

1949 50 1999

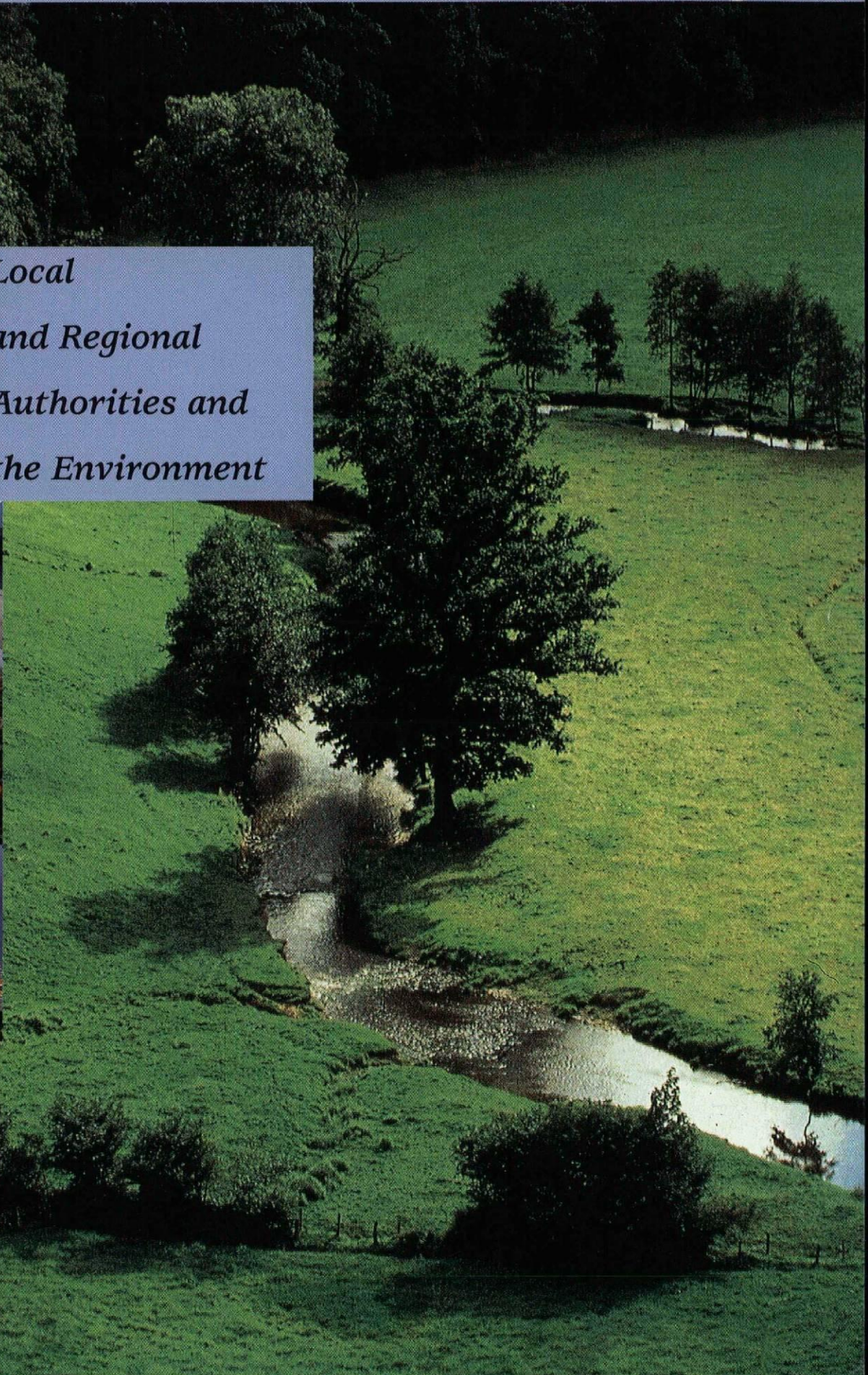


COUNCIL OF EUROPE

naturropa

n° 89 / 1999 • ENGLISH

*Local
and Regional
Authorities and
the Environment*



1949 **50** 1999



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Chère Lectrice, Cher Lecteur,

Je suis très heureux de vous présenter la nouvelle maquette de la revue *Naturopa*, qui voit le jour avec ce numéro 89. J'espère que vous allez apprécier ce nouveau style, qui en donne une image plus moderne et en facilite la lecture.

Naturopa est la revue Environnement du Conseil de l'Europe depuis 1968. Elle est publiée trois fois par an, en avril, août et novembre et est entièrement illustrée en couleurs. Depuis 1998, elle est diffusée en cinq langues (français, anglais, allemand, italien et russe) et est distribuée gratuitement dans toute l'Europe.

Naturopa est une revue thématique. Chaque numéro traite d'un sujet et en étudie les différents aspects: historique, scientifique, juridique, financier, etc. Le thème de ce numéro est «Collectivités locales et régionales et environnement».

N'hésitez pas à nous envoyer vos commentaires et suggestions au sujet de cette nouvelle mise en page. Vous pouvez nous contacter via notre adresse électronique:
centre.naturopa@coe.int

Vous souhaitant beaucoup de plaisir à lire nos prochains numéros, je vous prie de croire, Chère Lectrice, Cher Lecteur, à l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Eladio Fernández-Galiano
Éditeur responsable



Editorials

<i>The challenge of an environmental policy</i> W. Clement.....	3
<i>Rome - modernity under construction</i> F. Rutelli.....	3

Roles, responsibilities and activities

<i>The Aalborg Charter</i> A. Payne and P. Löffler	4
<i>Environmental policy in Andalusia</i> M. Chaves González	5
<i>Riga, Latvia: towards sustainable development</i> J. Zaloksnis	6
<i>Recommendation on the distribution of powers</i> R. Fasino	7
<i>Relations between central government and local authorities, Croatia</i> I. Jakovcic.....	8
<i>Access to information, public participation</i> Y. Berthelot.....	9

Examples of good policy-making

<i>Citizen participation, Turkey</i> E. Saker.....	10
<i>Vital partnerships, Russian Federation</i> N.A. Maleshin and N.I. Zolotukhin.....	11
<i>A case beyond Europe: South Africa</i> S. Granger	12

Tools and instruments for implementation

<i>Fiscal and financial instruments</i> J. Leinen	14
<i>Green purchasing - turning policy into action</i> J. Lund Madsen	15
<i>Environmental budgeting and sustainability, Germany</i> B. Weber.....	16
<i>Technical assistance for local authorities, United Kingdom</i> J. Morris	17

Networks of towns and regions

<i>ICLEI: local action with global responsibility</i> G. Bjørlo	21
<i>Act locally: the CEMR commitment</i> E. Gateau.....	22
<i>Medcités: a blueprint for progress</i> M. Boussraoui	24
<i>A federation of cities around the Baltic Sea</i> A. Engström.....	25

International organisations and programmes

<i>Local Agenda 21 - a world-wide campaign</i> K. Otto-Zimmermann	26
<i>The activities of the CLRAE</i> G. Bergou	27
<i>European Urban Charter</i> H. Van Staa	29

Prospects

<i>Towards the next millenium</i> R. Locatelli.....	30
---	----

The environment at the Council of Europe 32

The Centre Naturopa's National Agencies 34

Chief editor

Eladio Fernández-Galiano

Conception and editing

Marie-Françoise Glatz

E-mail: marie-francoise.glatz@coe.int

This issue's special advisers

Konrad Otto-Zimmermann

Rinaldo Locatelli

Layout

Emmanuel Georges

Printer

Bietlot - Gilly (Belgium)

Articles may be freely reprinted provided that reference is made to the source and a copy sent to the Centre Naturopa. The copyright of all photographs is reserved.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Council of Europe.

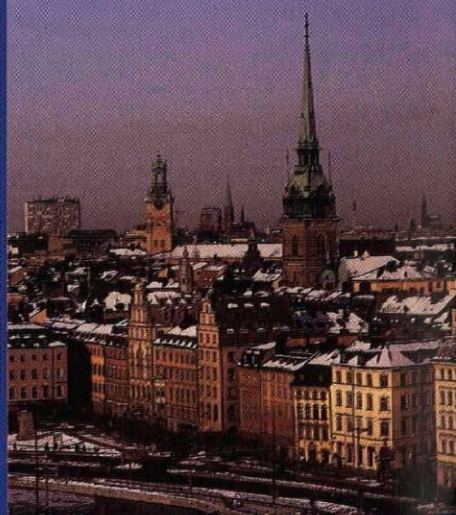
Since 1993 Naturopa has been printed on chlorine-free paper.

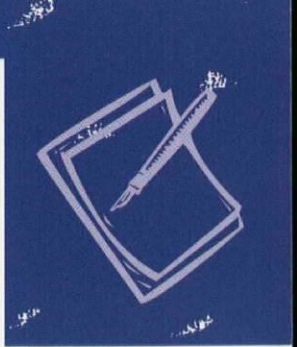
A selective bibliography on local and regional authorities and the environment is available, free of charge, upon request to the Centre Naturopa.

© Cover, fond: S. Desnoulez/Pluriel Vignettes:

1. Square in front of the Arche de la Défense, Paris, J. Witt/Pluriel
2. Bruges, Belgium, STF/Sunset
3. Lercici, Italy, B. Irrmann

© Page 14: Bertrand Patrick/Bios





The challenge of an environmental policy



On the eve of the 21st century, environmental problems have acquired a global dimension. The recent realisation of our shared responsibility for our "one world" is reflected in the model for sustainable, environment-friendly development adopted by the international community in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The parties in Rio laid the foundations, which we can now use as a basis for tackling head-on the environmental and development problems that exist world-wide.

However, merely adopting international conventions and action programmes will not in itself bring about tangible improvements. The agreements and programmes need to be translated into practical action. The industrialised nations have a particular responsibility in this respect. It is for them to agree on binding methods of action at national and supranational level. However, as long as shortcomings persist in this area, it will fall to local and regional bodies to employ the means and resources at their disposal to make their contribution to sustainable development without detracting from the other priorities they are required to pursue in the public interest.

The obligation to act also brings with it an opportunity to be seized in terms of utilising and capitalising on technical and economic possibilities that have not yet been exploited. The government of the Land of North-Rhine Westphalia is firmly committed to action in this area, believing that close co-operation with the private sector is a precondition for success in developing and establishing new production methods that are geared to the future, respect the environment and use resources sparingly.

Many firms in our Land have already chosen to incorporate environmental concerns in their production systems. We want to see more small and medium-sized firms follow this lead and have therefore set up an efficiency consultancy agency (Effizienzagentur NRW) at Land level. In co-operation with the private sector and the main representatives of civil society, we are also going to launch a Local Agenda 21 initiative aimed at defining concrete objectives for environmental improvements. This project will help to create and preserve competitive jobs.

Admittedly, these are all small pieces in the big jigsaw of the global objective of sustainable development of the natural resources essential to humankind. But it is precisely at local and regional level that we must launch a whole range of activities of this kind so as to move closer to the goal on as broad and comprehensive a basis as possible. That is why I would urge all local and regional leaders to play an active part in developing a programme for environmental protection, job creation and technological innovation.

Minister-President Wolfgang Clement
Land of North-Rhine Westphalia
Haroldstraße 2
D-40213 Düsseldorf

Rome – modernity under construction



The environment is a key challenge when it comes to developing metropolises or "global cities" (to use Saskia Sassen's term) in a manner that capitalises on their strong points without, however, undermining their identity, history and cultural heritage.

A major programme of works is currently under way in Rome. The programme has three fundamental objectives: preparing for the historic event of the Jubilee, harmonising the organisation of the city for the year 2000 with the modernisation of its infrastructure, and incorporating hundreds of individual projects in an overall sustainable development strategy. This is a medium to long-term undertaking, of which the main thrusts have been decided and the first projects launched. Realisation of the importance of the work must go hand in hand with a search for new goals that are both ambitious and realistic.

As far as town planning is concerned, the era of uncontrolled growth, which took no account of quality and caused serious problems affecting the 130 000 ha of greater Rome, has ended. When revising the principles for the good management of the city, it will be necessary from now on to put in place a wide range of conservation and development tools while strengthening redevelopment and rehabilitation policies, as well as creating efficient services and improving the urban environment.

The redevelopment of Rome is starting in its vast and widely differing suburban areas. The city is being enhanced by key metropolitan structures such as universities and research centres, decentralised government ministries, railway stations, cultural, commercial, recreational and sporting facilities, urban parks and the like. Private firms operating under public sector supervision have recently also developed a number of well-planned new neighbourhoods and completely rehabilitated many existing ones.

The construction work in Rome also involves the building of a vast public transport network. Having got rid of the commonest types of pollution (sulphur and carbon monoxide), we must now deal with substances that are less well known but more harmful, such as benzene. The approach adopted is that of offering a rational alternative to road traffic through the "three-by-three" rail transport network, construction of which is under way and will take ten years of major works, the modernisation and development of the existing underground railway lines, and the construction of line C, including the modernisation and building of three major regional connecting lines.

Over 7 000 billion lire have already been allocated for the various projects, but a total of at least twice that amount will be needed if Rome is at last to be provided with the infrastructure it has wanted for so long.

Francesco Rutelli
Mayor of Rome
City Hall
Piazza Campidoglio
I-00197 Rome

The Aalborg Charter

Cities and towns on the move towards sustainability

The First European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns took place in Aalborg, Denmark, in 1994. It gave birth to one of the most important documents on sustainable development at local level in Europe: the Charter of European Cities and Towns towards Sustainability, better known as the Aalborg Charter. During the conference, 600 representatives from European cities and their associations, from national governments, the European Commission, the European Union Expert Group on the Urban Environment, research institutes and non-governmental organisations discussed and formulated the Charter.

Commitment of local authorities

The Aalborg Charter was written when a world-wide discussion on the issues of sustainable development was gaining momentum. It was set in the context of Agenda 21, the master plan for the 21st century agreed in Rio in 1992, as well as the EU's 5th Environmental Action Programme "Towards Sustainability" and the Sustainable Cities Project of the European Union. Initially, 80 European local authorities signed up to the Charter. By the end of 1998, their number had increased to over 410 local authorities coming from 32 European countries. They represent more than 100 million European citizens.

Signing up to the Aalborg Charter means that a local authority makes a strong commitment to sustainable development and Local Agenda 21 (see article on page 26). Signatories become participants of the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign. All signatory cities and municipalities of the Charter recognise their essential responsibilities for many environmental problems humankind is facing and stress their important role in the process of undertaking the necessary steps towards sustainability.

What does this mean in practice? The Aalborg Charter mentions a whole bundle of issues which need to be pursued at the same time, such as increased eco-efficiency of buildings and transport systems, healthcare, creation of long-term jobs, equitable distribution of wealth, effective land-use policies, reduction of greenhouse emissions, protection of natural capital stocks, broad public participation and so on. The Charter calls for the development and implementation of comprehensive, long-term strategic action plans for sustainable development, notably through Local Agenda 21 processes, in order to achieve these objectives through a balanced process.

Increasing success

How could the Aalborg Charter be successful in a time characterised by budget cuts with the environment being dropped as a priority issue? The Aalborg Charter gives a clear message that economic development, social welfare and protection of the environment cannot be achieved separately from each other - this is what sustainable development is about. There is evidence that we can achieve benefits in all these areas at the same time. Due to this balanced approach, including all aspects of sustainable development, the Aalborg Charter has immense appeal for politicians and professionals, as well as voluntary organisations and community groups. As a consequence, the goals of the Aalborg Charter could become part of many mainstream policies and programmes at local level right across Europe.

The Aalborg Charter does not limit itself to make claims and formulate principles for sustainable development.

It also launches a number of powerful initiatives. All local authorities embarking on projects, Local Agenda 21 and action plans are at the same time supported by a range of tools and mechanisms developed through the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign. A core tool of the campaign is built around a partnership of five networks and associations of local authorities. These are Eurocities, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the United Towns Organisation (UTO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) through its Healthy Cities Project.

The fruitful co-operation of these five networks and contributions from a number of other organisations and associations has indeed been another success story. This alliance has enabled the message of the Aalborg Charter and the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign to be spread widely. At the moment, a series of four regional conferences across Europe is occurring, which will lead to the 3rd Pan-European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns in Hanover, Germany, in 2000. Also, a variety of other projects are being organised through the networks and with the support of the Campaign Office in order to further advance and implement the Aalborg message across Europe.

Anthony Payne and Peter Löffler

The European Sustainable Cities

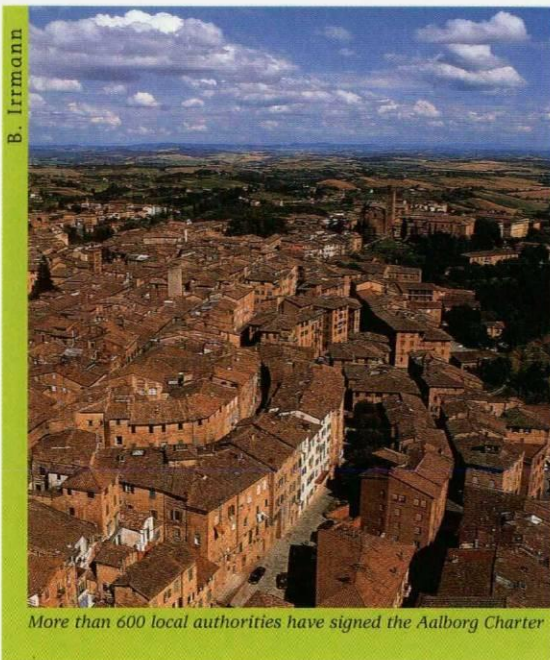
& Towns Campaign

Rue de Trèves 49-51

B-1040 Brussels

E-mail: campaign.office@skynet.be

Web: <http://www.sustainable-cities.org>



B. Irrmann

More than 600 local authorities have signed the Aalborg Charter

Environmental policy

Andalusia, Spain

The need to protect the environment, while also ensuring that nature and the use of its resources serve as instruments of progress both today and in the future, means that we must manage our heritage rationally and realise the importance of solidarity and interdependence between generations.

The conventional model of giving priority to growth and consumption is increasingly being challenged by the concept of sustainable development. In analysing the latter, we are faced with a number of serious questions. Who do natural resources belong to? Should we restrict the rights of society and individuals to use them? What constitutes the well-being of society?

The priority of the Andalusian government in the environment sector is to combine the protection of the natural heritage with its development for the benefit of society, so that today's citizens can enjoy both economic growth and a good quality of life, without future generations having to suffer irreversible consequences.

That is the aim of the main legal measures and provisions adopted in recent years: the nature areas act, the forestry act and the environmental protection act, etc. which together form the Andalusian environment plan.

Practical implementation

The environment plan must be put into practice in daily life and be reflected in the policies that affect all of our citizens and the environment they live in. This has been the aim of a number of specific actions, e.g.:

- in urban areas: environmental improvements, efforts to combat noise and air pollution, selective col-

lection and processing of solid waste, power supplies and the use of new and renewable sources of energy;

- in rural areas: improving living standards by providing more modern facilities and offering a wider range of training activities and programmes with a view to encouraging people to stay in rural areas, fostering greater participation by women and young people and boosting ecological and natural resources;
- protecting coastlines and regenerating areas or landscapes that have deteriorated by strictly applying the regulations on town planning, harbour facilities and communication infrastructures in coastal regions and taking account of the impact of such facilities on the environment;
- paying special attention to water supplies - water being a limited resource in Mediterranean countries that is nevertheless crucial to social, economic and tourist development - and the need for a water plan based on broad consensus that solves distribution and supply problems, while ensuring that the resource is used rationally and managed efficiently.

A major challenge

Working together today to build a society based on progress and well-being combined with economic development and quality of life without, however, undermining the rights of future generations is a complex, sensitive and urgent task that demands clear decisions, the mobilisation of all our resources and a firm commitment by society.

First of all, the scientific and technical advances of which we are so proud need to be developed to greater benefit. We must encourage applied research and use the latest techniques

C. Tardel/Phone



Ronda, Andalusia

to detect and correct shortcomings in the environmental sector and to solve many of the problems facing us today.

An environmental information network, urban noise measurement systems and remote detection and geographical data collection installations have been put in place in Andalusia, and environmental statistics are gathered for the Eurostat network. Research is also continuing on alternative sources of energy and methods of gradually introducing them for various domestic and industrial uses.

Striking a balance

As far as commitments are concerned, it is important to realise that sustainable progress presents us all with a major challenge and, likewise, that failure to comply with certain environmental principles poses a threat to humankind as a whole.

It is therefore essential that there should be co-operation between the various authorities and public institutions concerned and active participation by economic and social players, businesses, technical experts and the population at large. These groups are all increasingly aware of the environmental problems facing us today and must also be sensitive to those that will arise in future.

Experts correctly define sustainable development as the balance that must be struck between the three imperatives of economic growth, the preservation of natural resources and the maintenance of an adequate level of social cohesion.

Manuel Chaves González

Head of Government of Andalusia
 Consejería de la Presidencia
 Palacio de San Telmo
 Avda. de Roma s/n
 E-41071 Seville

The objectives of the Andalusian environment plan

Correcting existing shortcomings and ones that might arise in future by boosting potential and competitiveness through a comprehensive development model based on solidarity, in which creating wealth and employment goes hand in hand with putting in place environmentally sustainable facilities and resources.

Managing and developing Andalusia's natural heritage by making the conservation and enhancement of resources a factor for progress and a tool for restoring a balance between different areas.

Improving the quality of the information made available to the public, encouraging their participation and co-operation so that Andalusian society remains true to its commitments and creating a network of volunteers willing to take action to defend the environment in a spirit of solidarity with future generations.

Preserving biological diversity and fostering the rational use of available resources so that their protection, conservation and rehabilitation are compatible with progress and sustainable development

Riga, Latvia: towards sustainable

Once upon a time, at least a thousand years ago, the area where the city of Riga is now situated looked quite different. The river Daugava - Latvia's river of destiny which starts its long 1020 km course at Walday Heights - flowed into the Baltic Sea as it does today. But the surroundings were different - untouched mixed forests, virgin lands and lush grass in water meadows. Water was clean and waves washed wild beaches of golden sand.

and migrating birds in Europe by such institutions as BirdLife International and Wetlands International. Scientists in this area have noted more than 60 different bird species, also mentioned in the Latvian Red Book (*Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, etc.).

Water management plan

Riga City, with a population of 830 000, is rich in surface waters - the river Daugava and some large lakes, which cover almost 20% of the city's territory. Unfortunately, in the course of time the quality of the water has deteriorated. In the Middle Ages, citizens used drinking water directly from the river Daugava, but now this is now impossible to imagine.

The first water supply device in Riga was built in 1620, but in 1904 an artesian water supply complex was built 20 km from the city centre. The underground water quality has practically not changed since then⁽¹⁾.

Yet, for the drinking water supply in Riga, the surface water from the river Daugava is used as well (approximately 40% of the total amount). For improvement in its quality we have started large reconstruction works, including not only water purification technology, but also development of a pipeline network and distribution system to provide the necessary pressure and feeding. Implementation of this programme up to the year 2000 will require almost 45 million Latvian lats (1 Euro ~ 0.66 lats) which will be covered by credit from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, Swiss and Swedish governmental grants, as well as investments by the Riga City Council.

We are lucky that during hard economic conditions, at the very beginning of our transition to a market economy, in 1991 we started a new waste water treatment plant with a planned capacity of 350 000 m³/day⁽²⁾. We hope that the practicable treatment load will be sufficient in the future, as we are working seriously on the water-saving programme and leakage reduction in the pipes' network.

In this way we are fulfilling the Helcom guidelines concerning reduction of the pollution in the Baltic sea.

Waste management

We have serious trouble with solid waste management, as for almost 30 years the city has been using only one landfill that has not been constructed properly. This creates some danger for aquifers used by the city for the drinking water supply and meets strong objections from the environment protection institutions and local people. Therefore the Riga City Council has decided to start the cleaning of the old landfill and introduce new technology for household solid waste utilisation and disposal under the solid waste management project that will cost the city 15 million Latvian lats. We have obtained a loan from the World Bank and grants from the Global Environmental Facility and the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency. We hope that we will be successful with this project, running to the year 2002, and will start the landfill operation according to European Union standards. The processing of organic compounds will allow us to obtain methane with higher volumes and use it for electric energy production. This is a considerable involvement by Riga City in decreasing global warming according to the international obligations of the Republic of Latvia.

Air pollution

Unfortunately, we still have some unsolved environmental problems, e.g. the enormous increase in the number of motor vehicles registered in the city over the years (1994 - 115 975; 1998 - 206 752) and the corresponding air pollution in the city. The city of Riga is using a Swedish air quality management and monitoring system⁽³⁾. Emission data base and dispersion calculations estimate and evaluate air pollution levels at various locations in the city and process data in order to predict the air quality changes. The concentration of nitrogen dioxide, formaldehyde and ozone exceeds the national standards over almost all the city's territory during the entire working day.



Old Riga on the banks of the Daugava river

Juris Kalniņš/Fotocentrs

Centuries came and went, along with vast changes in the environment. The river Ridzene, which gave the city of Riga its name, disappeared underground.

Nevertheless, some areas survived, which we are proud of and which we are trying to protect. These are five restricted areas - botanical and ornithological - which really surprise scientists and visitors from all over the world. We are looking forward to extending our Coastal Nature Park along the whole length of the sea coast in the city territory, as well as to defining the status of the protected areas at other appropriate places.

Riga City's total area is 307 km², but the territory of the protected areas covers 750 ha. Twenty-five species grow in these areas, mentioned in the Latvian Red Book. Wild orchids (*Epipactis atrorubens*, *Epipactis palustris*) are the most significant of them. Our ornithological reserve is mentioned as one of the most important areas for wintering

development

A brighter future

In 1995, the Riga City Council approved the Development Plan up to 2005. It is based on the principles of integrity in all sectors of sustainable development. This document was widely discussed by citizens, as we all wish to have a brighter future.

We hope that in 2001, when we will celebrate Riga's 800th anniversary, the developed accepted vision will, at least in part, become reality.

Janis Zaloksnis

*Deputy Chief
Environmental Department
Riga City Council
3 K. Valdemara Street
LV-1539 Riga
E-mail: jz@rcc.lv*

(1) The following figures prove this: nitrates - 0,11 mg/l; chlorides - 13,0 mg/l; sulphates - 15,3 mg/l; total firmness - 2,5 mg-eq/l; turbidity - 0,12. The water contains five times less lead than the minimum acceptable by European standards, while cyanides, arsenic and copper are practically non-existent.

(2) The biological treatment is carried out according to a technology of anaerobic-anoxic-aerobic treatment widespread throughout the world, which allows considerably lower concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds. The educed sediments are processed by mud compressors, with further treatment in methane tanks to produced biogas used for local heating.

(3) An air quality management and monitoring system (Indic, Opsi, Airviro) based on differential optical absorption spectroscopy and real time meteorological measurements.

Distribution of powers

A Council of Europe Recommendation

On 2 October 1996, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation No. R (96) 12 on the distribution of powers and responsibilities between central authorities and local and regional authorities with regard to the environment.

The recommendation is based on the idea that States and local and regional authorities have different responsibilities in the field of environmental protection. Dialogue between the authorities at the different levels is therefore necessary and, indeed, essential if a coherent and comprehensive long-term strategy is to be devised and implemented.

The Committee of Ministers calls on the governments of member States to establish a legal framework capable of ensuring genuine protection of the environment (which should, in particular, include a clear definition of the role of the various tiers of government and

lay down the "polluter pays" principle), to introduce effective systems for assessing environmental impact and to facilitate public access to information on the situation and evolution of the environment.

The recommendation also asks governments to call on local and regional authorities to implement effective policies for protecting the natural environment and landscapes, including preventing and fighting air and watercourse pollution, the separate collection of different types of household waste, energy saving, programmes to clean up polluted sites and the rational development of urban transport networks.

Furthermore, governments are asked to provide local and regional authorities with technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of these policies and of those based on local Agenda 21 strategies.

Roberto Fasino

*Secretary of the Steering Committee on
Local and Regional Democracy
Directorate of Environment
and Local Authorities
Council of Europe
E-mail: roberto.fasino@coe.int
Web: <http://www.coe.int>*



G. Villareal/Bios

A legal framework should include a clear definition of each authority's role concerning the environment

Relations between central government and local authorities

The Croatian example

When discussing the concepts of landscape, nature and environment, standpoints often differ greatly. The complexity is even greater when landscape protection and planning, nature protection or environmental conservation issues are involved. This diversity is due to the fact that many disciplines perceive nature, landscape and environment as subjects within their activities. In Croatia there are three different approaches to environmental protection:

- spatial (town/regional) planning;
- implementation of protective regulations;
- designation of outstanding areas which are given this legal status because of their exceptional natural and/or cultural values;

Such approaches to the solution of the above-mentioned issues are anticipated by legislation on national as well as local level. The realisation of each approach is carried out using different mechanisms and instruments. Furthermore, and no less important, a distinction is made between three basic parties involved in that system: experts, decision-makers and the public. The main characteristic of these three should be transparency.

The landscape, nature and environment protection policy in Croatia is sanctioned by the Constitution and primarily originates from three fundamental laws in that domain. Other "sectorial" laws contain fragments of protective regulations and measures relating to the domain they cover. Analysing the present legal framework from the aspect of its structure and function towards the local level, it is important to keep in mind that legislation is always liable to improvement, but the necessary conditions to make it possible are increased social values and an articulated "demand" from interest groups.

Regional planning

Within the spatial organisation system, there is a general master plan for the county. This document defines the long-term model regarding land-use; it is co-ordinated with another at higher (central) level and is used as a general pattern for more detailed plans. There



I. Jakovcic

Landscape in Istria

are legally anticipated measures within the same system, such as the protection norms in all the existing town planning instruments like building permit application files, as well as the inclusion of protective consideration of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA). Considering the latter, there is a list of required actions where EIA is obligatory both at national and local levels. As EIA actually serves as a "tool" for the decision's optimisation, an alternative has to be introduced in this mechanism. Moreover, when the assessment of a major action of state priority is concerned, the nomination and structure of the commission of experts, from the point of local representatives, should be redefined.

Laws and regulations

The legal provisions for implementation of the protection norms and standards are related to the structural elements of the environment. The actual threshold values are spread over numerous laws and regulations and are therefore under the authority of different governmental bodies. The indistinctness and complexity are often reflected in the effectiveness of the legally defined supervision service. Additional prevention measures legally foreseen are a monitoring service and recording of polluters. The first is designed to be operational on the central level, the second on the local level. Both should be comprised within the information system, whose methodological and technical framework is regulated by the State Directorate for Environment and Nature.

Designation as reserve

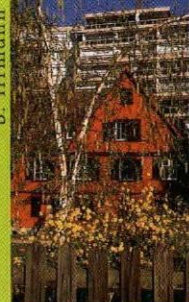
The third approach towards nature or environment protection is through the designation of outstanding natural areas as reserves. In Croatia, categories range from national parks and nature parks (which are under the jurisdiction of central government) to the other seven categories under the jurisdiction of local authorities. The field of activities at local level is to propose, proclaim and manage a potential site and/or implement overall management of an existing site. The lack of technical assistance and no financial support from the central government generally decreases the local interest for the creation of such institutions. However, the County of Istria Assembly has established the Public Department "Natura Histrica" to carry such tasks - the first in Croatia.

Current efforts

Due to the insufficient and imprecise legislation, the existing mechanisms for protection at local level are unsatisfactory. Efforts are being made towards improvement of the legislation, which should result in better policy and which is one of the main goals of local authorities. Such policy should improve local authority involvement, both horizontally and vertically.

Ivan Jakovcic

*County of Istria Assembly
Druzba Sv. Cirila i Metoda 10
HR-52000 Pazin*



Access to information and public participation

The role of local authorities

In Europe, at the dawn of the 21st century, access to information and public participation in decision-making processes are still the exception rather than the rule. However, the situation is changing under the influence of decentralisation, international agreements and people's needs. Environmental protection provides the best illustration of this.

Most often the role of citizens in public life is limited to the election of the authorities, and public administration is still shrouded in secrecy. The public has been brought up since the 19th century to respect experts and science in general, and tolerates this situation or even sees nothing wrong with it.

A major step towards participatory democracy

Nonetheless, decentralisation, which has become necessary because of the increasing number of tasks taken on by the public authorities and the diversity of local circumstances, has progressively increased the role of local and regional government, paving the way for participatory democracy. The local authorities' *raison d'être* is to meet local needs better than central government and so they are more dependent on the trust and co-operation of the public to whom they are directly accountable. Trust and co-operation require openness. Openness and co-operation require rules and procedures controlling access to information and participation in decision-making. These rules and procedures have been lacking for a long time but they are gradually being established thanks, in particular, to the negotiation of international legal standards and the pooling of experience on the best approaches. The Council of Europe has played a vital role in the distribution of tasks between central government and local authorities. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the UNECE, has focussed on the protection of the environment.

The Aarhus Convention

Environmental protection is the perfect illustration of the need for global, national and local policies and the importance of public participation, in the light of the many factors to be taken

into account and the inevitable conflicts of interest between all those concerned. The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, adopted at Aarhus in June 1998, and signed to date by 39 countries and the European Union, governs the relationship between the authorities and civil society and hence will serve as an important instrument of co-operation at local level.

The Convention deals precisely with the rights of those requiring information from the authorities, procedures for divulging information and types of information which may not be disclosed. All individuals or legal entities are entitled to request information without having to state their reasons and irrespective of their nationality. All individuals or legal entities with a public responsibility for the environment, apart from legislative or judicial bodies, must provide the information. The Convention also attempts to deal with the duty of the authorities, which is all too often neglected, to collect and disseminate information without having to be asked to do so. It requires in particular that information should progressively be made available in electronic databases accessible via telecommunications networks.

Regarding public participation, a distinction is made between decisions on

specific activities and the drawing up of laws and regulations. On the latter point, the provisions of the Convention are somewhat limited because they simply invite the Parties to identify cases in which the public should be consulted. For decisions on specific activities, on the other hand, Article 6 lays down a fairly elaborate series of procedural rules which the authorities must respect when authorising certain activities listed in the appendix, such as the opening of a mine or a tannery.

The right to appeal

The most innovative aspect of the Convention is that provision is made for an appeal when the information required is not satisfactorily provided or when a decision has been made without abiding by the consultation procedures. Appeals may be lodged with a court of law or another impartial body established by law.

The possibility of appealing considerably reinforces the right to information and the possibility of participating in the decision-making process. The fact that a convention containing such provisions was accepted shows how ideas and approaches have changed in Europe, a development which will facilitate co-operation between the local authorities and the public. There is no doubt that the progress made in the environmental field will serve as an example and contribute to the growth of participatory democracy. This will prevent a good number of conflicts resulting from ignorance or lack of dialogue.

Yves Berthelot

*Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe
United Nations Office
Palais des Nations
8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10
E-mail: yves.berthelot@unece.org*



Pierre Asa/Pluriel

New technologies can assist better access to information by the public

The public and sustainable development

The case of Bursa in Turkey

Bursa, situated in the north-west of Turkey, has been a historical, cultural, agricultural, natural and tourism centre for 2 200 years and an industrial city since the 1960s. Today, with a centre population of 1.2 million, it is the fourth largest city in Turkey.

With two massive automotive plants and corresponding spare part industries, major textile and machine industries, it has become unavoidable for Bursa - a city situated in a valuable ecological region - to have integrated environmental management. In this management framework, the adaptation of the city to sustainable development principles has been facilitated and developed with public involvement. Bursa City of the 21st century has started to be shaped with public vision.

Essential partnerships

The target has been to prevent the rapid eradication of environmental values caused by hasty urbanisation and to make these values sustainable. There is only one method for achieving this target: partnerships in city management.

The organs of this governance structure have started to be established and these are now the blood vessels of the whole Local Agenda 21 Action Plan of the city moving towards sustainable development.

The first organs are the Neighbourhood Offices, aiming to bring together the neighbourhood residents and neighbourhood heads while meeting the social, cultural and educational needs of the residents at their localities. These centres

now function as the meeting points for small-scale sustainable projects devoted to the neighbourhood and are on the way to being Neighbourhood Councils, part of the Volunteer City Council.

For city-wide actions to be undertaken, there are the working partners of Local Agenda 21-Action Plans, including businessmen, NGOs, academics, trade unions, women, youth, children, representatives of national government and the municipality, which we call "city partners". There are two platforms for these partners. One is the Local Agenda 21 Citizens' House, where citizens come together and work for their priorities towards their sustainable future. Workshops and small-scale meetings are held here and the requisites of the action points are forwarded either to responsible bodies or to the Volunteer City Council.

The Volunteer City Council is the major organ of Local Agenda 21-Bursa, bringing together all these partners and serving as a mechanism to put the pluralistic and participatory local democracy into practice, and to discuss the priorities of the city on a democratic platform. The decisions of the council, which has 500 members, are taken directly into the agenda of the Metropolitan Municipality Council in order to be integrated into the decisions of the municipality. At this point, the elected Metropolitan Council and the elected Lord Mayor function as important factors in this partnership structure.

Encouraging results

In the very first days of the formal adaptation of Local Agenda 21 in the city, it was considered a luxury for a developing city like Bursa. People rejected the idea saying that they had their own economic challenges and they could not find enough time to think about local democracy and the environment. The professionals found the partnership principle to be something making everything complicated and slowing down the process. All these considerations seemed to be real challenges for the development of the structure. But now all these challenges are being overcome and the rejections have turned into positive ideas with the

help of small achievements and their motivational effect. Some unexpected successes with the synergistic characteristic of partnerships proved that all these elements contributed to forming strong roots although slowing down the process. The partnership principle showed its magic effect while finding the easiest solution with maximum enabling and minimum challenges. The public began to think that the dream of a sustainable Bursa was being achieved day by day.

The number of people who believed this structure at the beginning has increased and today about 2 000 citizens are dreaming together with the same Bursa vision. The sanction power of the Volunteer City Council grows with the support of the citizens. One of the best indicators of this growth can be exemplified by the participation of businessmen and the commitments made at these meetings.

"Come on, let's run our city together"

The Bursa initiative has been an example to other cities in Turkey and, with the leadership of Bursa, the number of Local Agendas has reached 23. This project is conducted by IULA-EMME and Bursa Metropolitan Municipality with the guidance of ICLEI and has been endorsed by UNDP.

With all local, national and international partners, Local Agenda 21-Bursa believes that this is the only way of achieving the city's sustainability. The Bursa public is now thinking about the sustainability of their Local Agenda 21 Action Plan and ways of protecting it in all aspects. The motto that they are used to hearing is the call made by the local government at the beginning of the process: "Come on, let's run our city together".

Now, Bursa communally enjoys managing the city together through the Local Agenda 21 mechanism.

Erdem Saker

Lord Mayor of Bursa Metropolitan Municipality
Atatürk Cad. Uçak Sok. No. 1
TR-16020 Bursa
E-mail: la21bursa@turk.net
Web: <http://www.turk.net/bursabb>



E. Saker

Public solidarity for the protection of Bursa

Vital partnerships

Russian Federation

Like the prairies of North America's Great Plains, the Russian steppes have suffered a sorry fate. They offer the first example of a whole geographical area being almost totally destroyed for the purposes of ever more intensive farming. Since time immemorial, human civilisations in Europe, Asia and North America have ensured their own survival through crop growing and stock rearing at the expense of prairie and steppe ecosystems.

Historical background

In 1626, the first tsar in the Romanov dynasty, Mikhail Fyodorovich Romanov, granted streltsy (musketeers) and Cossacks in his service the formation of an area of fertile virgin steppe near the town of Kursk for their horses to graze on, and as a source of forage. The tasks of these soldiers - defending the frontiers of the Russian state, fighting off nomad incursions and taking part in armed conflicts - were not compatible with farming. Moreover, an imperial decree forbade the streltsy and the Cossacks to plough the steppe land. After 360 years of continuous use, the land concerned was incorporated in 1935 in the Centralno-Chernozemny State Reserve, which was established that year on the initiative of the famous Russian geobotanist Professor V. V. Alekhin of Moscow University. The reserve was included in the UNESCO list of biosphere reserves in 1979 and was awarded the Council of Europe's European Diploma for protected areas on 18 September 1998.

Expansion of the reserve

In its 64 years of existence, the reserve has taken the lead in nature conservation in Russia and has developed into a key centre for the study and protection of steppe fauna and flora. Above all, it has succeeded in preserving for future generations the last magnificent expanses of unploughed, tall-grass steppe on deep and fertile black soil. Its area has increased by 58% since 1935 and stood at 6 287 ha on 1 January 1999. The greatest part of this growth has taken place over the last five years⁽¹⁾.

The most surprising fact is that the expansion of the protected areas is tak-



N. A. Maleshin

The reserve's area has doubled in 50 years to stand at about 6,300 ha today

ing place against a background of economic crisis and at the heart of the Chernozem region, which is the most densely populated, most highly industrialised and most intensively farmed part of European Russia⁽²⁾.

Essential co-operation

The biosphere reserves in each natural region must simultaneously encompass the whole range of local ecosystems, serve as yardsticks for measuring the level of the changes humankind has made to the environment and also allow important functions such as monitoring, the conduct of scientific studies, the protection of natural systems, ecological awareness-raising and the involvement of local authorities in the management of the reserve, and in decision-making on its expansion.

Although the Centralno-Chernozemny Reserve met these criteria in overall terms, there was no serious co-operation with the local authorities. As the reserve managers wished to increase the area of nature zones from 0.14 to 3% (in line with the international standards attained by the developed countries), they were forced to acknowledge, following considerable debate, that this objective could not be achieved without the support of the local authorities.

A new strategy

The need to develop the ecological network and increase the area of the

reserve therefore led the reserve management to reconsider their positions and draw up a strategy that suited the new social and economic context. The district and regional committees on the environment and land and water resources, the local population and senior officials from the surrounding towns⁽³⁾ were all involved in drawing up and examining proposals and taking the relevant decisions. A two-stage programme of measures was thus adopted:

1992-95

Protected areas were established on an urgent basis in areas where land was being farmed. This measure had to be taken before the expected adoption of federal legislation on land ownership, as the reserve did not have the necessary resources and would otherwise have been unable to buy the land from the farmers and agricultural co-operatives.

When the "Lyssye Gory" area was established, careful preparatory work with the district and regional authorities enabled the land to be declared a nature reserve without any disputes arising. It was, however, difficult to persuade two farms to sign agreements to act as buffer zones, given the many constraints that this imposed on the farming of the land, e.g. bans on the use of herbicides and granulated fertilisers, as the latter had frequently been eaten by grey partridges and other grain-eating birds.

1995-98

Protected areas were established in marshy land that could not be used for farming. The marshes take the form of small depressions surrounded by fields. Ploughing around the marsh areas was causing them to silt up, leading to the disappearance of combinations of sphagnum mosses and rare plants. Between 1968 and 1995, over 20% of the sphagnum bogs turned into sedge or reed marshes. Only a lively press campaign and efforts to raise awareness among the farmers made it possible to stop this negative trend by establishing protected areas. As a result, the only group of cutover sphagnum bogs was saved. In May 1998, two unique sites were established in this area, namely "Zorinskiye Bolota" and "Poyma reki Psel" (964 ha), where enhancement and boundary work is currently being carried out in spite of serious difficulties resulting from a lack of resources.

Vital funding

In Russia, rare biotopes can only be effectively preserved in reserves, where they are protected on a permanent basis and in their entirety against any use for economic purposes. If use is made of them, however, it must be based on scientific research and recommendations that ensure

optimum protection of all biotopes and ecosystems.

When it is not possible to create protected areas in single, uninterrupted blocks of a sufficient size, the approach should be to establish a mosaic of separate protected areas modelled on the Centralno-Chernozemny Reserve, which is made up of a large number of small protected areas. Admittedly, these areas are only drops in an ocean of farmland, but they are full of life and have high levels of biodiversity. A network of small protected areas is very useful in densely populated regions, but the costs of maintaining it are two to three times higher because of the considerable length of the protected areas' boundaries and the distances between them.

In conclusion it should be noted that the network of protected areas, whose overall effect is to preserve the biodiversity of the central chernozem region, can provide the basis for the future restoration of degraded ecosystems once the economic crisis has been overcome in Russia. Dialogue and co-ordination of efforts with local and regional authorities, the public and relevant organisations are the only means of developing these ecological networks.

Nikolay A. Mareshin

Director of V. V. Alekhin Centralno-Chernozemny State Biosphere Reserve

N. I. Zolotukhin

Deputy Director responsible for scientific questions

P/o Zapovednoye Sreletsky
307028 Kursk

Russian Federation

E-mail: mareshin@rosnet.rosmail.com

- (1) From 1993 to 1998, four new areas were added: "Lyssye Gory", the Bare Hills, 170 ha; "Stenki-Izgoriye", 267 ha in the Belgorod region; "Zorinskiye Bolota", the Zorinsk marshes; and "Poyma reki Psel", the Psel flood basin, 964 ha, in the Kursk region.
- (2) 82 to 86% of the total area here is taken up by arable land and under 7% by forests, while the remainder is occupied by large thermal and nuclear power stations and the huge Mikhailovskoye and Lebedinskoye open-cast mines, where 40% of Russia's iron ore is produced.
- (3) Gubkin, Novy Oskol, Belgorod, Oboyan, Kursk, Pristen, Korenevo, Dmitriyev and Zheleznogorsk, etc.

A case beyond Europe

Biodiversity at the crossroads in South Africa

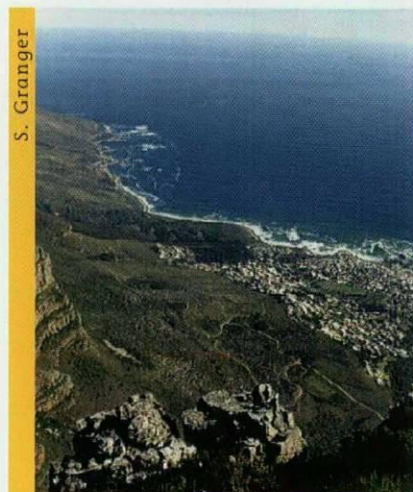
The Fairest Cape under threat

"The Fairest Cape in all the World" - Sir Francis Drake's words on rounding the Cape of Good Hope so many years ago have since been echoed by countless visitors to greater Cape Town, or the Cape Metropolitan Area (CMA) as it is now known. Home to 3 million people, the area at the south-western tip of the African continent covers less than 1 500 km², including some 300 km of scalloped coastline. Table Mountain stands as a fortress over the metropolis, the Cape's pure white beaches and dramatic rocky capes continue to lure pleasure-seekers and international film crews alike while the Cape Floral Kingdom is an unparalleled botanical miracle of biodiversity.

Too good to last? Perhaps. As never before, Cape Town's environmental riches - both biophysical and cultural - are under threat from the challenges of urbanisation at the dawn of the 21st century. The Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) has embarked on innovative environmental and land use policy processes, but unless it can gain widespread support for these policies, the future of its natural and socio-cultural assets will remain uncertain in the face of potentially unfettered and unsustainable growth.

Assets and liabilities

The Cape's assets are readily apparent and cannot be adequately reflected



S. Granger

View from Table Mountain

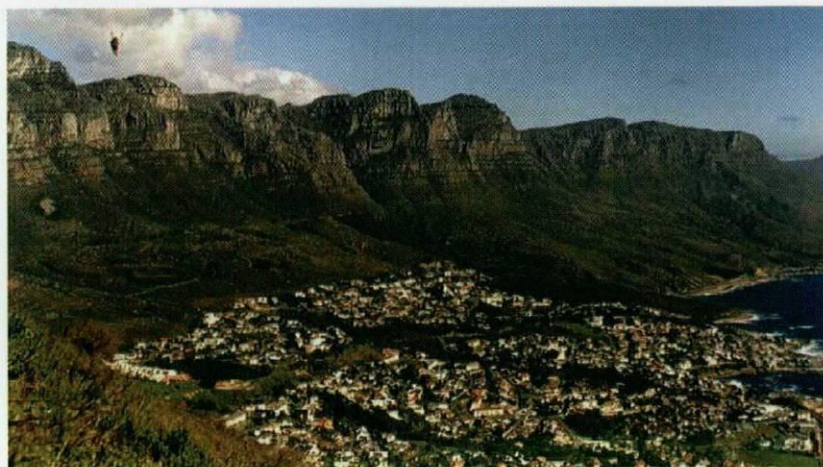
here. The Table Mountain chain defines the CMA's topography and is the heart of the Cape Peninsula National Park which stretches from Cape Town's central business district to the tip of the Cape of Good Hope - the mythical meeting point of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The varied coastline has a high recreational, educational and scientific value. Many beaches attract locals and tourists alike, while coarse-textured granite and sandstone formations provide striking images along the coast.

Rivers and wetlands have similar potential but have suffered degradation in the past through neglect and poor planning. But arguably the greatest jewel in the CMA's crown is the Cape Macchia, or fynbos, as it is known in the vernacular. The world's smallest plant kingdom rivals tropical forests for biodiversity, the Cape Peninsula alone boasting some 2 500 species, many of them rare and endangered.

While the CMA's natural wonders are unparalleled, its rich cultural heritage completes the canvas, with features such as Robben Island, Cape Town Castle, the historic Groot Constantia Wine Estate and the creative fabric of burgeoning informal settlements attracting increasing numbers of anthropologically-minded tourists.

On the debit side, there are urgent needs to be addressed including the accelerated rate of urbanisation, the lack of integration in environmental administrative processes and a critical shortage of capacity in managing and policing the environment in the CMA. The ever-increasing urban footprint threatens the CMA's resource base and presents a tough challenge to the CMA's environmental policy. Meeting short-term needs, such as shelter and jobs, without jeopardising longer-term sustainability - or simply put, our grandchildren's future - is one of the supreme challenges facing authorities.

Other challenges to environmental well-being within the CMA include air pollution (of which the prolific use of private motor vehicles is a major cause), nutrition of fresh water bodies and the lack of administrative integration between local, provincial and national spheres of governance in the environmental and planning disciplines.



S. Granger

The "Oudekraal" development would have extended the residential area of Camps Bay (in the foreground) to Llandudno (right of the photo)

An environmental tug of war

An example of the tension between managing natural resources on the one hand, and developing land to create jobs and housing on the other, was in evidence towards the end of last year. A developer offered to "solve" Cape Town's housing crisis, through developing all or part of the lower western slopes of Table Mountain as an elite residential area which would subsidise social housing on the Cape Flats (low-income area in the south-eastern portion of the CMA). Authorities have so far remained unimpressed at the offer, while even community leaders appear sceptical at the "Oudekraal" offer.

Another example is the planning for the future of Driftsands Nature Reserve, a 600 ha parcel of conservation-worthy, undeveloped land in the heart of the Cape Flats, surrounded by low-income, high-density residential areas. The critical needs of shelter and employment have to be weighed against the benefits of a multi-purpose urban nature reserve, which would include recreational, conservation and educational facilities. Is there a middle path, whereby a limited housing component is accommodated and employment generated within the primary conservation, education and recreation land uses? An important deciding factor will be funding - significant capital will be needed to ensure that even a portion of the conservation option is implemented.

Hope for the future?

In seeking the golden mean between conservation and development, two CMC policy processes will play a crucial role in ensuring viable, long-term sustainability within the CMA:

- the Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework (MSDF) broadly defines the shape of future development within the CMA, seeks to limit urban sprawl and protect the "urban edge"; and
- the Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Policy (IMEP), a process commenced in 1997, which aims to place environmental management within the CMA on a sustainable footing, partly through tools, such as a State of Environment Report and an Environmental Charter for the CMA, and partly through the implementation of various sustainable policy options.

The Cape's heritage is at the crossroads. It may not be an exaggeration to state that the economic future of the CMA - which will undoubtedly lean heavily towards tourism - depends to a large extent on the successful implementation of these policies and the support they receive from all stakeholders.

Stephen Granger

Head, Environmental Management
Cape Metropolitan Council
PO Box 16547
Vlaeberg 8018
South Africa

E-mail: sgranger@iafrica.com

Fiscal and financial instruments

Funds for a clean environment

One of the major challenges for humankind in the 21st century will be to achieve sustainable development throughout the world, as the only way out of the impasse of current levels of consumption of energy and raw materials and the only solution to the pollution accompanying such consumption.

It is in the municipalities and regions that the effects of environmental pollution are most noticeable. Urban air pollution, poor quality water and contaminated land all hamper successful development.

Municipal and regional authorities are therefore particularly concerned about finding ways to protect the environment and have often been the first to alert the public to environmental issues and to carry out programmes in this field. Because of the power-sharing arrangements in this sector, however, local and regional authorities often find that their hands are tied and that they are dependent on national bodies.

Policies based on regulatory measures

Virtually all Council of Europe member States have taken steps to protect the environment. Frequently, they take the form of technical and regulatory measures aimed at both the public and the private sector. Experience has shown, however, that an environment policy based on obligations and prohibition measures is difficult to apply and often restricts innovation, insofar as firms halt development of new technology as soon as threshold values are attained. Small and medium-sized enterprises suffer most from such a policy. Their limited room for manoeuvre prevents them from embarking on an environmental protection programme that is both financially rewarding and adapted to their needs.

An alternative approach based on the market economy

A few European municipalities and regions have adopted a different approach. In order to attain the goals set they prefer fiscal and financial measures to bureaucratic rules and regulations. Land, water and air are all exhaustible resources and so cannot be

used or wasted without there being a price to pay. This is true of all use of the environment. Behaviour that respects the environment should be rewarded and harmful behaviour punished.

At its fourth plenary session, in June 1997, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) recommended the use of fiscal and financial measures to protect the environment. Such measures span a broad range including various kinds of taxes, licences, user charges and grants. They are used to encourage competition, innovation, dynamism and efficiency and enable economic players to choose the best way of reducing or avoiding pollution while taking account of the costs involved. They also provide incentives for developing new technology and limiting waste. They can be used in nearly all areas of environmental protection.

Energy policy

Electricity and gas prices should be fixed to encourage private individuals and firms to save on the energy they use. The German city of Saarbrücken, for example, has obtained good results by varying the price charged for electricity. Many economic players have now gone over to energy-saving equipment and habits. Some municipalities and regions also now offer tax reductions and grants to users of renewable forms of energy and energy-saving techniques.

Transport modes

Car traffic is one of the main sources of pollution, particularly in towns and cities. The primary objective is therefore to reduce the number of private cars on the roads and develop public transport. Most fiscal measures adopted in this area are concerned with the management of car parks and systems of paid parking. A few municipalities and regions have even introduced road-pricing. In Norway, for example, car drivers must pay to enter the city of Trondheim. Consequently, inhabitants of the city are inclined to think twice about using their car and to make more use of public transport.

Water management

Water must not be supplied free of charge, nor at a price lower than the

cost of this service to municipalities and regions. On the contrary, water rates should encourage sparing use. Furthermore, the taxes levied to pay for waste water treatment should take account of both the quantity of waste water and the pollutants contained in the water. Danish municipalities have found that the quality of waste water improves with an environment-friendly pricing policy. Local authorities keen to protect the water table frequently set up grant programmes to promote environment-friendly farming methods.

Waste management

As is already the case with water supply, local and regional taxes levied on waste removal should at least cover the cost of providing the service. Such taxes could offer an incentive for reducing the quantity of waste and encourage recycling. Some municipalities, for example, have introduced a tax on disposable packaging to encourage the use of reusable packaging. Austrian municipalities have found that high landfill taxes lead to a significant increase in waste sorting and recycling.

Land use

Land is our most fragile natural resource and the cost of decontaminating polluted land is often very high. As far as possible, concreting of land should be avoided. The German city of Freiburg has developed housing estates without the usual areas reserved for parking. With the help of attractive public transport services, the city has thus been able to save on land and limit concreting.

According to the "polluter pays" principle, anyone who contaminates the land should pay the cleaning-up costs. The community at large should not have to bear that cost. Individual polluters must be aware of their responsibilities.

Financial measures may also be used in other areas, for example to improve air quality and reduce noise levels. European municipalities and regions should make full use of these possibilities offered by the market economy.

Jo Leinen

Member of the Saarland Parliament
 Franz-Josef-Röder-Strasse 7
 D-66119 Saarbrücken
 E-mail: jleinen@lds.uni-sb.de

Green purchasing - cities turning policy into action

The city of Copenhagen wishes to turn a policy of green purchasing into concrete action in daily life. It is a quite new challenge to the city to be in a role as a conscious consumer and to use this role to promote a policy of ecological production.

Traditional role of the city

There are many relationships between producing companies and other parties on the market. These parties can all influence the producers toward more respect for the environment: authorities, technological centres, research institutes, universities, consumers, suppliers, banks/insurance companies, the Danish Environment Agency, counties and municipalities, the European Union, standards, etc.

The traditional role for the city is to be a regulator of the market between the interests of production companies and consumers. The traditional regulation means is to decide strategies or plans and to implement these by rules and control. The normal procedure to provide a public strategy is to have a dialogue with consumers and production companies before decisions on rules and regulation are taken.

New role of the city

A typical instrument for the city is the approval of production plants. During the recent past this instrument is followed up by different new environmental management systems, where private companies built in environmental aims in the production process.

When a company freely moves into more environment-friendly production, it may be less profitable for the company. To compensate for the cost risk by change to environment-friendly production, the public bodies can go into the market as a conscious consumer and change procurement to green products⁽¹⁾. This behaviour of green purchasing will give reward to the green production companies and it will stimulate other companies to follow the same development.

Copenhagen: green purchaser

To improve green purchasing in Copenhagen, special attention is given

to incorporating environmental considerations in the assessment of goods and services purchased.

According to the instructions, purchase of products that are manufactured from environmentally harmful materials is to be avoided. Products shall, whenever possible, be made of recyclable materials. Consumption of necessary auxiliary substances, energy and water shall be as low as possible. Also, it shall be ensured that products can be discarded in a way that does not place an unnecessary burden on the environment.

Finally, it shall also be ensured, wherever possible, that the manufacture of goods takes place in compliance with national requirements on occupational environment and health.

A plan has been made to implement the Copenhagen policy of green purchasing. The first step of the plan is limited to covering institutional aspects of the use of energy, water, food and environment. These areas are chosen to serve as models for other areas in the future.

Another purpose of the plan, as mentioned before, is to encourage consumption of green products by the city, showing a good example. To select the first areas of effort, a number of criteria have been selected as follows:

- less environmentally harmful substitutions are available;
- an environmental effect is achievable;
- due to large quantities the market is influenced;
- the effort is visible to citizens, enterprises and staff;
- the effort is quantifiable.

On the basis of these criteria, the selected areas were electronic products, office supplies, cables and pipes, transport and urban renewal. Concrete targets have been formulated in each area of effort, and they shall be met within the next two years. For example, purchased products shall no longer contain PVC.



Public authorities can act as conscious consumer and "green" purchaser

Birth of a network

The introduction of green purchasing in cities requires that staff in purchasing departments learn to think and act environment-consciously so that they are able to request more environment-friendly products from the suppliers to the city. Therefore, training of purchasing staff is a priority.

It is also important that an exchange of experience and inspiration takes place among staff that handle or co-ordinate green purchasing every day. Therefore I find it valuable that a "Green Purchasers Network" has been established under ICLEI which should be used for exactly this purpose.

Jørgen Lund Madsen

Chairman of the European Municipal Green Purchasers' Network
Deputy Director of the Copenhagen Agency for Environmental Protection
Miljøkontrollen
Flaesketorvet 68
DK-1711 Copenhagen V
E-mail: miljoe@miljoe.kk.dk

(1) The stimulation of the market for green products must be carried through within the framework of, for example, EU regulation of the market conditions

Environmental budgeting and sustainability

Policy of Heidelberg City Council, Germany

Heidelberg has been implementing a voluntary, preventive environmental policy for many years. Local climate protection measures - in line with a global approach - waste reduction and sorting, development of local public transport and increased environmental advice provision by the German Environment and Nature Protection Association BUND are some of the efforts made in close collaboration with Heidelberg's residents. In the coming years, our activities will be in line with the "Heidelberg 2010" urban development plan adopted by the city council in 1997.

Heidelberg 2010

"Heidelberg is seeking to develop in a way which, while preserving its distinctive features, will continue to be socially responsible, environmentally friendly and economically viable. This approach is aimed at regional and universal responsibility, in conformity with the Aalborg Charter ... All objectives have the same level of priority; they are both objectives and preconditions." (document preamble).

The urban development plan is much more than a spatial planning tool: it takes account of social, economic and environmental aspects and places the concept of sustainability at the very heart of the city's policy. In this way, Heidelberg is responding to the request made of towns and municipalities in Chapter 28 of the Agenda 21 programme, agreed upon at the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

In Heidelberg, implementing the concept of sustainability involves a large number of initiatives and people, and is able to rely on the support of many companies and institutions; it is reflected in many projects currently under way, some of which have been launched by the city council itself. Some of the many examples include the active participation of residents, a listening authority, an equality policy, initiatives to fight youth unemployment, the setting up of senior citizen centres, and close collaboration with companies in order to use natural resources sparingly.

The environment: keystone of the concept

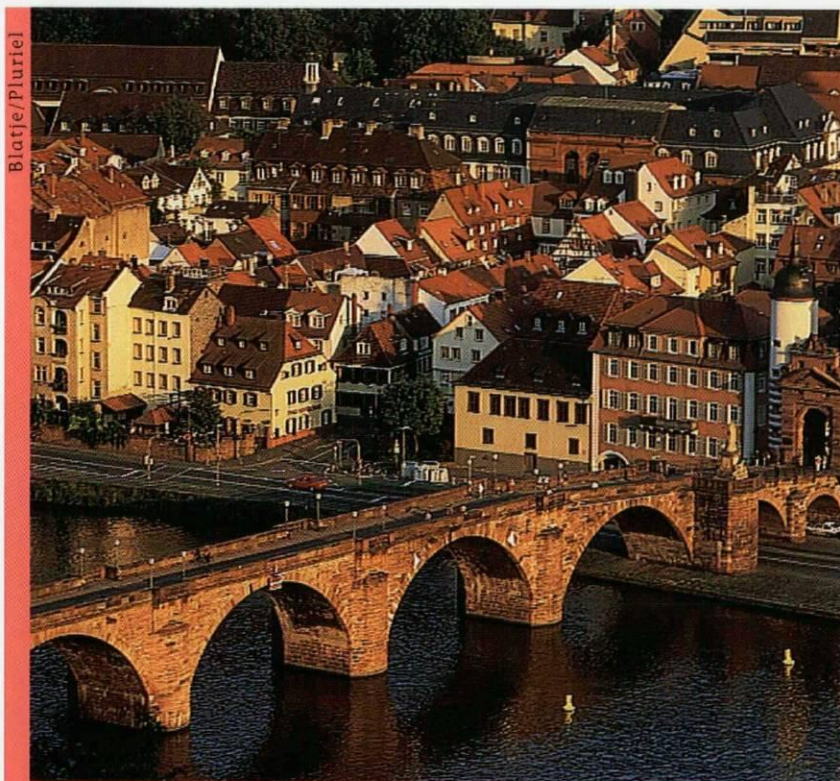
Environmental protection, the keystone of the strategy of action for sustainability, does not yet have an instrument which can bring together the various concepts devised by municipalities to manage the different components. As a signatory to the Aalborg Charter, which advocates the introduction by municipalities of new budgetary systems for natural resources management (Article 1.14), Heidelberg has included the preparation of an environmental budget amongst the tasks to be achieved as part of its urban development plan.

If we approach environmental protection from the stand point of natural resources consumption, we have to apply the same principles as are applied to the use of our artificial resource, "money": i.e. economy and profitability. It was on these priorities that the concept of a municipal budgetary system for natural resources management was conceived.

A pilot town

Since 1996 Heidelberg has been taking part, as a pilot municipality, in the demonstration project "ökoBudgets - Kommunale Naturhaushaltswirtschaft" (Eco-budgets - public management of natural resources), under the co-ordination of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and with the financial support of the German Federal Environmental Foundation. The cities of Dresden and Bielefeld and the district of Nordhausen are also taking part in this experiment, the aim of which is to develop an instrument for managing natural resources at municipal level. It includes the drawing up of an environmental budget plan which will be adopted by the municipal council and applied to a financial year.

The project is due to last three years. The first two phases were devoted to laying the foundations: a project team, comprising representatives of city departments and water, energy and transport companies drew up a list of indicators which would give a breakdown of environmental consumption. Target figures were set for



Blatje/Pluriel

Heidelberg seeks to develop in a way which is socially responsible, environment-friendly and economically viable

ility

each indicator; in fact they largely corresponded to the environmental objectives already set by the city council. Consequently it was possible to draw up a first environmental budget plan containing an "environmental consumption budget" for each indicator.

Heidelberg City Council adopted the environmental budgeting plan in July 1998. The third stage of the project, running until 30 September 1999, is based on it. This stage will be devoted to designing assessment, monitoring and forecasting instruments applied to the city's environmental consumption; the five key indicators are CO₂ emissions, NO_x emissions, traffic noise, the volume of waste remaining after sorting, and drinking water consumption. The aim is to estimate the city's overall environmental consumption in as short a time as possible, broken down according to area and sector, and to

draw up provisional balance sheets for future measures based on "environmental consumption estimates".

Results late 1999

Analysis of the project, beginning in October 1999, will show the form the municipal management of natural resources could take and what indicators can be used to assess and manage environmental consumption. Once the technical arrangements are in place within the administration, other players could be asked to help draw up the development plan to ensure that natural resources management rests on as broad a foundation as possible. This will play a major role as regards the "ecological pillar" which underpins action to achieve sustainability. The project is part of a series of diversified social and economic measures aimed at increasing the sustainability of the city's policy, and ensuring that

in every sphere of activity we act in a responsible way and are fully aware of the consequences of our actions.

Beate Weber

Mayor of Heidelberg

Town Hall

Marktplatz 10

D-69045 Heidelberg

E-mail: huged@heidelberg.de

Technical assistance for local authorities

Local Agenda 21 in the UK



The Local Agenda 21 initiative in the United Kingdom has been operating for

seven years now:

since shortly after the Rio Earth Summit, in fact.

In that time we have learnt a great deal about promoting Local Agenda 21 to local authorities and supporting them in their work to implement local sustainability. Obviously each country will be approaching Local Agenda 21 in a different way, depending on circumstances, but perhaps some of our experience may be usefully shared with others.

A national initiative

The UK Local Agenda 21 initiative is a national campaign covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is supported by all the UK local authority organisations which have mandated the Sustainable Development Unit at the Local Government Management Board (LGMB is an organisation which provides advice to local authorities on a range of issues, ranging from equal opportunities to anti-poverty work etc) to provide sustainable development guidance and advice to local authorities.

However, because Local Agenda 21 is about local authorities working with their communities to achieve sustainable development, the national campaign is not controlled by local government organisations alone: a Local Agenda 21 Steering Group has been formed which comprises representatives of local authorities, plus representatives of other sectors important

to the delivery of local sustainable development.

LGMB activities

Because LGMB is part of the local government family in the UK, any guidance we have produced has automatically had credibility. We also have the right contacts to ensure that information gets to where it is needed. To promote the concept of local sustainability we have taken the following steps:

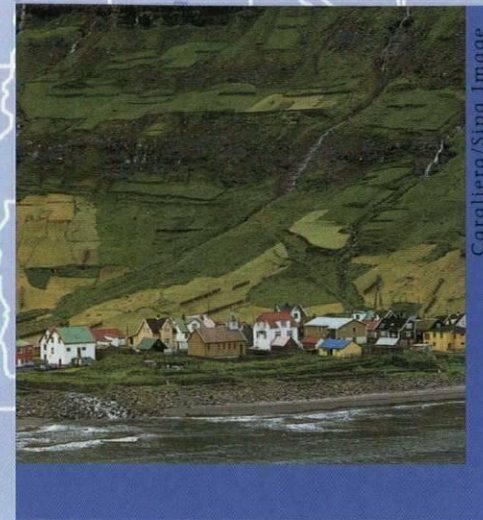
- set up a database with a contact in every local authority, so that we can send them information, surveys, and so on;
- organised an annual conference to bring together the LA21/sustainability contacts in local government to network and share experiences;

In Europe, although local and regional authorities vary a great deal in structure and authority from country to country, the environmental problems they are faced with are similar. Urban areas are larger, more energy-consuming, more resource-depleting, more waste-emitting and more populous than they have ever been. Human civilisation is rapidly becoming an urban one. We will enter the new millennium with a large majority of people living in cities.

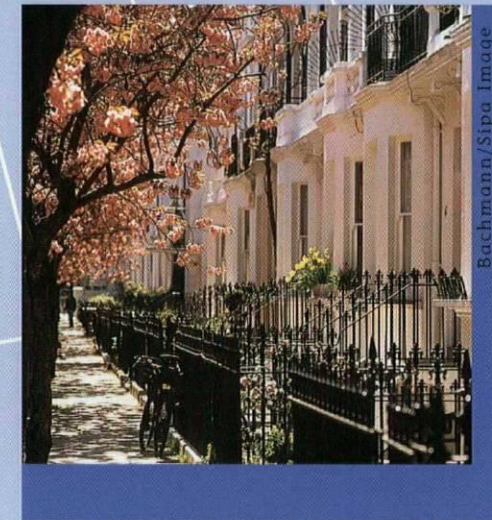
The environmental impact of European cities and regions and their potential to contribute to the "sustainability transition" is very important and should become the focus for European policy-makers.

This is not a minor challenge: ways will have to be found to meet people's needs in a manner which puts less pressure on the environment in the next millennium.

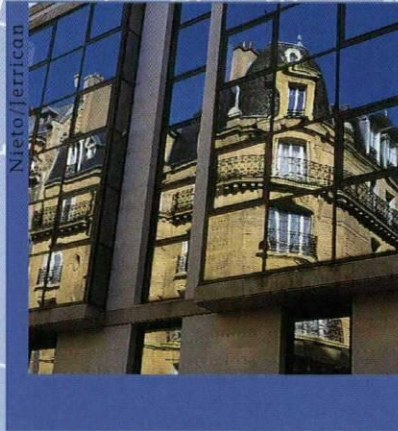
Extract from the article
by Rinaldo Locatelli
Head of the Secretariat
Congress of Local and Regional
Authorities of Europe
Council of Europe



Caraliero/Sipa Image



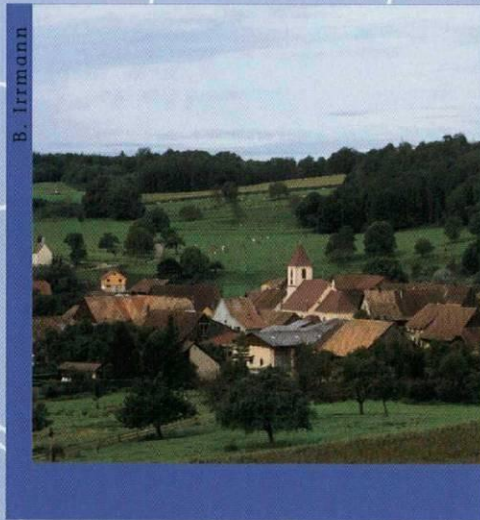
Bachmann/Sipa Image



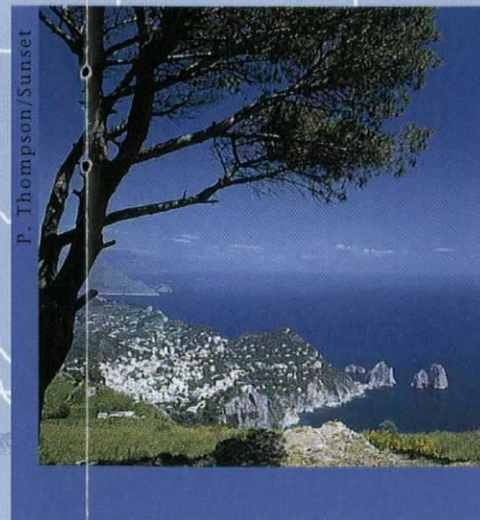
Nieto/Jerrican



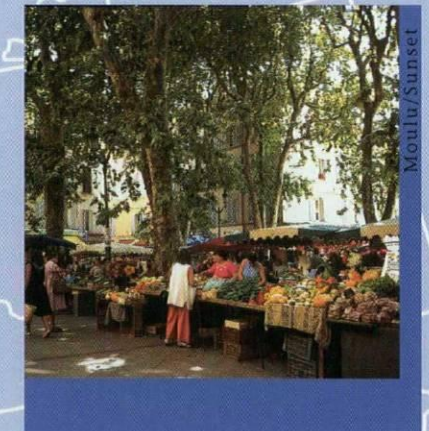
Y. Noto Campanella/Pluriel



B. Irrmann



P. Thompson/Sunset



Moulin/Sunset

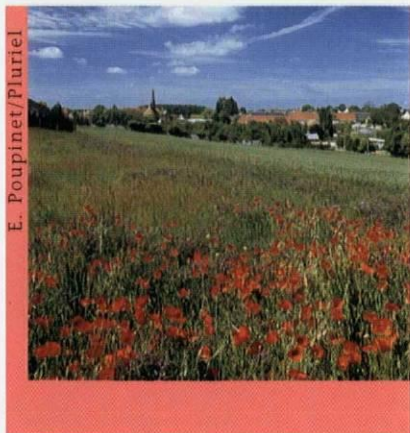
- established a website to give contact addresses, provide information, allow for information exchange in discussion groups, etc;
- assisted the development of a community practitioners network to support local activists working with local authorities on Local Agenda 21;
- published a range of materials to explain the concept of Local Agenda 21 and suggest ways of implementing local sustainable development.

However, perhaps the most important role the Sustainable Development Unit at the LGMB has played is simply by being there. If anybody in local or national government, or from other organisations or the general public, wants advice on local sustainability then all they have to do is contact us. We do not have all the answers but at least we can act as a starting point and can point people in the right direction for further information.

Significant milestones in promotion

Some of the key work we have done to promote Local Agenda 21 is as follows:

- produced a step-by-step guide to Local Agenda 21 which explains how to implement sustainability within a local authority and in the wider local community;
- undertaken research work on local indicators for sustainability;
- produced guidance on different ways of involving the community in Local Agenda 21, using techniques such as visioning, consensus-building, future search, open space, etc;
- established a case study project to share good ideas and lessons



E. Poupinet/Pluriel

The 13 themes of local sustainability

Resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised by closing cycles.

Pollution is limited to levels which natural systems can cope with without damage.

The diversity of nature is valued and protected.

Where possible, local needs are met locally.

Everyone has access to good food, water, shelter and fuel at a reasonable cost.

Everyone has the opportunity to undertake satisfying work in a diverse economy. The value of unpaid work is recognised, whilst payments for work are fair, and fairly distributed.

People's good health is protected by creating safe, clean, pleasant environments and health services which emphasise prevention of illness as well as proper care for the sick.

Access to facilities, services, goods and other people is not achieved at the expense of the environment or limited to those with cars.

People live without fear of personal violence from crime or persecution because of their personal beliefs, race, gender or sexuality.

Everyone has access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable them to play a full part in society.

All sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision-making.

Opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

Places, spaces and objects combine meaning and beauty with utility. Settlements are "human" in scale and form. Diversity and local distinctiveness are valued and protected.

learnt by those working on Local Agenda 21;

- produced two training manuals - one for local politicians, and one for local authority officers;
- developed 13 themes of local sustainability to help communities understand the components of sustainable development.

New momentum for 2000

Local Agenda 21 in the UK still has a long way to go - society at large still does not understand the concept of sustainability, let alone be prepared to change its behaviour. However, the UK government is now much more supportive and has produced joint guidance on how to draw up a local sustainability strategy. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has added to the momentum by calling on all local authorities to agree a Local Agenda 21 strategy by 2000. As a result more and more local authorities are taking local sustainability seriously and starting to change the way they operate: what we need now is to see some tangible results.



Jane Morris

*Local Agenda 21 Management Advisor
Sustainable Development Unit
Local Government Management Board
76-86 Turnmill Street
GB-London EC1M 5QU
E-mail: local.agenda.21@lgmb.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.la21-uk.org>*

ICLEI: local action with global responsibility

Through ICLEI we are better able to shape and respond to global changes that will determine the quality of life in our cities in the next century.

Nicky Padayachee, CEO, Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council

Through ICLEI, local government is a well-established and fully recognised constituency of stakeholders in the climate change process.

Michael Zammit-Cutajar, Executive Secretary, UN FCCC

These quotations from a UN leader and a municipal leader sum up the function of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI): promoting local action with global responsibility.

Urbanisation and government decentralisation are increasingly shifting responsibility for social development and environmental protection to local governments. ICLEI was created in 1990 under the joint patronage of the UN Environment Programme and the International Union of Local Authorities in response to the need of local authorities - metropolises, cities, towns and counties - that are approaching these new responsibilities through sustainable development.

ICLEI has developed a multifaceted organisation in order to meet the varying needs of its local government members as they adopt policies, decision-making processes, structures and practices to achieve sustainable development.

Commitment of 350 local authorities

Some 350 local governments from all continents, who have made a unique commitment to sustainable development, constitute the Council. Europe is ICLEI's strongest region. Its membership has been steadily growing to presently 140 local authorities and nine national and regional associations of local government from 25 countries. ICLEI represents the largest European network of cities, towns and counties particularly dedicated to sustainable development.

ICLEI represents a substantial local government voice in regional and interna-

tional deliberations, such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Helsinki Commission and other important international fora.

ICLEI has also supported the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) in developing guidelines for the use of financial instruments to support the implementation of local environmental policies.

Networks and campaigns

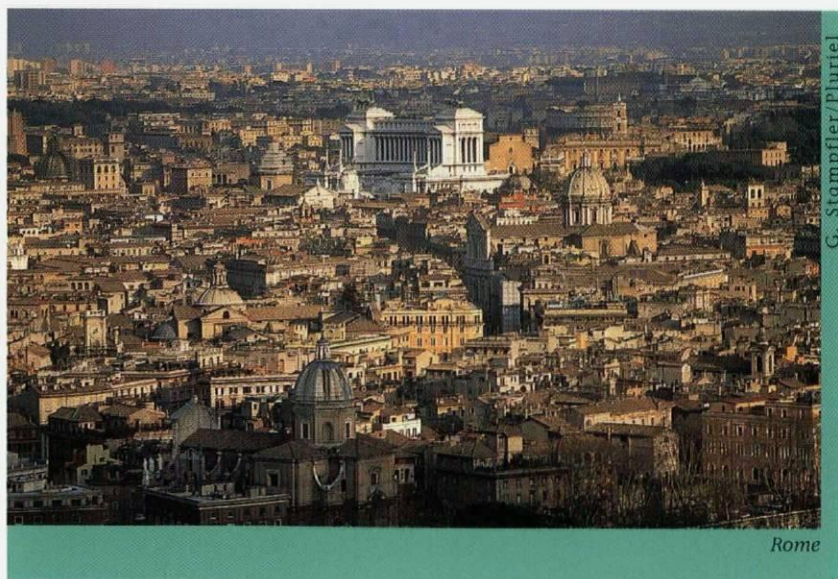
The primary mechanisms for implementing ICLEI's goals are networks and campaigns. ICLEI's successfully established campaigns are Local Agenda 21 and sustainable cities, Cities for Climate Protection and, in Europe, the Environmental Management Innovation programme. Each of these campaigns provides a variety of technical assistance, training and small grant projects to support participating municipalities in implementing their commitments. By organising groups of municipalities to work together on these commitments, ICLEI projects facilitate co-operation among cities as well as constructive peer competition to increase standards of performance. In addition to campaigns, ICLEI also

facilitates the exchange of experience among its members and other local governments through a variety of thematic or regional networks and project-specific WorkNets. Examples include 45 European local authorities exchanging their experiences on Local Agenda 21 in six WorkNets; a network of four German pilot authorities developing and testing the ecoBudget for environmental budgeting; and the European Municipal Green Purchasers' Network promoting eco-procurement of goods and services.

ICLEI is also providing support to national municipal associations and national campaigns such as Local Agenda campaigns in Bulgaria, Germany and Norway and Cities for Climate Protection campaigns in Finland, Great Britain and Italy.

Co-ordination, technical assistance and training

The Cities Expo on the World Wide Web comprises, for example, a Best Practice Pavilion, which presents the most relevant databases of best practice case studies such as Local Sustainability, the European Good Practice Information Service. Another Pavilion provides information about the Expo 2000 in Sachsen-Anhalt, one of Europe's most rapidly changing regions; the ICLEI Pavilion presents the campaigns and programmes of the International Council;



G. Stampfer/Pluriel

Rome

and the Global Townhall hosts debates and deliberations on hot topics for local government. [www: cities-expo.com]

ICLEI's International Training Centre based in Freiburg (Germany) provides training programmes on leading-edge environmental management practices to local authorities and their partners world-wide. The ITC's activities include curricula development, seminars, workshops and conferences, distance education courses, study tours and international exchange programmes. Important conferences such as the Aalborg (1994), Rome (1995) and Lisbon (1996) Conferences have been organised by the ITC.

ICLEI's 18-volume Guide to Environmental Management for local authorities in central and eastern Europe is being distributed in ten CEE countries in their respective languages. The European Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide has been published in 18 European languages. Guides on environmental management instruments and financial instruments in particular have recently been issued.

Driving the sustainability agenda

Those who look behind the scene are aware that much of what we perceive as the European local sustainability agenda has been initiated, inspired, or guided by ICLEI, often in co-operation with committees of partners. The Charter of European Cities & Towns towards Sustainability (Aalborg Charter), the Mediterranean Cities' Call for Action, the Lisbon Action Plan as well as the Sofia Statement and, in the field of climate protection, the Amsterdam and Heidelberg Declarations, show clearly ICLEI's hand.

Where is ICLEI going? In the year 2000, the organisation will celebrate its 10th anniversary through a world congress entitled Global Cities21 at which the Council will decide on its Strategic Plan for the first years of the new century. ICLEI members will draw conclusions from the Cities21 Report on cities' achievements, new commitments and performance target will be considered. Guiding cities towards better environmental performance will certainly be kept on ICLEI's future agenda, and further fields of engagement such as

freshwater management, soil protection and land management will be closely looked at.

Grethe Bjørlo
ICLEI

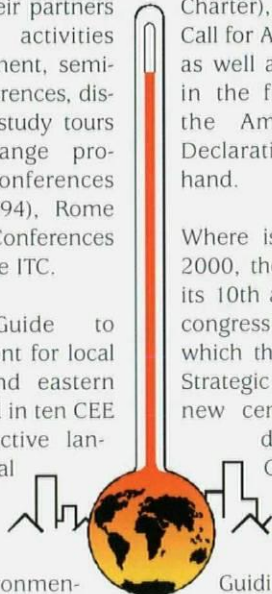
c/o European Secretariat

Eschholzstraße 86

D-79115 Freiburg

E-mail: iclei-europe@iclei-europe.org

Web: <http://www.iclei.org>



The mission of ICLEI is to build and support a world-wide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental conditions through the cumulative impact of local actions.

Think globally, act locally

The CEMR commitment

It is now apparent to all that local and regional authorities have an essential role to play in the area of environmental protection.

Action at local level can more effectively contribute to the safekeeping of the environment and it is for this reason that the central authorities are delegating more and more powers to the local authorities. This is also a concrete example of the principle of subsidiarity, to which we ascribe great importance.

A large part of the responsibilities of local and regional authorities directly concern the environment (water supply and purification networks, collection and treatment of solid waste, traffic control). They must therefore

fully integrate environmental concerns in these different sectors. Moreover, in order for these local environmental policies to be effective, they must be part of a general perspective, based on the interdependence of diverse sectoral policies affecting the environment (urbanism, transport planning, etc.).

To carry out these tasks properly, local authorities feel the need to co-operate and exchange their experiences within a European context as well as within a global one, as part of the implementation of Agenda 21 at local level.

The role of the CEMR

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) regularly informs

local and regional authorities about Community proposals as well as national initiatives which may lead to European regulations.

The CEMR in brief

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions, founded in 1951, is the representative organisation of European local and regional authorities, bringing together more than 100 000 local and regional authorities through 37 large national associations of local and regional authorities in 28 European countries.

It co-operates with the European institutions, and in particular with the Commission and the Parliament, in order to ensure that the interests and expertise of local and regional authorities are taken into account in all initiatives.

It participates in specialised groups of experts, organises colloquies and disseminates publications.

CEMR actively supports projects of exchange of experience in environmental matters as part of interregional co-operation programmes.

An ambitious programme

The CEMR has established a committee dedicated to the environment, which has developed an important work programme centred on the relations between transport and the environment, employment and the environment, energy and the environment, and on the problems related to water management and waste management, as well as the questions linked to urban policy.

Since 1996, CEMR has also created a network of Local Agenda 21 national coordinators which associates all the member countries of our organisation, and notably the central European countries, and whose work is focused on the promotion and management of sustainable development and Local Agenda 21. This network has greatly contributed to the commitment of CEMR to the European Sustainable Cities Campaign with the organisation of a series of seminars and conferences, the production and dissemination of publications and the organisation of the European Sustainable City Award.

Fuste-Roga/Jerrican



Village in the Vernazza district, Cinque Terre, Italy

The European Sustainable City Award

The CEMR has just launched the 1999 award in co-operation with the other partners in the campaign and with the

support of the European Commission's DG XI following the success of the two previous editions. The objectives of the award are to encourage and motivate local authorities which have made significant progress with regard to sustainability, to raise awareness within the local community for sustainable development and Local Agenda 21, and to highlight examples of good practice of sustainable development. Applications are open to all European local authorities which have politically committed themselves to implementing a sustainable development action and who have made progress in the development of a long-term action plan in this area. The awards will be presented on 24 June 1999 during the 4th Regional Conference on sustainable development in The Hague.

Elisabeth Gateau

Secretary General

Council of European Municipalities and Regions

14 rue de Castiglione

F-75001 Paris

E-mail: cemr@cce.org

Web: <http://www.cce.org>



Pitkanen/Sipa Image

In 1999 the CEMR launched the European Sustainable City Award

Medcities: a blueprint for progress

The Medcities Network, created in 1991, was a response to the need expressed by mayors and elected representatives of Mediterranean coastal towns for a structure which would enable exchanges of know-how and the transfer of experiences on urban environmental issues. A year before Rio, the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP), with the aid of the United Towns Development Agency, set up a network to deal with environmental problems at local level.

The Network's aims and composition

The aim of the Medcities Network is to protect the environment and improve environmental management problems in local authorities of the Mediterranean Basin. It pursues the following objectives:

- to reinforce the idea of joint interdependence and responsibility concerning environmental protection policies in the Mediterranean Basin;
- to strengthen the role and the means (institutional; financial and technical capacity) of municipalities in the implementation of local environmental protection policies;
- to develop the awareness and involvement of users and inhabitants;
- to institute a policy of direct co-operation by the setting up of partnerships between Mediterranean coastal towns in the framework of national policies.

Today, the Network is composed of 27 coastal towns: Tirana (Albania), Oran (Algeria), Dubrovnik (Croatia), Larnaca, Limassol (Cyprus), Alexandria (Egypt), Marseilles (France), Thessaloniki (Greece), Ashdod, Haifa (Israel), Rome (Italy), Zarqa (Jordan), El Mina, Tripoli (Lebanon), Benghazi (Libya), Gozo (Malta), Tangiers, Tetuan (Morocco), Gaza (Palestine), Koper (Slovenia), Barcelona (Spain), Alep, Latakia (Syria), Sfax, Sousse (Tunisia), Izmir, Silifke (Turkey), thus representing all the Mediterranean countries. As far as the Network's operating procedures are concerned, Rome assures the Presidency (a revolving function), Barcelona the General Secretariat and the United Towns Development Agency the Technical Secretariat.

A useful tool

Medcities is not only a tool for strengthening the environmental management capacities of the municipalities (training and technical assistance), but also for identifying the fields where their joint mobilisation is the most effective for improving the state of the environment at regional level (preparation of investment projects in the framework of co-operation agreements).

The Network advocates a global and transverse approach, even if the diagnoses are of a sectoral nature. The recommendations of the audits and action plans call for an approach which combines the economic, social and environmental aspects.

Vital financial support

The Network has two sources of funding: the European Commission (DG XI) and METAP. Certain projects of Medcities are directly financed by bilateral co-operation (France, Spain), the World Bank (Sousse, Tripoli, Tangiers, Oran) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) in the case of Limassol.

For 1998-99, the Medcities Network has received new financial support from the European Commission (DG XI, LIFE Programme) to carry out new activities in its member towns. This financial support followed the support granted by this same Programme between 1995 and 1997 and which made it possible to carry out environmental audits, awareness-raising and training activities and action to strengthen the institutional capacities of municipalities.

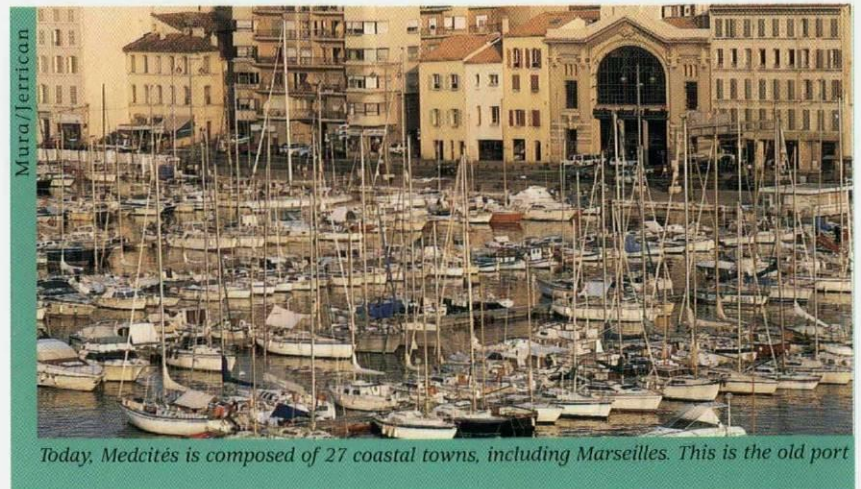
This shows that support for environmental protection and sustainable development activities should be continued by funding agencies when they are carried out at a relevant level and form part of national or regional global strategies.

The audits have enabled some of the towns belonging to the Medcities Network - sometimes aided by decentralisation - to attain a new stage of planning, urban amenities and discussions with financial bodies on the funding of large-scale programme investments (e.g. Limassol, Tetuan).

Aware of their limitations in obtaining sizeable funding, the Medcities members are carrying out reflection this year on the themes of cost recovery and public/private partnership. These two themes, in fact, would seem to be worthy of exploration, as the sources of aid and funding, which are often only of an incentive nature, are starting to be considerably reduced, when at the same time the needs to be met are immense.

Mohamed Boussraoui

*Technical Secretariat
United Towns Organisation
United Towns Development Agency
60 rue de la Boétie
F-75008 Paris
E-mail: cites.unies@wanadoo.fr*



Today, Medcities is composed of 27 coastal towns, including Marseilles. This is the old port

A federation of cities around the Baltic Sea

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) has defined Agenda 21 as "the process where local authorities work in partnership with all sectors of the local community to draw up action plans to implement sustainability at the local level".

From this it follows that Agenda 21 is a cross-sector and network-orientated process which is carried out at the local level. The Agenda 21 process should not be considered as an additional activity of local authorities. Instead it should penetrate all aspects of the existing local authority activities. Problems related to non-sustainable development are first recognisable at the local level.

A rapidly expanding network

A successful implementation of the Local Agenda 21 needs support from all levels - European, national and regional. One important task for networks and organisation is to channel co-operation and support, spread information and to initiate actions, form partnerships and to inspire. The Union of the Baltic Cities is a rapidly expanding co-operation network of more than 80 cities in ten countries around the Baltic Sea Region. One of our main strategic aims is to work with implementation of Agenda 21 at the local level. UBC activities in this field are co-ordinated by the UBC Commission on Environment based in Turku, Finland.

One important example on co-operation between different levels is the creation of Baltic 21, an Agenda for the Baltic Sea. UBC is active in the so-called Senior Officials Group of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), which is a co-operation organisation on the national level. The CBSS adopted the Agenda 21 at their meeting in Nyborg, Denmark, in 1998, where Ministers of Foreign Affairs from all Baltic Sea countries were represented. UBC was assigned several concrete tasks in Baltic 21 and one of the main efforts at the moment is to implement them at the local level.

S. Cordier/Pluriel



The UBC currently links more than 80 cities in ten countries around the Baltic Sea

Increased co-operation

UBC also co-operates with other networks and organisations in the Baltic Sea region at all levels. We are observers at the Helsinki Commission, which monitors the environmental situation in the Baltic Sea. UBC co-operates with a number of networks, like European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, ICLEI, Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum, Coalition Clean Baltic and others.

UBC brings together people active in Agenda 21 work. One successful example is the Health and Sustainable Cities Conference in Turku in 1998, where 400 people from 27 countries met to discuss concrete activities in connection with Agenda 21.

Projects underway

UBC also initiates a number of projects where many cities are involved. The Municipal Environmental Auditing Project has been financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The aim of the SAIL-project is to spread awareness to foster the implementation of

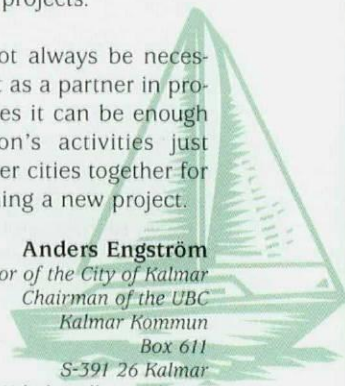
Local Agenda 21 around the Baltic Sea. We are also initiating projects on themes like emissions from ships in harbours, co-operation between cities and universities, and the need for training in the field of EU environmental legislation in many member cities.

We have a rather good picture of Agenda 21 in our member cities through a large survey conducted last year. It is an invaluable basis for the planning of future projects.

However, it will not always be necessary for UBC to act as a partner in projects. In many cases it can be enough if the Commission's activities just bring some member cities together for initiating and running a new project.

Anders Engström

Mayor of the City of Kalmar
Chairman of the UBC
Kalmar Kommun
Box 611
S-391 26 Kalmar
Web: <http://www.ubc.net>



Local Agenda 21 : a world-wide campaign

Municipalities heading for sustainability and new governance

Imagine that you visit any town in Europe, walk into the market place and ask any citizen: "Do you know what Local Agenda 21 is?" It is most likely that he or she would shrug their shoulders and say: "Never heard of it". If, however, you had done so year on year, you would have noticed that more and more European citizens can and will tell you about LA21.

Rapid development

Local Agenda 21 - the notion of participatory processes to engage citizens and stakeholders in long-term action planning towards sustainability - is one of the few real political success stories in this decade. In early 1997 ICLEI completed a world-wide survey of Local Agenda 21 activities in co-operation with the UN CSD. The survey revealed that more than 1 800 local governments in 64 countries, thereof almost 1 600 in Europe, had started Local Agenda 21 planning. We estimate that today more than 2 500 local authorities, some 2 000 of them in Europe, have been undertaking the process. Never before have so many communities all over the world taken the initiative to engage in sustainable development planning.

The idea of Local Agenda 21 was launched by ICLEI in 1991, prior to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The Earth Summit formally endorsed the initiative in Chapter 28 of Agenda 21, stimulating numerous Local Agenda 21 projects by international agencies, national associations of local government and NGOs. This has led to a real, world-wide movement of cities, towns and counties towards sustainability.

The highest number of Local Agenda 21 processes were counted in countries where national LA21 campaigns or programmes exist. Meanwhile, support activities for local sustainable development planning have been undertaken by many national municipal associations and national governments, from United Kingdom to Portugal, from Finland to Germany.

Austria, France and Switzerland are the countries with most recent efforts at the national level.

European campaign

When supporting the Danish City of Aalborg in organising the first European Sustainable Cities & Towns Conference held in 1994, ICLEI catalysed the process to make the concluding declaration the key Local Agenda 21 Charter in Europe. By signing the Aalborg Charter⁽¹⁾, local and regional authorities make a commitment to engage in a LA21 process and join the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign to promote local sustainable development planning. The key guidelines, the European Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide, for example, have been published in 18 European languages.

A European LA21 round table was initiated in 1997 to facilitate the institution of a multi-stakeholder discussion forum for the implementation of Local Agenda 21.

North-south and west-east links

Local Agenda 21 raises awareness of the impacts of our standard of living on people in other parts of the world. Therefore many municipalities investigate their "ecological footprint" on Earth or re-orientate their twinning schemes towards municipal international co-operation towards sustainability. The Local Agenda 21 Charters Project, for example, pairs six cities in Africa and four in Latin America with ten cities in Europe and North America to support each other in the implementation of the LA21 action plans. The project is run by ICLEI in partnership with the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and Towns & Development.

New governance

The most important value of Local Agenda 21 is probably that it leads local governments to pilot a new scheme of governance. If LA21 is successful, it changes the political culture

in our municipalities towards an active involvement of the entire community, i.e. all stakeholders, in policy-making and implementation.

This is essential to developing our cities and towns towards sustainability. Sustainable development provides chances but also requires sacrifices. Some of our traditional positions have to be given up. Resources need to be shared with poorer regions in the world and with future generations. All this may require that old privileges are given up. A Local Agenda 21, which addresses such necessities, will only have the potential for actually getting implemented if it is supported by a broad consensus among all groups of the local community.

By bringing about strong, responsible governance at local level, the Local Agenda 21 movement bears another potential, namely to support the desired decentralisation of decision-making in countries with highly centralised government to justify a devolution of power that already might have taken place in other countries. Thus the Local Agenda 21 campaign is a broad movement in line with the spirit expressed by the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

Konrad Otto-Zimmermann

*Deputy Secretary General for Europe
International Council for Local Environmental
Initiatives (ICLEI)
Eschholzstraße 86
D-79115 Freiburg
E-mail: iclei-europe@iclei-europe.org
Web: http://www.iclei.org*

(1) See article by Messrs Payne and Löffler on the Aalborg Charter, page 4.

The main milestones

In order to set key criteria for local planning processes to meet the basic requirements and earn the title Local Agenda 21, the following performance milestones, to which a municipal council must formally commit itself, were set out:

- establish a multi-stakeholder partnership group for Local Agenda 21 planning and implementation;
- implement a Local Agenda 21 planning process that reflects the principles of sustainable development;

- prepare and obtain municipal council approval of a Local Agenda 21 action plan with clear goals, targets, and work activities;
- begin implementation of Local Agenda 21 action plan;
- establish a procedure for periodic evaluation of community performance in achieving sustainable development goals and targets.

In Europe, signing up to the more explicit Aalborg Charter covers the commitment to these milestones.

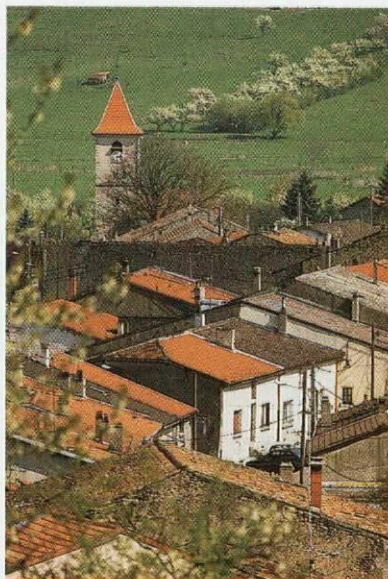
The activities of the CLRAE

Over the years, the Council of Europe has contributed to the development of a consciousness about the significance of environmental protection. Environmental questions have been pondered by central government experts, by a specialised committee of the Parliamentary Assembly, and, at the level of municipalities and regions, by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE). During the past few years the CLRAE has been highlighting and reinforcing the means available for local and regional authorities to protect their own environment by preparing reports, resolutions and recommendations and organising conferences on specific environmental problems.

Environmental responsibilities

The report on municipal and regional environmental policy in Europe (1993) investigates the way in which local and regional authorities organise themselves to meet their environmental responsibilities. In most parts of Europe, the platform for decision-making with regard to the environment is shifting to the local level and there are various signs of a movement in the direction of localisation of environ-

mental efforts. More and more local and regional authorities realise the necessity of taking greater initiatives in this area and of taking an ecological perspective on their activities. Their decisions will need to be more sensitive to conditions within the ecosystem, infrastructural investments will have to be more resource-efficient, policies will have to be prevention-oriented.



C. Thiriet/Phone

More and more local authorities are increasing their efforts for the environment

Whilst the report deals with the managerial responsibilities of these authorities for environmental matters, it also notes that their policy-making power is limited and there are a number of important sectors where there is little or no direct local accountability.

Drinking water and the greenhouse effect

The report on the quantity and quality of drinking water in Europe (1992) found that, in most countries, responsibility for water supply is one of the main functions of local authorities, which are closest to users. Urban concentration, the poor condition of the supply and distribution system, and the insufficient use made of surface water are the main causes of problems connected with the water supply. The report not only highlights the problems of the quantity and quality of drinking water, but also suggests measures for solving them. It urges all levels of authorities to become totally committed to an issue considered to be of vital importance to European citizens.

The report on combating the greenhouse effect and protecting the ozone

layer (1993) focuses attention on these problems and urges local and regional authorities to take practical action. Different policy options are recommended to help avert climatic catastrophe: promoting the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, energy-saving programmes and the use of alternative energy types, encouraging the development of public transport and restricting the use of CFCs.

Regional reports

In 1994 the Congress adopted two reports dealing with the problems of the environment in two specific parts of Europe. The environment in central and eastern Europe focuses on the physical state of the environment in these countries, the situation of environmental protection and the possibilities for new approaches. It also investigates the questions of raising public awareness, mobilising support and education for the environment and the perspectives of multilateral co-operation. The report on environmental co-operation between local and regional authorities in the eastern Baltic region gives an account of local authority policies for the environment in the countries in question and their mechanisms for co-operation. It also points out the deficiencies in monitoring and supervising activities that are harmful for the environment.

Other activities

The report on European Nature Conservation Year (1995) takes stock of the activities organised at local and regional level in the different member States in support of this campaign. It encourages local and regional authorities to implement suitable projects aimed at preserving biodiversity. The CLRAE also organised a conference in December 1995 on the role of local and regional authorities in protecting nature in towns and villages outside protected areas.

In June 1997 the CLRAE organised a conference on nuclear safety and local/regional democracy to investigate the implications of nuclear power installations on local communities. These include security problems, environmental impacts, social and psychological factors and consequences for local business communities. The conference was followed by a report calling for rights of consultation, access to information and accountability from the European nuclear industry to local and regional authorities (see page 32).

Towards sustainable development

By adopting the report on sustainable development at local and regional levels (1997), the CLRAE has lent its political support to the European

Sustainable Cities & Towns campaign. The report encourages appropriate local and regional government initiatives aimed at making sustainable development a key objective in policy-making. It also contains a declaration expressing local and regional authorities' commitment to pursue the implementation of the sustainability concept in different fields of the environment.

In 1996-97 the CLRAE and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) carried out a survey on the use of economic instruments by European local and regional authorities. The resulting report describes these instruments and suggests different ways for their implementation. Many local and regional authorities in Europe already implement economic instruments which affect the environment: fees are levied, subsidies are given and sometimes taxes are raised. However, awareness of economic instruments is still very low within local and regional authorities and, consequently, they are not used to their full potential.

For this reason the CLRAE and ICLEI decided to collect innovative examples of good practice from European municipalities and to use them as a basis for a guide on economic instruments for local and regional authori-



The CLRAE, in collaboration with ICLEI, has published a guide on economic instruments for local and regional authorities

A. Bouchet/Pluritel

ties. The guide is now ready and gives background information about the environmental, financial and employment impacts of economic instruments, and shows how such instruments can be effectively implemented at the local and regional levels. It also contains case studies that describe how a certain economic instrument was introduced and how it succeeded, giving evidence of good practice.

A draft Convention

Several years of work within the CLRAE resulted in the adoption of the draft European Landscape Convention in 1998. This initiative offers European citizens an international legal safeguard to satisfy their demand for protecting the landscape. It aims to fill the legal vacuum caused by the absence of a comprehensive standard devoted entirely to the conservation, management and enhancement of the European landscape.

Gyorgy Bergou

Secretary to the CLRAE Working Group on the Environment and Sustainable Development
Council of Europe
E-mail: gyorgy.bergou@coe.int
Web: <http://www.coe.int/cptre>

European Urban Charter



J. Rey/Ano

Through its principles and guidelines, the Urban Charter can help cities to implement local authority good practice

The European Urban Charter is a series of principles and guidelines for local authority good practice on urban policies, produced by the CLRAE with an encouragement by the Chamber of Local Authorities throughout Europe to use it as an inspiration for dealing with their own physical and social environment.

It was the fruit of a programme of work by the CLRAE established since the European Campaign for Urban Renaissance in the early 1980s - a programme which over recent years has covered questions such as social cohesion; environmental improvement; sustainable urban development; reduction of noise, air and water pollution; strengthening public transport; promoting peaceable co-existence of all street users; the retention of historic heritage; the revitalisation of cities which have lost their industrial base through the catalyst of environmental, social and physical improvement; reduction of crime.

Such activities are aspects of a work programme which, in harmony with the overall vocation of the Council of Europe, seeks to emphasise quality of life considerations and the rights of man in the built environment.

The Charter is a distillation of this work and a guide for local authorities. It is translated into several European languages and continues to be widely distributed. The Chamber of Local Authorities believes that its incorporation into municipal practice would be a considerable assistance in achieving what should be the objective of all public authorities throughout Europe - a better and more secure life for all our citizens.

Herwig Van Staa

Mayor of Innsbruck
Town Hall
A-6010 Innsbruck

Towards the next millennium

Local and regional authorities have a crucial role in environmental protection: they have a range of important functions through which they may contribute to sustainable development and help to improve the quality of life of their communities. They are also major employers and consumers in their own right, with a responsibility to organise their own business in a sustainable way.

Most important of all, local and regional authorities are democratically accountable. Through their powers to plan, invest, regulate, manage and enforce, they come closest to the people who are affected and they can respond most directly to local views and wishes. Local government is the pivotal point where the community's views and aspirations can be translated into public sector policies and programmes and thus given practical effect.

Galloping urbanisation

Although local and regional authorities vary a great deal in structure and authority from country to country, the environmental problems they are faced with are similar. Urban areas are larger, more energy-consuming, more resource-depleting, more waste-emitting and more populous than they have ever been. Human civilisation is rapidly becoming an urban one. We will enter the new millennium with a large majority of people living in cities.

Since the beginning of this century, the percentage of global urban populations has almost quadrupled and the trend is set to continue. The implications of such a rapid transformation of human habitat has given cause for concern. Can planners, administrators, politicians and ordinary citizens create a sustainable and acceptable life in a world composed principally of large cities?

With 79% of its population living in urban areas, Europe is the most urbanised region in the world. The environmental impact of European cities and their potential to contribute to the "sustainability transition" has of late focused the minds of European policy-makers.

The leading role of local authorities

Sustainability is about protecting the environment, involving people in decisions about it and sharing out resources more fairly. It is a new way for communities and individuals to move towards a more sustainable way of life. There may be a challenge at first, as local and regional authorities develop new ways of working and new ways of thinking about solving problems. It may sound daunting to review all existing policies in order to produce a sustainable action plan for the 21st century. But as this issue of *Naturopan* demonstrates, a great number of authorities across Europe have found that the effort pays dividends as they

have made significant progress towards sustainability.

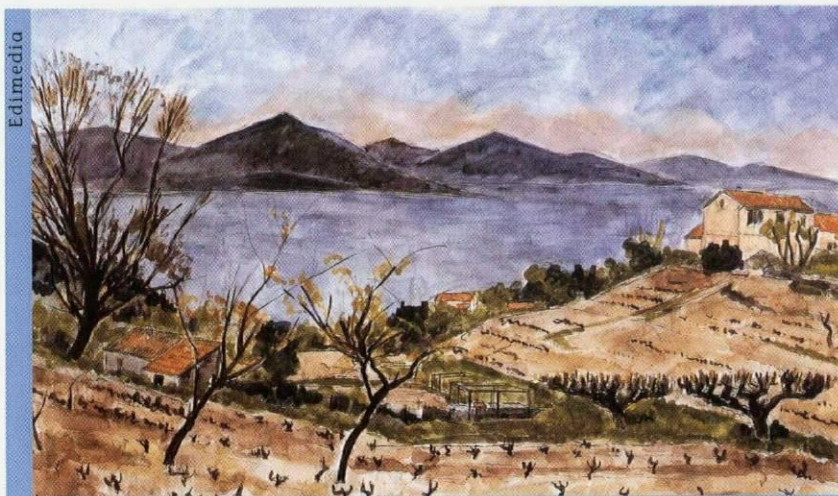
Fortunately, many local and regional authorities have started taking single-handed initiatives to address the causes of environmental decline. There are many fascinating initiatives already taking place throughout Europe. All kinds of projects are underway, involving local and regional authorities, voluntary organisations, community groups and businesses in new partnerships. From recycling systems and traffic-reduction programmes to local bans of CFCs and city-to-city partnerships, local and regional governments are serving as laboratories for policy invention in the environmental arena. The concrete innovations that they are testing are often providing models for national-level policies and programmes.

These projects place great faith in the conviction that individual municipalities and regions can do much to improve conditions in their areas and that they can be key players in the sustainability movement. They offer inspirational examples, innovative approaches and practical tips to demonstrate how much can be done to protect the environment in cities and regions.

Nowadays there is a profound change in the context of governance. This is by no means uniform across countries, but the overall trend is indicative of the changing role of local and regional authorities, placing many new demands on them. Many of them are responding to this with vision and creativity, initiating comprehensive programmes to conserve energy and water, to build bicycle paths and develop public transport, to recycle waste and to avoid using materials that threaten the environment.

A difficult task

The big question is whether all local and regional governments will be able to follow suit and, if not, what obstacles lie in the way and how can they be tackled. On the whole, pan-European action is challenged by a widely varying "playing field" for action. European local and regional



Since the beginning of the century, European landscapes have become more and more urbanised. Here, the Bay of St Tropez by André Dunoyer de Segonzac, early in the 20th century

authorities are marked by the diversity of responsibilities, competencies, capacities, organisation and power.

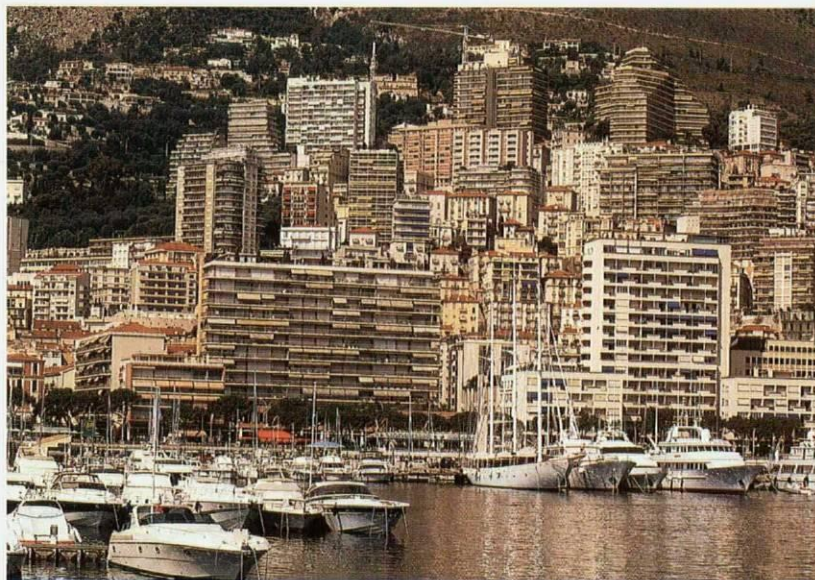
In a number of countries, local and regional politicians have reason to complain that they hold too little regulatory and financial authority to deal with the global effects of their activities, and that they are less and less able to manage the increasingly complex problems they are faced with: waste disposal, energy and clean water provision, air pollution, traffic congestion, noise pollution, etc.

In many cases the transfer of responsibilities has not been accompanied by the corresponding resources and powers. Lack of finance and insufficient political will are perceived to be the major stumbling blocks to making the "sustainability transition" real. While most European local authorities raise revenue through taxes, fees, and levies, and receive central government funds, the degree varies considerably.

Necessary reforms

Local action is often limited by national and international frameworks. That is why the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe has called upon governments to reform their policies at national and international level to bring market price signals in line with sustainability. This will require shifts of taxation from labour to resources, encouragement of longer-term patterns of investment and regulation to promote more environmentally efficient resource use and production systems.

It will also require greater powers for local and regional authorities to attain sustainable development at local and regional level. They have to be suitably empowered to discharge effectively their new roles. This not only involves the devolution of relevant powers and responsibilities but also the financial means appropriate to the tasks entrusted to them. In addition to these changes, the CLRAE has also called for new tools and systems to enable local and regional government to do more, such as ecological tax reform and progressive pricing structures for utilities.



Sergio Pitamitz/Sipa Image

79% of the European population today lives in urban areas

A challenge to be met

On the other side of the coin, local and regional authorities themselves will have to undergo a process of transformation. The bottom-up pressure for change is coming from citizens' groups and other social forces calling for a larger voice in community decision-making and accountability from the tier of government closest to them. This will necessitate changing bureaucracies and organisational cultures, working on an equal footing with community groups and delegating authority to them.

This is not a minor challenge: different levels of government and citizens' groups will have to find ways to work together to meet people's needs in a manner which puts less pressure on the environment in the next millennium.

Rinaldo Locatelli

Head of the Secretariat

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

of Europe

Council of Europe

E-mail: rinaldo.locatelli@coe.int

Web: <http://www.coe.int/cplre>





Nuclear safety and local/regional democracy

Following the Conference on Nuclear Safety and Local/Regional Democracy, held in Göteborg in the summer of 1997, the CLRAE adopted a resolution and a recommendation on this topic at its 1998 plenary session.

These documents stressed that we will be faced with nuclear electricity production for a long time, despite widespread endeavours to curb its development. The modernisation of ageing reactors is necessary to make this type of energy production viable under improved safety conditions. There is scope for introducing integrated energy production systems (natural gas, solar energy, distance heating, etc) combined with energy-saving measures of every possible kind.

The CLRAE recognised the "serious concerns for public health", posed not only by nuclear accidents, but also by nuclear power generation, fuel reprocessing and waste disposal. The only way to reach a sound consensus on these issues is on the basis of three principles: transparency, participation and diversified economic development. Congress delegates were united in their call for rights to consultation, access to information and accountability from the European nuclear industry to local and regional authorities.

The absence of European Parliamentary control over nuclear affairs within the EU, the ineffectiveness of citizens' rights to environmental information in many countries, and the exclusion of local communities from nuclear safety decision-making illustrates the lack of accountability and leads inevitably to mistrust between local and regional government, citizens and the nuclear industry.

Transfrontier safety can be managed through bilateral commissions between States, provided that they are coupled with local or regional committees responsible for monitoring compliance with safety measures.

Andrew Davies/Bruce Coleman Ltd



In 1998 the CLRAE adopted a resolution and a recommendation on nuclear safety and local/regional democracy

The documents send a clear signal to the nuclear industry and national governments that local and regional authorities are determined to secure legally enforceable rights to information and consultation on the safe management of the industry. They call for the introduction of a genuine European procedure for monitoring the safety of all nuclear installations, which should ensure complete neutrality and full independence from energy producers.

Transfrontier regional co-operation

The Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities of the Parliamentary Assembly has been actively involved in promoting transfrontier regional co-operation. Together with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and in collaboration with the Timi Region in Romania, it is organising the 7th European Conference of Border Regions "Trans-

frontier co-operation, factor in social cohesion and political stability in Europe" which will take place in Timisoara on 28-30 October 1999. It is intended for national, regional and local elected representatives, which will attempt to evaluate the development strategies for promoting transfrontier co-operation in Europe. Representatives of border regions from across Europe will discuss their experiences. It is expected that members of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) will take part. The following themes have been selected:

- old and new borders: possibilities for transfrontier co-operation;
- subsidiarity and the relations between central government and regional authorities;
- minorities and transfrontier co-operation;
- the impact of the European Union's policies on the development of co-operation in the wider Europe;
- the Euroregions strategy and the future of divided cities.

Mountain regions

A parliamentary conference on sustainable development of mountain regions was held in September 1998 in Rodez in France. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the guiding principles for defining a pan-European policy for mountain regions. Having considered the main challenges facing mountain regions in Europe, the conference focused on the management policy tools that could be developed at the pan-European level, and notably by the Council of Europe.

In May 1999, the Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities and the Romanian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly will organise a conference on the specific problems of the Carpathians in the town of Suceava. The conference will address the problems of the mountain regions in the different countries concerned (Hungary, Moldava, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Ukraine) as part of the pan-European policy for this area. It is intended for parliamentarians, elected representatives of local and regional authorities, government representatives and non-governmental organisations from the countries concerned, as well as various bodies of the Council of Europe involved in this field and other European institutional or non-governmental organisations, such as the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the European Association of Elected Representatives of Mountain Regions (AEM) and other relevant organisations.

Environment: strengthening international co-operation

The Assembly believes that the international co-operation for the protection of the environment needs to be strengthened and will therefore examine concrete measures to be taken at the level of the Council of Europe. The Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities is currently preparing two reports in this regard.

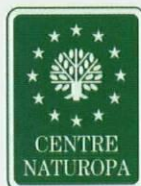
The report on further action to be taken by the Council of Europe in environmental protection (rapporteur: Mr Rise) will examine international legal instruments referring to environmental liability and transfrontier pollution and propose legal and practical measures to overcome the gaps in current provisions.

The second report on the implementation (see article on page 9) of the Convention on access to information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice (rapporteurs: Mrs Langthaler and Mr Toshev) will look into a set of concrete measures to assist national parliaments in the process of ratification of this important convention. Sustainable development in Europe will only be effectively achieved if the public becomes an active and full partner in decision-making at national, regional and local level.

W. Geiersperger/Pluriel



A parliamentary conference on sustainable development of mountain regions was held in France in September 1998



National Agencies of the

Albania

Environmental Protection and
Preservation Committee
Ministry of Health
and Environmental Protection
Rruga "Bajram Curri"
AL-TIRANA
Fax 355-42 652 29
e-mail: cep@cep.tirana.al

Andorra

M. Casimir ARAJOL FARRAS
Ministeri de Relacions Exteriors
c/Prat de la Creu 62-64
AND-ANDORRA LA VELLA
Fax 376-86 95 59

Austria

Mr Michael KHÜN
Verbindungsstelle
der Bundesländer beim
Amt der Niederösterreichischen
Landesregierung
Schenkenstrasse 4
A-1014 WIEN
Fax 43-1 535 60 79
e-mail:
vstvw-oe-laender@tbxa.telecom.at

Belgium

Flemish Region:
De Heer Koen DE SMET
AMINAL-Afd. Natuur
Graaf de Serraris Gebouw
Emile Jacqmainlaan 156 - Bus 8
B-1000 BRUSSEL
Fax 32-2 553 76 85

Walloon Region: M. Jacques STEIN
Ministère de la Région Wallonne
DGRNE - Service de la Conservation
de la nature
Avenue Prince de Liège 15
B-5100 JAMBES (Namur)
Fax 32-81 32 12 60

Brussels Region: Mme NAULAERS
Institut bruxellois pour la gestion de
l'environnement
Gulledelle 100
B-1200 BRUXELLES
Fax: 32-2 775 7611

Bulgaria

Division des Relations Internationales
Ministère de l'Environnement
67 rue W. Gladstone
BG-1000 SOFIA
Fax 359-2 52 16 34

Croatia

Dr Ante KUTLE
State Directorate for the Protection
of Nature and Environment
Ulica grada Vukovara 78
HR-10000 ZAGREB
Fax 385-1 537 203
e-mail: duzo@ring.net

Cyprus

Mr Antonis L. ANTONIOU
Environmental Service
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural
Resources and Environment
CY-1411 NICOSIA
Fax 357-2 77 49 45

Czech Republic

Dr Bohumil KUČERA
Agency for Nature and Landscape
Conservation
4-6 Kališnická
CZ-130 00 PRAGUE 3
Fax 420-2 27 24 60
e-mail: kucera@nature.cz

Denmark

Ms Lotte BARFOD
National Forest and Nature Agency
Ministry of the Environment
Haraldsgade 53
DK-2100 COPENHAGEN Ø
Fax 45-39 27 98 99

Estonia

Mr Kalju KUKK
Ministry of the Environment
24 Toompuiestee
EE-0100 TALLINN
Fax 372-62 62 801

Finland

Ms Eeva ISOTALO
Ministry of the Environment
P O Box 399
FIN-00121 HELSINKI
Fax 358-9 1991 9453
e-mail: eeva.isotalo@vyh.fi

France

Mme Sylvie PAU
Direction de la Nature
et des Paysages
Ministère de l'Aménagement
du territoire et de l'Environnement
20 avenue de Ségur
F-75302 PARIS 07 SP
Fax 33-1 42 19 19 92

Germany

Mrs Helga INDEN-HEINRICH
Deutscher Naturschutzring eV
Am Michaelshof 8-10
D-53177 BONN
Fax 49-228 35 90 96
e-mail: dnr-bonn@t-online.de

Greece

Mr Donald MATTHEWS
Hellenic Society for Nature Protection
24 Nikis Street
GR-105 57 ATHENS
Fax 30-1 32 25 285
e-mail: hspn@hol.gr

Hungary

Mrs Louise LAKOS
Department of European Integration
and International Relations
Ministry for Environment and
Regional Policy
P O Box 351
H-1394 BUDAPEST
Fax 36-1 201 28 46
e-mail:
alozia.horvath@ktm.x400gw.itb.hu

Iceland

Mr Sigurdur Á. THRÁINSSON
Ministry for the Environment
Vonarstraeti 4
ISL-150 REYKJAVIK
Fax 354-562 45 66
e-mail:
sigurdur.thrainsson@umh.stjr.is

Ireland

Ms Anne GRADY
Education and Marketing Officer
Dúchas The Heritage Service
Department of Arts, Culture,
Gaeltacht and the Islands
51 St Stephen's Green
IRL-DUBLIN 2
Fax 353-1 66 16 764
e-mail: visits@indigo.ie

Italy

Dr.ssa Elena MAMMONE
Chef de Cabinet
Ministère de la Politique agricole
18 via XX Settembre
I-00187 ROME
Fax 39-06 48 84 394

Latvia

Mr Uldis CEKULIS
Head, Public Relations
and Education Division
Ministry of the Environment and
Regional Development
25 Peldu Str
LV-1494 RIGA
Fax 371-782 0442
e-mail: infoeduc@varam.gov.lv

Liechtenstein

Mrs Regula IMHOF
Liechtensteinische Gesellschaft für
Umweltschutz
Im Bretscha 22
FL-9494 SCHAAN
Fax 41-75 237 40 31

Lithuania

Dr Kestutis BALEVIËIUS
Ministry of Environmental Protection
Juozapaviciaus 9
LT-2600 VILNIUS
Fax 370-2 72 80 20

Luxembourg

M. Jean-Paul FELTGEN
Ministère de l'Environnement
18 Montée de la Pétrusse
L-2918 LUXEMBOURG
Fax 352-40 04 10

Malta

Mr John GRECH
Environmental Protection Department
M-FLORIANA
Fax 356-24 13 78
e-mail: admin@environment.gov.mt

Moldova

Mr Alecu RENITSA
Ecological Movement of Moldova
Republican Periodical Publication
"Nature"
13 S. Lazo Str.
2004 CHISINAU
Fax 373-2 23 71 57
e-mail: renitsa@eco.moldnet.md

Netherlands

Drs Peter W. BOS
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature
Conservation and Fisheries
Division for International Nature
Management Affairs
P O Box 20401
NL-2500 EK's GRAVENHAGE
Fax 31-70 378 6146
e-mail: p.w.bos@n.agro.nl

Norway

Ms Sylvi OFSTAD
Ministry of Environment
Myntgaten 2
P O Box 8013 DEP
N-0030 OSLO
Fax 47-22 24 95 60
e-mail: sylviofstad@md.dep.no

Poland

Mr Marcin HERBST
National Foundation for
Environmental Protection
ul Krzywickiego 9
PL-02 078 WARSAW
Fax 48-22 656 6801
e-mail: okids@hsn.pl

Portugal

Prof. Eugénio SEQUEIRA
Liga para a Protecção da Natureza
Estrada do Calhariz de Benfica 187
P-1500 LISBOA
Fax 351-1 778 3208

Romania

Mrs Adriana BAZ
Directorate for Biological Diversity
Conservation and Management of
Protected Areas
Ministry of Waters, Forestry and
Environmental Protection
Bd Libertatii 12, Sector 5
RO-70542 BUCURESTI
Fax 40-1 41 00 282

la nouvelle maquette de la revue *Naturopa*,
ere que vous allez apprécier ce nouveau style,
t en facilite la lecture.

u Conseil de l'Europe depuis 1968. Elle est
et novembre et est entièrement illustrée en
en cinq langues (français, anglais, allemand,
ment dans toute l'Europe.

maque numéro traite d'un sujet et en étudie
ique, juridique, financier, etc. Le thème de ce
nales et environnement».

entaires et suggestions au sujet de cette nou-
ontacter via notre adresse électronique:
uropa@coe.int

ire nos prochains numéros, je vous prie de
assurance de ma considération distinguée.



ández-Galiano
responsable

1949 **50** 1999



COUNCIL
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL
DE L'EUROPE

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present to you the new layout which has been used for the first time in this issue, N° 8, giving a more modern image to our magazine.

Naturopa has been the environment magazine since 1988. It is published three times a year, in April, August and December, in colour. Since 1998 it appears in five languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian) and it is distributed free of charge.

Naturopa is a thematic magazine. Each issue deals with different aspects of the theme concerned: historical, geographical, etc. This issue is "Local and Regional Authorities".

May we invite you to send us your comments? Please contact us at our e-mail address: cer@naturopa.org

I hope you will enjoy reading the future issues.

Yours faithfully,

Eladio Fernández
Chief Editor

Centre Naturopo



NEWS

The National Agency of Poland

The National Agency for Poland was established in March 1992, after the Republic of Poland became a member of the Council of Europe in November 1991.

Since the very beginning, the Polish National Agency has been run by the National Foundation for Environmental Protection and is financed through an annual contract by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry.

The National Agency gives important support to the Centre Naturopo's publications by organising their translation and production in the Polish language. Since 1994 and starting with issue No. 74, Polish supplements of *Naturopo* have been published containing the list of contents and abstracts of all articles, an initiative encouraged by the Ministry.

Following the enormous interest in the *Questions and Answers* series and in close co-operation with the Polish Ecological Club, Polish versions of the series' first four brochures have also been published.

All these national versions of the Centre Naturopo's publications have met with great success.

In order to receive *Naturopo* or to obtain further information on the Centre Naturopo or the Council of Europe, please contact the National Agency for your country (see list opposite).

Russian Federation

Dr Nina DOBRYNINA
International Co-operation
Department
State Committee
of Environmental Protection
B. Grusinskaya str. 4/6
123812 MOSCOW
Fax 7-095 254 82 83
e-mail: root@fcgs.msk.su

San Marino

M. Leonardo LONFERNINI
Directeur de l'Office agricole et
forestier
Via Ovella 12
Valdragone
RSM-47031 SAN MARINO
Fax 378-885 115

Slovakia

Mrs Jana ZACHAROVÁ
Department of Nature and
Landscape Protection
Ministry of the Environment
Nám. Ľ. Štúra 1
SK-812 35 BRATISLAVA
Fax 421-7 5956 20 31
e-mail: zacharova@hotmail.com

Slovenia

Mr Janko ZERJAV
Ministry of Environment and
Physical Planning
Dunajska cesta 48
SI-1000 LJUBLJANA
Fax 386-61 1787 422

Spain

Mme Carmen CASAL FORNOS
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Secretaria General Técnica
Centro de Documentación
ambiental
Despacho BS 09
Plaza San Juan de la Cruz s/n
E-28071 MADRID

Sweden

Mr Ingvar BINGMAN
Head of Information Department
Swedish Environmental
Protection Agency
Blekhölmsterassen 36
S-106 48 STOCKHOLM
Fax 46-8 698 14 85
e-mail: ingvar.bingman@environ.se

Switzerland

Mme Marie GARNIER
Pro Natura
Wartenbergstrasse 22
CH-4052 BÄLE
Fax 41-61 317 91 66
e-mail: mailbox@pronatura.ch

"The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Office of the National Agency
"Naturopo"
Ministry of Environment
Dresdenska Str. 52
MK-91 000 SKOPJE
Fax: 389-91 366 931

Turkey

Dr Osman TAŞKIN
Turkish Association for the
Conservation of Nature
and Natural Resources
Menekşe sokak 29/4
TR-06440 KIZILAY-ANKARA
Fax 90-312 417 95 52

Ukraine

Dr Tetiana HARDASHUK
Green Ukraine
National Ecological Centre
P O Box 89/7, 39 Predslavynska St
252025 KYIV
Fax 38-044 269 9925

United Kingdom

Mr John LINCOLN
English Nature
Northminster House
GB-PETERBOROUGH PE1 1UA
Fax 44-1733 455 103
e-mail:
john.lincoln@english-nature.org.uk

CORRESPONDENTS

Belarus

Mr Vladimir F. LOGINOV
Institute for Nature Resources
Exploitation and Ecology
Staroborysovkiy trakt 10
220023 MINSK
Fax 375-172 64 24 13

Israel

International Affairs
Ministry of the Environment
P O Box 34033
95464 JERUSALEM
Fax 972-2 653 5934

Monaco

M. Patrick VAN KLAVEREN
Conseiller technique du Ministre
Plénipotentiaire chargé de la
Coopération Internationale pour
l'Environnement et le
Développement
Villa Girasole
16 boulevard de Suisse
MC-98000 MONACO
Fax 377-93 50 95 91
e-mail: pvk@mcn.mc

USA

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
WASHINGTON DC 20240
Fax 1-703 358 2849

**Council of Europe
Centre Naturopa
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
Fax: 33-(0) 3 88 41 27 15
E-mail: centre.naturopa@coe.int
Web: <http://www.nature.coe.int>**

The Council of Europe celebrates its 50th anniversary !

Created in 1949, just after the war, this intergovernmental organisation works towards a united Europe, based on liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

With its 41 member States, the Council of Europe is a privileged platform for international co-operation in many fields – education, culture, sport, youth, social and economic affairs, health – including environment and regional planning.

The aim of the Centre Naturopa, information and documentation centre on nature conservation in Europe, is to raise awareness among Europeans. At the origin of important information campaigns, it also produces several publications, including the magazine Naturopa.

*Naturopa is published three times a year in five languages:
English, French, German, Italian and Russian.*

In order to receive Naturopa regularly, please contact the National Agency in your country (see addresses on pages 34-35).

*Next issue's theme: **Health and environment***