



# **THE IMPACT OF **CLIMATE CHANGE** IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: DESIGNING ADAPTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

*Organised by*

*The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)*

*24-25/2/2011*

## **The role of civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations**

## The role of civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations in global climate policy

Looking at the **current disappointing state of global climate-change negotiations..**

- the emissions cuts required by the Kyoto Protocol are minimal
- several major emitters of greenhouse gases refuse to take on binding commitments to cut their emissions
- negotiations drag on year after year at a snail's pace
- the core differences between nations seem to be expanding rather than shrinking

Some may wonder..

What is the point of **NGO participation?**

Is there truly a **mysterious** non-profit/ governmental **power?**

The **principles** of green NGO engagement in global/regional environmental politics appear to be the same as those underlying **public participation** in domestic environmental affairs.

When, in the second week of the 2009 Copenhagen talks, the majority of NGOs were shut out of the main conference centre, the banners protested:

“How can you make decisions **about us, without us?**”



**Civil-society participation** is founded on the belief that

*“the ideal solution to a problem can only be found through involvement of, and discussion with, **all interested parties**”*

So, when it comes to discussing environmental issues, there are two interested **parties** that can never be in attendance: **future generations** & soon to be extinct **species and habitats** ..... **SUSTAINABILITY!**



Intra- & Inter-  
generational  
**equity/justice**

## The role of civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations in global climate policy

**Our** role during global/regional/national climate change talks/negotiations : **We DO**

- Observe**- individually or as members of national delegations
- Demonstrate**- attract attention
- Provide** rapid **feedback**/information to media and public
- Publish research findings at side events/create a **platform** of discussions and dissemination of ideas
- Lobby**- establish trust and cooperation
- Engage in **civil diplomacy** /networking

And of course larger NGOs (like Greenpeace, WWF) can fight on different fronts at the same time, while smaller organizations (like **MedSOS**) may choose to join larger networks (EEB, CAN) and cooperate/collaborate with other organisations/partners.

## The role of civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations in global climate policy

BUT **our** main **task** remains always..

...MOBILISING the **MASSES** at HOME!

Only when **public engagement** reaches the point that it affects political ...careers, will our politicians *dare* to take more active measures **to tackle climate change**.

Only **changes in national/topic politics** can give rise to changes in **global and regional climate diplomacy**.



## Public campaigning is ...

dirty and tiring work that requires great **endurance**, **resilience**, **knowledge**, **flexibility** and **effort**!

But the more of this work that is done, the greater **the impact NGOs** will have at climate-change negotiations – and the more significant the results that we may achieve for the design of **mitigation** and **adaptation** of climate change!

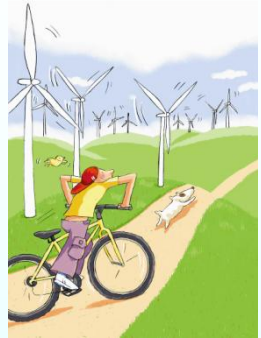
And some more specific words about the work of **Mediterranean SOS Network**.....





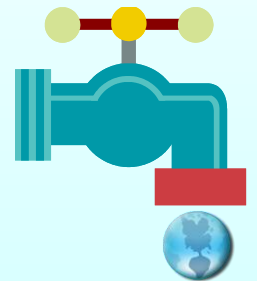
## Who we are:

A Greek environmental, **non – governmental** and **non – profitable organization (NGO)**,  
active since **1990** for the **protection of the natural and cultural wealth of the Mediterranean** and the **promotion of sustainable development**



## Main fields of intervention

- ☐ Climate Change – Renewables- Energy Savings
- ☐ Water Resources Management – Water Savings
- ☐ Integrated Coastal Zone Management – Sea Protection
- ☐ Biodiversity – Conservation Areas
- ☐ Urban Environment/Green – Social Economy
- ☐ Intercultural Dialogue – Volunteering- Environmental Education- Public Awareness /Participation



## Alternative solutions and proposals for mitigation

strategies/**action plans**: (buffer zones against erosion, change of agri-cultivations, water re-use, bio-climate architecture, etc)





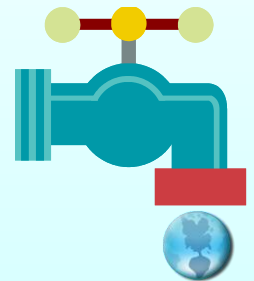
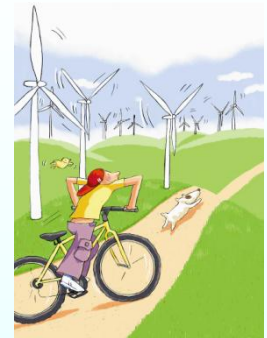


**Added value** in our actions:

-collaborating with **local authorities**

-**bridging the gap** between scientific/ research institutions, citizens and decision makers

-**involving private sector** by encouraging and promoting environmentally friendly and socially responsible company practices



The **MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network** collaborates with many European and Mediterranean NGOs, participates in international networks, and organizes international meetings which aim towards a cross-boarder collaboration for the Mediterranean

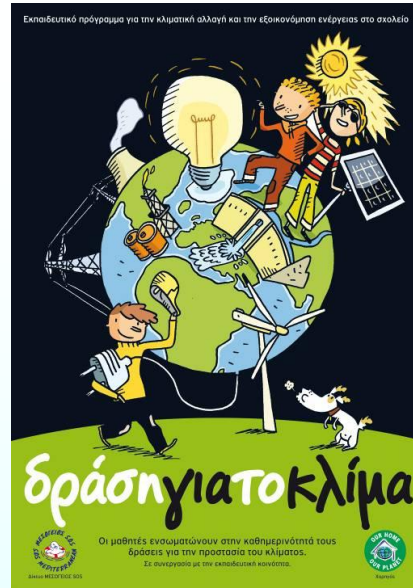
### Member of the following networks:

- *United Nations Environment Program / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)*
- *European Environmental Bureau (EEB)*
- *Mediterranean Information Office (MIO-ECSDE)*
- *European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC)*
- *International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)*
- *Climate Action Network (CAN)*
- *National Network of Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures*
- *Euro-Mediterranean Youth Platform*



Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures  
Fondation Euro-Méditerranéenne Anna Lindh pour le Dialogue entre les Cultures  
مؤسسة أناليند الأورو - متوسطية للحوار بين الثقافات

# And finally some pictures





# And finally some pictures



Ημερίδα:  
**Το Νερό στην εποχή της  
κλιματικής αλλαγής**

19 Μαρτίου 2008 • 9:00-17:00  
Ξενοδοχείο TITANIA αίθουσα Απολλών

Δίκτυο ΜΕΤΕΩΓΕΙΟΣ ΣΟΣ  
Μαυρίν 3 Αθήνα 10440  
210 8228795, 210 8253435  
www.medsos.gr

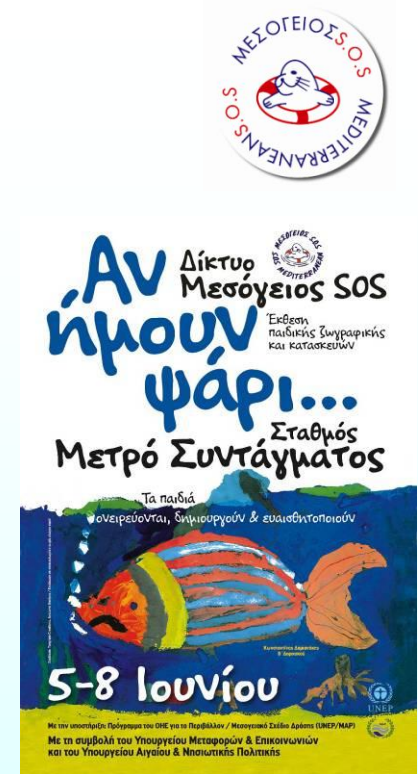
ΑΛΦΑ BANK  
Με την ευγενική υποστήριξη  
ΕΥΥΛΠΗ

Η Ημερίδα πραγματοποιείται σε συνεργασία με το Τμήμα Περιβάλλοντος του Ε.Ι.Ι.Τ.





# And finally some pictures





# And finally some pictures





**Oh yes, we -NGO's PEOPLE- may be mysterious  
but..we all together  
HAVE THE POWER!**

**Thank you for your attention!**

Anni Mitropoulou,

Mediterranean SOS Network [www.medsos.gr](http://www.medsos.gr)