



## **CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM ON DESERTIFICATION FOR THE NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

Desertification affects European Mediterranean countries but the level of awareness of this problem is still very low among the public, and regional and local decision makers. The aim of CLEMDES is to promote the development of a network with a broad social participation through the implementation of an Internet based tool called "Clearing House Mechanism" (CHM).

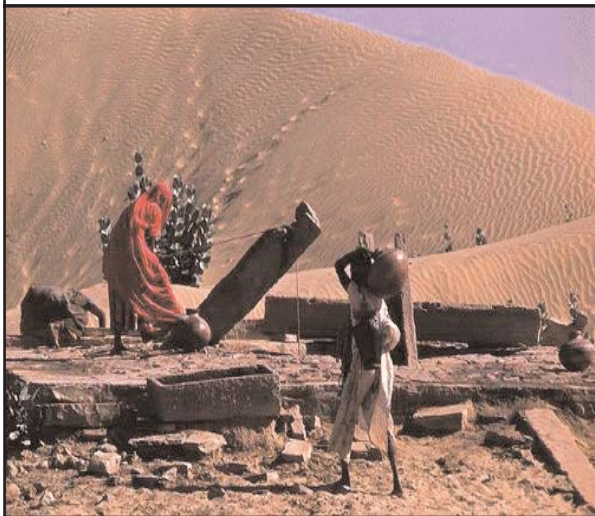
### **The general objectives of the CHM are:**

- Promote and facilitate technical and scientific co-operation, within and among the countries of Annex IV and other affected countries of the Mediterranean Region
- Develop a mechanism for the participation of NGOs, local stakeholders and scientific community to the exchange and integration of information on desertification
- Disseminate all research results available
- Establish a central (portal) web site prototype of the Clearing House Mechanism on desertification for the Northern Mediterranean region.
- Develop a tool kit to assist in the establishment of national internet data-base
- Develop synergies with other existing initiatives of the Climate Change and Biodiversity convention.

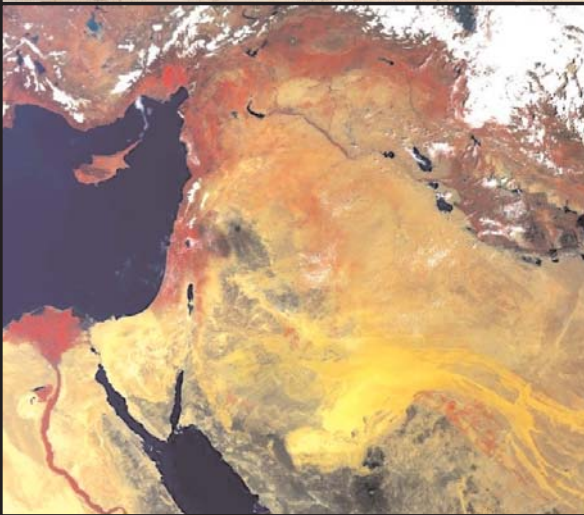
These objectives are achieved by promoting the creation of a network among National Focal Points of the UNCCD, experts on information, NGOs, decision makers and members of the scientific community .

These objectives are in accordance with the philosophy and objectives of both the V Framework Programme, RTD priority 2.3.3 "Fighting land degradation and desertification" and the dispositions of the Convention, which emphasises in its article 16 the role of information to integrate and co-ordinate the collection, analysis and exchange of data to implement the principles of the Convention itself.

The CHM provides a valuable support to the implementation of the sixth environment action programme of the European Community in relation of the issue of the "Protection of the Soil" in the Mediterranean region. Soil protection is a central topic of combating desertification and the development of a Northern Mediterranean CHM contributes to the development of the European thematic strategy on soils.







Setting up of the Northern Mediterranean CHM is an opportunity for the scientific community, NGOs, producer association and decision makers of the participant countries to improve their links and contacts to start new initiatives to combat desertification.

Information exchange about desertification is at a very preliminary stage and expertise in managing information and technology varies enormously from country to country. For this reason, the initiative proposes to established a "clearing-house mechanism" to ensure that all stake holders have access to the information and technologies they need for their work on combating desertification. The web site of the UNCCD, managed by the Secretariat, contains mainly the official documents produced by the Convention that are of limited interest for the general public. There are no decentralised systems that contains information about the affected countries and the initiative undertaken or under way. The Convention to protect Biodiversity already experimented with great success the development and use of a Clearing House Mechanism on Biodiversity. Internet sites on Biodiversity are actually operational in 50 countries and 149 countries established an e-mail address to get information about the CHM initiative on Biodiversity.

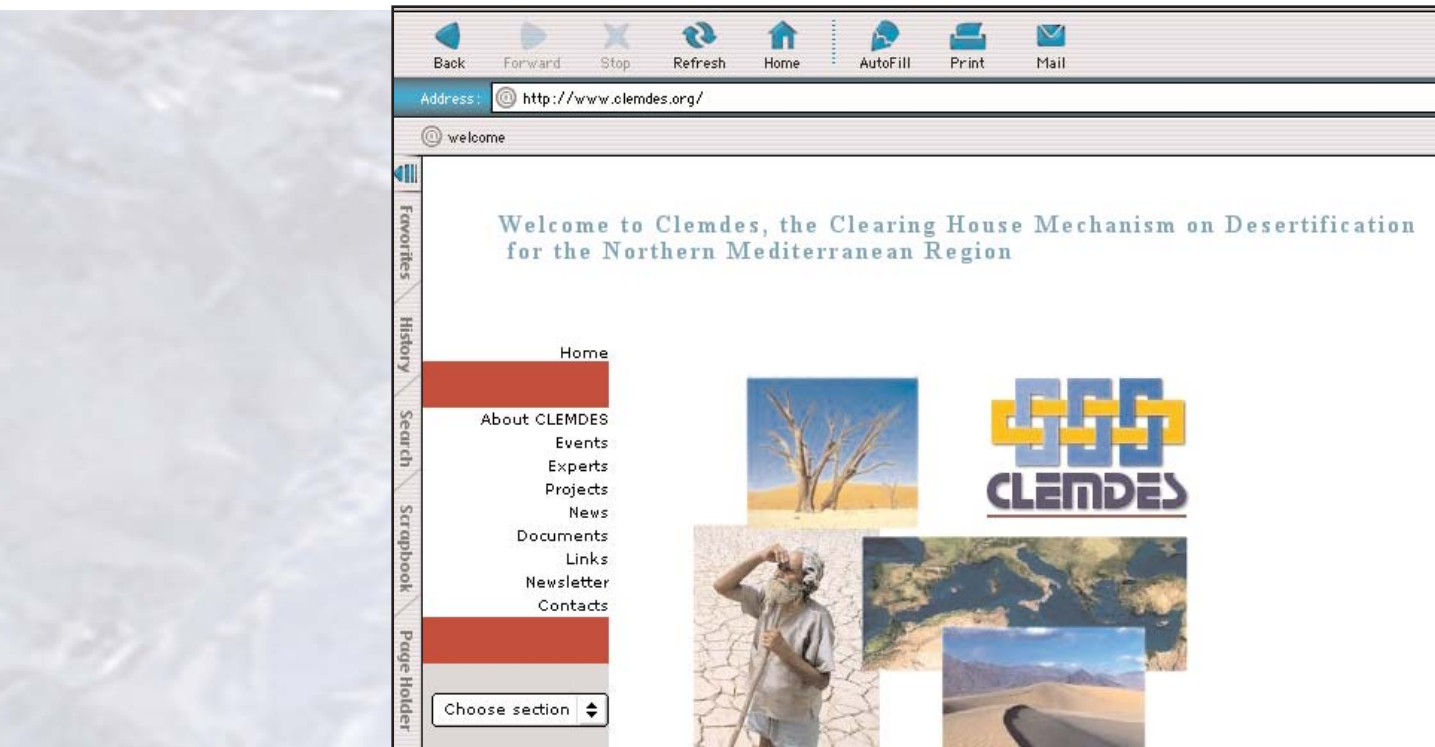
CLEMDDES sets up a Northern Mediterranean Internet portal linked with a network of a CHM at country level. The creation of the network of CHM will increase the accessibility to information and at the same time the creation of national meta-data base will improve the achievement of the better accessibility. The use of internet will allow to share existing knowledge on the issue of desertification.

An innovative aspect of the project is to activate the development the CHM through the effective participation of a large number of stakeholders at national and international level.

This project will increase the awareness of the desertification at national level presenting the information in the national languages rather than in English, that is poorly understood among the local stakeholders.

The project will also involve and discuss in the final phase its results with the focal points of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries and other Mediterranean countries (Malta, Slovenia, Croatia), that have ratified the UNCCD but are not members of the EU to extend the initiative as much as possible.





## <http://www.clemdes.org>

In the first months of CLEMDRES implementation, the general structure of the Web portal has been developed. It is based on a main area, in English, that contains general information on desertification and links to country-specific versions of CLEMDRES, each one in the national language. The CLEMDRES co-ordination team is in charge of updating the international version of the portal; each national partner is in charge of the local version.

At present (July 2003) the following sections of the portal are available:

- **Events:** information (date, place, title, contact details, etc.) about related events and meetings at national and global level;
- **Experts** and institutions working on desertification;
- **Projects:** in this section useful information (project name; research programme; thematic priorities; co-ordinator(s); English abstract; keywords; objectives; etc.) about both scientific and implementation projects are stored;
- **News:** this service contains quick news on desertification (i.e. articles, events, publications). The main page contains the titles of the last news included in the database and a link to the full text;
- **Documents:** information (title, author(s), abstract, institution etc.) for retrieving through CLEMDRES portal search engine official and scientific documents;
- **Links** to web sites and web resources that are relevant to implementation of the desertification are provided;
- **Newsletter:** a monthly newsletter with information relevant for desertification in general, with specifications on the Northern Mediterranean Regions.



The same structure is available for all the national web versions of CLEMDRES.

The toolkit on which CLEMDRES is based is freely available. New countries can be quickly included in the Clearing House

## Co-ordinator:

### Italy

*Guido Bonati; Iraj Namdarian*

INEA - National Institute for Agricultural Economics

Via Barberini, 36

00187 Rome Italy

Tel. ++39.06.47856520 / ++39.06.47856530; Fax ++39.06.47856201

[bonati@inea.it](mailto:bonati@inea.it); [namdarian@inea.it](mailto:namdarian@inea.it)

## Participants

### GREECE

*Mr. Stefanos Liveris*

Greek National Committee  
for Combating Desertification

Kifisias Ave., 184

Ktima Sygrou

Marousi 145 62

tel. ++30.10.808.22.09

fax ++30.10.808.22.08

[grk-ncc@otenet.gr](mailto:grk-ncc@otenet.gr)

### ISRAEL

*Prof. Uriel Safriel*

Department of Evolution, Systematics  
& Ecology

Alexander Silberman Institute of Life  
Sciences

Edmond J. Safra Campus

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Givat Ram, Jerusalem- 91904

[urielsf@bgumail.bgu.ac.il](mailto:urielsf@bgumail.bgu.ac.il)

Tel. +972.8.659.67.00

Fax. +972 8.659.67.03

### ITALY

*Dr.ssa Anna Luise*

APAT - Agenzia per la Protezione  
dell'Ambiente e per i servizi Tecnici

Via Vitaliano Brancati, 48

00144 Roma

Tel. ++39.06.50072553

Fax. ++39.06.50072048

[luise@apat.it](mailto:luise@apat.it)

### PORTUGAL

*Mr. Lúcio Pires do Rosário*

Direcção-Geral das Florestas

Gabinete de Desertificação - DISMED

Av. João Crisóstomo 26 - 28

P - Lisboa 1069-040

Tel. ++351.21.3124958

Fax. ++351.21.3124989

[luciodorosario@dgf.min-agricultura.pt](mailto:luciodorosario@dgf.min-agricultura.pt)

### SPAIN

*Mr. Juan Sanchez Diaz*

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones  
Científicas

Centro de Investigaciones sobre  
Desertificación (CIDE)

Cami de la Marjal s/n

46470 Albal/Valencia

Tel. ++34.91.5854984

Fax. ++34.91.4113077

[Juan.Sanchez@uv.es](mailto:Juan.Sanchez@uv.es)

### TURKEY

*Assoc. Prof. D. Murat Ozden*

Koy Hizmetleri Genel Mudurlugu

APK Dairesi Başkanligi

Eskisehir Yolu 10. Km

06530 Ankara

[topraksu@khgm.gov.tr](mailto:topraksu@khgm.gov.tr)

Tel. ++90.312.2878104

Fax. ++90.312.2878097

