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Mediterranean Marine and Coastal State report to be revealed in Ankara

Athens – 10 January 2013. The United Nations Environment Programme Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be launching on 16 January the “State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report” for year 2012, in Ankara, Turkey, in coordination with the UNDP Turkey and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization.

The event is set to gather high-ranking officials from Turkey, representatives of the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention, in Turkey, as well as NGOs partners to the UNEP/MAP.

Progress in implementing the Barcelona Convention and challenges ahead

The report comes within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) – Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. It is structured around 11 ecosystem objectives agreed by the parties to the Convention last year. It builds on the first Integrated Assessment of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Ecosystem and was produced in full consultation with countries and stakeholders.

It provides information on the overall nature of Mediterranean ecosystems and defines pressures affecting the state of Mediterranean’s environment, to which 21 countries have coast. It also offers detailed information on the vital services that coastal and marine habitats provide to their inhabitants.

Being a governance framework, the most important function of MAP is to be a catalyst, facilitating ownership, cooperation and decision making by the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention, who, in turn, have committed to report to the UNEP/MAP Secretariat on legal, administrative, or other measures undertaken by them to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as on the effectiveness of these measures and problems encountered.

In this respect, the report, provides information about trends in the Mediterranean environment and feedback to continue improving the effectiveness of the work undertaken.

Turkey’s leading project also to be explained

Along with the launching of the report, the meeting is also set to evaluate the progress achieved on Turkey’s coasts through the “Strengthening the System of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of Turkey” Project.

The results of the Rio+20 with regard to marine and coastal areas will also be evaluated in terms of the future sustainable development agenda in the same meeting.

Meeting for the launching of the State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report

Date: Wednesday 16 January 2013,

Time: 09:30

Venue: UN House

Birlik Mah. 415. Cad. No: 11 Çankaya, Ankara

*** End ***



Background information:

UNEP/MAP- Barcelona Convention

UNEP/MAP is the United Nations Environment Programme Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan. It aims to assist the Mediterranean countries to assess and control marine pollution, to formulate their national environment policies, to improve the ability of governments to identify better options for alternative patterns of development, and to optimize the choices for allocation of resources.

It involves 21 countries bordering the Mediterranean as well as the European Community. Together, they are determined to meet the challenges of environmental degradation in the sea, coastal areas and inland, and to link sustainable resource management with development, in order to protect the Mediterranean region and contribute to an improved Mediterranean quality of life.

UNDP - UN's global development network

UNDP works in close partnership with the Government of Turkey since 1950 and manages projects addressing democratic governance, poverty reduction, environment and sustainable development in line with Turkey's national priorities. To help Turkey find solutions, UNDP works closely with a number of government agencies, municipalities, private sector partners and NGOs, to integrate environmental and sustainable development principles into national and regional development policies and plans. UNDP not only promotes mainstreaming environment, climate change and energy efficiency into sectoral policies, but also supports strengthening the institutional and policy capacities. UNDP helps to combat environmental degradation by promoting projects that address climate change adaptation and mitigation, renewable energy, energy efficiency, land degradation, water management, sustainable development, biodiversity and protected areas. UNDP also facilitates market transformation through clean technologies and creation of green jobs, strengthening economic competitiveness with a territorial approach and improving capacities for disaster preparedness and early warning.

For further information:

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