dhouib, WWF coordinator of the SMAP III Tunisia project, says: "With the SMAP III Tunisia project we want the natural riches of our country to be protected and shared for generations to come, for both local people and visitors alike. Young people should feel involved in the project, and get a sense that the natural world is an integral part of their future. Sustainable tourism encourages socioeconomic improvement in the local area, while respecting the fragility of nature. If we achieve this, then we will have the best of both worlds."

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## MEDITERRANEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Experts are urging collaboration and action for the creation of a coherent, representative and effectively managed ecological network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean Sea. The aim is to halt the loss of biodiversity, and achieve conservation objectives. The meeting of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention last January in Spain saw the launch of the Port-Cros Declaration, signed by WWF, 110 experts in the field and stakeholders across the Mediterranean calling for more action to protect 10% of the Mediterranean Sea by 2012 – in

line with the objective set by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Port-Cros Declaration was agreed during the first Conference of the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Network held in October 2007. It was signed by 110 experts, the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), WWF, the Port-Cros National Park, IUCN, RAC/SPA, and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area.

The Barcelona Convention aims to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and protect and improve the marine and coastal environment in the area. The 15th Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention took place 15-18 January 2008, in Almería, Spain.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## COALITION AGAINST COAL IN GREECE

WWF Greece and seven municipalities have formed a coalition to oppose several coal-fired power plant projects and promote the principles of sustainable energy. Coal-fired plants cause an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, pollute the environment, create health problems and damage the local economy. The coalition against coal is criticizing the Greek Regulatory Authority of Energy for welcoming such projects. They are also asking the Greek Minister of

Development to dismiss all existing plans and similar proposals in the future. Through this coalition, local communities are clearly refusing to turn their land into Greece's new energy dump. The members of the coalition will launch a mailing campaign to MPs, stage activities in front of the Greek Parliament, organize workshops on coal and develop an internet site.

Full story on [www.panda.org/mediterranean](http://www.panda.org/mediterranean).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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WWF-Greece and seven municipalities protest coal-fired power plant projects.  
© WWF Greece

Power plant Agios Dimitrios, near Kozáni, Western Macedonia, Greece.  
© WWF Greece/Z. KARABERIS



## BOYCOTT MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA

As more major retailers decide to stop selling Mediterranean bluefin tuna, WWF is calling on other supermarket chains – and chefs, restaurants, and consumers – to follow suit, until the imperilled species is out of the danger zone. Auchan in France, Carrefour in Italy, Coop in both Italy and Switzerland, and ICA in Norway have stopped selling Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The seafood industry, too, is waking up to its responsibilities, recognising that there is not an endless supply of fish. By taking

action now, retailers can help give this amazing species a fighting chance of survival, for the benefit of both business and the marine ecosystem. Scientists have declared it “probable” that the magnificent bluefin tuna, the fish behind the finest sushi in the world, will soon disappear from the Mediterranean – unless action is taken now.

WWF's work on fisheries is supported by the Oak Foundation and the Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco.

Full story on [www.panda.org/tuna](http://www.panda.org/tuna)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## EU PERFORMANCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WWF holds that Europe should have been more determined during recent international negotiations to cut climate pollution. In January the European Commission presented draft laws to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Europe by only 20% – a target which is not even in line with the latest Bali agreement that developed countries should cut emissions by 25-40% by 2020. Drastic improvements in proposed

measures are therefore needed by the European Parliament and Council. On the other hand, WWF welcomes the target of 20% energy from renewable sources, including the 10% target for biofuels in the transport sector. WWF asks that the EU Parliament and Council deal with the proposals swiftly so that the most important laws are signed and sealed before the European elections of 2009.

Full story on [www.panda.org/eu](http://www.panda.org/eu)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## SAVING PLANTS THAT SAVE LIVES

Some estimates indicate that 15,000 of the 50,000 -70,000 plant species used for medicinal purposes and mostly collected from the wild may be threatened, many as a direct result of unsustainable collection practices. Three years of collaboration in which WWF has played a key role have now produced the first set of principles and criteria for the sustainable wild collection of plants. This document is designed to help the people involved in the harvest, management, trade, manufacture and sale of wild-

collected medicinal and aromatic plant resources to understand and comply with the conditions under which sustainable collection of these resources can take place.

The new International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) has been produced by the IUCN-SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, TRAFFIC - the wildlife trade monitoring network, WWF Germany and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), with support from IUCN Canada.

Full story on [www.panda.org/mediterranean](http://www.panda.org/mediterranean).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## LONG-TERM PREDICTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The ENSEMBLES project is a collaborative venture involving 67 institutes to quantify the uncertainty in long-term predictions of climate change. Some of the achievements of the project so far include the development of the first ever multi-model system of regional climate models and daily grid observational data sets of temperature and precipitation for Europe. A new emissions reduction scenario, to provide policy-relevant information based on mitigation action, will be used by climate modelling groups

towards the EU goal of limiting warming to less than 2°C, and to provide essential information for the design and use of climate model experiments. Numerous outreach activities have been carried out – scientific workshops, websites, newsletters, and training for young scientists.

Funded by the European Commission and coordinated by the Meteorological Office Hadley Centre.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## ACTION DAY AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Last December, six Arab countries participated for the first time in the 'International Day of Action against Climate Change' to demand that Arab countries take stronger action against this global problem. NGOs, government institutes and individuals from Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and UAE joined citizens from more than 80 countries who participated in this international event. In Beirut, and despite the tense political situation and bad weather, more than 2000 people took part in a symbolic 3km walk. The crowd held signs and banners reading

"Act against Climate Change" and "NO MORE OIL". The occasion was also attended by ambassadors, celebrities and other prominent figures. The day included the distribution of information and the signing of a petition calling the Arab League to make climate change a priority issue. IndyACT, the organizers of the walkathon in Beirut, declared the event the biggest environmental action in the history of the Arab World.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Demonstration against climate change in Beirut, Lebanon, 8 December 2007  
© IndyACT

## NOAH SCHOOL: THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The latest WWF Mediterranean training course on climate change, Noah School, looked at the role of civil society organisations in raising awareness of climate change in their countries. Civil society organisations can push decision makers towards enforcing laws and can find ways to collaborate with the business sector to forge change. Noah School raised some important questions concerning the value of a regional approach to climate change. Training focused on North Africa and the Dinaric Arc region, with approaches to campaigning, collaboration with the business sector, strategy design and

monitoring. Twenty five participants from Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Lebanon, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, and Spain attended the course. They were able to share their experiences in the fight against climate change, and participate in a practical exercise on how to build a communications campaign.

The WWF Mediterranean/Across the Waters training course, Noah School 2007, held in Sitges, Spain last December, was supported by the Diputació de Barcelona and the Government of Catalonia.

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Participants of the Noah School 2007  
Sitges, Spain  
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## SHARING WATERS PROJECT

Montenegrin NGO Green Home is working with WWF Mediterranean to create a network of NGOs and other interested organizations around Skadar Lake basin to preserve the unique water regime of the lake. Work continues on the Sharing Waters Skadar Lake project with a recent meeting of the Environmental Group in Podgorica, Montenegro. Representatives of WWF and Montenegrin NGOs met to discuss the objectives of the group's work and joint lobbying

strategies and activities. The group will conduct studies on fish and birds and will identify the minimum ecological requirements for the viability and health of these populations. This will be used as a basis for a consideration of the impact of proposed water infrastructures on biodiversity. The next meeting will take place in June, and will include Albanian NGOs.

With the financial support of the MAVA Foundation.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## RESOURCES

### **Living Neretva project webpage**

The Neretva is the largest karst river in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It feeds a complex blend of cultures, industries and nature reserves, before spilling out into the Adriatic Sea on the Croatian coast, through a delta of wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention. To share information and support the work on nature conservation and sustainable development in the Neretva basin, WWF Mediterranean has just launched the Living Neretva project webpage, in local language at [www.panda.org/zivjetineretvu](http://www.panda.org/zivjetineretvu) and in English at [www.panda.org/livingneretva](http://www.panda.org/livingneretva). A flash animation and three videos describe the main issues through the eyes of local stakeholders. Reports and presentations produced by the project are also published on the site.

### **WWF report – EU exporting climate pollution to emerging economies**

Europeans are responsible for only in Europe but in other rapidly industrializing countries. This occurs through imports of goods manufactured with carbon-intensive technologies in other areas of the world to satisfy European consumer demands, according to a new WWF report. [www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/europe/what\\_we\\_do/epo/index.cfm?uNewsID=125140](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/epo/index.cfm?uNewsID=125140)

**Peak to Peak**, monthly electronic newsletter of the Mountain Partnership, with the latest news, activities and events.

[www.mountainpartnership.org/news/news.asp](http://www.mountainpartnership.org/news/news.asp)

### **European Information Service for Mountain Products**

Euromontana has launched a website relating to mountain food products in Europe with a list of specialized professional contacts working on the theme. [www.mountainproducts-europe.org](http://www.mountainproducts-europe.org)

**SMAP Bulletin** Autumn/Winter 2007 is now available in English, French and Arabic. News on sustainable development and environmental initiatives in 2008, an article on the SMAP III project in Algeria. [tiny.mckinney@ta-smap.com](mailto:tiny.mckinney@ta-smap.com) [www.smapp.eu](http://www.smapp.eu)

**Underutilized species:** see [www.underutilized-species.org](http://www.underutilized-species.org) for updates on funding opportunities, recent publications, marketing and management of plant biodiversity.

### **Experts' survey on climate change**

This survey is the first in a series of twice-yearly surveys of climate decision makers and influencers across the world. Unlike public opinion polls, the survey focuses on the views of professionals in a position to make or influence decisions in their organizations and society.

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[www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/12/10\\_climate\\_change.htm#mail](http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/12/10_climate_change.htm#mail)

### **ESD tools**

Visit [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com) and download the video highlighting the underside of production and consumption patterns of western societies in general. It can be a useful learning tool for those ESD educators working with such issues.

Science in School is a European journal to promote inspiring science teaching. It covers not only Biology, Physics and Chemistry, but also Maths and Earth sciences, highlighting the best in teaching and cutting-edge research, and focusing on interdisciplinary work.

[www.scienceinschool.org](http://www.scienceinschool.org)

The main outputs of the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education that took place in Ahmedabad, India, are now available at the Conference website. [www.tbilisiplus30.org](http://www.tbilisiplus30.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The February 2008 edition** of the prestigious wine magazine *Decanter* features a great achievement of the WWF Mediterranean Cork Oak Landscapes programme: a number of top wineries have publicly declared their support for cork. Read more at [www.panda.org/mediterranean/cork](http://www.panda.org/mediterranean/cork)  
If you know of wine producers who may be interested in joining, contact [cmenard@wwfmedpo.org](mailto:cmenard@wwfmedpo.org)

**Petition to save the Ramsar site** Embouchure de la Moulouya in Morocco  
[www.lapetition.be/en-ligne/ptition-pour-sauver-le-sibe-ramsar-de-lembouchure-de-la-moulouya-1799.html](http://www.lapetition.be/en-ligne/ptition-pour-sauver-le-sibe-ramsar-de-lembouchure-de-la-moulouya-1799.html)

**Call for candidates** for the 8th Mediterranean Honoric Award for innovative projects relating to the environment and sustainable development. Deadline: 15th of April 2008. Contact: [proyectos@mediterrania-cie.org](mailto:proyectos@mediterrania-cie.org)  
[www.mediterrania-cie.org](http://www.mediterrania-cie.org)

### **International Women Entrepreneurs' Fair**

Some fifty women from around the world will have the chance to showcase their innovative green enterprises at this fair and to form the basis of a worldwide network of women green entrepreneurs. See IUCN website: [www.iucn.org/congress/2008/news/07\\_10\\_31\\_womens\\_fair\\_en.doc](http://www.iucn.org/congress/2008/news/07_10_31_womens_fair_en.doc)  
Send completed applications to [womenfair@iucn.org](mailto:womenfair@iucn.org) before 30 April 2008.

### **Wetlands International training courses 2008**

Wetlands International calls for applications for four training courses, two each in French and English.  
[www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.training\\_wi\\_2008.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.training_wi_2008.htm)

**12th session of the United Nations Conference** on Trade and Development  
20-25 April 2008, Accra, Ghana. See [www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)

### **6th International Conference on Sustainable Development, Culture, Education**

4-7 June 2008, Anadolu University, Turkey  
[anita.pipere@du.lv](mailto:anita.pipere@du.lv) See <http://bbcc2008.anadolu.edu.tr/home.php>

**The European Social Forum** is a regional forum within the World Social Forum, for ideas, proposals, exchange and connecting civil society.  
17-21 September 2008, Malmö, Sweden See [www.esf2008.org/en/](http://www.esf2008.org/en/)

**Call for Papers** Canadian Journal of Environmental Education Vol. 14, 2009. In preparation for the 5th World Environmental Education Congress in Montreal (May 2009) the CJEE aims to highlight the work of practitioners engaged in inquiring into practices of environmental education. Deadline for submissions is July 2008. Contact: [marcia.mckenzie@usask.ca](mailto:marcia.mckenzie@usask.ca)  
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**Children's competition:** children aged 8-10 from third countries, including the Mediterranean and ENP countries, are invited to submit drawings of how they see equality between men and women. Two drawings per region will be selected, and prize money for each region will be awarded. The deadline for the competition is 1 May 2008 and entries should be submitted to the Delegation of the European Commission in the country where the child attends school.

[www.euromedinfo.eu/site.168.news.en.3324.html](http://www.euromedinfo.eu/site.168.news.en.3324.html)



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