



Global NEST

1st International Conference on the Ecological Importance of Solar Saltworks (CEISSA 2006)

20-22 October 2006, Santorini island, Greece

10, Aegean str., 151 22, Maroussi, Greece

Tel. +30-210-6492452, 210-8051824; Fax: +30-210-6492499

website: <http://www.gnest.org>

Global Forum for the Ecological Importance Of Solar Saltworks

Global Network for Environmental Science and Technology organized the 1st International Conference on the Ecological Importance of Solar Saltworks in the Island of Santorini in Greece from 20 to 22 of October 2006.

In this Conference specialists on the above issue, from all over the world, met and presented their scientific approach.

Delegates from U.S.A., China, India, Australia, Mexico, Spain, France, Egypt, Kenya, Brazil, Switzerland, Ghana, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Namibia and Greece exchanged views on the major themes of the biological process that develops in Solar Saltworks evaporating ponds and the importance this process plays on the quality of salt and the ecological value of the Solar Saltworks.

The environmental uniqueness of Solar Saltworks and particularly the modern ones is based on the fact that they are integrated coastal ecosystems, where nature experiences the coexistence of regular and hyper saline environments with high significance as shelters to wildlife

The approach that Solar Saltworks area can be considered as constructed wetland and that it should be included in the same bracket as wetlands, it was also discussed. Solar Saltworks have an increasing significance in safeguarding and development of the world's wetland area.

There are also many cases all over the world where the continuation of the Solar Saltworks operation is necessary for the protection of the ecological system they support and the change in the use of land is not desirable from the ecological point of view.

During the closing discussion it was decided to form a "Global Forum for the Ecological Importance of Solar Saltworks", within the Global NEST, with at least one member from each country who operates Solar Saltworks. The list is open for members who will desire to join the Forum.

The participants decided to organize the 2nd CEISSA in India in two years time.

Prof. Themistocles Lekkas
Conference co-Chairman

Nicholas Korovessis
Conference co-Chairman